

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 1975

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act Amendment Bill;

Liens on Crops of Sugar Cane Act Amendment Bill;

Trustee Companies Act Amendment Bill;

Small Claims Tribunals Act Amendment Bill;

Justices of the Peace Bill;

Racing and Betting Act Amendment Bill;

Liquor Act Amendment Bill.

PAPERS

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

Report of the Department of Harbours and Marine for the year 1974-75.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the State Housing Act 1945-1974.

Regulation under the Factories and Shops Act 1960-1975.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

WARANA SPRING FESTIVAL

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Minister for Tourism and Marine Services) (11.7 a.m.): I would like to place on record in this House the fine achievements of the Warana Spring Festival Committee. There is no doubt in my mind that this year's Warana Festival was the most successful so far staged. I'm glad to say that this year's Warana attracted the highest ever level of community participation—and this is what made the festival such a resounding success. The street procession this year attracted a record number of entries and the large crowd which turned out on the day was evidence of Warana's continued growth in popularity. I believe that Warana is setting high standards in many other areas of activities—standards of which we, as a community, can be very proud.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those associated with the organisation and running of this year's festival. This willing band of community-minded people work virtually all year to make the festival possible—and I speak not just of the Warana executive but include all those community organisations, businesses and individuals whose collective efforts made the festival

such a resounding success. They set out to involve people of all ages in the festival activities and they were most successful in achieving this aim.

They have developed a festival with its own distinctive flavour—different from those staged in other Australian cities—and over the past 14 years, the Warana Festival has established itself as a highlight on Queensland's tourist and cultural calendar.

As well as being a festival for Queenslanders, it attracts visitors from interstate and from overseas providing a valuable incentive to the State's tourist industry. It is a festival for the people and is growing in stature and success year by year.

I commend the organisers for their efforts in 1975 and look forward to the continued growth of the festival in the years ahead. The Government fully recognises the value of Warana to the community and Government financial assistance will continue to provide a solid foundation for the festival's growth.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. RE-APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS

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

(1) How many retired officers of the Police Department have been given positions with the department, such as Official Police Adviser, Officer in Charge of the Training College, etc.?

(2) What are the names of the officers concerned, what are their salaries and what benefits do they receive on retirement?

Answers:—

(1) At present one. In addition it is proposed to utilise the services of another retired officer in a consultant capacity as from early December next.

(2) V. M. Barlow—\$250 per fortnight; W. D. Simpson—\$170 per fortnight. Engagement is on a contract basis. No benefits are payable on cessation of the contract.

2. POLICE DUTIES

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

(1) How many policemen act daily as officers of the court?

(2) How many of these policemen are from city stations?

(3) Do police from time to time have up to 1,000 files on hand, indicating a major delay in handling routine work?

(4) Has the Police Commissioner proposed that policewomen should ride motor-cycles?

Answers:—

(1) This information is not readily available without research being undertaken at all centres throughout Queensland whereat courts are held. I do not propose causing such research to be undertaken.

(2) The number of police attached to the city station engaged on court duties varies from nine to 16 members daily, Monday to Friday, depending on number of courts sitting.

(3) I have no information which would indicate that any individual police officer has had up to 1,000 files on hand at any given time. It would not be unreasonable, however, for police collectively at particular centres or establishments to have in excess of this figure.

(4) No, although I can see no reason why they should not be permitted to do so if qualified.

3. ART CONTEST—TRUSTEES' PRIZE

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

(1) Realising that it is cheaper for a Queensland artist to show paintings in his home State—why did the Trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery recently make the Trustees' Prize a closed competition?

(2) On what basis was the list of artists chosen to show for the prize?

(3) Did only 64 of the 150 artists invited to show actually provide paintings?

Answers:—

(1) In order to conduct the Trustees' Prize again this year, in the gallery's new temporary premises, the trustees were obliged to limit the number of artists to enter to 150 because of storage limitations for entries submitted. These entries have to be held in the picture storage area while awaiting display for the prize. The crates and packing for the paintings to be used for their return have to be stored away from the M.I.M. premises because of fire regulations and also because of storage limitations.

(2) The list of artists chosen to submit entries for the prize was based on those who had been selected previously from entries submitted for the prize when it was conducted in the gallery's old premises at Gregory Terrace. The list also included artists whose work has recently shown promise in both local and interstate exhibitions. Of the initial 150 artists invited on an Australia-wide basis, 50 were Queenslanders, which is a very fair allowance for artists working within the State. Further more, some time after the entry forms were posted out, each artist was written to and requested to advise if he or she would not be able to submit an entry in order that another artist could be invited. Some 20 extra entry forms were sent out as a

result of the vacancies created. The list of artists was prepared by a selection committee of three professional staff members and approved by the trustees.

(3) In this year's prize, 64 entries were exhibited as against 65 when the prize was last conducted in 1973 at Gregory Terrace. However, the trustees allowed 150 as a maximum possible number of entries by limiting the maximum size of entries to 5 ft. x 4 ft. It is pointed out that the prize is acquisitive at \$2,500 for the winning entry, and the prize money has remained constant, despite the size limitation.

4. REPORT OF JACKSON COMMITTEE ON POLICIES FOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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

(1) Has he or have any of his officers yet had an opportunity to study the Report of the Jackson Committee on Policies for the Manufacturing Industry and, if so, (a) how is it seen to affect the Government's policy of encouraging private-enterprise development in this State and (b) what are the implications of some of its recommendations, particularly in respect of worker participation on industrial relations?

(2) If not, will he undertake to have it examined and make a full statement on the matter as soon as possible?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Volume I of the report of the Jackson committee, which was appointed by the Commonwealth Government to advise on policies for manufacturing industry in Australia, was tabled in the House of Representatives on 30 October last. Three further volumes containing supporting material and statistics are still to be presented. My Department of Commercial and Industrial Development has obtained an advance copy of the first volume and this is presently being studied. At this stage it can be said the Jackson report has highlighted the breakdown of confidence generally in the manufacturing sector, the need for better and clearer policies at national government level, and the need for improved consultative procedures between national and State Governments, between Governments generally and industry, and between management and its work-force. The report also emphasises the need for all sectors to be able to adapt to change in what is undoubtedly a very changing world. The committee suggests that new or revised policies should, amongst other things, aim at strengthening the working of the economy, improving the quality of work-life, and increasing the involvement of Australians in decision-making at various levels. These objectives in the

opinion of the committee should be considered collectively, as single-minded pursuit of any one in particular would tend to cause policy conflict with others. The committee finally suggests a Premiers' Conference might be convened in 1976 to seek common ground on the respective roles of the Commonwealth and State Governments in regard to the development of manufacturing industry. In the meantime it is proposed that the Commonwealth Minister for Manufacturing Industry should undertake responsibility for producing a White Paper on policy for manufacturing industry for presentation to Parliament within six months. To this end the committee felt the Minister might consider it appropriate to confer with the State Ministers concerned with industrial development. I am confident that, with a new Government in Canberra, greater emphasis will be placed on the positive aspects of this report than would have been the case with the Whitlam Government which had a propensity to implement only those parts of reports which suited its particular political ideology.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF PART OF TRADE PRACTICES ACT

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

(1) Is he aware that in October, by way of an administrative orders arrangement, Part V of the Trade Practices Act was transferred from the control of the Commonwealth Attorney-General, and consequently the Trade Practices Commission, to the Minister for Science and Consumer Affairs?

(2) Is this new arrangement, which seems to divorce the supervision of relationships between traders and their conduct towards the consumer in the market-place, seen as being beneficial to the people of Australia?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that under administrative arrangements approved in October, the enactments administered by the Commonwealth Attorney-General no longer include the Trade Practices Act 1974-1975 Part V and that the enactments administered by the Minister for Science and Consumer Affairs now include the Trade Practices Act 1974-1975 Part V.

(2) It was only last year that the Trade Practices Act, with its consumer protection provisions at Part V, was brought down. As the honourable member will be aware, the Trade Practices Act was administered by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, but now the consumer protection provisions of Part V are to be the responsibility of the Minister for Science and Consumer Affairs. There seem to me to be grounds for suggesting that this transfer of powers, together

with the proposal to establish an Australian Consumer Protection Authority, was seen by the Commonwealth Labor Government as a solution to the competition in which certain Commonwealth Ministers were engaged for some months, for the privilege of jumping on the popular consumer affairs band wagon. It seems that the battle for control of the consumer protection provisions of the Trade Practices Act had been going on for some time, and there were suggestions of earlier disagreement on this matter between the former Minister for Science and the Attorney-General. This "consumer carve-up", as it has been called, was further evidence of vacillation in the implementation of Labor policies. I have no doubt that, superimposed upon the statutory provisions under which the various State consumer affairs authorities have been functioning for some years, the transfer of the consumer protection provisions of Part V of the Trade Practices Act from the Commonwealth Attorney-General to the Minister for Science and Consumer Affairs will further confuse the business community, already in difficulties as a result of the ineptitude of the Federal Labor Government. The same applies, of course, to the consuming public.

6. MR. HERRING'S VIEWS ON HIGH SCHOOL COURSES SELECTION AND RATING SYSTEM

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 8 November, wherein Mr. George Herring, principal of the Pimlico High School, stated that it was completely ridiculous to require children of 13 years of age to choose specific subjects based on their future employment and suggested that students entering high school should be required to do a general course in grades 8, 9 and 10 so that, by the time they reached the age of 15 or 16, they would have a better idea of the type of employment they wanted to pursue? If so, will he advise the House if the opinions of experienced high-school teachers were sought before introducing the system now operating and if it is inflexible?

(2) Can he inform the House if, as Mr. Herring also stated, there is a dislike of the high-school rating system among teachers, that there is a quiet rebellion going on against it and that the rating system was the cause of the Board of Secondary Studies "wagging the dog"? If so, who was responsible for the introduction of the unpopular rating system at State high schools and has any investigation been made into the desirability of scrapping it and replacing it with something better?

Answers:—

(1) The statement has been read. The system now operating in schools was introduced as a result of a report to the Government by a select committee composed of leading educationists drawn from a wide field of education. One important aspect of the present system is its flexibility, and schools are given a degree of freedom in the way in which the teaching-learning situation is carried out, especially in the lower secondary school grades.

(2) This department has no evidence, nor has the Board of Secondary School Studies, of widespread teacher discontent with the operation in schools of the system of school assessment. The rating system was in operation at the time of the public examination system, and its continuance was recommended by the Radford committee in its report of the assessment of students' achievements in secondary schools. The Board of Secondary School Studies administers the issue of Junior and Senior certificates, which contain ratings for each subject studied. At present two studies are being carried into the impact of the Radford Scheme, but their findings are not yet to hand.

7. BUDDHISM AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

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

(1) Is he aware that following a recent A.B.C. programme in which religious instruction in schools was discussed, many people are under the impression that Buddhism is to be taught?

(2) Will Buddhism be taught in schools?

(3) On what basis will religious instruction be given?

Answers:—

(1) I understand that reference was made in a recent A.B.C. national news item to the possibility that children in Queensland will learn about Buddhism as part of a new religious education programme. Some people may have misinterpreted this.

(2) The curriculum project approved by Cabinet is in its early stages, and the Religious Education Advisory Committee, which is representative of the churches, parents, teachers, and the Education Department, has not yet made any recommendations. It is quite possible that students will be given the opportunity to learn about major world religions other than Christianity, but I emphasise that this will be a decision made locally by those involved.

