

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 1975

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

FEES PAID BY CROWN TO PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 20 August last, on the motion of Mr. Yewdale, showing all payments made by the Government to public relations agencies or consultants and advertising agencies or consultants during the 1974-75 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received separately.

PAPERS

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

Working Plan and Section and Book of Reference of a proposed deviation of the Central Railway Line at Daringa, together with a Report of the Commissioner for Railways.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.

Forestry Act 1959-1975.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Mr. GYGAR (Stafford) (11.5 a.m.), by leave: Last Friday, 21 November, television Channel 9 broadcast in its news bulletin an item of so-called news which specifically named me and referred to events which occurred in this House last Wednesday. The item, which was broadcast at 6.4 p.m., purported to report a statement made by a student at the University of Queensland. I believe the student was named Spencer. He reportedly stated that I had told a "blatant lie" in this Parliament. The individual concerned was upset that, in the debate on Matters of Public Interest last Wednesday, I spoke on plans by the University of Queensland Union to misappropriate \$2,000 of union funds for a political campaign in

support of the Australian Labor Party. In question time on the same day, I questioned the Minister for Education on the same matter.

The union executive had planned to call a special meeting of the union council last Thursday night to consider a number of motions, the effect of which would have been to set up a committee to launch a publicity campaign on behalf of the A.L.P. and to finance this campaign with \$2,000 of union funds. Such action would have contravened section 6 (3) of the union constitution, which prohibits the union from engaging in party-political activities.

As a member of the union, I took action in the Supreme Court of Queensland to prevent this unconstitutional misappropriation of the students' money to support the Labor Party and, as a result of this action, I served Supreme Court writs on the members of the union prior to the scheduled council meeting. As a result of those writs, the unconstitutional motions were withdrawn and a small clique of Left-wing conspirators deviously sought to flout the union constitution by substituting another motion to give \$2,000 of union funds to the Australian Union of Students for the supposed purposes of education. I am, of course, quite aware that it is their intention to use this money to peddle pro-Labor propaganda under the guise of education policy statements.

Through this whole sordid episode, the most disgusting feature was this small clique's obvious intention to disregard and flout the union constitution wherever needed to achieve their objectives of misappropriating this money to the pro-socialist cause. Never once did they consider that they had any duty whatsoever to the students who had placed them in their position of trust. When I as a member of the union sought to use the due process of law to enforce the union constitution, their hysterical reaction bordered on insanity. A number of actions were taken by this clique to attack me, not the least of which was this blatantly —

Mr. HANSON: I rise to a point of order. I see no reason under Standing Orders why the honourable gentleman should be allowed to prosecute a quarrel.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I draw the attention of the House to the fact that a member is entitled to make a personal explanation. I would add that the statement made so far would suffice for the purposes of the honourable member.

Mr. GYGAR: Mr. Speaker, with respect, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the exact area in which this misrepresentation was made.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has made use of the House to exonerate himself from any responsibility in

that direction. I believe, too, that the message he has conveyed to the House is one that allows everybody to reach his own conclusions as to what was said, what was undertaken and what has transpired in that time.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (11.9 a.m.), by leave: A page 1 report in "The Courier-Mail" of Saturday, 22 November, attributed to the Honourable the Premier a statement to the effect that there had been a heavy withdrawal of funds from two building societies—City Savings Permanent Building Society and Great Australian Permanent Building Society—following what he described as an attack on these societies in a speech I made in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I claim to have been misrepresented by the Honourable the Premier in that he contrived to publish the view that it was my design to place in jeopardy the investments of 500,000 Queenslanders in permanent building societies in this State. I reject that inference totally. As I said in this House, building societies are important as providers of finance for the purchase of homes. We do not oppose them as such. What we do oppose —

Mr. FRAWLEY: A point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I would say that the point of order is that the honourable member's personal explanation does not comply with the requirements of the House. I would also say that the matter is ended.

An Honourable Member: It was a waste of 15 minutes.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! No honourable member will have 15 minutes if he does not behave himself; he will be out of this Chamber before then.

ABORIGINAL RELICS PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1967–1975 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

GIFT DUTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

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

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. ABOLITION OF TERTIARY STUDENT ALLOWANCES

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

(1) Is he aware that a propaganda trick is being used in the current election campaign by way of statements that students in tertiary institutions would be disadvantaged under a non-Labor Commonwealth Government, especially in the matter of allowances and scholarships?

(2) Will he therefore analyse as completely as possible the true situation which will pertain in Queensland's tertiary institutions regarding these scholarships and allowances after the Liberal-National Country Party Government is elected on 13 December?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) As stated by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, in reply to a similar question last Thursday, it is most improbable that there is any truth in the rumour. However, I am sure the honourable member will acknowledge that, with policies still to be announced, I am unable to comment further.

2. PAYMENT FOR POLITICAL NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

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

(1) Was the advertisement in "The Courier-Mail" of 19 November which carried the words "inserted by the Queensland Government as a public service" charged to his department and, if so, to what vote?

(2) What was the cost of the advertisement?

(3) Were advertisements placed in other Queensland newspapers and, if so, what was the cost and the name of each newspaper?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) If the honourable member had read the advertisement, he would have seen that it carried a warning to every Queensland, and indeed to every Australian, that our parliamentary system and free way of life were in danger. It is quite clear to me that no price can be too great if democracy is to be saved and the tragedy of the return of the Whitlam Government averted. This message in the Press was one small way by which I have sought to warn the electors of the dangers of a socialistic regime. I believe that the people of this State will demonstrate, as they did at the last State and Federal elections, their confidence in the type of policies that

my Government and I present. I can only hope that the honourable member, too, will heed the warning.

Mr. Marginson interjected.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable members for Wolston and Bulimba to refrain from making persistent interjections or I will deal with them under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. Houston: I simply thought that the Premier had forgotten to answer parts (2) and (3) of the questions, which he did not answer, of course.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Bulimba knows as well as I do that he cannot advise a Minister what he can say or what reply he will give. He has been here long enough to know that.

3. MR. J. SINCLAIR, ADULT EDUCATION OFFICER, MARYBOROUGH

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

(1) Did Mr. John Sinclair, Adult Education Officer, Maryborough, get time off to attend the annual general meeting of Murphoyres Holdings Ltd. in Brisbane at 9.30 a.m. on 19 November or was this activity part of his Adult Education activities at the taxpayers' expense?

(2) How much time off work has this officer had over the last 12 months, both with and without pay?

(3) Was it necessary to appoint a relief officer in Maryborough when Mr. Sinclair got himself subpoenaed by the recent Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry for several months on a \$35 per day allowance of taxpayers' money?

Answers:—

(1) Mr. Sinclair was given time off in lieu of overtime worked and any expenses involved would not be paid by the department.

(2) Time off with pay—Official recreation leave, 20 days; Time off in lieu of overtime worked, including 35 days at inquiry on subpoena, 408 hours; Actual overtime worked over period, 535.25 hours; Time off without pay, nil.

(3) A relief officer was not appointed. No officer was available and Mr. Sinclair elected to work on the days he was not required at the inquiry and so maintain the flow of work.

4. TIME LOST THROUGH INDUSTRIAL ACTION

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

(1) Has he seen the statement by Mr. Whitlam in the Press of 21 November that a Fraser Government would destroy the

trust and co-operation of the unions, with all that would mean for our chances of recovery?

(2) Is he able to give the number of working days lost through industrial action throughout Australia for the 2½ years ended December 1972 under a Liberal-Country Party Government and the number of days lost during the 2½ years ended June 1975?

Answers:—

(1) I did see the ludicrous claim by Mr. Whitlam and several other pedlars of fear on the pattern of industrial relations under a Liberal-Country Party Government. I have also read the industrial relations policy enunciated by the Minister for Labour and Immigration (Mr. Street) and I applaud it as a progressive, practical and far-seeing approach which, given good will and co-operation, will be eminently more successful than the catastrophe which has masqueraded as Labor's "rapport" with the unions. Even in his policy speech again yesterday, Mr. Whitlam had the gall to say Labor is the only party capable of securing trade union backing and I should like to examine the extent of that support.

(2) A total of 10,800,000 working days and more than \$224,000,000 in wages were lost through industrial disputes in Australia in two-and-a-half years of Labor rule to 30 June 1975. This compared with 6,300,000 days and more than \$93,000,000 in wages lost under the Liberal-Country Party Government in a comparative preceding period. Put another way—days lost increased by 70.8 per cent and wages lost by 139 per cent. The loss to the nation's economy in a period of inflation and unemployment has been shocking. And the pitiful story so dominant a feature of Labor's rule, continued in its last five months. These figures do not lie. They explode for all time the furphy apparently still masquerading as Labor policy on "industrial peace through compatibility". This was the policy enunciated by Mr. Whitlam in 1972, when he said that if a Labor Government were elected, the need for strikes would disappear.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Yes, he said it and he repeated it, and I will repeat it. During the 1972 campaign, Mr. Whitlam said that if a Labor Government were elected, the need for strikes would disappear because of their special relationship with the trade unions. That is Mr. Whitlam's statement that has burnt right into my brain.

Answers (contd.):—

The truth is the Labor Party had, and still has, no policy on strikes other than one of not discouraging them and not offending strikers. I see no reason why the great majority of trade unions will

not find they can trust a Fraser Government as the unions of Queensland can trust the Government of this State.

5. HERVEY BAY PATIENTS, MARYBOROUGH BASE HOSPITAL

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

How many Hervey Bay patients were admitted to the Maryborough Base Hospital during the period 1 January to 30 June 1975?

Answer:—

I have been informed by the manager of the Maryborough Hospitals Board that 308 residents of Hervey Bay were admitted to the Maryborough Hospital during the period 1 January to 30 June 1975. Of this number, 80 general and 10 maternity patients were treated by their private medical practitioners. The remaining 218 patients were broken up into the following categories—205 public general patients and 13 public maternity patients. Whilst details are not readily available, the honourable member would realise that many of the patients could have been referred to Maryborough Hospital for specialist treatment and others may have elected to attend that hospital to receive treatment by the medical practitioner of their choice.

6. IMPROVEMENTS TO HERVEY BAY HOSPITAL

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

(1) When will the current improvements to the Hervey Bay Hospital be completed and ready for use?

(2) How many extra staff will be required for the enlarged hospital?

Answers:—

(1) Additions and alterations to the existing building at Hervey Bay Hospital to provide a separate delivery room and to generally improve the layout of existing facilities were completed on 19 September 1975.

(2) I have been informed by the Maryborough Hospitals Board that, as this does not involve any additional services, extra staff have not and will not be requested.

7. RE-EMPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS RETIRED FOR MEDICAL REASONS

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

(1) May former members of the Police Force who have been placed on superannuation for medical reasons be re-admitted to the Police Force if their medical condition improves and, if so, what is the procedure and what form of medical examination is required?

(2) How many members of the Police Force have retired on superannuation for medical reasons during the last three years, how many have applied for readmission and how many have been accepted?

(3) May those who have been rejected again reapply at a later stage and, if so, when, what is the procedure and what form of medical examination is required?

(4) If it is obvious that readmission in such cases is not going to be possible, may the persons concerned receive a lump sum superannuation payment and discharge the Police Superannuation Board from any further obligation?

Answers:—

(1) The Police Act provides for reappointment of members retired on incapacity benefit if, after an investigation authorised by me and examination by two medical practitioners or other testimony, it is evident that the member has recovered his or her health and is capable of duty. The medical criteria used for reappointment are that their physical fitness is such that they are completely fit for the duties of their rank and are likely to remain efficient and serviceable under all conditions of service until attaining the statutory retiring age. Reappointment is made by the Governor in Council where the rank held at the date of medical retirement was above the rank of sergeant. In other cases the Commissioner of Police reappoints.

(2) During the 3 years ended 30 June 1975—(a) 73 retired medically unfit; (b) 2 were reappointed. To ascertain the number who applied for readmission would entail an examination of files of all members in receipt of incapacity benefit. This would be time consuming and I do not propose to have the research undertaken. However, based on other records which are readily available, it is considered that the number would be approximately 10.