(3) Religious instruction will continue to be the prerogative of the churches and the parents of the children concerned; the

Education Act and Regulations have not been changed in any way. This means that churches retain the right of entry to schools and parents retain the right to decide whether or not their children attend religious instruction. Religious education will not become a compulsory school subject. The curriculum project being developed by my department will provide resource material, printed and audio-visual, which might be used by any denomination. In-service training in the use of these resource materials will be given to clergy, lay people and volunteer teachers. The local parents, clergy and teachers will decide co-operatively how religious education will be organised in their schools. The indications are that many will select the option to work ecumenically, but those denominations which desire to remain exclusive may do so. I am confident that these improvements will be generally accepted because the Churches' Committee on Religious Education, representing most denominations, is enthusiastically supporting the project.

8. QUARANTINE SERVICES

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

(1) Is he aware of a statement to the Commonwealth Parliament by the Minister for Health that all the quarantine services of this nation would be in jeopardy if the present constitutional crisis in Canberra remained unsolved?

(2) Are the State's services in jeopardy and, if not, has the Minister for Health misled the Commonwealth Parliament for cheap political purposes?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) I can assure the House that, even without yesterday's developments, the plant and animal quarantine services of this State were never even remotely in jeopardy. The statement by Dr. Everingham was typical of the scare tactics adopted by the Whitlam Government in its frantic efforts to retain power.

9. LAE ENTERPRISES, ANGLERS PARADISE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the construction of a drainage scheme by Lae Enterprises, Anglers Paradise, which is resulting in filthy mud and sand being drained into Oates Canal, thereby causing heavy silting to take place which, if allowed to continue, will eventually lead to the canal being rendered useless?

(2) What action has his department taken, in conjunction with the Gold Coast City Council, to prevent this company from polluting the canal?

(3) Will he ascertain if the Gold Coast City Council gave approval to Lae Enterprises to construct a conglomeration of open trenches, all draining mud and sand into Oates Canal, thereby bypassing the works of Lae Enterprises at the Runaway Bay main drainage channels?

(4) Will he indicate the result of an inspection by an officer from the Water Quality Council in October this year, which officer, at the time of his inspection, took certain photographs of the area?

(5) Has the officer yet made a report of his inspection? If so, will the contents of that report be made known to Parliament?

(6) Will he ascertain why the Gold Coast City Council has been negligent in its supervision by allowing Lae Enterprises to continually ignore the appeals of rate-payers from the Oates Canal area to cease polluting this canal?

(7) Will he request the officers of his department to take the appropriate action by communicating with the Gold Coast City Council with a view to making Lae Enterprises stop draining into Oates Canal?

Answers:—

(1) A complaint to this effect was received and was investigated.

(2) None.

(3) It is understood that the Gold Coast City Council gave authority to Lae Enterprises to undertake a drainage scheme in the area and to use the excavated material as fill on a proposed hotel site.

(4) The officer observed the work done and in progress, but at the time of his inspection there was no discharge as the twin culverts under Bayview Road leading to Oates Canal had been closed by an earth bund.

(5 to 7) The officer has reported and his report is at present being studied. Discussions will take place with the Gold Coast City Council and the Department of Harbours and Marine, and pending such discussions I consider it undesirable to make the officer's report public, to assume negligence on the part of the Gold Coast City Council or to announce future steps upon which a decision has not yet been made.

10. MUSICIANS' VIEWS ON NOISE CONTROL

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

(1) Has he seen the statement by the president of the Musicians' Club of Queensland that musicians should be given

a chance to suggest guide-lines before draft noise-control legislation was completed?

(2) Has he made any arrangements for groups such as musicians and others who are concerned with noise control and noise problems to have discussions with his departmental officers before legislation is introduced into the House?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) No, there is little point in such discussions at this stage. However, I would be pleased to receive written submissions. Also, my intention is to introduce the Bill during the autumn session and not proceed past the first-reading stage at that session. This will give all people concerned the opportunity to make suggestions regarding this important piece of legislation before its re-introduction in the August 1976 session.

11. OATES CANAL, ANGLERS PARADISE

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

(1) Has the Harbours and Marine Department carried out an inspection of Oates Canal, Anglers Paradise, because of heavy silting of the canal caused by Lae Enterprises draining mud and sand into the canal instead of through their own Runaway Bay canals?

(2) If so, what was the date of the inspection and what action has the department taken to protect the canal from destruction?

Answers:—

(1) An inspection of Oates Canal, Anglers Paradise, has been made by officers of my Department of Harbours and Marine.

(2) The inspection was carried out on 1 October 1975. Action is being taken to have the minor amount of siltation removed by the land development company responsible.

12. BURPENGARY WEIGHBRIDGE

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

(1) How many vehicles passed through the Burpengary weighbridge in the financial year 1974-75 and how many were found to be overloaded?

(2) How many vehicles were apprehended whilst using Old Bay Road, Deception Bay, in order to dodge the weighbridge?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) 185,960 vehicles passed through the Burpengary weighbridge during the financial year 1974-75. The remaining

questions relate to the administration of the Main Roads regulations and should therefore be addressed to the appropriate Minister.

13. OVERCHARGING BY TOW-TRUCK OPERATORS

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

Has his department received any complaints recently regarding overcharging by tow-truck operators and, if so, what are the names of these operators?

Answer:—

No. However, matters concerning tow-truck operators come within the administration of my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Transport.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I rise to a point of order. It is about time something was done by Ministers to transfer these questions to the appropriate Minister instead of giving such answers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Murrumba knows the procedure.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. Honourable members on both sides of the House know the rules about questions and there is already enough evidence about the redirecting of questions to the appropriate Minister. If a question is not within the province of a Minister, honourable members have the right to ask that the question be transferred to the appropriate Minister.

14. RAIL LINK TO BOHLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Is he aware that Townsville, especially in the Government industrial estate situated at Bohle, has a booming industrial potential for the whole of North Queensland but is being retarded by a considerable amount of indecision being displayed in planning a safe rail branch into the estate?

(2) When can some finalisation of this project be anticipated so that large contracts might be transported by rail from this industrial complex?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) As the honourable member has been informed in response to representations made by him to the Honourable Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs, plans developed by the Railway Department in conjunction with the Department

of Commercial and Industrial Development provide for the construction of rail access to the Bohle Estate over a route which best meets departmental engineering requirements, corresponds with the design of the industrial estate and causes the least disturbance to private property. It is not a matter of indecision, and the question of financing the project is at present the subject of negotiation between the two departments mentioned. The honourable member will be informed of the outcome in due course.

15. PENSIONER CONCESSIONS ON URBAN BUS SERVICES

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

(1) When will the proposed concessional pensioner fares, as indicated in the Budget, operate on urban bus services?

(2) Will he advertise the date of introduction of the scheme in the Press?

Answers:—

(1) As I indicated when introducing the Budget, amongst other Government initiatives for the enhancement of private urban bus systems, a pensioner concession scheme for travel on urban private buses to the extent of 50 per cent of the normal adult fare will be introduced. My colleague the Honourable the Minister for Transport indicated during the Debate on the Estimates for the Department of Transport that legislation to provide for the concession is being drafted. The scheme will commence as soon as possible after assent is given to the legislation.

(2) My colleague will ensure that adequate publicity will be given to the scheme so that pensioners will be fully informed as to the way the concession will operate.

16. REPORT OF COASTAL LOWLANDS STUDY; SUITABLE SOFTWOODS

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

With reference to the report of the Coastal Lowlands Study by an inter-departmental committee of the area between the Elliott River and Boonooroo Point, which was expected to have been printed by July this year, what proportion of the 76,000 hectares of vacant Crown land in the area of the study would be suitable for softwoods plantation and what types of softwood would be most suitable?

Answer:—

At this stage of the investigation it is apparent that about 70 per cent of the vacant Crown land is suitable for softwood

production. Of this area about one-eighth is regarded as suitable for slash pine, with the remainder suitable for Caribbean pine.

17. INTERIM FREE BUS BETWEEN SOUTH BRISBANE AND BRUNSWICK STREET RAILWAY STATIONS

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

Until such time as the rail link between South Brisbane and Roma Street is in operation, will he introduce a free bus service from South Brisbane Railway Station through to Brunswick Street and vice versa, for the convenience of railway passengers?

Answer:—

No. I cannot see any logic in the suggestion as fares will apply when rail services are available. I understand the journey to which the honourable member refers may be made by Brisbane City Council bus for 10c—seemingly a nominal charge—and perhaps he can persuade his colleagues in the council to waive the fare.

18. PRICE OF GAS, SOUTH BRISBANE

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

As wages and salaries have not increased in the gas industry this year, why has the price of gas on the south side of Brisbane increased by 12 per cent from 1 October 1975?

Answer:—

I am advised there has been a total of 17 variations to the wages and salaries paid to employees of Allgas Energy since 1 August 1974, the date from which the price of gas was previously increased. In addition, owing to a large extent to the inept policies of the Whitlam Government, the cost of all materials used by the company has increased greatly. I would point out to the honourable member that the profit a franchise holder can make is limited by the Gas Act. Any increase in price only enables the holder to recover expenses and pay the allowable dividend.

19. FREEHOLDING OF LAND BY MR. G. STEVENS AT CAPE PALMERSTON

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

(1) Did he have a letter sent to Mr. George Stevens giving him permission to freehold an area of leasehold land at Cape Palmerston on the proviso that he grant a portion of the site as a national park?

(2) Is Mr. Stevens in a financial position to freehold land and what is the value and area of the land concerned?

Answers:—

(1) No. Apparently the honourable member is referring to a parcel of leasehold land comprised in Grazing Homestead 4076, Mackay Land Agent's District, in respect of which an application to freehold was received. In response thereto an offer was conveyed to the registered lessees—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Ward and Mr. J. T. Cliffe—by letter dated 11 June 1974. Records reveal that a Mr. George P. Stevens is desirous of acquiring, by purchase, an interest in such land as may be freehold pursuant to the application made by and the resultant offer made to the registered lessees of the holding.

(2) I am not aware of Mr. Stevens's financial position. The financing of any such purchase would be a matter for the parties concerned.

20. FIREARMS LICENCES

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

How many licences have been issued for concealable firearms in each category that requires licences and how many individuals are holding the licences in each of the categories?

Answer:—

(1) Firearm licences and permits issued for year ended 30 June 1975 as are follows:—

New licences, permits, etc.

Licences for concealable firearms	1,324
Licences for concealable firearms for use at pistol club	1,176
Permits to have possession of blankfire concealable firearms	62
Permits to have possession of and use licensed concealable firearms on range of approved pistol club	491
Permits to have possession of firearms as souvenirs	31
<i>Renewals of licences, permits, etc.</i>	
Dealer's Certificates	53
Licences for concealable firearms	5,559
Licences for concealable firearms for use at pistol club	2,255
Permits to have possession of blankfire concealable firearms	170

(2) Records are not kept of the numbers of individuals who hold licences, permits, etc., referred to in (1).

21. INCREASED USE OF FERNY GROVE RAIL LINE WITH CAR-PARKING FACILITIES

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

(1) With regard to rail travel in Brisbane, has there been a notable increase in the number of commuters using the Ferny Grove line since the completion of the excellent car-parking facilities at the Enoggera, Mitchelton and Ferny Grove stations?

(2) If so, what is the percentage increase in commuters per month for the past four months compared with the same period last year?