(3) Yes. Application may be made at any time. The same procedure as outlined in (1) applies.

(4) No. However, the Police Superannuation Act 1968–1975 provides that a member retired on incapacity benefit may apply to the Police Superannuation Board within one month of attaining the statutory retiring age to commute the whole or any part of annuity benefit for a lump sum. Incapacity benefit ceases at the statutory retiring age.

8. GERIATRIC ACCOMMODATION, MACKAY

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

(1) Is he aware that Mackay is currently experiencing a serious shortage of geriatric beds at the various nursing and old peoples homes in the district and that this is being aggravated by the dis-

charge of a number of patients from the Resthaven Nursing Home and its threatened closure?

(2) Can his department do anything to prevent the closure of Resthaven, in addition to its present action of placing some of the discharged patients in the Mackay Base Hospital and possibly some of the "Eventide" homes?

(3) As the "Eventide" homes are some distance from Mackay, will he give further consideration to my request to the previous Minister for Health for the conversion of the old wards at the Mackay Base Hospital to a geriatric annexe when the new ward block is constructed?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) My department is unaware of any suggestion regarding the threatened closure of Resthaven Nursing Home in Mackay. I shall, however, have further inquiries made in respect of this matter.

(3) Planning of Stage 2 Development of Mackay Base Hospital is well advanced. It is envisaged that on completion of Stage 2, Ward F, which is presently used to accommodate male and female surgical patients, will become available for geriatric-type patients.

9. AMERICAN SCHEME FOR CHEAP HOUSES OF MOLASSES AND DIRT

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

(1) Is he aware of the promotion in the United States of America by a nationwide publication called "Farmers Almanac" of a scheme, which is the brain-storm of a New York engineer, to build cheap houses using bricks made from a mixture of powdered molasses and dirt, with the claim that it is possible to build a four-room house exclusive of plumbing and that sort of thing for about \$A780?

(2) As the previous promotion of this same group was bricks made from cow manure and it now claims that the new technique is much better and in view of the fact that the dairying industry, an obvious source of supply for the old method, is declining and that the sugar industry, the potential source of supply for the new proposal, is always looking for ways in which secondary industry is able to make use of its by-products, will he have the methods investigated to see if they can be of use in Queensland and, in particular, to see if the bricks made from the molasses-dust combination are much better than those made from bull-dust?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) There is no bull-dust about the practical steps taken by the Queensland Government to encourage the diversification of industry in this State. The honourable member can rest assured that the

Department of Commercial and Industrial Development will continue to keep itself abreast of latest overseas techniques both in terms of raw materials and processing. Any information gained which could have beneficial application in Queensland will, as hitherto, be immediately passed to local industry for its benefit.

10. OIL EXPLORATION AND PETROL PRICES UNDER LABOR

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

(1) Has he seen the recent annual report of Oil Drilling and Exploration Limited, an Australian company engaged in exploration for oil?

(2) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that the company commenced drilling only three new exploration holes in Australia in the last financial year, a considerable downturn?

(3) Is he aware that the directors of the company are of the opinion that no substantial oil exploration will be carried out in Australia while the Whitlam socialist Government's policies are in force?

(4) Will Australia become less and less sufficient in its oil and fuel supplies for as long as the Whitlam Government's policies are in force?

(5) Would a return of the Whitlam Government mean that petrol prices in Australia would rise to a considerably higher level than would be the case under a free-enterprise Liberal-National Country Party Government?

(6) Would a vote for Whitlam be a vote for continuing increases in the price of petrol to the average motorist and a vote for further inflationary price rises across the board?

Answers:—

(1) Yes, I have studied the annual report of the Australian company Oil Drilling and Exploration Ltd., which is engaged in oil drilling not only in Australia, but also in parts of South-East Asia.

(2) The fact that the company only commenced drilling three new exploration holes in Australia in the last financial year is indicative of the depressed state of the oil industry in this country and is similar to the experience of other oil exploration companies throughout the Commonwealth.

(3) Yes, I am certainly aware that directors of this company believed that no substantial oil exploration would be carried out in this country while the Whitlam socialist Government continued its antagonistic attitude towards this most important section of the mining industry. The decline in oil exploration in this country over the past three years can only be described as a disaster. In the past three years the number

of wells drilled in this State has declined by nearly half and last year only 12 wells were drilled, compared with 57 in 1970. In fact, Queensland has declined from the State which led the Commonwealth in oil exploration to one of the least active in this field.

(4) Australia will obviously become less and less sufficient in its oil and fuel supplies so long as the socialists are able to pursue their antagonistic policies towards the oil drilling and exploration companies in this country. Time and time again I have received communications from representatives of major oil exploration companies informing me that since December 1972 they can see no future in this country for their industry and are reluctantly packing up and leaving for countries where they are more welcome. And unless we find new oil fields and find them quickly, our dependence on overseas oil will increase year by year as our existing stocks and production decline and more and more vehicles come onto our roads. The crisis point will come within the next five years and the people of Australia just cannot risk another three years of socialist rule if Australia is to avoid being held to ransom in a new energy crisis that many experts predict will occur within this time.

(5) If, by some disaster, the Whitlam Labor Government wins office on 13 December, then, as I have said, we will be forced to have to import more and more fuel from overseas, at a much higher price, and I predict it would not be long before the Australian motorist would be paying \$2 and more a gallon for his petrol.

(6) Certainly a vote for Whitlam is a vote for higher inflation, as I have already pointed out. Take a look at Labor's attitude towards the price equalisation scheme, which enabled people in our more remote areas to buy their petrol at less than five cents difference from the capital city price. This has been removed by the socialists and in some of our outback areas people already are paying \$1 a gallon for their petrol. And all this means is that the produce that comes from these areas costs more for the city dweller, so pushing up inflation even higher. Be aware. If the Labor Party gets back to Canberra, the oil sheikhs will win either way, for if they do not get their loans through, then they will still have control of us by our dependence on their oil supplies.

11. STOREMEN AND PACKERS' UNION THREATS TO SMALL SHOPKEEPERS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that standover merchants from the Storemen and Packers' Union have been

visiting owners of small shops and threatening them with black bans and other union action if they will not join the Storemen and Packers' Union?

(2) Does the union sanction these activities?

(3) Is there any legislation which protects small shopkeepers from this new variation of the old protection-money racket?

(4) What redress do self-employed shop owners have against these thugs?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Reports of coercion in an effort to obtain union membership are not only becoming more prevalent; the range of occupations engaging the attention of overbearing officials is widening. The honourable member has my assurance of my grave concern with these actions and trends. It could be that I may give consideration to legislation on the matter. However, I must point out that any person subject to intimidation through standover tactics already has redress under the Criminal Code and should not hesitate to report such threats to the police. Section 534 of the Criminal Code states that any person who intimidates a workman or an employer is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment with hard labour for three months. Subsection 2 of section 534 spells it out clearly. It states that any person who "uses violence to the person or property of another, or uses threats or intimidation of any kind to another, or by any physical act molests or in any way obstructs another—(c) For the purpose of inducing any person to belong to any club or association, or to contribute to any common fund . . . is guilty of an offence."

12. LANDS PURCHASED BY BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

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

What was the number of parcels of land, with the respective area of each, purchased by the Brisbane City Council in the last five years for (a) parks and gardens, (b) industrial or residential subdivisions and (c) other uses, and what are the respective uses?

Answer:—

Statistics of this type are not maintained by the Department of Local Government. I am, however, taking the matter up with the Brisbane City Council and will communicate with the honourable member when advice is to hand from the council.

13. FLOWER IMPORTS INTO SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

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

(1) Did he see Peter Hall's article in the "Telegraph" of 19 November relating to the flood of flower imports from Brazil, Holland, Singapore and Taiwan into Southern Australia, adversely affecting Queensland's \$3,000,000 flower industry?

(2) Is there any danger of introducing foot and mouth disease or any other disease with these imports and, if so, will he take action to rectify this?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) It is the opinion of technical officers of my department that the chance of introducing foot and mouth disease or any other animal disease with these imports is extremely unlikely. Only well-grown, healthy material is acceptable in this trade, and all imports are carefully inspected. Therefore, the introduction of plant disease is also unlikely.

14. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FIRE SERVICES

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

With reference to the Eleventh Annual Report of the State Fire Services Council for the year ended 30 June, which refers in part to examinations and sets out the statistics of the examinations, and in view of the alarming failure of over 50 per cent of the candidates who sat for the sub-station officers examinations, has he taken any steps to overcome this apparent internal problem of lack of proper instruction and suitable training programmes?

Answer:—

The report referred to not only the lack of sufficient planning and instruction but also the apparent lack of study by examination candidates. However, some improvement in the trend is evident from the examination conducted on 3 November 1975 in which eleven candidates out of twenty were successful. The State Fire Services Council has set out the prescribed syllabus for the examination, and officers of fire brigades are responsible for the giving of lectures to firemen who would be candidates for promotion. It is of course necessary that the candidates also undertake the study necessary to reach the required standard. It will be of interest to the honourable member that I have information that in world-wide examinations conducted by the Institution of Fire Engineers, the number of failures has far

exceeded the number of passes. Over the past four years, the graduate examination for students outside the United Kingdom has produced the following results—1972—67 passed, 188 failed; 1973—102 passed, 213 failed; 1974—94 passed, 266 failed; and 1975—56 passed, 370 failed. The Queensland results do not compare unfavourably with these statistics in regard to the International Institute of Fire Engineers. However, I still feel the number of failures is too great and I am asking the chairman of the State Fire Services Council to consider ways and means of reducing the rate of failures.

15. HYGIENE IN PREPARATION OF FOODSTUFFS

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

Briefly, what are the provisions of the Health Act relating to the control of flies and other insects and vermin where they encroach on areas where foodstuffs are being prepared and sold to the public?

Answer:—

The following regulations, made under section 152 of the Health Act 1937–1974 stipulate the requirements for the protection of food for sale:—(a) The Food and Drug Regulations 1964 and the Milk-sellers Regulations of 1973 implemented by officers of my department; and (b) The Cafe Regulations of 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1974, which are policed by the various local authorities throughout the State. The provisions of these regulations in respect of the control of flies and other insects and vermin may be summarised as follows:—(1) The occupier of a food establishment is required to ensure that the premises are kept free from rats, mice, cockroaches, flies and all other vermin or insects; (2) It is obligatory that some food-manufacturing premises, for example, ice cream and milk factories and syrup rooms in cordial factories, are rendered flyproof. In all other cases, when so required by an inspector, the premises shall be rendered flyproof, so far as practicable, by wire gauze screening of doors and windows; (3) All food on such premises shall itself be protected from contamination from rats, mice, cockroaches, flies and all other vermin or insects; (4) Crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils, etc. used in food establishments must be adequately protected after each cleansing, by appropriate storage facilities, from contamination from flies, vermin or insects; (5) Persons who consign foods or are engaged in the transport or delivery of food for sale, also are required to exercise similar strict measures to ensure protection against these sources of contamination.

16. CANCELLATION OF A.B.C. TV
PROGRAMME ON DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALISM

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

(1) Will he investigate and report to the House regarding the cancellation of the A.B.C. television "Chequerboard" programme entitled "Could I be a Democratic Socialist?", which was scheduled for 8.50 p.m. on 20 November?

(2) Will he verify whether the programme was too politically hot in view of the torrid climate of the last few days, which description was given to a complainant from my electorate who dared to inquire from the A.B.C. as to the reasons for the programme's cancellation?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Unfortunately I am not in a position to investigate the cancellation of the A.B.C. programme referred to by the honourable member. I have no doubt his source of information is correct. However, I will forward the information contained in the question to the senior Federal Minister in Queensland, the Hon. D. J. Killen, M.P.

17. INDUSTRIAL HOME-BUILDING
PROCESSES

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

(1) Is he aware of a recent statement attributed to Professor Gareth Roberts of the University of New South Wales, wherein he claims that the best solution to our housing problem is through greater use of industrialised building processes?

(2) As industrial processes may not, in the mind of the home-seeker, provide a satisfactory alternative to traditional materials and conventional methods, but as many inbuilt factors may render industrialised processes necessary, is his department in touch with the increased development in industrialised housing and have any reports been presented to him on the subject?

(3) As the proportion of dwelling components now produced in factories is constantly increasing and as many doors, windows, roof trusses and fittings are usually manufactured off site, can he assure the House that if the trend in industrialised processes expands he will see that there is an improvement in quality, so that people desirous of purchasing this standard of dwelling will have a home in which they will feel proud to live?

Answers:—

(1) Although I have not seen the statement in question this would not be the first occasion when such a suggestion has been advanced.

(2) The Queensland Housing Commission is in close touch with developments in this field.

(3) From time to time propositions involving the greater use of factory-constructed components are submitted to the commission. The commission has a long-standing policy to encourage new ideas and methods where they are technically sound and economically attractive. They must lend themselves to variety in design. The commission will not accept industrialised processes which do not meet these standards. However, where the commission is not involved, the quality of industrialised housing rests with the local authority concerned.

18. TOURIST COACH SAFETY

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

(1) In view of the recent increase in the number of tourist bus crashes, has he given any consideration to requiring private buses to be subject to the same annual inspections and the same qualifications for drivers as those applying to commercial vehicles?

(2) Has his department given any consideration to the compulsory installation of seat belts in tourist buses?

Answers:—

(1) Inspection of vehicles is a matter for my colleague the Honourable Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs. Drivers of buses and commercial vehicles must hold a driving licence endorsed for the respective classes of vehicles.

(2) This is a matter under review at a national level by the Australian Transport Advisory Council, of which I am a member.

19. EYE TESTS FOR DRIVERS

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

Further to his answer to my question on 24 April, has licence testing been transferred to the Department of Transport and has the question of eye tests for drivers been the subject of review?

Answer:—

As from 1 July this year the administration of the metropolitan testing stations at Coorparoo, Rosalie and Nundah was transferred to the Department of Transport as the first stage of a general transfer of this area of responsibility. The question of any change in present eye-testing procedures for drivers is still under review.

20. EMPLOYEES IN RAILWAY
DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

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

As at 30 June 1975, what was the number of employees in each of the South Eastern, South Western, Central and Northern Divisions of the Railway Department?

Answer:—

South Eastern Division, 10,851; South Western Division, 2,310; Central Division, 5,906; and Northern Division, 4,801. Total, 23,868.

21. LEARN-TO-SWIM PROGRAMME

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

(1) What is the current departmental attitude on learn-to-swim classes?

(2) Will he consider a revision of this policy, following concern expressed by parents and citizens' associations in my electorate, to enable children under nine—and thus all children from Grade I—to be included in the programme?

(3) Is it possible for the programme to be extended even after a child has obtained a certificate, thus encouraging children, by lessons, to become more proficient swimmers?

Answers:—

(1) The Department of Education conducts learn-to-swim classes for non-swimmers in primary schools. A non-swimmer is a child who has not reached the standard of the swimmers' certificate. Where it is necessary to transport children to public pools, the cost of transport and admission fees are paid.

(2) In schools which have their own pools, swimming classes are usually conducted for all children from grades 1 to 7. Where the department is responsible for providing buses to convey children to swimming classes, there is a limit on the number of who can attend. In large primary schools, instruction is given over two grades so that all children passing through the school have learn-to-swim lessons over two years.

(3) Children who are able to swim may attend swimming classes to become more proficient if costs are met by parents and if suitable arrangements can be made by school principals.

22. PINE MOUNTAIN RESERVE

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

(1) Does any part of the Pine Mountain Reserve in the Holland Park-Mt. Gravatt area come within his jurisdiction? If so, to what extent does that jurisdiction extend?

(2) Will he give consideration to the concept of the development of the area as a recreational national park?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) No part of the area surrounding and including Pine Mountain in the Mt. Gravatt-Holland Park locality comes within the jurisdiction of the Department of Lands. The land is held under freehold title and I am informed that the Brisbane City Council is the registered proprietor.

23. SHOPPING CENTRE NEAR
INTERSECTION OF CREEK AND CAVENDISH
ROADS

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

Are there any current proposals for the development of a shopping centre in the vicinity of the Creek Road-Cavendish Road intersection?

Answer:—

I am not aware of any such proposal.

24. SAFE BRAKING OF SEMI-TRAILERS

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

What progress has been made in the research into devices such as disc brakes, to prevent semi-trailers from jack-knifing in the event of severe braking prior to accidents?

Answer:—

I am advised that there are various systems which have been the subject of research in the United Kingdom by the Road Research Laboratory and also by manufacturers. These vary from friction application on the turn-table to a load-sensitising device attached to the axles or wheels. Information presently available to me would indicate that the position has not been reached where these devices could be required as compulsory fitting.

25. TRAINING CENTRE FOR REMEDIAL
TEACHERS, NORTH BRISBANE

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

Are there any plans for the provision of a training centre for remedial teachers in the northern suburbs of Brisbane?

Answer:—

No. Remedial/resource teachers for primary age children are currently trained at Mt. Gravatt and Darling Downs Colleges of Advanced Education and the James Cook University at Townsville. Similar teachers for secondary age children are trained at Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, and it is not intended at this stage to further extend the training of remedial teachers to any other institution.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ALLEGED FORGERY OF VICTORIAN PREMIER'S SIGNATURE BY QUEENSLAND PREMIER

Mr. MELLOY: I ask the Premier: As it has been now established and is patent that he forged the signature of the Premier of Victoria (Mr. Hamer) in an advertisement that he, the Premier of Queensland, inserted in "The Courier-Mail" and the Queensland edition of "The Australian" on Wednesday, 19 November 1975, what action—my question is directed to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. I shall repeat it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has directed his question to the Premier.

Mr. MELLOY: I withdraw the question. I redirect it to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. My question is: As it has now been established and is patent that the Premier forged the signature of the Premier of Victoria (Mr. Hamer) in an advertisement that he, the Premier, inserted in "The Courier-Mail" and the Queensland edition of "The Australian" on Wednesday, 19 November 1975, what action is the Minister for Justice taking or proposing to take against the Premier and also the newspapers concerned, which are also culpable?

Mr. KNOX: I was not aware that question time was a time when a member could rise in his place and make assertions without evidence.

Mr. Melloy: What rot!

Mr. KNOX: The honourable member has made several assertions. He has accused people of being culpable and of committing fraud. If the honourable member is prepared to substantiate his charges, I will be prepared to answer his question.

Mr. Melloy: I suppose I could have expected nothing else.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I suggest the honourable member not waste the time of the House, then, if he is not prepared to ask direct questions.

Mr. MELLOY: You can say that again, Mr. Speaker. By way of a supplementary question, I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: As the Victorian Premier,

Mr. Hamer, has denied any knowledge of the advertisement inserted in newspapers by the Queensland Premier, and therefore has not submitted his signature for the advertisement—indicating that the signature must have been lifted from some other document previously signed by Mr. Hamer—will the Minister for Justice ask the Crown Law Office or the Solicitor-General to institute inquiries to discover who extracted the Victorian Premier's signature from a signed document and take the appropriate disciplinary action against the person concerned? Will he also inform the House of the result of the inquiry and of any subsequent action taken?

Mr. KNOX: If there is a person in the community in Queensland or in any other part of Australia who is aggrieved and feels that his signature has been used improperly, there is a way in which he can have the matter remedied; but, as the honourable member is not the aggrieved person, or the allegedly aggrieved person, I am not in a position to institute inquiries on his say-so. He has again received an answer which he expected, and he is wasting the time of the House.

SIGNATURE OF VICTORIAN PREMIER IN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Mr. MELLOY: I ask the Premier: How did he receive the signature of the Victorian Premier if the Victorian Premier had no knowledge of the advertisement?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: If I furnished the Deputy Leader of the Opposition with an answer to that question, he would be as wise as I am, and I do not intend to make him as wise as I am.

SUPPLY OF CHAIRMAN MAO BADGES AS WORN BY MR. TONY WHITLAM

Mr. AIKENS: I ask the Premier: Has he seen the published photograph of Gough Whitlam's son, Mr. Tony Whitlam, an endorsed A.L.P. candidate for the election to be held on 13 December, in which he was depicted wearing a Chairman Mao badge? Is it true that a request has been made to the Government Printing Office to supply for A.L.P. members in this Parliament and outside of it who desire them a large number of these badges at a cut rate and, if so, will they be supplied as requested?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Of course, we all know the very close association of the former Prime Minister with Chairman Mao. He is a very dedicated disciple of Chairman Mao and is following the same pattern with his campaigning and attempts to brainwash the people of Australia. Mr. Whitlam even presented Chairman Mao with a bull and flew it over to China at great expense. He built an embassy there at a cost of millions of dollars.

Bearing in mind the many portraits that we have seen members of the A.L.P. sitting under, I would not doubt for a moment that they are also contemplating the promotion of the badge of the Chinese Communists, just as Mr. Willessee had a Communist Chinese spy leader in his house, as was reported in the Press the other day when it was divulged in this House. There is no limit to which the socialists in Canberra will go to promote and facilitate the Communists in this nation, and I would not be surprised if they furthered the opportunity of getting badges and I would not be surprised if Opposition members wear them should they be provided.

INTERSTATE COMMISSION BILL

Mr. AKERS: I ask the Minister for Justice: Is it true that, if the A.L.P. is returned to power in either the House of Representatives or both Federal Houses, the Interstate Commission Bill will be reintroduced in its original, frightening form and will become law? Will it then make it possible for the would-be dictator Whitlam to bypass not only this State Parliament but also the House of Representatives, which Mr. Whitlam, for his immediate, temporary needs, so ardently professes to hold supreme?

Mr. Jones: The question seeks an expression of opinion, I would say.

Mr. KNOX: We will see what the honourable member thinks of the opinion after he has heard it.

The honourable member for Pine Rivers raises a rather important question concerning this Parliament. The administrative structure of the nation provides for the establishment of an interstate commission, which was designed to deal with problems, principally associated with transport, that would arise as a result of federation. The socialist Government that was in office until 11 November—we will not see it again in office, I trust—has in its policy the setting up of such a commission. It wants the commission established, however, not for the useful purposes envisaged by the founding fathers but as a means of dominating the whole of commerce, industry and transport in this nation without a referral of powers, without having the necessary powers spelt out in the Constitution and without reference to the people.

This was in fact revealed by the former Federal Transport Minister, Mr. Jones, who pointed out, at a time when there was considerable dispute over freights charged by the Australian National Line between the mainland and Tasmania, that if he had the powers that an interstate commission would give him as the Minister presumably in charge of this operation, he would be able to do things for this nation in the matter of transport costs which had not previously been done.

The impression given was that he might be able to reduce freights and costs. But that was not the intention at all. The intention was to centralise all authority in this nation in one place, and that can be done quite easily by manipulating shipping, rail and air freights. All who have had any experience in transport matters will know that that is correct. That is the interest of the A.L.P. socialists in the setting up of this commission.

STATEMENT ORDERED TO BE WITHDRAWN

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) having given notice of a question concerning building societies—

Mr. Lane: Like the Trade Union Building Society?

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Shut your mouth.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Archerfield will withdraw that remark.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: I withdraw it.

At 12 noon, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House went into Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH ALLOTTED DAYS

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

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1975-76

LANDS, FORESTRY, NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

CHIEF OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Debate resumed from 20 November (see p. 2128) on Mr. Tomkins' motion—

"That \$6,522,544 be granted for 'Department of Lands—Chief Office'."

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (12.1 p.m.): At the outset, I would like to mention that it gives me great satisfaction to hear from honourable members on both sides of the Chamber complimentary remarks directed at members of the Land Administration Commission, Forestry Department officers and officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and I will ensure that these officers are made aware of the general satisfaction with their efforts in the field of public service.