(3) Do these figures indicate a need for additional rolling-stock on this line, apart from the extra 8.15 a.m. train from Enoggera which has recently been approved?

(4) Is there a general shortage of rolling-stock for the commuters of Brisbane and, if so, will he give consideration to the purchase or hire of extra vehicles to cover the period prior to electrification?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) Statistics are not readily available to establish the comparison sought by the honourable member. I am, however, having a survey made with a view to determining the trend in passenger travel since improved car-parking facilities were provided at the stations mentioned.

(3 and 4) All available carriage stock is at present being utilised on peak hour suburban rail services. As the honourable member is aware, priority has been given to the section of railway from Ferny Grove to Darra in the implementation of plans for the electrification of the Brisbane suburban rail service.

22. PRE-SCHOOL FOR GROVELY, KEPERRA AND FERNY GROVE

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

With regard to my question of 20 August about the provision of pre-school facilities for the expanding Grovely, Keperra, Ferny Grove and Ferny Hills areas, what is the present position concerning the acquisition of suitable land for the planned Grovely and Ferny Hills pre-schools which were foreshadowed in his answer?

Answer:—

The Land Administration Commission has been authorised to proceed with the acquisition of additional land for pre-school purposes at Grovely. Siting for one additional unit at Ferny Hills has been identified tentatively for consideration as funds become available to construct further

facilities. In addition, consideration is presently being given to using departmental land in the Oxford Park and Ferny Grove areas and to acquisition of additional land at Bunyaville as a means of providing facilities in this general area at an early date.

23. EFFECT ON AGED PERSONS
FOLLOWING CIRCULAR FROM
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

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

(1) Has he seen a circular letter dated 29 August which was sent by the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security to religious, charitable and other voluntary organisations and local governing bodies?

(2) If so, will aged persons in Queensland suffer as a result of the decisions announced in this circular?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I have not previously seen the circular letter referred to by the honourable member for Carnarvon. However, the department was aware generally of the Commonwealth policy decisions as conveyed in this circular. The over-all effect this decision would have on the provision of accommodation for aged persons in Queensland is not known to my department, but it would be reasonable to assume that there would be a slowing down in the building programmes normally undertaken by religious and charitable organisations. For the honourable member's information, I would point out that State subsidy is not paid towards the capital cost of construction of aged persons homes, etc., erected by religious or charitable organisations. However, the State Government does subsidise up to defined limits the cost of approved items of furniture, furnishings and equipment which do not attract subsidy from the Commonwealth Government. Whilst any project coming within the ambit of the relevant legislation must be initially approved by the Commonwealth for subsidy towards construction costs before any State subsidy is approved, applications for State subsidy towards the cost of furniture, etc., may be made by the organisations concerned and such will be considered subject to later approval of the major project by the Commonwealth.

24. PRE-SCHOOL, MORANBAH

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

Have tenders been called for the pre-school at Moranbah and, if so, when will they close?

Answer:—

Yes. The closing date is 2 p.m., 2 December 1975.

25. S.G.I.O. FINANCING OF MANSFIELD
TAVERN

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Has the S.G.I.O. financed the construction of the Mansfield Tavern and, if so, how much was involved and what was the rate of interest?

Answer:—

Yes. The honourable member should be aware of the fact that it is not my practice to disclose details of financial transactions between the S.G.I.O. and its clients.

26. INVITATIONS TO NATIONAL PARTY
FUNCTION POSTED AT TAXPAYERS'
EXPENSE

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Water Resources—

(1) Did his department recently send, at taxpayers' expense, invitations on behalf of the Moura and Theodore branches of the National Party to attend a fund-raising barbecue social function?

(2) If so, how many letters were sent, what was the cost involved and is this traditional State Government practice?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) See answer to (1).

27. LEGAL AID TO ABORIGINES

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

(1) Is he aware that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' Legal Service may be forced to close because of a shortage of Commonwealth Government funds for the service?

(2) Is this shortage in any way related to the delay in the granting of Supply or is it the result of the Commonwealth Budget itself?

(3) Does the Queensland Government Public Defender's Office provide legal aid in criminal cases for Aborigines and part-Aborigines?

(4) If so, on how many occasions has State legal aid been granted to Aborigines in the last year?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs has provided significantly less this financial year than the amount required for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' Legal Service to continue at the same level of operation as in 1974-75. This action was taken despite the fact that Queensland has a larger

population of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders than any other State or Territory. I understand that the Commonwealth has made excessive per-capita grants to Aboriginal Legal Services in New South Wales and Victoria when compared to Queensland.

(3) Public defence will continue to be provided in this State for all Queenslanders, including Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, where the applicant is without means to provide defence for himself and it is in the interests of justice that legal aid be provided.

(4) No record is kept of the race or colour of persons granted legal aid.

28. NURSING HOME, HERVEY BAY

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

What stage of planning has been reached by the Maryborough Hospitals Board with the proposed 40-bed nursing home complex at Hervey Bay?

Answer:—

Consideration of preparation of sketch plans and estimate of costs is currently being undertaken within this department.

29. AID TO FATHER-SON, MOTHER-DAUGHTER MOVEMENT

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

Has his department considered financially assisting the Father-Son, Mother-Daughter Movement with a view to having this movement, which to date has done an excellent service in true sex education, undertake more extensively the teaching of sex education in this State?

Answer:—

No consideration has been given to the matter raised by the honourable member.

30. DELAYS IN VEHICLE REGISTRATION TRANSFERS

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

(1) Is he aware of the appalling slowness in dealing with the transfer of vehicle registrations?

(2) As the position has become nothing short of chaotic, will he look into this matter urgently?

Answers:—

(1) As the honourable member represents a Toowoomba country electorate, it must also be pointed out that mail delays

slow down registration transfers. Toowoomba is a centre for a decentralised registration office in 1976 and this should reduce the delays.

(2) It would be helpful if specific examples could be given for me to follow up so that the cause of delay can be pinpointed. I can assure the honourable member the whole registration system is at present under reorganisation to on-line computer interrogation system.

31. ALLEGED ABSCONDING BY MR. STEVE MONOGHAN FROM CAIRNS

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

(1) Have any complaints been lodged with the Police Department by Cairns residents following the departure from the Cairns area, with considerable amounts of clients' premiums, by Mr. Steve Monaghan, an insurance agent?

(2) If so, what action has been taken and is Mr. Monaghan's present whereabouts known?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. Two complaints only are recorded as having been lodged with the police at Cairns—one in respect of an amount of \$129.46 and the other in the amount of \$40. Both complaints were lodged at 7.30 p.m. on 22 October 1975.

(2) Inquiries are being made. However, I am not in possession of information as to the present position of those inquiries.

32. PROTECTION AGAINST MISAPPROPRIATIONS BY INSURANCE AGENTS

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

(1) What recourse to law do people have when insurance agents with whom they have lodged premium payments disappear with the money?

(2) Is any trust fund required for insurance agents or are checks made on books of account, such as those required for solicitors, estate agents or travel agents?

(3) If not, is it proposed to take action to grant protection to people in this situation?

Answers:—

(1) Their right of action would depend upon the particular facts. They should seek legal advice in relation to the particular circumstances of each case.

(2 and 3) There is no present requirement for trust funds. The matter will be considered.

33. FINANCES OF PRIVATE BUS PROPRIETORS;
PENSIONER CONCESSIONS

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

(1) Has he seen a report in "The Sunday Mail" of 9 November in which the secretary of the Private Bus Proprietors' Association said that some bus proprietors were going broke whilst the Government still could not say the date when the Budget promises in relation to pensioner concessions on private buses and the 10 per cent subsidy on urban fares will operate?

(2) When can the bus proprietors and the pensioners expect to receive these concessions?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) I would refer the honourable member to the reply given by the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to the question addressed to him in relation to this matter.

34. REVIEW OF HOSPITALS UNDER
MEDIBANK

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

(1) At the time Queensland entered the Medibank scheme, was it determined that a review of the capacity of hospitals to cope under the scheme was to be made from 31 October?

(2) In view of the difficulties diagnostic services especially are experiencing, has such a review commenced and, if so, when will the matter be concluded?

(3) If such a review has not commenced, will he take such measures to ascertain why it has not and when it will commence?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Whilst no undertaking of the nature mentioned by the honourable member was given, a continuing review is being undertaken of the effects of Medibank on Queensland hospitals. The problem facing private patients in public hospitals regarding diagnostic services is causing some concern and approaches have been made to the Commonwealth for review of this section.

35. NOISE NUISANCE FROM MOTOR-BIKES,
CARINA HEIGHTS

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

(1) Is he aware of the inconvenience and disturbance to local residents in the Carina Heights area from the noise made

by trail and motor-bikes opposite Buza-cott Street on the southern side of Creek Road, particularly at week-ends?

(2) Is there any way that areas could be set aside away from immediate housing, to provide recreational areas for young people pursuing this leisure activity?

(3) What avenues are available to residents to achieve some reprieve from the noise nuisance?

Answers:—

(1) Whilst I am not aware of the nuisance caused by the use of trail and motor-bikes in the particular locality referred to, I am aware that noise created by the operation of these machines in residential areas can cause considerable distress to persons living in such areas.

(2) The question as to whether certain lands located away from housing areas could be set aside for the pursuit of the activity referred to is not one coming within my jurisdiction. I would mention, however, that the use of land for this purpose within the Brisbane area could well be governed by the provisions of the City of Brisbane Town Plan and be subject to the consent of the council.

(3) It is suggested that the residents could approach the Brisbane City Council under its noise nuisance ordinance and its town plan.

36. WORKS DEPARTMENT DEPOT, GOLD
COAST OR ALBERT SHIRE

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

Owing to the growth of the Gold Coast and Albert Shire with regard to Works Department responsibility, will he consider setting up a main depot and workshop in the Gold Coast or Albert Shire areas?

Answer:—

The allocation of areas under control of district supervisors of works, in Brisbane districts, including the Gold Coast and Albert Shire, is under revision. The need for additional office and depot facilities and their location is being considered in conjunction with such review.

37. POLICE STATION YARDS, ALBERT
ELECTORATE; SOUTHPORT POLICE STATION

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

(1) In view of the recent changes and upgrading of the police stations on the Gold Coast, has the department given any more consideration to leasing part of the council chambers when they become available early next year, to help overcome the bad conditions and overcrowding which exist in the Southport Police Station?

(2) Will he give consideration to tidying up some of the police station yards in the Albert electorate, which have cars stored in them for long periods?

Answers:—

(1) The matter is still under consideration.

(2) Vehicles in the possession of the police are held as exhibits, etc. Every effort is made to have them removed from police custody as soon as it is legally possible to do so. It is difficult to maintain tidiness in these circumstances.

38. PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

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

(1) Is he aware that servicemen have been officially notified that the Commonwealth Government has no money to pay members of the Armed Forces after 27 November and that servicemen going on annual leave beyond 27 November are not receiving any leave pay for that period?

(2) Is he also aware that rental accommodation and other allowances will not be paid to servicemen after that date?

(3) Can this Government officially notify the Governor-General of these facts so that the Governor-General may take action to replace the current Whitlam administration with advisers who can guarantee Supply to Her Majesty on and after 27 November?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The honourable member for Stafford obviously has an excellent appreciation of the principles of the Constitution and responsible Government in Australia because the course of action proposed in the last part of his question was taken by His Excellency the Governor-General yesterday so that Supply would be granted and the services of government maintained. Anyone who read the Governor-General's statement in today's Press would understand that His Excellency was always totally conversant with the situation which was developing and fully conscious of the course of action available to him. Apparently the only person who was not conscious of it was the former Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, who persisted with a fear campaign relating to the payment of public servants and the defence forces and the maintenance of government services generally. I do not believe that there was ever any prospect that the nation would have been subjected to the crisis which Mr. Whitlam threatened. Clearly, the Governor-General always had a very clear understanding of the course available to him under the Constitution once Supply was blocked in the Senate. It is totally deplorable that His Excellency should now be vilified by Mr. Whitlam and other former Ministers

merely because he acted in accordance with the Constitution and in the best interests of the people of Australia.

39. GOVERNMENT MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

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

(1) How many sedan and station sedan motor vehicles were purchased by the Government in 1974-75?

(2) How many of these vehicles were allocated to the Police Department?

(3) What is the make and model of the current type of sedan car purchased for normal use?

(4) What is the price paid per vehicle?

Answers:—

(1) Sedans—1,036; Station sedans—194.

(2) 420.

(3) For general service requirements, which do not include the Police Department, the Holden Kingswood HJ automatic sedan.

(4) Tender prices are regarded as confidential as between the State Stores Board and tenderers.

40. BEEF INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE

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

Following a promise by the Commonwealth Government that recommendations by the Industries Assistance Commission report on the beef industry would be implemented within three months of its being tabled, has such a report been approved by the interdepartmental committee as yet and when can it be expected that the Commonwealth Government will implement it?

Answer:—

I have not been informed of the release of a report by the Federal interdepartmental committee on the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission on measures of short-term assistance to the beef cattle industry. To the best of my knowledge no such report has been made and I could not forecast when a Federal Government might implement the recommendations.

41. BANK CREDIT TO COVER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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

As he is aware that Prime Minister Whitlam recently called in members of various banking companies (both trading and private) to discuss the financing of various Government departments of this nation because Supply has not been granted, can he inform the House whether it would

be constitutional or not for Mr. Whitlam to take over depositors' funds or negotiate with banks in relation to using them to carry on government?

Answer:—

I am aware of the Press reports concerning the discussions which have taken place between the former Prime Minister and the banks relative to the provision of finance to persons who had supplied goods or services to the Commonwealth Government and who could not be paid. While I am not in a position to adjudicate as to whether such action was constitutional, it is clear that the discussions were a deliberate attempt by the A.L.P. Government to continue to hold the reins of Government. No doubt, in making the decisions which he made yesterday, the Governor-General took into account this action on the part of the former Prime Minister as part of the evidence that he was prepared to continue clinging to the Treasury benches without having any prospect of regaining access to the Treasury resources and with no regard to the basic rules of democratic government.

42. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES,
NORTH ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) What is the number of building allotments, both serviced and unserviced, available to his department at North Rockhampton?

(2) Of this number, what is the projected number of houses expected to be constructed in 1975-76?

(3) Are there any areas available to his department for the further construction of pensioner units or cottages in North Rockhampton?

Answers:—

(1) Available for house construction, 58; not ready for construction, 24.

(2) Five of the sites are allocated for a construction tender accepted on 6 November 1975. The cut of nearly 30 per cent in the housing agreement allocation by the former Commonwealth Government to this State for 1975-76 prevents the programming of further construction at this time.

(3) Land in Saunders Street is held for further pensioner units.

43. UTAH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO
PROSPECT IN CAPE YORK PENINSULA

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

(1) Does Utah Development have an authority to prospect in the Cape York Peninsula region? If so, over what areas does it run?

(2) Does the company possess a mining lease over any area in the Cape York Peninsula? If so, over what area does such lease run?

Answers:—

(1) The company holds six authorities to prospect in this region. These authorities to prospect cover 1,462 sub-blocks. A sub-block is an area of approximately 1 square mile.

(2) No.

44. CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL
MEETINGS AND MEMBERS

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

(1) Do the members of the Consumer Affairs Council receive a remuneration for attending meetings of the council, that is, in the form of expenses, loss of time, allowances, travelling or accommodation and, if so, what were the respective amounts received by the council members in 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75?

(2) In respect of the meetings conducted by the council over this period, what were the respective attendances of the members for each of the years?

(3) Since the inception of the council, how many representatives have been replaced, what were the reasons for the replacements and who made the decision as to whom the replacements would be?

Answers:—

(1) The members of the Consumer Affairs Council, except the commissioner, Mr. Pluckrose, receive attendance fees prescribed by regulation 2 under the Consumer Affairs Act 1970-1974. The fees vary according to the duration of the meetings. Travelling allowances are also paid, as prescribed in regulation 2 under that Act, and, in addition, mileage allowance at Public Service rates is also paid. The Consumer Affairs Council has been under my administrative control only from 16 January 1975, on which date it was transferred from the administrative control of my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Justice. The attendance fees paid to members of the Consumer Affairs Council for the portion of the financial year 1974-75 during which the council was under my administrative control are as follows:— Mrs. M. F. Wilson, \$96; Mr. C. S. Scudamore-Smith, \$85; Mr. K. H. McDonald, \$70; Mr. D. F. Jackson, \$15; Mr. W. F. Major, \$35; Miss J. Riordon, \$45; Mrs. G. Horan, \$85; Mr. L. W. Adam, \$65; Mr. I. C. Morrison, \$50; Mr. R. J. O'Loan, \$70; and Mrs. E. E. Parlour, \$40. In addition, during this period Mr. Scudamore-Smith was paid \$148.75 travelling allowance and \$185.35 mileage allowance.

(2) I table a statement showing this information.

Attendances at Meetings of The Consumer Affairs Council

1972-1973		*1973-1974		1974-1975		1975-1976 to 31-10-75	
Gates	8	Wilson	7	Wilson	8		2
Adam	9	Gates	4	Horan	7		2
Horan	7	Horan	6	Pluckrose	7		2
Morrison	7	Parlour	2	Parlour	4		2
O'Loan	6	Riordan	3	Riordan	6		2
Scudamore-Smith	8	Adam	7	Adam	7		2
Tunley	8	MacDonald	3	McDonald	7		2
Williams	6	O'Loan	7	Major	4		2
Wilson	8	Pluckrose	3	Morrison	5		2
Ryan	8	Jackson	2	Scudamore-Smith	9		2
Bridger	7	Major	2	Jackson	4		2
Warburton	5	Scudamore-Smith	6	O'Loan	6		2
Barry	1	Morrison	4				
		Bridger	4				
		Ryan	3				
		Tunley	2				
		Bradford	2				
		Warburton	3				
		Dixon	2				
		Williams	1				

It should be noted that the above figures include proxy members (and some members who were appointed during the financial year shown*.) The Council was re-constituted from 1 January 1974: Since then no proxy members have been appointed.

(3) The administration of the Consumer Affairs Act became my responsibility by an Order in Council dated 16 January 1975, and since that date there has been no replacement of any member of the council. It is the sole prerogative of the Governor in Council to appoint members of statutory bodies such as the Consumer Affairs Council and no responsibility rests upon the Governor in Council to give reasons relating to the constitution of such bodies which change from time to time.

Cairns. There is no doubt that the previous Whitlam Labor Government, in pursuing its policy of cost recovery, as well as phasing out of airline subsidies, was determined to price the average member of the public out of air travel, as evidenced by the recent consequent steep increases in plane fares. It has ignored the general economic conditions which exist today because of its mishandling of the economy, and the future viability of the civil aviation industry which has served Australia and Queensland, in particular, so well in the past must now be doubtful.

45. INCREASED "SUNLANDER" SERVICES FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Mrs. Kippin, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

In view of the decrease in the number of people travelling by aeroplane since the recent steep increases in plane fares, will he ensure that there are sufficient seats and sleepers on the "Sunlander" to satisfy the increased demand for rail travel from North Queensland, especially during the coming school holidays?

Answer:—

All available air-conditioned carriages will be utilised in providing normal as well as the following additional services during the period 5 December 1975 to 25 January 1976: 14 Northbound "Sunlander" services; 14 Southbound "Sunlander" services; 5 Northbound "Capricornian" services; and 6 Southbound "Capricornian" services. In addition, seven non-air-conditioned trains have been scheduled each way between Brisbane and

46. MISS N. RICHARDSON, VEHICLE BUILDERS' UNION MEETING, ADELAIDE

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

Will he publicly commend the courage and wisdom of Miss Natalie Richardson of Adelaide, whose leadership at a general meeting of the Vehicle Builders' Union on 7 November resulted in an overwhelming vote by workers to go back to a 40-hour week at the Chrysler plants, despite a call for a 32-hour week by V.B.U. officials?

Answer:—

Miss Natalie Richardson's voice is echoing round Australia in the minds of grateful millions. She has spoken for the silent. In so doing she has sparked a response from ordinary Australian workers which should for ever be an instruction and a warning to union officials who underestimate the sense of responsibility of their

members or their acceptance of obligation to our nation. The Vehicle Builders' Union by no means is tame cat. No-one in possession of his faculties would believe it is. But the overwhelming decision by members at the Tonsley Park Chrysler plant in South Australia to work a 40-hour week instead of the 32 hours instituted by their officials makes one wonder how many in-plant strikes throughout the whole spectrum of industry might have terminated had there been a system of secret ballots as we are proposing through amendments to our Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The point is that the vast majority of Australians are not loafers, and they are not ignorant. They want to work; they see productivity falling and jobs getting scarcer; they fail to see how 40 hours a week is excessive and they certainly fail to see how a 32-hour week will reduce the cost—and improve the sales—of their product. The former—and not lamented—Minister for the A.C.T. (Mr. Bryant) had a wonderfully simple solution to unemployment. He said, instead of 6,000,000 people working 40 hours a week, let us have 8,000,000 working 30 hours a week. Nothing about correcting the cause of unemployment, honourable members will note; just somehow turn an extra 2,000,000 people overnight into skilled tradesmen, and who cares about productivity and prices! Fortunately, the Government which Mr. Bryant—already infamous for his administration of the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio—represents, has been sacked and Australia will be spared of his quite unique offices. Australia is going through the second most severe economic crisis in its history. At a time when more output, more investment, more enterprise and more confidence are needed, some union officials want a 32-hour week. Congratulations to Natalie Richardson. It took a woman of common sense and a woman of guts to do and say what she did. She has broken through. The day of subservience to unthinking, irresponsible unionism is ending. Union hierarchies who seek to suborn and use unionists as pawns in the political power game should heed the warning.

47. BRISBANE GAS COMPANY LIMITED INCREASED SECURITY DEPOSITS

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

(1) Is he aware that the Brisbane Gas Company Limited has recently increased security deposits from \$10 to \$50 for Brisbane consumers?

(2) Is he aware that many Brisbane consumers are concerned about this steep increase and whether any interest payments will accrue on the new deposit of \$50 retained by the company?

Answers:—

(1) The amount a gas company requires as a security deposit is a matter between the company and the consumer. It is not controlled by the Gas Act. However, I am informed that the amount of the deposit the Brisbane Gas Company Limited requires varies with the class of consumer. A deposit of \$50 is normally required only from small commercial consumers, but several domestic consumers with poor payment records, who use large quantities of gas, have also been required to lodge a security deposit of \$50.

(2) There is no provision in the Gas Act for the payment of interest on deposits.