The honourable member for Port Curtis could not have been listening to my introductory remarks relative to the work of the Rural Reconstruction Board and its assistance to the beef industry, and I repeat for his information that up to this time \$8,200,000 out of a fund of \$20,000,000 has been approved for advances under the Beef Cattle Industry Assistance Scheme.

The same honourable member's obsession with the Government's freeholding policy was again aired, but the proof of the success of such policy is evidenced by the large number of landholders who have elected to take advantage of obtaining the ultimate title to land, namely, freehold, and I thank the honourable member for Warwick, who so ably corrected and demolished the proposition that the Labor Party was the landholder's best friend.

Mr. Hanson: What a shocking speech he made!

Mr. TOMKINS: The honourable member knows that comment is not correct. Some years ago, the party to which the honourable member for Port Curtis belongs represented all western seats in this Assembly. It had a good record, and it had some good members. But because of its policy, it has now lost all those seats. The Labor Party has lost its best friends—the people of the West.

In the private or Crown subdivision of land, local authorities in issuing authorities to so subdivide may require retention of park areas or retention of individual trees. Legislation now under consideration will increase the powers of local authorities in this area of administration.

The approach by the Department of Forestry to stumpage appraisal for Crown log timber is far from haphazard and every effort is made to ensure that all sawmills within the supply zone of a major consumption centre can sell at that centre on an even footing. This attitude to stumpage appraisal has acted in favour of decentralisation, and has probably been the salvation of a number of small country towns. Stumpage rates vary with species and log size, and the general stumpage level is lifted regularly to offset the effect of decreasing money value, without extravagant increases. This systematic and moderate approach is regarded as responsible in these days of soaring costs, and has been of assistance to homebuilders.

I think all honourable members are now aware of the Government's constitution of a Committee of Inquiry into Animal and Vegetable Pest Control and Eradication under the chairmanship of Mr. Walter Smith, President of the Land Court, and I am sure that the pertinent remarks of the honourable member for Warwick on rabbit and weed control will be well and truly covered by that committee.

The honourable member for Warwick extolled the importance of pushing ahead vigorously with the forest plantation programme. As he said, this is a sound Government investment which grows into money. At the same time it provides jobs for Queenslanders in growing the trees, harvesting them and processing them through the sawmill. He will be aware of the high present and future value of the

Gambubal plantations located in his electorate, which were purchased by this Government.

The honourable members for Cunningham and Flinders, each in his turn, made sensible and constructive contributions as evidence of their knowledge and concern for the problems of rural landholders. I appreciate their remarks concerning the manner in which the State Rural Reconstruction Board and the Dairy Adjustment Program are successfully dealing with distressed landholders.

The concept of separate visits to outlying centres of the State by me and members of my parliamentary lands committee, as mentioned by the honourable member for Flinders, and then also by officers of the department has proved most beneficial to the department, has cut administrative corners and, from reports, has been of great benefit to landholders and local authorities. I value the remarks of honourable members in this regard. That policy was begun by Mr. Sullivan, when he was Minister for Lands, and it was continued by my predecessor as Minister for Lands, Mr. Rae. It will certainly be continued under my administration, because I believe it is the correct policy to have top officers of my department visiting outlying centres. In my opinion, it is best to see a landholder in his own area.

The matter of dealing with available Crown land, particularly in the Far North where such areas are available, as referred to by the honourable member for Flinders, has concerned me and the commission for some time. Owing to present difficult economic circumstances and the escalating costs of development, the best method of dealing with these areas, whether by way of additional area, open ballot or tender, is presently under intensive investigation by my department.

This brings me to my recent announcement of a change in the policy of additional area allocations. I have never been satisfied that the provisions of the Land Act relating to additional area allocations are in the best interests of the Crown and the applicants. Hence it is now proposed to treat each application on the basis of need, merit and prospect and to ballot only where there is equal need, merit and prospect. The allocation will be by way of grant of a special lease at a purchase price on terms up to 20 years at 6½ per cent interest. It will be agreed that those are very generous terms. Unsuccessful applicants will have a right to appeal, and it is intended that the charter of the present committee of review be broadened to handle these cases. This new policy will be drawn into the legislation as soon as possible—probably next year when the consolidation of the Land Act takes place.

I appreciate the interest of the honourable member for Coorooora, who I notice took a keen interest in my introductory remarks. He advocated that forestry areas either adjacent to or included in national parks be set aside for the enjoyment of the public. Each year since 1 July 1972, areas of State forests have been set aside for recreational use by the public and appropriate facilities have been constructed. These are located from the Lake Tinaroo area in North Queensland to the border with New South Wales. The Government intends to maintain and improve the facilities already established and to provide new areas each year. The heavy use of the recreation areas already established on State forests indicates the public appreciation of these opportunities.

I am assured that the value of a forest estate for the purposes of succession duty is an approved valuer's estimate of its realisable value at date of death. Forestry operations are granted the same rebate as any other primary industry. Application of Commonwealth estate duty on forest estates is the same as for other forms of primary production, with marketable value of the forest asset being the operative consideration.

Provided the approved valuer does his job correctly, death duties on a forest crop are related to the realisable value of that crop. I am aware that the long-term nature of the forest crop could well justify special provisions in succession legislation as compared with other primary producers. This is a very complex matter and is being studied by my officers.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned many aspects of conservation which are of concern to me as well. His attitude towards the problems involved in this field are well understood and appreciated. He should, however, have trust in the Government's sincere intentions in the over-all question of conservation and preservation, which I feel coincide to some extent with his own views.

The feral pig infestation was referred to by the honourable member for Warrego. I hope that with the infusion of more funds the destruction of this pest throughout the State may be accelerated under the regional scheme already in operation. The honourable member demonstrated a keen general interest in the Estimates and I am grateful for his helpful contribution.

I should also like to place on record the very great help we have had from shire councils, landholders generally and people in the grain-growing areas. I express appreciation for their assistance and co-operation with the co-ordinating board in the feral pig eradication programme. We have had many telegrams and letters from the areas involved, from shire councils and the like, which show that their programme has met with great success.

I thank the honourable member for Albert for his complimentary remarks about my departmental officers. His suggestion about the establishment of a more flexible type of reserve which he called State parks will be kept in mind, as well as his suggestion for North and South Stradbroke Islands.

There is no doubt, despite efforts by honourable members opposite to minimise the fact, that this Government has done all that is economically and humanly possible to assist the needy beef, wool and dairy industries, and I note with interest that the honourable member for Kurilpa has a good grasp of what the Government has achieved.

The vacant wallum areas referred to by the honourable member for Isis are the subject of an investigation by an interdepartmental committee headed by the Department of Primary Industries, and I expect that some conclusion may be reached and recommendations pursued in the near future.

The honourable member made some apt comments about the management of Fraser Island, which is in his electorate. The Government proposes that at least 30 per cent (over 50 000 ha) of this large island be preserved as a national park. It sees a continued need to manage substantial areas of natural forest for the production of logs to meet some of the demand of the existing mills at Maryborough. This form of management has been practised for nigh on 100 years without impairing the natural attractiveness of the island. There is room for a prosperous mineral sands industry. This affects only a small area, and does not pollute the environment. The revegetated area following mining is stable and attractive in appearance. Each of these uses is compatible with different aspects of recreation use of the island. The Lands Department, the Forestry Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Service all have responsibilities for the management of this island, virtually none of which has been alienated. The Government intends that facilities be provided for the use of the people who will visit the island to take advantage of its magnificent recreational opportunities in a natural setting.

The honourable member for Hinchinbrook dealt mainly with forestry matters and made reference to the fact that it is vital to maintain a prosperous sawmilling industry in order to keep a healthy environment in country towns. Stability is the keynote in the administration of the Sawmilling Licensing Act by the department.

It is certainly my belief that the replacement of the normal half-yearly auction sales of Crown log timber by a system of non-competitive sales, as now approved, will benefit the small sawmillers and allow them to continue in business with secure log supplies at a known level.

I quite agree with the honourable member that there would be advantage to the community if sawmill residue were converted to wood chip instead of being burnt; there would also be environmental benefit; but any such projects lie in the future.

The honourable member referred to the use of intercropping in the management of some of our forests. The Government has taken many positive steps to increase beef production from State forest areas without detriment to their timber production. We have procured increased value yield from these forest lands without in any way over-using them.

The honourable member for Belmont concerned himself mainly with conservation and forestry matters and I have taken note of his many good suggestions. I have this morning already answered the honourable member's query on the Pine Mountain Reserve.

The honourable member for South Brisbane made a plea that the Mt. Coot-tha National Park project go ahead. The Government continues to support the development of the recreational potential of the forest lands from Mt. Coot-tha to Mt. Nebo for use by our people from the heavily populated areas nearby. Recently I had the pleasure of officially opening the picnic area at Camp Mountain developed by the Department of Forestry, with access constructed by the Main Roads Department, at a combined cost of about \$50,000.

I hope that with co-operation between the Brisbane City Council and the State Government, this concept will mature into an outstanding park area providing open recreation for our people in natural forest surroundings. This facility would compare favourably with those that I saw recently in Victoria and New South Wales. As long as vandalism does not take charge, it will provide very happy surroundings in which people may spend their leisure time.

In regard to his query on land values in South Brisbane, prompted by his experience with a real estate agent who himself purchased a multi-listed dwelling at a price lower than that sought by the vendor, I would suggest that he place the whole matter in the hands of my colleague the Minister for Justice.

I would now like to deal separately with comments and questions on the newly created National Parks and Wildlife Service. The concept of having the Great Dividing Range as a park is a reasonable one, and one which the Government has stated will take decades to develop. I should also say that State forests along the Great Divide and elsewhere are already available to the public for recreation purposes and are automatically wildlife sanctuaries. Therefore there is no need to alter their tenure or their other uses to achieve the objective. It is a matter of filling in gaps along the Great Divide so as

to provide ultimately a continuous belt of land in Government ownership, be it national park or State forest, so that people so minded can walk hundreds of kilometres along the range. At present areas along the scenic rim are being sought, and this will go a long way to achieving the objective from the border to Cunningham's Gap. But changes in land tenure cannot be achieved overnight.

The Iron Range National Park proposal does cover Weymouth Holding, but the Leader of the Opposition is misinformed on detail. The proposal involves two national parks and a timber reserve. The national parks cannot be mined, as the legislation makes perfectly clear. The timber reserve is on a mineral field, and again the legislation is clear on this. The Minister for Mines has to approve any proposal for a national park on a mineral field. In this case, if the timber reserve is made available by the Minister for Mines, it would be added to the Iron Range National Park complex.

The honourable member commendably asks that national parks be made accessible to the average fellow. However another basic aim of the service is to get as national parks representative areas of all the major ecosystems in the State. Naturally this includes inaccessible areas, such as the Simpson Desert, as well as areas close to population centres. As Queensland develops, these presently inaccessible areas will become more accessible; but surely the time to set them aside as parks is now, while they are in a pristine state and while they are easily available to the Crown.

I make no apology for reserving remote areas as national parks. They will not always be remote.

To ensure that the average fellow has not been forgotten, over \$500,000 will be spent on improving facilities and over \$400,000 will be used to maintain existing facilities. The service is proposing this year to improve facilities at Girraween, Mt. Barney and Bunya Mountains.

The honourable member for Isis reminds us of the dangers of over-use of national parks. One reason for expanding facilities and spreading the money for park development over different areas is to avoid this danger. This brings me to comment on the remarks of the honourable member for Belmont. He has put commendable effort into his statement, but I think he tends to be too broad in his approach to the term "national park".

Very few areas in and near Brisbane satisfy the usually accepted national park requirement of being relatively large and in a largely pristine condition. The tenure "environmental park" was created chiefly to ensure that islands of relatively undisturbed bush chiefly for recreational and educational use in or near cities or rural towns could be preserved.