48. S.G.I.O. INSURANCE COVER AGAINST DESIGN ERRORS

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

(1) Is cover given in insurance policies issued by the S.G.I.O. to contractors insuring against errors by a design department or by an individual consultant and, if so, is the cover available on an annual basis in respect of claims made during the year or is it available by single contract covering the same period as the all-risks policy on the contract?

(2) If the policies aforementioned are available, do they extend to cover of work performed by architects, engineers, surveyors and project managers in connection with the design, specification, supervision of construction and management of contracts and are there any special provisions to cover loss prior to hand-over, particularly in house and turn-key contracts where ownership does not become legally binding until final acceptance?

Answers:—

(1) The S.G.I.O. (Queensland) does not insure against errors by a design department or errors by an individual consultant. Its contractors insurance policy specifically excludes such risks. It is understood that such a cover is written in the London insurance market under professional indemnity insurance. The S.G.I.O. (Queensland) has on rare occasions been approached to underwrite such professional indemnity insurances but, on seeking both rating and reinsurance facilities, has found that the professional insurers in the London market prefer to write such covers directly.

(2) See (1) above.

49. MINING AUTHORITIES TO PROSPECT WITHIN CITY OF MT. ISA

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

(1) What mining leases or applications to prospect are held in relation to the area covered by the city of Mt. Isa?

(2) What is the name and address of each company involved?

(3) When were these leases granted or when will the Mining Warden's Court hear the applications and when were the applications lodged?

(4) In cases of this nature, does the department advise the city council and its town planners of the applications?

(5) Do companies have to advertise their applications in local newspapers or in any way advise residents whose homes may be erected on the area applied for?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) The area of the city of Mt. Isa is 15,927 square miles and if the honourable member's question relates to this area the compilation of the information desired will take some time. However, it is presumed he is referring to what is normally regarded as the residential and business area of the city.

Details of titles over this area are as follows:—

Mining Lease No.	Company	Date of Grant
5252	Mount Isa Mines Limited	29-7-1965
5253	Mount Isa Mines Limited	7-10-1965
5585	Mount Isa Mines Limited	17-1-1974
5589	Mount Isa Mines Limited	19-6-1969
6335	Mount Isa Mines Limited	30-5-1974
6336	Mount Isa Mines Limited	8-8-1974
6364	Mount Isa Brick & Tile Company Pty. Ltd.	28-8-1972
6673	Mount Isa Mines Limited	27-9-1973
7897 (Application)	Pegmin Limited . .	Application lodged on 1-9-75— Not yet set down for hearing

Authority to prospect No. 1551M—Mount Isa Mines Limited—Two years from 8.8.75—Over 93 subblocks. (A subblock is approximately 1 square mile.)

(4) The city council is advised of all applications for mining leases.

(5) Copies of the certificates of application must be published in a newspaper circulating in the locality, and copies of both the applications and certificates of application must be given to the occupier of Crown land and the owner or occupier of private land.

50. FRASER ISLAND SITES SACRED TO ABORIGINES

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

(1) What sites on Fraser Island are regarded as sacred sites under the relevant Queensland legislation?

(2) Is his department in the process of investigating sites for the purpose of adding them as sacred sites under relevant legislation?

Answers:—

(1) All Aboriginal sites as defined by the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act automatically receive the protection of the Act.

(2) A State-wide programme of site location and recording was commenced in 1967 and now involves three professional archaeologists, an establishment of seven Aboriginal rangers and over 200 honorary wardens.

51. SURVEY OF ROAD INTO CAPE YORK PENINSULA

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

(1) Has his department made any preliminary survey for a road into the Cape York Peninsula?

(2) If not, does it have any plans to undertake a survey?

Answers:—

Because of the excellent representations made by the honourable members for Barron River and Cook, it was possible for me to allocate approximately \$200,000 for work on the road from Mareeba to Cooktown. They are excellent members, and obviously there was no need whatever for the honourable member for Rockhampton to ask a question about Cape York. Of course, if he does not have enough to do looking after Rockhampton, I suppose I can answer him.

(1) The Peninsula Developmental Road extends from Mareeba through Mt. Molloy, Laura and Coen to Weipa. Road surveys have been carried out as far north as Coen, but from there to Weipa survey information is available only on isolated sections mainly associated with stream crossings.

(2) The Main Roads Department has no immediate plans for further extension surveys in the area. When I have any information, I shall give it to the honourable members who represent the area.

52. SCHOOL SITES AND SIZES

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

(1) Has he seen the report that real estate developers were making a fortune from the Education Department because poor planning and lack of co-ordination between Government departments meant that the Education Department was paying extraordinarily high prices for school sites?

(2) Is the lack of schools caused by sites being purchased after development occurred instead of when developments were approved?

(3) Is this lack of foresight and planning causing the lack of school sites in critical growth areas such as Woodridge, where the State school is now reported to be one of the largest primary schools in the world?

(4) What is the ideal size for a State primary school and a State high school?

(5) How many primary schools have over 500 pupils?

(6) How many high schools have over 800 pupils?

Answers:—

(1) I assume that the honourable member is referring to a newspaper report of a statement made by the president of the Queensland Teachers' Union.

(2) I am not aware that any Queensland child has been denied education because of lack of a school.

(3) My department carries out comprehensive planning, the practical results of which are naturally limited by the finance available. Numerous school sites have been obtained in anticipation of future needs. It is true that unprecedented development has caused growing pains in the Woodridge area, but any delay in acquiring a new site there has been the unavoidable result of legal processes that must be followed during acquisition.

(4) There is no reliable research to support any opinion regarding ideal sizes of schools. I believe that the children of the Woodridge State School, large though it may be, are receiving educational opportunities equal to any, and I commend the dedicated teachers at that school. I should mention also that my department has given the school special consideration by the provision of additional professional and ancillary staff.

(5) One hundred and fifty of the State's 1,050 primary schools have enrolments in excess of 500 pupils.

(6) There are 53 high schools with enrolments exceeding 800 students.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FEDERAL GRANT TO MR. CHARLES PERKINS

Mr. AIKENS: I point out that yesterday I asked a question without notice of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, who, in his answer, said that the Premier would further answer it today. My question was:—

"Can he ascertain and inform the House if Charles Perkins, a highly paid Commonwealth public servant, was recently granted leave of absence and provided

with a generous grant by the Whitlam Government's Arts Council for some purpose as yet not completely disclosed? If so, could information be obtained if the Arts Council grant was made to Perkins to organise and execute a primitive bone-pointing ceremony which had as its object the physical and mental deterioration of the Premier followed by his premature death? If so, will a request be made for a full public inquiry into the circumstances of this grant by the Arts Council and others no less flimsy, such as the grant by the same body of \$100,000 to Germaine Greer allegedly for public dissertations on sexual deviations and excesses?"

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: In reply to the honourable member's question without notice yesterday, which has been shown to me, and as it relates to me personally—it was a rather unusual experience to be confronted, half way between the aerodrome and Alice Springs, by a group of men led by Mr. Charles Perkins, who was sponsored and financed by the Commonwealth Government and was using Commonwealth Government vehicles and facilities. The main highway into the city was blocked. At the same time, these people attempted, with Land Rovers, to ram the new vehicle in which I was travelling. They threw bottles and damaged that brand-new car. It is incredible that this man who is sponsored in this way by the Commonwealth Government can use our money in the way in which it was used. The people there conducted themselves in a disgraceful and disgusting way. It was no credit to Mr. Perkins or to the Commonwealth Government.

As the honourable member said, it is high time that somebody did something about these people who take the law into their own hands and have received the guaranteed protection of the Commonwealth Government which was dismissed yesterday. No policeman is allowed to touch them. They are at liberty to do what they want to. They committed, as it were, highway robbery and damaged private property.

I am quite sure that the present Federal Government under Mr. Fraser will not allow these people to carry on and do the things that they have been able to do under the Labor Government. Under the Fraser Government there will be a stop to the grants of large sums of money to Germaine Greer, Mr. Perkins and others who had the world at their feet—unlimited money and encouragement and backing from the Federal Government. They will find that all of this will stop.

THREATS BY MR. WHITLAM AGAINST GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. AHERN: I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to threats by the

outgoing Prime Minister against the Governor-General and the office of the Governor-General? Does he believe this could constitute criminal or even treasonable action by him?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Everyone in this nation is now fully aware of the type of Prime Minister that Mr. Whitlam has been. For a long time we have been warning the people of Australia that this man is bent on setting up a republic and a dictatorship, and he has demonstrated that very clearly during the past few days, particularly yesterday. Yes, he did threaten that he would deal with the Governor-General and the Senate, that he would abolish them just as he has tried to abolish our flag, our national anthem—

Mr. Hinze: And the States.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: And the States, yes. Of course, these things are completely in keeping with his attitude and it surprises me that it has taken so long for so many people to wake up to it. Of course, the people opposite will never wake up to it. But I would like to place on record exactly what the Governor-General did say yesterday so that we have it for all time in the records of this Parliament.

Mr. Marginson: It is a mockery.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads and the honourable member for Wolston to refrain from persistent interjections.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Governor-General made this statement—

"It has been necessary for me to find a democratic and constitutional solution to the current crisis, which will permit the people of Australia to decide as soon as possible what should be the outcome of the deadlock which developed over Supply between the two Houses of Parliament and between the Government and the Opposition parties.

"The only solution consistent with the Constitution and with my oath of office and my responsibilities, authority and duty as Governor-General is to terminate the commission as Prime Minister of Mr. Whitlam and to arrange for a caretaker Government able to secure Supply, and willing to let the issue go to the people.

"I shall summarise the elements of the problem and the reasons for my decision which places the matter before the people of Australia for prompt determination.

"Because of the Federal nature of our Constitution and because of its provisions the Senate undoubtedly has constitutional power to refuse or defer Supply to the Government.

"Because of the principles of responsible Government a Prime Minister who cannot obtain Supply, including money for

carrying on the ordinary services of Government, must either advise a general election or resign.

"If he refuses to do this I have the authority and indeed the duty under the Constitution to withdraw his commission as Prime Minister. The position in Australia is quite different from the position in the United Kingdom.

"Here the confidence of both Houses on Supply is necessary to ensure its provision. In the United Kingdom the confidence of the House of Commons alone is necessary.

"But both here and in the United Kingdom the duty of the Prime Minister is the same in a most important respect—if he cannot get Supply he must resign or advise an election.

"If a Prime Minister refuses to resign or advise an election, and this is the case with Mr. Whitlam, my Constitutional authority and duty require me to do what I have now done—to withdraw his commission—and to invite the Leader of the Opposition to form a caretaker Government—that is one that makes no appointments or dismissals and initiates no policies, until a general election is held.

"It is most desirable that he should guarantee Supply. Mr. Fraser will be asked to give the necessary undertakings and advise whether he is prepared to recommend a double dissolution. He will also be asked to guarantee Supply.

"The decisions I have made were made after I was satisfied that Mr. Whitlam could not obtain Supply. No other decision open to me would enable the Australian people to decide for themselves what should be done.

"Once I had made up my mind, for my own part, what I must do if Mr. Whitlam persisted in his stated intentions, I consulted the Chief Justice of Australia, Sir Garfield Barwick. I have his permission to say that I consulted him in this way.

"The result is that there will be an early general election for both Houses and the people can do what, in a democracy such as ours, is their responsibility and duty and theirs alone. It is for the people now to decide the issue which the two leaders have failed to settle."