The honourable members for Albert and Cooroora also mentioned the need for land-use studies, leading to the creation of different types of park. These are matters of great importance which will need consideration in the framing of legislation under which the National Parks and Wildlife Service will eventually operate. The placement of environmental parks in the care of the service is evidence that the Government recognises that small areas of undisturbed landscape generally near urban centres are vital for the environmental needs of urban dwellers. Furthermore, the tenure is to all intents and purposes as secure as that of national parks.

The honourable members for Warrego and Hinchinbrook have pointed out that the Whitlam Labor Government belatedly realised its mistake in letting emotionalism run away with it by preventing harvesting of kangaroos. I was also recently successful in getting approval to clear skins stockpiled before the ban was lifted. If only all the mistakes made by that Government were as easily reversed as that decision, which prevented cropping of the excess kangaroo population, we would be in a far happier position today.

Mr. Hanson: You won't be too happy.

Mr. TOMKINS: I will be very happy after 13 December; I know that.

The honourable member for Isis said that the management of national parks in the United States should be a blueprint for us. I can assure him that many senior officers in the service have already in past years studied the parks service there and in many other countries of the world as well. They will apply what they have learned and seen overseas as well as locally to managing our parks.

The question of roads into parks, which has been raised by the Leader of the Opposition and others, is one to be resolved for each park, and the danger of over-roading is recognised. One thing is certain; that is, that vehicles will be kept to roads where they do occur in parks. Trail bikes and dune buggies are damaging Cooloola and Fraser Island because they are leaving the roads.

The honourable member for Isis also pointed out the need for the Education Department to help in the appreciation of parks. This is what the interpretative and extension work which I mentioned in my introductory remarks will achieve, and the service is already working closely with the Education Department.

My chief regret is that, because of financial stringency, the allocation of funds to the National Parks and Wildlife Service cannot be greater. Certainly when some of the large proposals now in the pipeline come to fruition, they will have to be staffed and provision made for people to use and enjoy

them. I think I made it clear previously that I hope to be increasing greatly the 1976-77 Estimates for the service.

I shall conclude my remarks at this stage and reply later in the debate to other matters that have been raised.

Mr. NEAL (Balonne) (12.19 p.m.): I rise to support the Minister for Lands in the debate on the Estimates of the departments within his portfolio. In doing so, I say how pleased I am that he is in control of this sphere of the Government's activity. He is a practical man who has spent his lifetime on the land. The experiences he has gained have suitably equipped him for such an appointment. He knows the ups and downs of seasons and markets; the floods, fires and droughts; the booms and busts in commodity prices and so on. Because of his intimate knowledge of all the problems associated with the land and its management, he is very well equipped to be in charge of the departments within this portfolio. In addition, he has gained his experience in the medium to low rainfall area and, as most of the State falls into that category, it follows that most of the land under the administration of the Minister falls into that category.

I am surprised that the Minister administers 90 per cent of the land in Queensland. I would have thought that more than 10 per cent of the land in Queensland was held under freehold tenure. The honourable member for Port Curtis does not like the Government's freeholding policy. I do not know what he has to worry about at this stage. All I can say is that I certainly hope more people get on with the job of freeholding their land. I do not believe that any man who has not experienced life on the land is properly equipped to be the Minister for Lands. A man must gain first-hand experience of the land to appreciate fully the problems associated with it.

In the introduction to the annual report of the Land Administration Commission, the following appears:—

"(a) New standards of living area for cattle holdings, representing increases to the order of 25 per cent to 30 per cent were approved and are being implemented. The new standard recognises the reality of cost/price trends and has removed much of the element of dispute in dealing with applications for new leases or for freeholding tenure.

(b) New units of production in cattle (and sheep) are not being made available. Practically all land becoming available is being used to build up existing holdings to economic standard."

We have seen this taking place and I believe that the decision in paragraph (b) is wise. I do not think that we should put more people on the land, with the exception of the brigalow land development under the Land Development (Fitzroy Basin) Scheme.

It is only sound common sense to make Crown land, as leases expire, available to those people who are already on the land because we do not want more people scratching out a living when those already on the land are finding it hard to continue.

Over the years there has been a change in concept of living area standards in relation to closer settlement. In many instances this has resulted in a big variation in the stock numbers that different landholders are able to run on their land. Many years ago, under the Labor administration, the land was subdivided into blocks capable of running 1,500 to 2,500 sheep or thereabouts, and these were considered to be living areas. As the seasons and tides of fortune have turned against the man on the land, the size of living areas has been increased. Some people for instance, drew as living areas blocks that could run only 1,500 to 2,500 sheep. Later, living areas were increased to blocks that could carry 3,000 sheep and, today, 5,000 sheep. In an area in which 5,000 sheep is now the accepted living standard, there are landholders who are stuck with properties that are capable of running only the numbers that I mentioned previously. This is most evident in my area.

In respect of some of the Crown land that came up for subdivision, I instance the Homeboin and Bindebango additional areas inquiry. One thing evident from that inquiry was that there are very many people in need of additional areas. Section 269 of the Land Act sets out reasonably clearly the eligibility to ballot for land. There were, I think, either 37 or 39 applicants for additional areas. The Lands Department decided in its wisdom that there was sufficient land to satisfy the needs of 12 people, and 12 additional areas were made available. As there were either 37 or 39 applicants it was obvious that there would be either 25 or 27 disappointed applicants. When applications were submitted, it was found that only 17 applicants were eligible to enter the ballot. Twelve were successful and the remainder who were eligible were disappointed.

One of the problems presented by section 269 of the Land Act, in which reference is made to additional areas, is the changing concept of living-area standards. Section 269 provides that if a person has less than 50 per cent of a living area he is ineligible to apply for an additional area. As a result of closer settlement over the years and the cutting up of land under various land policies, a person may have a block of land that was part of a subdivision made 25 to 30 years ago and that is capable of running 1,500 to 2,000 sheep. If he is in an area in which the living standard is 5,000 sheep, he has less than 50 per cent of a living area and is thus ineligible to ballot for a block. These are some of the problems that arose and quite naturally created a considerable amount of dissension among landholders in my area.

The next additional areas that came up were Bangalow, in the Goondiwindi district, and Tullamun. I think that those blocks clearly indicated what had taken place over many years. In the case of Bangalow the land had been cut up over a number of years, and in the case of Tullamun those who had drawn blocks had drawn them in about the last 15 years at a time when the concept of a living area had been increased. The Minister—very wisely, I believe—withdrew the Bangalow blocks from ballot for the reasons that I have mentioned. The Tullamun blocks went to ballot because the applicants in that area were all in about the same position. There was very little difference in the circumstances of each and so it was quite feasible for those blocks to go to ballot.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for the courage that he and his commission showed in withdrawing the Bangalow blocks from ballot and allocating them under section 205 of the Lands Act. This section sets out quite clearly that the Minister can without notice grant an additional area and I believe it was a very wise decision that he made in withdrawing the blocks from ballot and allocating them, because, if they had gone to ballot, the provisions of s. 269 would have precluded quite a number of people from entering the ballot. Unfortunately, under s. 269, if we regard a living area as one capable of carrying 5,000 sheep, a person with 2,500 sheep, having 50 per cent of a living area, and another person with 4,500 sheep, whose circumstances should be much better, would both be eligible.

If one is eligible under the Act, there is no question about his right to take part in the ballot. That is all there is to it. No consideration is given to merit or to who is the most deserving, and I think this is something we certainly have to look at. When the Minister made the decision on the Bangalow additional area, I was pleased to see that he took need, merit and prospect into consideration. I think that the two people who received the additional areas in the Bangalow blocks were certainly the most deserving. It is in this area of ballots that s. 269 of the Act falls down, in that it does not necessarily follow that the most deserving applicants get the blocks and, after all, this is what we as a Government are trying to do.

We are trying to assist those people on small blocks of land to build up their areas into viable propositions. I would not like to think, however, that in the future, when leases on Crown land expire, they will automatically go to allocation. I believe that we must retain the ballot system, but we must take into consideration need, merit and prospect. I am pleased to hear the Minister say that ballots will be continued where the applicants are more or less of equal standing.

I would now like to touch briefly on the importance of the Rural Reconstruction Board and the role it is playing in assisting people to stay on the land in these trying times. I know that a number of people always seem to be complaining that the board is not lending to a sufficiently large number of applicants. However, it naturally follows that, if the terms of reference are widened, money will certainly be shunted out much more quickly and the funds exhausted a lot sooner. I would certainly like to think that more people could be assisted, but one must always remember that the board has been set up to conduct a rescue operation. It is not a normal lending institution.

The whole idea of the Rural Reconstruction Board is to assist people who are no longer able to obtain finance through the normal commercial channels. If the board's terms of reference are enlarged and people who are still able to obtain finance through the normal commercial channels are allowed to borrow from the board, many deserving people who are sorely in need of assistance will be left standing outside the door and unable to obtain it.

I turn now to the Minister's committee of inquiry into the need for a single authority to control pests. Problems have arisen over the years because the control of noxious weeds and pests such as pigs, dingoes and foxes has come under a number of departments. In my opinion, control should be vested in one department.

I commend the Minister and his departmental officers on the very successful "1080" baiting programme that has been undertaken by the Rabbit Control Authority in conjunction with the Co-ordinating Board. In some areas there has been a fair amount of criticism of the programme. However, as wild pigs are now in plague proportions and are one of the greatest menaces to landholders in the West, it was necessary to take drastic measures. When a general goes into battle, he knows that he will lose a few of his troops down the line. It was inevitable, therefore, that a number of station dogs and stock would be lost in the "1080" baiting programme. However, "1080" is the most selective poison available at present, and I think that its use is desirable when we remember that landholders have been using S.A.P. and Lucyjet, both of which remain effective for some time after distribution.

One of the reasons for criticism is that the "1080" baiting programme has been carried out on a fairly extensive scale within certain districts. With so many baits being used, it was only to be expected that some dogs would be killed. Formerly, landholders carried out baiting on an individual basis and only an odd dog or two was lost.

The "1080" baiting programme has received a tremendous amount of acclaim from landholders in the affected areas, and I should hate to see it curtailed. However,

some streamlining of procedures could be implemented. As to the loss of station dogs—if landholders were to put out ingested meat baits in sizeable chunks just on dark and collect them again in the morning at first light, losses would be kept to a minimum. It does not worry me that dogs straying across paddocks pick up baits, because I certainly do not want stray dogs on my property.

(Time expired.)

Mr. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove) (12.39 p.m.): I take this opportunity to make a few remarks to the Committee on the subject of the Brisbane National Park—a park that we have a chance to achieve if we act now and that we might not get another chance to achieve as Brisbane presses relentlessly westwards in an attempt to find new dormitory areas for its growing population.

In speaking of this park, I remind the Committee of some of the background to it. It had its genesis in a Liberal Party Ryan Area Conference some years ago.

Mr. Lane: 1971.

Mr. GREENWOOD: The honourable member for Merthyr reminds me that it was in 1971. Following that, there were papers prepared and investigations carried out, and it went to the next Liberal Party State Convention, where this policy was endorsed. Ultimately, on 26 September 1973, the honourable member for Mt. Coot-tha, now the Hon. W. D. Lickiss, presented detailed proposals to the Assembly. I should like to take the opportunity to quote briefly from his speech on that occasion. He said—

"Let me say that this proposal is very strongly supported by all my Liberal Party colleagues, who have devoted a great deal of time and consideration to the matter. Let me also say that there is sufficient land in this area, without resorting to the resumption of any private land, to provide a multi-purpose park which, under proper management, will be a tremendous asset to the region now, and for posterity as well.

"The status of the land in question is variable. Presently it is held under a reserve vested in the Brisbane City Council, freehold land of which the Brisbane City Council is the registered proprietor, and land set aside and reserved for public purposes such as State forests and water catchment.

"Because of the complicated status of the land and its several uses, it would be difficult indeed—and even inadvisable—to declare the area an environmental park. I suggest, therefore, that special legislation would be desirable and necessary to set aside this very valuable area for the enjoyment of the public and also to provide for its planning, development and management. It is true that much of the area is State forest and I can see no conflict of

interest if the limited forestry operations were to continue under sound management."

The proposal was brought into the Assembly, and from then on it was considered by Cabinet. On 17 December 1973 Cabinet agreed to the matter in principle, and instituted further investigations. It came back to Cabinet in 1974, when Cabinet approved, on the introductory motion of the then Minister for Health (now Sir Douglas Tooth), of the creation of the Brisbane forest and recreation park, and set up a committee to implement the proposal.

What is it that is being planned? It is not something that can be brought into existence overnight. It is too big a proposal and too imaginative a proposal for that. It is something that will provide breathing space for the people of Brisbane, well on into the next century. It is something that will provide one of the greatest national parks and environmental areas close to a great city to be found anywhere in the world. Here it is, a little over three miles, at its nearest point, from the City Hall. This is what we are trying to accomplish. What has to be done? At this stage the important thing is for everybody who is interested in the project to stand up and be counted, and say, "Yes, we endorse this proposal, and we will all work towards that end." It is necessary for an over-all plan to be developed so that certain activities can be phased out gradually and certain other activities can be phased in.

It is not expected that it will occur quickly; it is something that we must plan for now and on which we must take the decisions in principle now. If we do not do so, this wonderful opportunity will be lost.

It is obvious that with a very significant portion of the area under the ownership of the Brisbane City Council it is essential to have its co-operation. But what did we get? We got anything but its co-operation.

I think it was in February 1974 that the formal correspondence started. The council was asked to send along official representatives to the committee that was then working on a report to go back to Cabinet.

Mr. Lane: Why doesn't the council come out and say it is opposed to it? Hasn't it got the guts?

Mr. GREENWOOD: No, it hasn't. What it does is send along that pretender on conservation, Alderman Terry Ryan, and it says carefully that he is not the council's official representative. It has five bob each way. It does not reply to our letters, nor does it send along an official representative; but at the same time it does not refuse to send along an official representative. It sends along Alderman Terry Ryan.

Eventually, by September 1974 we had managed to get that well-known "conservationist", Alderman Bryan Walsh, along.

Mr. Lane: Old heavy hand.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Indeed he is. He gave us a lesson in A.L.P. environmental policies.

Mr. Lane: With a bulldozer.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Yes, with a bulldozer. However, he found that his bulldozer tactics were not acceptable to the meeting and that the people who attended it were genuine in their desire to create an environmental national park. So what did he do? He walked out halfway through the meeting.

Mr. Lane: He is always walking out lately, sulking.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Next year we will give him a chance to walk far and fast. I hope that the people of Brisbane will take the opportunity given to them.

That was as far as we had got by September 1974. For months the council did not reply to our letters, and eventually when Alderman Walsh was sent along to the meeting he stamped out.

Mr. Lane: They won't be in it because it's not their idea.

Mr. GREENWOOD: The council won't be in it because it is a well-known land developer, and this area contains some of the best land suitable for subdivision in the State.

The honourable member for Merthyr is familiar with the conditions around Paten Road at The Gap. Anyone who speaks to the residents of Paten Road will be told what the Brisbane City Council does when it is entrusted with public parkland. What it does, of course, is subdivide it. That is what we can expect from the council unless we can persuade it by some means to put an appropriate zoning on this land.

One of the bones of contention with the Brisbane City Council is that we asked it to change the zoning of some of the land owned by it in the middle of the park from one that would allow the council to subdivide it into 10-acre farmlets to one that would preserve it as national park. If the council were genuine in its desire to promote the creation of a national park in this area, wouldn't it be prepared to carry out such rezoning? What possible reason could the council have for objecting to rezoning to park purposes in the middle of an area which the council claims is suitable for use as a national park? The council is only paying lip-service to that proposal.

Such rezoning is the last thing that this team of subdividers in the A.L.P. council—formerly led by subdivider Clem Jones and now led by his sorcerer's apprentice, the present Lord Mayor—are prepared to do. What they want to do is maintain that land in a zoning that will allow them to subdivide the area surrounding the lakes. They want to do as they have done in so many other

parts of Brisbane that used to be parkland—subdivide it in order to find the money to prop them up through the financial problems that have been created by the council's inefficient financial management of this city.

Mr. Lane: Our aldermanic team will fix it when they get in.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Our aldermanic team will fix it, and it can't come too soon.

That is the sort of thing we have to put up with from the A.L.P. council—hypocritical lip-service. When they are asked for a bit of co-operation, that is the last thing they give.

However, the National-Liberal Party Government is not to be deterred by this sort of behaviour. The Minister and his officers have gone ahead with the planning of that part of the Brisbane National Park which does not depend upon the co-operation of the Brisbane City Council. That is well advanced. In the last few months we have seen the opening of improvements at Camp Mountain and other improvements at McA'Phees Lookout, which is in the same general area. Those parks, which are under the control of the Minister's department, are used every week-end by many thousands of Queenslanders.

I mention also in this context the Miala National Park at Mt. Nebo.

Mr. Lane: A beautiful spot.

Mr. GREENWOOD: It is. On any week-end well over 1,000 people are to be seen at the barbecue areas and walking through the nature trails, enjoying the sort of facility which should be expanded and repeated tenfold and fiftyfold throughout this great area—and, given the opportunity and a more co-operative council, next year it will be.

Before I leave this subject, and while I am on the general topic of Labor hypocrisy in the field of the environment, I would like simply to refer to just how their promises of financial assistance compare with their performance. Doubtless we will hear the erstwhile Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, talking about conservation issues in the next few weeks. I remember that during the May 1974 campaign he spoke a great deal about the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria and what he was and was not going to do there. The least said about his record in that regard, the better.

I will gloss over Labor's sorry record in places like Lake Pedder. If ever there was a conservation issue important to the people of this country, it was Lake Pedder, situated in some of the most beautiful country in the world—a wilderness area which we should preserve. What did they do? They are full of promises when they do not have to implement them, but when they have the chance after they get into power they do not carry out their promises. They flooded

Lake Pedder, and the conservationists are left lamenting, wondering who these people are in whom they temporarily put their trust.

What about Fraser Island? We hear a lot about Fraser Island. We hear a lot about a policy which will, by means of regulating export permits, cause environmental impact studies to be prepared and studied by the Federal Minister before mining is allowed to continue in a place such as Fraser Island. But the day before that legislation was to pass into law, what did the Federal A.L.P. do? With typical hypocrisy, they carefully granted the export permits before this much-vaunted environmental protection legislation of theirs was enacted.

I could go on and on; but, while I am talking of promises made as vote-catchers and the performance record of the A.L.P., I should come closer to home and simply refer to some of the promises it made to this State, amongst others, in connection with the States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act.

In 1974-75 it promised to give the States \$9,000,000 to assist them in expanding the areas of national parks, environmental parks and areas of wildlife habitat in this State. We were promised between \$1,500,000 and \$1,800,000 out of that \$9,000,000. What did we get? Nothing; not a cent! I do not know what the other States received but if they were treated as shabbily as we were I doubt whether they did very well out of it, either. It sounds very fine in an election speech when Whitlam stands up and says, "We promise you \$9,000,000 for national parks."

Mr. Lane: He's a fraud.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Of course he's a fraud. He's the greatest con man this country has ever produced. But that is what he does. He makes a promise and then he does not perform it.

In 1975-76 what happened to this money? Labor scaled down what it was prepared to give for national parks to a Budget allocation of \$1,800,000, of which Queensland's tentative share was \$288,000. That by itself was not too bad. At least it was roughly one-sixth of the over-all total. But when it comes to what we actually got out of that \$288,000—at present all we look within cooee of getting is a mere \$75,000 for the Eubenangie Swamp in the North. I sincerely hope that we do succeed in getting it, but the point is that, of the \$288,000, only \$75,000 looks as though it might be forthcoming.

Mr. Aikens: You should name it the Germaine Greer Swamp and you would get \$100,000.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I am indebted to the honourable member for Townsville South for his suggestion. But even the promises of the former Prime Minister about women's issues do not seem to come to fruition. Either that or he has simply decided that the sort

of advice he was getting was not good advice. But for one reason or another, in that field as well, he got rid of his advisers just as he has got rid of Crean, Connor, Cairns and the rest of them.

There is the performance of the Federal Labor people in environmental issues! There is the performance of the aldermanic Labor team in environmental issues! There is the performance of other State Governments, such as the Tasmanian Labor Government, in environmental issues! I am thankful that, today, I can rise in a Chamber where not a Labor Government but a National-Liberal Government is in the saddle in environmental issues and gives us an opportunity to speak on the Estimates of a Government which is pursuing a constructive policy towards environmental and national park issues.

[Sitting suspended from 12.59 to 2.15 p.m.]

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (2.15 p.m.): In the normal course of affairs most voters would be unlikely to take much interest in the reports presented by the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service. In my electorate most people are more concerned with the day-to-day problems of survival and success in life. It therefore behoves members of this Parliament to look fairly closely at not only what is reported but what is not reported.

In "The Courier-Mail" of 24 November 1975, at page 5, there are two reports in respect of the development of two tourist areas. One recounts the dissatisfaction of local residents with the council's developmental plan and programme. This is a fairly normal situation in our society, which prides itself on a fair-go syndrome and considers that the right to both hold and express a personal opinion is fundamental to our social system and the democracy that it projects. It has also a fundamental concern for the preservation of our very society and its standards.

The other report is more disquieting—indeed, it is most disquieting. It includes passages such as—

"Yes, Mr. Iwasaki had heard it said that he had too much land. Not so. Mr. Iwasaki wanted to build a world-class resort... and he did not feel he had enough land to do all he wanted to do."

Again I quote from the same article—

"We'll have to get State Government approval for the various proposed uses of the leasehold land... Fundamentally, Mr. Iwasaki said he would do whatever the State Government asked him to do."

The key words are "proposed uses of the leasehold land" and "whatever the State Government asked."

For the record—the area under discussion lies roughly north of the town of Yeppoon and south of the forest reserve at Byfield. The area is noted for its native Australian plants, its ocean beaches and some curious typical wind-formed thickets which illustrate the effect of the prevailing south-east trade winds on the local flora. Byfield is an important station in the breeding of pedigree trees, and its clonal bank-seed production area, started in 1972, is being extended. This is referred to in the annual report of the Department of Forestry.

I am sure that honourable members will be aware of the importance of maintaining an adequate isolation of nursery and experimental plantations. This previously had been reasonably secure by virtue of the land adjoining owned by the Australian Government, which is the Shoalwater Bay military manoeuvres area, and Crown land adjoining forestry land on the south, which provided a buffer on that side.

The Shoalwater Bay area was acquired by the Australian Government between 1964 and 1967 with the object of providing an area large enough and varied enough in topography and vegetation for the carrying out of tactical exercises by troops and ancillary support forces up to divisional strength. It is understood that this is the only area of its type and size not only in Australia but in the whole Pacific basin. It was intended also for exercises with British and American forces, and it has in fact been so used. The types of manoeuvres so far practised have included amphibious landings, joint amphibious and air support exercises, air lifts and deployment of strike forces, exercises in attack and defence up to battalion strength, and exercises with troops of mixed formations to test co-operation, improve co-ordination, and test and analyse materials, equipment, etc. In brief, it is a very large capital investment in the most direct way possible in the interests of Australia's security and in the training and research programmes that are fundamental to it.

The stated proposals of the Japanese tycoon, Mr. Yohachiro Iwasaki, born in 1903, are to establish a \$30,000,000 tourist resort within 40 kilometres of the principal airfield in the Shoalwater Bay complex, and Japanese holiday makers would fly from Japan with a Japanese airline and spend their money in a Japanese-owned hotel complex. In view of the apparent naivety of honourable members opposite, I would like to remind them that in 1941, when Mr. Iwasaki would have been 38 years of age, the American base of Pearl Harbour was decimated by a Japanese attack. It is generally accepted—strongly embraced, in fact, by a former Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable R. G. Menzies, proponent of the Brisbane line and other famous strategic, tactical and personal martial blunders—that any outside force proposing to occupy Australia would have its chances

of success increased almost immeasurably by the establishment of a major beachhead on the Central Queensland coast.