STATEMENT BY ELIZABETH REID IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

Mr. AIKENS: I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 12 November, headlined "Sex—the way to power", reporting a speech made by Elizabeth Reid, in Austin, Texas, U.S.A., on women in public life in Australia, in which Mrs. Reid said, *inter alia*—"Male politicians expect women to act as sex objects", and that refusing sexual advances had cost her a bad Press and failure

of some programmes she wanted in Australia? As Mrs. Reid was appointed by the Whitlam Government and worked only for that Government in Australia, and as her statements could be construed as applying to all women employed by any Government in this country, could he made an unequivocal statement assuring everyone everywhere that women employed by the Queensland Government are not required to flaunt and utilise their sex in order to enjoy security in their jobs and promotion to other jobs?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I certainly can give the honourable member that assurance about this Government. I was surprised to read that statement by Miss Reid in "The Courier-Mail" today. Of course, as the honourable member said, the only Government or Government members with whom she has been associated and worked closely is the Federal Labor Government and members of that Government. As we all know, Mr. Speaker, they have been corrupt and dishonest in many areas, and they have done many things that have brought them to the situation in which they are today. I guess that Miss Reid must know, after working for them. However, I am sure that women generally are completely disgusted with her as a so-called representative of women's opinions and ideas because statements allegedly made on their behalf are not true.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES BILL INITIATION

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

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to tenancies of dwelling-houses and the recovery of possession thereof and for matters incidental thereto."

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

MR. WHITLAM'S ATTACK ON THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL; DOWNFALL OF LABOR

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.9 p.m.): I rise in this debate to bring to public attention the contemptible statements by the Opposition Leader in regard to the Governor-General.

In common with many other members of the Labor Party, the Leader of the Opposition cannot take it. This Opposition Leader, who was so busy writing to the Queen about our Governor stating some telling home truths, has nothing but abuse for Sir John Kerr for doing his duty.

The Governor-General is the final safeguard of democracy. He, like the Governor,

is there to remind bad, corrupt and incompetent Governments—and if ever a Government qualified for that description it was the former Whitlam Government—that there is someone who can bring them to account.

Mr. Whitlam appointed Sir John Kerr, so Labor cannot claim he is a product of what they call the Establishment. Only last week, Mr. Whitlam was praising Sir John Kerr. Yet yesterday we heard this same man saying "God Save the Queen—but nothing will save the Governor-General" and referring to "Kerr's Cur". The Labor Party's true colours are indeed on display for everyone throughout the nation to see. In fact, yesterday we saw Labor's true colours displayed outside the Liberal Party headquarters in Edward Street—red, with a hammer and sickle. We saw Labor in its true colours.

Over the past few months we have heard a lot of straight-out lies by the Labor Party, and also by the Leader of the Opposition in his statements about me and about the Constitution. The Prime Minister set out to rewrite the Constitution verbally. Honourable members will remember his claims that the Senate could not defer the Budget, that the Governor-General could talk only to him and that Senator Field's appointment was unconstitutional. Well, yesterday the Governor-General exposed all this as lies.

I see that the Leader of the Opposition in this House plans to conduct his campaign on the appointment of Senator Field. If that is all he has to campaign on, he hasn't got very much. This election is not about the Senate; it's not about the Governor-General; it's not about Senator Field. It's about inflation; it's about unemployment; it's about wrecked businesses; it's about dishonesty in high places; it's about Acting Prime Ministers—two of them—who were sacked for deceiving Parliament; it's about four other Ministers who were sacked for incompetence; it's about young people who can't afford to buy homes; it's about dole bludgers; it's about "Blue Poles"; it's about jet-setting Prime Ministers; and it's about militant trade unions who are running the Labor Party and are now trying to run the country. We now have the amazing situation of a sacked Prime Minister leading all the Ministers he himself sacked. These are the issues. Labor will be judged on its record—and what a record!

We have record unemployment—the level will soon reach half a million; record inflation, at the level of 16 per cent; record interest rates, of from 10 to 23 per cent, and no drop in sight; record strikes, such as have never been seen before; record deficits—our nation will be paying for Labor's extravagance and incompetence for years and years to come; record increases in taxes, of 140 per cent in three years; and record rises in everything we buy—petrol, cigarettes, beer, food, air fares, postage stamps and telephone calls. The list is endless. Furthermore,

business is nearing bankruptcy. Over 3,000 big and small businesses went out of existence in the first six months of this year alone.

Who is to blame for all this? Is it Malcolm Fraser? Is it Doug Anthony? Is it Sir John Kerr? Is it this State Government? Of course not! The ones to blame are Gough Whitlam and the party represented by members on the Opposition benches. This is why the Labor Party is afraid to go to the polls; it is scared stiff. We have heard this chorus of hate for Sir John Kerr simply because he forced the Labor Party to face the people.

The Labor Party cries about democracy. Now it will have a taste of democracy. The people will judge the Labor Party, as is their democratic right, and, my word, the Labor Party will be weighed in the balance and will be found wanting.

Already the Labor mobs are out in the streets. It's always those who cry loudest about democracy who shout down anyone who tries to exercise his democratic freedom. Labor is the party of the clenched fist and the shouted threats. That is what the Labor Party and the Communists—the mixture we have today in the A.L.P.—stand for.

I have listened to calls made by Mr. Hawke, the Leader of the Opposition and other Labor democrats for calm and restraint, but behind the scenes they tell the unions to go for all they're worth.

Mr. Lee: Burns is out doing it now.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Indeed he is. Are the mobs that demonstrate in the streets, such as during the Springbok tour and the moratorium demonstrations, members of the National Party or the Liberal Party? Are the union marches for political purposes sponsored by the Liberal Party and the National Party? Are the organised hecklers and disrupters at political meetings members of our parties? Is abuse being screamed and are objects being hurled by National Party and Liberal Party people? Of course not! All this is done by the Labor Party and its supporters. Generally, of course, they are organised and led by the colleagues and friends of Opposition members—the Communists and the militants. For example, this morning Laurie Carmichael was screaming for organised strikes and disruption in every area. The unions that come out in the streets are ultramilitant Communist-led unions, such as the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union, the Waterside Workers, the Seamen, the Transport Workers and the Building Workers. They are in the usual top 10 of striking unions.

Labor tried its fear tactics a few weeks ago, and it flopped. It will flop again this time. I utterly condemn street marches and violence. It will not come from National Party and Liberal Party people. Australian people have always shown their contempt for street marches of the Labor and Communist type that we see from

time to time. They may work in Portugal or some of the other socialist countries, but they will not work in Australia.

In fact, it is always the socialist countries who style themselves as the "People's Democratic Republic" or this or that—particularly as they have only one party and their Opposition leaders are either dead or in gaol. That is the type of country the former Prime Minister wants—a country where there is no Opposition; he is always backing such countries.

The plain fact is that this election will be fought and won on Labor's economic disasters. A Liberal-National Party Government will bring back stability, confidence and employment. This has begun already. The moment Mr. Whitlam was sacked, new hope began to return to the nation. It was to be seen in the Stock Exchange; it could be felt in the street; it can be seen in the business sector and it is noticeable in the man on the land in any area we care to go. The recovery has started and when the Fraser-Anthony Government is elected, it will continue to expand and grow. The Whitlam socialist nightmare will then be just a horrible dream—part of Australia's political history. Queensland Opposition members will be part of it. They will go down in history as a disgrace to the nation. The Labor Government destroyed the nation and then destroyed itself.

Labor screams about democracy. It is getting democracy. The people will decide. That is why Labor is so frightened; it knows today exactly what the decision will be. Labor will be destroyed, just as it has destroyed the nation.

COLLUSION TO BRING ABOUT DOWNFALL OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (12.18 p.m.): The Premier has reacted like a man who has knocked over a beehive. Judging by the dejected expressions on the faces of all the Government members, they don't know whether they have won or not. They don't know how they're going.

I have some comments to make on the most outrageous attack on democracy this country has ever known which occurred in Canberra yesterday. It was the culmination of a long-laid plan stemming back to the time when the Australian Labor Party first took office in Canberra in 1972. It was the result of a series of intimidatory and blackmail attempts by Mr. Fraser's members. The Government was blackmailed—threatened that if it did not hold a general election, Supply would not be passed in the Senate. The Prime Minister was told, "If you hold an election, we will put the Appropriation Bills through." There was no discussion on whether the Appropriation Bills were adequate, or whether the Budget was good or bad. The Opposition's desire was to grasp the reins of government by fair means or foul—and that is what happened.

Even the great white knight in shining armour, Killen the magnificent—the man with the feet of clay—eventually bit the dust. He was crushed by Mr. Fraser, then Leader of the Opposition, and every Opposition member in the Senate was cowed into submission by Mr. Fraser's standover tactics.

Further, what have we seen in the last 24 hours? The culmination, the completion of a well-laid plan. We witnessed a diabolical connivance between Mr. Fraser and the Governor-General. There is no doubt about that.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. Honourable members will refrain from persistent interjections.

Mr. MELLOY: Of course there was connivance. The whole plan could not have been carried out unless there was connivance.

Mr. KNOX: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member in order in this House in referring to the Governor-General as one who has connived with people in the community?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Honourable the Minister has taken a point of order. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows as well as I do that such remarks about the Governor-General are not permitted in the House. I ask him to refrain from making them.

Mr. MELLOY: I do not know to whom the remarks were offensive. If the Attorney-General is offended by them, I regret it, but I cannot help stating the fact that Mr. Fraser knew all along what was going to happen. There must have been some contact between him and the Queen's representative.

Mr. Speaker, look at the headline of the newspaper I am holding—

"Governor must sack PM, says Fraser".

Fraser said that the Governor-General must eventually sack the Prime Minister. He knew that the Prime Minister was to be sacked. The article, which appears in "The Australian", says—

"The Federal Opposition has stepped up its pressure on the Governor-General"—

and, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to take note of that remark—

"The Federal Opposition has stepped up its pressure on the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, arguing that unless the Constitutional deadlock is resolved he would have to dismiss the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, and form a new Government."

The article continues—

"Mr. Ellicott said yesterday that if Mr. Whitlam persisted in trying to govern without Supply then the Governor-General should withdraw his commission."

They knew all along what was to be the ultimate action by the Governor-General!

Government members cannot tell me that, in three visits by Mr. Fraser to the Governor-General, this possibility was not discussed. This is the disastrous and despicable action that has been perpetrated by Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Speaker, it is a very serious matter that we are called on to deal with a situation such as this purely through the political ambitions of an outdated, anaemic Leader of the Opposition such as Mr. Fraser—a man who, in effect, does not even have the confidence of his own party. Because he knew that he could not rely on the votes of his own members to reject the Budget, he was afraid to put the Appropriation Bill to the Senate.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. I warn all honourable members that, if they do not contain themselves, I will deal with them under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. MELLOY: Nobody was less surprised than Mr. Fraser at the events yesterday. When he went into the House yesterday afternoon, he knew what was coming. Of course, he did not tell members of his own party. They were walking the passageways of Parliament House in Canberra asking the Pressmen what was happening. In distinct contrast to that, Gough Whitlam called his team together and told them what was happening. I don't think Mr. Fraser was game to confide in his party members for fear that they would try to dissuade him from taking the action that was imminent.

It is not only the Queensland Opposition that is concerned about what happened. What was said by Mr. Bunton, the Independent senator from New South Wales, who, like the representative selected by this Parliament—or rather by this Government—was selected to fill a vacancy from the A.L.P. ranks? In his speech to the Senate, Senator Bunton said—

"The Opposition has said it will hold the Bills up until such time as the Government gives an assurance that it will go to the people. In other words, the Opposition is quite prepared to admit that there is nothing wrong with these Appropriation Bills . . . If the Opposition rejects the Budget, well and good, but to say that the Budget is all right and will be accepted provided the Government resigns is not good enough."