Mr. MILLER: I rise to a point of order. I thought it was a decision of Mr. Speaker that nobody was to read a prepared speech. I tried to find out on two occasions what the honourable member for Cairns is quoting from. If he is quoting from some speech, I would like to know what it is. If he is reading a prepared speech, I do not think he should be allowed to continue.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! I would remind honourable members that there has been a decision by Mr. Speaker that members should refrain from reading prepared scripts. If the honourable member is reading from notes, that is in order.

Mr. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Row. The precedent has been created in this Chamber and I bow to your ruling.

Mr. Iwasaki controls 20,000 acres and does not feel—I am quoting him—that he has enough land to do all he wants to do. I am quoting what is attributed to him in an article in "The Courier-Mail". An indication of the authorities' view on the importance of the security of the Shoalwater Bay area is their attitude towards the proposed railway line to Sabina Point. It was cancelled and shifted to another location despite the advantage of Sabina Point because of its proximity to the Shoalwater Bay area. I think that is a very significant point and one that the Minister should take cognisance of.

In summary—it seems to me that the Minister has failed to report fully to Parliament on a subject which is directly related to his portfolio, the leasing of Crown land to a national of a country which, about 30 years ago, came closer to invading Australia than any country in the history of this nation. In relation to an equally important aspect of his responsibilities as a sworn Minister of the Crown, I would suggest to the Minister and his Cabinet colleagues that the alienation of leasehold land to foreign elements is not in the local, the national or even the international interest. In fact, allowing this proposal to proceed as far as it has is a gross dereliction of duty on their part. Rockhampton businessmen, as well as the Rockhampton branch of the R.S.L., are reported to be opposed to this proposal.

Mr. Miller: You are still reading that speech.

Mr. JONES: Rockhampton businessmen—and I am now quoting from my copious notes—are reported to be sore that much Central Queensland development has taken place at Gladstone. If such development is important to the Minister, an expansion of the forestry programmes in the Byfield area would seem to be worth consideration. It

would probably have similar economic results in the final analysis, for it is difficult to see how Japanese holidaymakers, flying from Japan in Japanese aircraft and spending their money in Japanese-owned hotel complexes, will contribute anything to the Queensland or the Australian economy.

It is possible, of course, that the use of local citizens to staff the complex could produce a local prosperity. Indeed, this is world-wide experience and trend, wherever modern holiday complexes are built. Whether in the Adriatic, Spain, North Africa, the Caribbean or South America, the use of indigenous people has been universal. This has created employment and a degree of local prosperity, but they have been used only in mundane occupations as waiters, gardeners, and so on, to staff the hotel complex. In effect, they want the indigenous people to labour for their prosperity.

It is also a social fact that the incidence of prostitution and social diseases increases rapidly, and a general breakdown of standards is accepted in an international complex of this type. That is particularly apparent in countries overseas.

However, the middle and upper-level management posts have, of necessity, been restricted to appointees of the owners and almost invariably nationals of their own people. The reason is quite sensible. Management staff are part of a large career organisation, and promotions require a chain of opportunity which includes other places in the organisation. The management staff understand the thinking, methods, procedures, profit orientation, etc., of the owners. It pays both sides not only to speak the same language but also to have similar subconscious drives and sentiments. Whether the masters be English—

Mr. McKECHNIE: I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the fact that the honourable member is reading his speech.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! There is no valid point of order.

Mr. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Row. In fact, the middle management will speak the master's language and put into effect his policies. It would be difficult for a local Australian to qualify in the instant case.

It seems to me that experience overseas in this area has demonstrated not only that the benefits are largely theoretical but that the practical disadvantages of establishing a foreign enclave on the Australian mainland is a bargain for Mr. Iwasaki at \$30,000,000. We are selling out to foreign capital investment and to a former enemy of this country.

I visited Japan, and the Japanese have not changed one iota. When I was at Kagoshima, we were not allowed—because the animosity to the occidentals, as we were called, was so strong—to visit the area in which the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces had been. Yet here we are selling out our country on the cheap. The Japanese nation spent a great deal more than \$30,000,000 in its last attempt to enter this country, which, fortunately, failed.

I am tempted to move that the Vote for the Department of Lands be reduced by \$1 and that the Vote for the Forestry Department be increased by \$500,000 to be spent in the Byfield area to purchase under the Land Acquisition Act those lands already owned by Mr. Iwasaki and to develop an experimental station in the area under the direction and control of the Conservator of Forests in conjunction with the Director-General of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau. But I know that Standing Orders would not permit me to move in that manner, and therefore it would be futile to attempt to do so, but I should like the Committee to know my thoughts on it.

I am wondering about the calling of tenders for the development of North West Island in the Capricornia group, about 50 miles east of Rockhampton. I wonder if this is to be done conjointly or separately and whether Mr. Iwasaki will be a tenderer. To the Opposition it is a very interesting exercise. Before any further development is carried out in that area, the Government should consider what has happened on Green Island with the number of tourists visiting it. If North West Island is a coral cay, the Minister should make sure that an environmental impact study is carried out and ensure that that island is not developed to the same extent as other islands off the Queensland coast have been developed. If the animal and bird life is protected, the marine life should also be protected. The mistakes that were made in the development of other tourist areas should be looked at very closely when the development of North West Island is being considered.

I am worried about the availability of land in my electorate for industrial purposes, housing, tourist activities and sporting and recreation. Over the 11 years I have been in this Chamber we have been very fortunate to have land commissioners of the calibre we have had in Cairns. We have been fortunate in the choice of members of the Land Administration Commission over a period of time. The administration of the commission has carried out a very high-class exercise in looking after land development works in my area. Of course, there are some aspects of the administration that I cannot justify, but those will be debated on another occasion when I have more time.

I am concerned about the availability of leasehold land for the home maker. The lower-income wage or salary earner who obtains leasehold land can start to build his home without having to make a large capital outlay to purchase land. Such an outlay of savings is very difficult for the low-wage earner, particularly if he is rearing and educating children. More leasehold land should be made available to make it easier for the low-income earner to build his own home on his own land. After all, for a long time it has been said in this Chamber that leasehold tenure is as good as freehold tenure on the open market. If more leasehold land were made available, this would be another avenue through which a person could obtain his own home. I know it can be done through the Queensland Housing Commission. Certainly leasehold land should be made available more readily, particularly in the provincial and country areas of the State.

(Time expired.)

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (2.35 p.m.): In participating in this debate, I congratulate the Minister on the administration of his portfolio. I have always had a great deal of time for him since my entry into Parliament. As a National Party back-bencher he won my respect, and many of the ideas and thoughts expressed by him were ones that I agreed with. He always spoke with authority and with a good deal of common sense. He has brought those qualities with him into the administration of his portfolio. I do not agree, of course, with all of the Government's policies on matters within his administrative control.

I wish to talk particularly about the Land Development (Fitzroy Basin) Scheme. I have watched the progress of this scheme with great interest since its inception. Since the early 1960s I have made many inspections of Areas I, II and III of the scheme. It is a great scheme and one that has everything going for it. In concept it is very good indeed, and the portion of the State in which it is being implemented is ideally suited to such a scheme.

The scheme is administered most capably by officers of the Lands Department who have a wealth of experience in land matters. In recent years we have heard a considerable number of knockers of the scheme, and I state quite emphatically that I am not among their number. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of certain executive members of the United Graziers' Association who have criticised the scheme. I am so happy with the concept of the scheme that I should like to see it extended into the Suttor-Belyando area. In 1968 the Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics published a report in which it stated that the Suttor-Belyando area of the Burdekin River system, which is undeveloped, could be brought into an extension of the scheme.

I do not pretend that problems have not arisen in the Fitzroy Basin scheme. Just as it is modern in concept, so too has it created a number of modern problems—problems that were perhaps unforeseen at the time of its inception.

Today I wish to put forward constructive suggestions on the development of further schemes of this nature. The first is that greater consideration be given to the infrastructure of such schemes. Just as a modern home owner expects to buy land in an area provided with water and sewerage facilities, kerbing and channelling, drainage, access to shopping centres, transport and schools, a land settler in this, the third, quarter of the 20th Century is entitled to the provision of services that will enable him to overcome modern-day problems. This is, after all, not 1875, when people set forth with a water-bag and an axe and carved out for themselves a living under conditions that we would not now expect anyone to tolerate. Just as services and facilities are provided in city areas, so too should they be made available within the infrastructure of rural land development schemes.

This Government should be very well aware of the row that has developed over schools in the area. The Minister for Education, who is now in the Chamber, knows full well the problems created in places such as Pasha and Valkyrie, to name two of the more recent ones in the brigalow area, where settlers were without any school facilities. Modern concepts were required by educationists, teachers, students and even by parents of what they expected for their children if they were going to live in these developing areas. This is one aspect that the Government fell down on considerably in its initial plan—the development of schooling and educational facilities in brigalow lands.

Electric power is vital for modern living. Some areas in our State far more sparsely populated than the brigalow lands have reticulated power. I refer to the far western areas of Queensland and the Central lowlands area—and north and south of there—where power lines reach out miles and miles through nowhere to join up settlers in remote areas. Areas I, II and III of the brigalow scheme are all much more closely settled than those, and power supply should have been provided when the areas were developed. As it is, some regional electricity boards throughout the State are still looking at the aspect of trying to reticulate power into these areas, because it is something that is badly needed by the settlers and something that would help to keep people in that new environment, where they are helping to develop the nation.

Another avenue that should have been considered is the provision of community services such as halls and areas where people can get together to air their social problems. Assistance could even be given to churches and such groups by the granting of land

for them to set up meeting places. These were things that were badly neglected in the over-all concept of the scheme. It might not have been as bad in Area I and Area II, which were previously more settled areas with a far greater number of townships. However, Area III was a very, very isolated area with few townships.

There was, of course, a great need for roads to overcome the isolation, and the department was not lacking in effort on that matter. I will come to that later, because a considerable number of roads were constructed in the area. However, even with the planning in the Main Roads Department there were different concepts because different shires were covered. Ideas varied between shires as to what should or should not be in their areas. Much depended on the belief as to their capacity to repay the 25 per cent of the loans they were borrowing to build the roads. That was what guided the shires in the area. Consequently, we finished up with a hotch-potch in standards of road construction right throughout the area.

That is reflected not merely in the shire roads. Some of the roads constructed by the Main Roads Department itself have varying standards of bitumen surface, varying widths and varying types of pavement, reflecting changes in policy and attitude on the part of the Main Roads Department over the years that the scheme has been developed.

When looking at the problems of the man on the land, one must always consider the provision of water. Over the years in Australia's development, the hardest battle for the man on the land has been to get an adequate water supply. I am not advocating that schemes such as those for brigalow lands should be developed as irrigation programmes. The soil throughout most of the brigalow scheme would in actual fact debar such a project. At one end of the scale is the immensity of the area itself and the volume of water that would be required to irrigate it. At the other end is the viability of irrigated lands is the problem of finding markets if such a large amount of money is to be spent on water storage.

Nonetheless, the provision of an adequate water supply represents the greatest bugbear to any man on the land. The grazing areas that have been developed under the brigalow scheme require water for any number of purposes. They require more water for household purposes than the early settlers did to cater for the modern household amenities in order to give people the will to live out in such isolated areas. They need additional water to guarantee stock-feeding in the area, if for no other reason. Later I will deal with that particular aspect.

I have been saying that certain aspects of the brigalow scheme's infrastructure should have been developed. Naturally, any Government would say that that is O.K. so

long as the money is forthcoming. We all know that this scheme was undertaken under an agreement between the Commonwealth and State Governments.