This was the attitude adopted by Senator Bunton in the Senate in October. He went on to say—

"By flouting the will of the people in the 1972 election and in the second election in 1974 and by moving this amendment the Opposition is taking undemocratic action."

That is exactly what has happened.

Senator Steele Hall is reported under the heading "Fraser has taken a sleazy road" as follows—

"The Liberal Movement Leader (Senator Steele Hall) last night accused the Federal Opposition Leader (Mr. Fraser) of choosing a 'pretty sleazy road' to the Prime Ministership.

"...
"In a statement later, Senator Steele Hall said the day's events had been a 'remarkable exercise in stupidity.'

"He said that only a lust for power could have induced the Liberal Party to lose its head in this manner."

(Time expired.)

GRANTING OF SUPPLY; GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S APPOINTMENT OF CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (12.27 p.m.): The only person who knew the inevitable road that this particular matter was going to take and how it would end was the then Prime Minister of Australia (Gough Whitlam). He is a distinguished lawyer; he is a knowledgeable person; and up till yesterday he was the consultant of and the adviser to the Governor-General. The Governor-General was prepared to take his advice while he was Prime Minister of Australia.

Mr. Wright: He doesn't take his advice, does he?

Mr. KNOX: He doesn't take it when he is Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Houston: He took Fraser's advice.

Mr. KNOX: No, he did not.

The Governor-General inevitably had to ask the then Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) when he would receive a reply to his question on when he would be granted Supply. The then Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) could only say, "I can't answer the question." Obviously the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Fraser) was the only person who could grant Supply to the Governor-General.

Whitlam continually misled the people, leaning heavily on their ignorance of the Constitution, in trying to have them believe that Supply had to be granted to him. Supply has to be granted to the Governor-General—not to the Prime Minister—and the Governor-General is entitled to have an answer. He did not get it from the then Prime Minister. But he got it from the Leader of the Opposition, and Supply flowed immediately.

I say that Whitlam knew that this was the end of the road and deliberately embarked on a statement yesterday that there was to be a half-Senate election for the purpose of being knocked over, because he knew that the Governor-General could not possibly accept a half-Senate election, which would cost the nation between \$2,000,000

and \$3,000,000, when there was not one cent in the coffers of the nation to pay for it. Before a half-Senate election could be held, there had to be Supply.

Mr. Jones: They got Supply.

Mr. KNOX: Yes, within minutes after Mr. Fraser was invited to be Prime Minister.

So it was not possible for the Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) to have a half-Senate election costing nearly \$3,000,000 when there was no Supply granted to the Governor-General and when in fact the coffers would have been empty before election day.

It was therefore proper for the Governor-General to take the course that he took, because it was the only one that he could take. Mr. Whitlam knew that—and isn't it surprising how these "spontaneous" demonstrations, with thousands of people in the streets, erupted all over the nation within the hour!

I guarantee that the people behind those demonstrations were advised either early yesterday morning or the previous day to be ready for this sort of situation. Mr. Whitlam must have known that the only answer that he was going to receive from the Governor-General was that there could be no half-Senate election because Supply had not been granted.

The other day I said in this House in answer to a question without notice that Mr. Whitlam was behaving like Nixon. I said that he was lopping the head off every executive he could get at, and that very soon his head would have to be lopped off because he could not continue to shelter behind this means of disposing of the guilt for which he was responsible in the illegal activities in the loan-raising scandal, and the other illegal activities in which his Government was involved that are being challenged in the High Court.

It may well be that Prime Minister Whitlam was the greatest Prime Minister that Australia has had; but he tried to make himself greater than Parliament, greater than his party, greater than the Constitution, and, as of yesterday, greater than the Governor-General. He also used the Australian Broadcasting Commission as an arm of information and propaganda to deliberately mislead the people. Both he and the A.B.C. kept talking about a crisis in the Constitution. There was no constitutional crisis in this nation. It was a political crisis, and the Governor-General had to restore law and order, and good sense, in the community by making clear whose responsibility it was to provide him with Supply in order that the affairs of the nation could proceed.

I quote the first paragraph of Part I of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Commonwealth—

"The legislative power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a Federal Parliament, which shall consist of the Queen,

a Senate, and a House of Representatives, and which is hereinafter called 'The Parliament', or 'The Parliament of the Commonwealth'."

That is the Parliament, and the Queen is represented by the Governor-General. They, not Prime Ministers, are the people who constitute the Parliament. There is no mention of Prime Ministers in that clause.

The Prime Minister continually tried to mislead the people, in their lack of knowledge of the Constitution, that he was the chief executive of the nation. The chief executive of this nation is the Governor-General, and the Prime Minister is only an adviser to him.

Mr. Jensen: He is supposed to inform the Queen before he sacks the Prime Minister.

Mr. KNOX: The only person who wants to sack anybody is Whitlam, who wants to sack the Governor-General. And why does he want to sack him? Why does the Labor Party want to sack the Governor-General? Because they want to appoint a Viceroy—a man who would be a puppet of the Executive Government. He would be a puppet who would have the right of veto over the elected Parliament of a State; the right to appoint State governors or administrators (administrators more likely than governors); and the right to take all the powers of the States away from them. Those powers would be placed in the hands of a Viceroy controlled by the Executive Government in Canberra, thus denying the people the opportunity of free expression in their own State Parliaments and circumventing the Constitution by removing the need to go to the people by way of referendum. The Government would then have all the powers that it wanted without the necessity to go to the people to have them transferred. The appointment of a Viceroy would enable the Government to circumvent the Constitution and the powers of State Parliaments.

Where will Opposition members stand in the A.L.P. should that day ever come? Their policy is to abolish the office of Governor-General, and to have Executive Government control the Constitution of this nation rather than be subservient to it. The law of this nation by which Governments have to abide is in fact the Constitution. The people of this nation, particularly public servants at this moment, need to be grateful that those who founded the Constitution thought of this situation. They provided that the Senate should have the opportunity as part of the Parliament—not as some House of Lords in some non-elected area—to curb irresponsible, dangerous and corrupt Governments. That was their reason for inserting that provision in the Constitution.

The people who framed the Constitution were first generation Australians and migrants to this country who did not want to see the things that had happened in their own countries happen in this country. They did not want to see an aristocracy; they

did not want to see a House of Lords; they wanted to see a joint Parliament in which there was equal power and equal responsibility, and the first time this power has been exercised in this nation (the power correctly exercised by the Governor-General), who are the people who opposed it? The A.L.P.! I warn individual citizens that should the executive Government in this State, in any other State or in the Commonwealth of Australia ever dictate to the Governors or the Governor-General, the situation will then be that the rights and liberties of the individual citizens of this country will be forgotten and finished, because in fact there will be no rights against the power of Executive Government should the Governor-General ever be removed from office and his powers stripped from him. So this is the situation that the nation faces at the moment. It may well be that Mr. Fraser might not be the greatest; but he is the best. And the people of Australia do not want the greatest in the Prime Ministership; they want the best, and Fraser and Anthony and their team are prepared to provide the best and get on with the job of governing this nation with less histrionics.

LOSS OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (12.37 p.m.): Yesterday, as we all know, was Remembrance Day in this nation. It marked the end of the world conflict during which our forefathers fought the German nation in order to bring peace to the world and to ensure that our democratic system was not in jeopardy from those who wanted power. Now, 57 years after that day, we have lost our democratic system, the system that we have known since Federation. So in the future instead of observing Remembrance Day purely and simply as a day to honour those who sacrificed their lives in the defence of our way of life, we will have brought home to us that it is the anniversary of the day that Australia lost its democratic system of government.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: Let us analyse exactly what happened. The Labor Government was elected in December 1972 and McMahon and Anthony were defeated. But, unfortunately, owing to the timing of Senate elections, there was only an election for the House of Representatives and the Senate remained in the hands of anti-Labor forces. Of course, the tragedy for this nation was that the defeated Government, that is the McMahon-Anthony Government, did not accept the verdict of the people, and two days after the election we saw the following report in the "Australian" on 4 December 1972:—

"The Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, said yesterday it was not up to the Queensland Government to co-operate with the new Federal Labor Government."

That was a challenge issued immediately, and from that day on the Premier of this State, supported by his National and Liberal colleagues carried out that threat to the letter.

Mr. Aikens: I supported him.

Mr. HOUSTON: Oh, yes, supported by the honourable member, but he would support any renegades.

Mr. Aikens interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: No, that is not right at all, but I will not come into that situation.

The remarkable thing we saw over that period was how the Federal Liberal Party turned from a middle-of-the-road party into a fierce Right-wing party, and that is the reason the Premier of this State became such an ardent supporter of the Liberal leader and how Mr. Fraser eventually became the leader of the Liberal Party. When the Premier spoke in the House today, did Sir Gordon Chalk follow him? No! It was the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party who spoke on these matters which are so important to the nation.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable members for Merthyr, Belmont and Everton to contain themselves and refrain from making persistent interjections.

Mr. HOUSTON: The point is that the Federal Labor Government decided to go to the people in May 1974 because of the obstruction of the Senate. They went to the people; the people returned them. But what did we find? The Liberal and National-Country Parties would not accept the verdict of the people. They continued to use the Senate as a blocking force—something that had never been done in the history of the nation—and that had far-reaching effects. As we know, Mr. Speaker, people tend to forget as time goes on.

Mr. AIKENS: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. HOUSTON: Stop wasting time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. AIKENS: If we are to have this matter decided, let us have it decided truthfully. The Senate was elected by the people. It represents the people, too.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: Control of the Senate was not in the hands of the Liberal and National-Country Parties. That statement is completely untrue. It is the type of statement one hears continually. The Liberal and National-Country Parties did not have the numbers in the Senate in their own right. I will tell the House in a moment exactly what the situation was.

The present crisis continued from 1972 till the Senate decided to block Supply. There was an organised attempt by the Liberal and National-Country Parties to create a crisis. As the Minister for Justice said, it was a political crisis; but the decision of the Governor-General has now turned it into a constitutional crisis.

Let us look for a moment at some of the facts, Mr. Speaker, because every Australian, no matter whether he supports the Labor Party, the Liberal Party or the National-Country Party, will be affected. The fact is that in future the Senate will be the dominant House in this nation. Until now the Lower House has been the dominant House. Now that the Governor-General has said that the question of Supply is the deciding factor in who shall govern, every time the Upper House is controlled by a political party that is in Opposition in the Lower House, it will be able to block Supply legally, and every Governor-General will have to take action similar to that which has now been taken. If that happens, a situation could arise in which people would have to take part in an election every six months.

Of course, an even worse situation has been created by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland, and it is now necessary to take into account not only senators who have been elected to the Senate by the people. For example, a party in power in the Lower House may have a majority of members in the Upper House, according to the will of the people. But if one or two senators representing that party should die, a State Government composed of members of the party in Opposition in the Senate could appoint someone to the Upper House and completely change the concept of political representation. Therefore, what we are doing in this nation—and it has now been confirmed by the attitude and the decision of the Governor-General—is doing away with the parliamentary system as we have known it.

If by some mischance the Fraser Government is returned to office, the nation will again be in turmoil, because Fraser has already promised to do away with Medibank, he has promised to introduce a new system of taxation that will double taxation for everyone in Queensland, and he has also said that he will do away with much educational spending. Pensioners will remember the raw deal they had under McMahon and Anthony. They should not forget that Fraser was then a member of Cabinet. These are the things the people of Australia and Queensland can look forward to.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the House to come to order. I ask honourable members to refrain from making persistent interjections and allow the honourable member to continue his speech in silence.

Mr. HOUSTON: That has been the attitude of the Liberals and Nationals all the time. If they can't beat a man with logic, they shout him down. They use their numbers. Not one of them is game to get up and debate the matter in an orderly manner. All they do is try to drown people out. But they can't beat me with logic, and they will have to shout pretty loud before they will drown me out.

In this election Whitlam and his team will win hands down. They will win both the House of Representatives and the Senate elections.

As we know, the Senate is made up of 10 senators from each State. The history of the Senate indicates that any Senate election will be a close one. For example, in 1974, the A.L.P. had 29 senators, the Liberal-Country Party had 28 senators, the Liberal Movement had one senator, the National Alliance Party had one, and there was one other. It was found that the National Alliance senator and the other senator, Senator Townley, quickly supported the Liberal-Country Party.

(Time expired.)

BATTLE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SUPREMACY

Mr. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove) (12.46 p.m.): I rise to speak on a matter of public interest—the events of 11 November.

On 11 November 1975, yesterday, our Governor-General dismissed the Prime Minister. On 11 November 1641 Parliament impeached Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. The events are 300 years apart, but the issues are the same. The question is whether an Executive should be allowed to cling to office in defiance of Parliament's refusal of Supply. When the Earl of Strafford was Chief Minister, he and his colleagues managed to do it for 11 years. That period was referred to as the "Eleven Years Tyranny". Mr. Whitlam's tyranny did not last that long.

Mr. Whitlam was ready to tough it out; he was ready to ignore Parliament's refusal of Supply. He was ready to do anything, except resign and give the people a chance to speak. But he reckoned without the fundamental guarantee of our freedoms that Australians possess—the monarch's representative exercising with great patience, but with great determination, the safeguards of the Australian Constitution.

Both Wentworth and Whitlam were men whose gifts matched their ambitions. Both were bold and determined in the face of opposition. Both were determined to change the course of history. Both failed!

In this country we have a parliamentary democracy—a democracy, because the voters are able to control those who rule them; parliamentary, because the voters exercise that control through their representatives

assembled in Parliament. If Parliament ever lost its capacity to control, our form of democracy would be at an end.

350 years ago Parliament established its ability to control Ministers by depriving them of all sources of funds except those that were granted by Parliament. The history of the reign of Charles I reveals a battle between Parliament passing laws to prohibit Ministers from raising money outside Parliament and the King's Ministers finding one ingenious expedient after another to prop up their makeshift finances.

Mr. Lowes: Like Gough going to the banks.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Quite so. Mr. Hayden might be the most recent Minister who has tried to cling to office by forced loans from the banking system. But forced loans were not invented by Mr. Hayden.

The battle for parliamentary supremacy was a long one. It is said that those who ignore the lessons of history are condemned to relive it. As we have had such a narrow escape, it seems a worth-while use of our time to recall the struggles and sacrifices that ended the "Eleven Years Tyranny" of Strafford and his colleagues.

In 1625 the King summoned Parliament. He was eager for a war with Spain and he hoped for a large grant of money for the purpose. But the House of Commons would grant only two subsidies, and in a formal resolution it expressed a determination to discover and reform the abuses and grievances of the realm and State. Impatiently, Charles dissolved the Parliament on 12 August, without the grant of the basic taxation of tonnage and poundage.

When Charles called his second Parliament on 6 February 1626, it was determined to alter the policies being implemented by the King and his Ministers. It prepared to impeach the Chief Minister, the Duke of Buckingham, and put forward two propositions. The first was that the tax on which the conduct of Government depended—that is, tonnage and poundage—could not legally be collected unless granted by the Parliament. The second was that it would not vote Supply unless Buckingham was removed from office.

The King summoned the Commons to his presence and told them that their first duty was to grant Supply. Parliament stood firm. On 15 June the King dissolved his second Parliament but the methods by which Parliament was proposing to exert its power over the Government had been defined. It would attempt to control the Government's policies by using the power of the purse. It would not grant money until the Chief Minister, who was the adviser and instigator of these policies, was dismissed from office.

The King tried to govern without Parliament. Tonnage and poundage were continued without a grant. Benevolences and forced loans were demanded. Heavy debts were contracted.

War broke out with France in 1627 and, despite all these financial expedients, the burden of government could not be carried on without Supply from Parliament.

The third Parliament of Charles' reign was summoned in March 1628. It immediately prepared a statement describing the forced loans and benevolences raised without parliamentary authority and declaring them to be illegal. At first it determined to proceed by a Bill which, when accepted by the King, would become a statute and necessarily binding. The King indicated that he would never consent to such a Bill. Ultimately it was decided to present to the King, from both Houses, a Petition of Right. If assented to, this would become a matter of judicial record and be analogous in its effect to a decided case in the courts.

The petition complained that people were "required to lend certain sums of money" and that many of them upon their refusal so to do had been "imprisoned, fined and in sundry other ways molested and disquieted."

In paragraph 10, both Houses of Parliament asked—

"That no man hereafter be compelled to make or yield any gift, loan, benevolence, tax, . . ."

Mr. Lowes: Gough and the banks!

Mr. GREENWOOD: As my friend says, Gough and the banks. Paragraph 10 continued—

" . . . or such like charge, without common consent by Act of Parliament; and that none be called to make answer or take such oath, or to give attendance, or be confined, or otherwise molested or disquieted concerning the same or for refusal thereof;"

In paragraph 11 the King was asked to declare—

"In the things aforesaid all your officers and Ministers shall serve you according to the laws and Statutes of this Realm."

The King gave assent to the Petition. In gratitude, Parliament voted five subsidies but emphasised its right to make the executive financially dependent by preparing to remonstrate against the illegal collection of tonnage and poundage. The executive continued its rearguard action and Charles brought the session to an end to prevent the remonstrance being passed.

When the new session opened six months later, the same question arose. Again the King attempted to prevent action by brief adjournments of the House. On the second occasion, the Commons refused to adjourn. When the Speaker declared he had the King's orders to leave the chair, he was forcibly set down and three resolutions, prepared by Sir John Eliot, were carried. The second declared against the collection of tonnage and poundage without grants and the third denounced anyone who should pay these illegal duties as an enemy of the Kingdom.

Charles had had enough of Parliaments; he resolved to call no more and announced his intention by proclamation. He arrested nine members of the House and dissolved Parliament.

Then began the Eleven Years tyranny. The able, ambitious, bold, determined and inventive Wentworth, in Ireland, in England and on the Northern Marches, maintained with the aid of a standing army and a "thorough" policy the arbitrary powers of an executive unguided by Parliament, uncriticised by Parliament and uncontrolled by Parliament. How did he raise money? How did he circumvent Parliament?

The mediaeval tax of ship money was revised. This was a tax imposed on the maritime counties in time of war and used to convert merchant vessels into war-ships. Charles and his Ministers now imposed it throughout the whole kingdom when there was no war, and set the tax at a level which was sufficient to build new ships and not merely convert existing vessels.

Mr. Lowes: How did Charles finish up?

Mr. GREENWOOD: Charles finished up with his head chopped off.

When war with Scotland broke out, all these makeshifts were insufficient to provide for the expenses of government. In 1640, after a rule of 11 years, Charles and his Ministers were forced to convene a Parliament for the purpose of raising taxes. The first Parliament was sent home again after three weeks. The second was the famous "Long Parliament", and once again it sought to deprive the King of sources of revenue which would enable him to continue governing without parliamentary control. The Ship Money Act (16 Car. I Ch. XIV) declared that writs exacting ship money were void and that the particulars prayed in the petition of right shall from henceforth be put in execution accordingly.

On the accession of Charles II in 1660, another source of income was taken away when Parliament abolished feudal tenures. Fees to the Crown in lieu of knights' service and the revenue from ward-ships and marriages were all gone.

Eventually the Bill of Rights (I Will. and Mary Session 2 Ch. 2) enacted—

"That levying money for or to the use of the Crown by pretence of prerogative, without grant of Parliament, for longer time, or in other manner, than the same is or shall be granted, is illegal."

That, in brief, is a recital of the events by which we won our liberties.

May I return to Wentworth and his impeachment in 1640. The most persuasive evidence against him was Vane's note of Wentworth's advice in Council. It went this way—

"Borrow of the city a hundred thousand pounds; go on vigorously to levy ship money. Your Majesty having tried the affections of your people, you are absolved

and loose from all rules of government, and may do what power will admit. Your Majesty having tried all ways shall be acquitted before God and man. And you have an army in Ireland, which you may employ to reduce this kingdom to obedience; for I am confident the Scots cannot hold out five months."

That is what government without parliamentary Supply means. It means tyranny. It means "doing what power will admit". It came to an end on 11 November 1640. The victory was repeated on 11 November 1975.

(Time expired.)

INCITING OF VIOLENCE OVER DISMISSAL OF LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.57 p.m.): I would like to make some comments in this debate about what is taking place on the industrial scene in this nation in conjunction with the occurrences in Canberra; about the attempt by leading A.L.P. figures and their Communist friends to incite violence in the streets of the nation. Today crowds are marching in the streets under the supervision of Communist and A.L.P. union officials, attempting to cause violence to the people and to set aside the rule of law once and for all in this country.

It all commenced yesterday with the very irresponsible attitude of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, when he appeared on the front steps of Parliament House and spoke to the large crowd of union stooges that had been rallied there for this occasion. He encouraged them in no uncertain fashion to go out into the streets and through violence and wild and unruly demonstrations to set aside any respect for law and order or the peaceful ways that Australians are used to.

He was followed very closely on national television yesterday evening by the federal president of the Australian Labor Party and the federal president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (Mr. Bob Hawke) who, with tongue in cheek, said that he did not want to see anything happen but, of course, that he could not blame the unionists if they took spontaneous action—if they got out in the streets and smashed windows; if they got out and did violence to the ordinary citizens going about their business; if they stormed the Liberal Party headquarters in Victoria; if they stormed the Liberal Party headquarters here in Brisbane and threw rocks through the windows. In this endeavour he was setting loose the extreme Left of this nation on a path of destruction that would cut right across our normal way of life.

His cry was taken up very quickly, of course, by Ted Bull, the Victorian Secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation, who at a massed rally yesterday in Melbourne said that the Governor-General was a man

with a reactionary outlook—that his outlook was a move towards fascism. He called on all unionists to take spontaneous action in the streets. He took the lead given by Bob Hawke on behalf of the Australian Labor Party, whose stooges sit in this House today, whose stooges sit here and read the newspapers and pretend they are not part of the same party as Gough Whitlam and the other characters down South and who would, by their performance here, seek to dissociate themselves from the actions of their leaders in the South.

But it has to be the Communist union officials, who run the unions, who have to go out into the streets to cause this violence; so John Halfpenny of the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union was at the same rally with Ted Bull yesterday. These two Communists stood side by side on the platform with a number of Labor officials. Ted Bull said—

"People will rise in a wave of anger and act. It will be a wave of action that will mark history for the proletariat."

That is the sort of talk we are hearing today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with the Sessional Order, the time allowed for the Matters of Public Interest debate has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.