The initial concept of the agreement provided for the expenditure of \$25,000,000. By the end of the scheme, which I think was 30 June this year, \$80,000,000 had been spent over all on the scheme. There had been a saving of something like \$7,000,000. The Queensland Government could quite easily have renegotiated aspects of the scheme to ensure the provision of better amenities as the scheme went on and it found the faults in it. This would have made the scheme far better for the people in these areas. Some of the savings resulted from lower acquisition costs and I pay a tribute to the departmental officers who negotiated many of the deals.

The main difficulties in Area III, the last area to be developed, arose because it is more isolated from established towns. The people in that area have had a tremendous number of problems over and above those that everybody else has had to face in the past five years. First of all they suffered wrecking droughts followed by depressed prices in the beef industry. The over-all concept of this scheme was beef production.

I again highlight a point that I think should be looked at when any further schemes of this type are considered. More consideration and planning should be given to the possibility of alternatives in cash crops such as grains, oilseed and so many of the other crops that have been grown satisfactorily on brigalow lands.

Fortunately, the people in Areas I and II, which were developed early in the piece, were able to do this to some extent. They were the people who were able to obtain sufficient finance and had the knowledge of the agricultural practices that enabled them to go into the growing of crops. The Department of Primary Industries has done something recently in this regard, but its efforts are a little like shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted. Many other problems which have confronted these settlers could have been overcome if assistance had been given to them in the growing of cash crops.

In all, in addition to \$2,500,000 from the Main Roads Department, over \$4,000,000 was given to local authorities for roads. The Dingo-Mt. Flora beef road also has been constructed through Area III. Most of the money was on the basis of 75 per cent subsidy and 25 per cent loan. The Broadsound Shire is one of the most unbalanced shires in Queensland in that it has no major towns. St. Lawrence, which is the headquarters of the shire, is situated on the coast centrally between Mackay and Rockhampton and it is very difficult for it to service and administer the whole of Area III in the brigalow scheme.

Broadsound Shire had almost \$1,500,000 for roads spent in its area. It has to find \$375,000 to repay its share of the money. It has a much lower valuation on a pro rata basis than any other shire that had some land development scheme money spent in it. Its administrative problems are different from those of the other shires because of the isolation of St. Lawrence, its headquarters and administrative centre.

Instead of going to St. Lawrence, the people who live in the new areas go to Nebo, Marlborough or Dingo, which are situated in other shires. These are their natural centres. It is natural for them to travel to those towns. Many people even go to the bigger and newer townships of Moranbah and Blackwater.

Something like 1,184 km of new and upgraded roads have been provided and almost one-third of that length has been developed in the Broadsound Shire. Most of the roads in the Broadsound Shire are new roads because there were no roads to upgrade, whereas some of the other shire areas, in which Areas I and II of the scheme are situated, had only upgrading work to do, with the exception, perhaps, of Arcadia Valley, which is in the Minister's area, where a new road had to be developed to obtain access to one pocket of the scheme.

Because it is in a depressed state, Broadsound Shire is having great difficulty in meeting its repayments. The Minister is aware of this and has recently talked to the council about it. I strongly support the contentions put forward by the council and am putting forward other points today in support of proposals to solve the problems that have been encountered by some of the people administering the scheme.

Earlier I mentioned water. I believe that future water schemes of this nature must be developed in conjunction with water development projects. It is a shame to see the large body of water in Fairbairn Dam when we consider that if the Nathan Gorge scheme had been given preference, water from that scheme would have been flowing into Areas I and II of the brigalow scheme in the past few years. We all know it was a political decision that the Fairbairn Dam be constructed, and even now little water from it is used. It is rather a shame that it was given preference at that time. In hindsight, the areas with the main problems were Areas I and II of the brigalow scheme, and they could have been supplied from a dam higher up on a tributary of the Fitzroy River in the Nathan Gorge area. But it is not too late to rescue large areas of Area III, because the Denison Creek Dam on the Upper Isaacs tributary is going to be built in conjunction with the Hail Creek mine development. The mining companies are to pay for this project. The dam will have a capacity of 100,000 acre-feet of which 18,000 acre-feet will be available for various works in the area, such as local authority projects.

I believe that one way of obtaining offshoot benefits from mining developments is to use them for the long-term advantage of all. If a dam is to be constructed on Denison Creek, one of its uses should be the provision of adequate water for stock and also a supply of water downstream along the Upper Isaacs tributary and into the Lower Fitzroy reaches in Area III of the brigalow scheme. This would make this area far more viable. Such a concept is not new. In Western Australia water has been taken for the last 50 or 60 years from the western coast, near Perth, to Kalgoorlie, and this has provided farm water throughout the wheat belt of Western Australia.

The Government could also undertake a study into the further release of water from the Eungella Dam on completion of Urannah Dam for Area III of the brigalow scheme. I think that this is very important indeed.

I should like to congratulate the department on the work that has been done over the years in the control of the harrisia cactus pest. But the battle has not yet been won, and I do not believe it will be until some biological method of control is found. I know that the department is working very hard on this problem at present. Total expenditure on this work in the last 25 years has been approximately \$4,100,000, and it is estimated that in 1975-76 it will be over \$500,000. This is in excess of what is being spent in the control of rabbits. That will give the Committee some idea of the extent of the problem. It is more than the amount that has been spent on the maintenance of barrier fences, and more than is being spent by the Rural Fires Board throughout the entire State.

It is true that the clearing and opening of many new areas has prevented the spread of this pest into much of the better quality land in the State. It has, however, spread into much of the difficult terrain, and that is where its eradication is particularly difficult and where it will continue to spread. I have heard criticism by conservationists of clearing of some brigalow lands. When one sees what can happen as a result of harrisia cactus infestation in brigalow, one is glad to see it cleared. We all know, of course, that harrisia cactus was an imported plant which became a pest in this State. It is now very bad indeed, and one can see the damage that it has done and the extent of its spread in certain areas, particularly around Collinsville. Over the years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on weedicides in an attempt to control harrisia cactus, but they were found to be of no use at all or contained it for only a short period.

Even though orders to clear harrisia cactus may seem hard on those who receive them, I believe that all forms of eradication must be continued. As much effort as possible should be made to get rid of harrisia cactus. This costs a great deal of money, but if

it continues to spread as it is now in some areas of difficult terrain, such as behind Eungella and even further north up to the Burdekin tributaries, it will cause many problems for future generations.

Mr. GLASSON (Gregory) (2.55 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in the debate on the Estimates of the Minister for Lands. The Minister controls the portfolios of Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service. But before getting onto the basis of my contribution, I would just like to pay homage to the Minister and the officers of his departments. Representing, as I do, an electorate of nearly a third of Queensland, which is probably the most arid part of Queensland, on many occasions I am compelled to come to the Minister and his executive officers with a series of problems of a very varied nature. I wish to extend my thanks to the chairman of the Land Administration Commission and member of the Rural Reconstruction Board (Mr. Heffernan) and to Mr. Joe French, Mr. Len Lawrence, Mr. Paul O'Gorman and Mr. Lee. I was very pleased to hear the Minister thank his personal staff, Mr. Gary Gilbert and Jeff Swift, his Press officer. All those people have been of untold assistance to me as a new member of this Assembly who sincerely endeavours to look after the problems of the constituents of the electorate of Gregory.

Mr. Murray: It makes an enormous difference to get that co-operation.

Mr. GLASSON: I am very pleased to accept that interjection. That co-operation is everything, and I believe that the executive officers of the department appreciate the problems of somebody new to the game and they sincerely try to help.

I did not want to bring up certain things, but I cannot let some of the statements made by some of the Opposition members in this debate pass without comment. After the Minister's speech on his Estimates, the honourable member for Port Curtis led for the Opposition, in the absence of the shadow Minister for Lands. I clearly remember that during the debate on one of the early Bills introduced by the Minister, the Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease Bill, the honourable member for Port Curtis rose and said, "This is a pay-off. This is a palm-off for the National Party people who supported this Government at the recent elections." It was a simple Bill which allowed grazing homesteads within the under 20 in. rainfall area in this State to be held on what is known as a perpetual lease. Most grazing homesteads are held on a 30-year basis and all this Bill provided was an opportunity for security of tenure over and above that 30-year period. After all, not many of us engaged in the pastoral industry live longer than the period of one tenure. But the honourable member cast the aspersion at the Government, the Minister, and his department as a whole that the Bill was a palm-off, a pay-off.

The other afternoon we heard the honourable member for Port Curtis say that the department was now attempting to drain the last drop of blood from the industry. Then we hear that A.L.P. members are the only ones who support the pastoral industry. They cannot have the best of both worlds. The honourable member said that it was a palm-off this simple little Bill giving security of tenure to a landholder over and above the 30-year period! All it entailed was elimination of an evaluation at the end of the 30-year period. That is very seldom the case, especially in that rainfall area, in this day and age because the Lands Department over the years has reconstructed the properties into what it considered at the time, in the economic state of the industry, to be a fair living area.

I might add, too, that in their wisdom the Minister and the department have now decided in respect of the more isolated low-rainfall areas that, instead of breaking up the few pastoral lease tenures left which come up for consideration, we might use this land in a more beneficial way, probably by increasing the areas of those who have been struggling over the years. They have decided that it is necessary in this day and age, with the economic situation of rural industries and the variation in rainfall in those areas, to provide a more stable and/or more assured area of production. I must pay tribute to the Minister for taking that decision.

In my opinion, he has inherited a sense of responsibility and dedication from the two Ministers who preceded him in the portfolio. Perhaps Wally Rae, who was born and bred in the West, had a greater appreciation of the problems than did the Minister who preceded him. However, as the present Minister said, when introducing the Estimates, he has spent all of his lifetime in the pastoral industry, and very soon after assuming the portfolio he set out to learn from the people of Queensland of the problems facing their industry. To do this, he enlisted the aid of the officers who control the Lands Department so efficiently, and they have since visited every part of the State. In other words, the department has gone to the people; people from the far-flung areas have not had to come to the department. It is wonderful to think that officers administering the Department of Lands can now say, "We know at first hand what is happening within the State." It is greatly to the Minister's credit that that has occurred before he has been in office 12 months.

I should like to spend a few moments refuting some statements made by the honourable member for Rockhampton about the beef industry. A friend of mine who is standing for the seat of Kennedy against Mr. Katter was speaking to me recently.

I will not mention any names, but I will tell honourable members what will be said later.

Mr. Marginson: Will we have a guess?

Mr. GLASSON: The honourable member may guess if he wishes, but I do not intend to mention the man's name. He is a personal friend of mine, though he may have opposing political views.

He said that he had rung the honourable member for Rockhampton for a little bit of information and that the honourable member had informed him that \$20,000,000 in Commonwealth funds had been made available to Queensland, of which 80 per cent had been taken out at 11½ per cent. He said that only 20 per cent of the State's fund had been taken out because it was so difficult to qualify for assistance that it was not worth applying. That statement was so utterly ridiculous that I thought I should bring it to the attention of the Committee.

The Commonwealth's contribution of \$20,000,000 at 11½ per cent was for the whole of Australia, not only for Queensland. Of that sum, Queensland received about \$3,300,000. I took particular care yesterday to check and see what funds were available. Although I could not obtain the exact figure, I received confirmation of the fact that about 25 per cent of that \$20,000,000 was still available. I reiterate that the \$20,000,000 was made available for the beef industry over the whole of Australia, not only for Queensland.

Let me turn now to the Beef Cattle Industry Assistance Fund, which was financed with both State and Commonwealth funds and administered by the State Government. It was introduced in March 1975, and since then approval has been given for the expenditure of \$8,735,703 from the \$20,000,000 originally made available.

Let me turn to the Rural Reconstruction Board. Since 1 July 1975, approvals by the Rural Reconstruction Board under this scheme which was basically set up as a rescue operation—it is not a funding scheme but a scheme to save the industry—have totalled \$1,181,418. That brings the total assistance through the Rural Reconstruction Board since it was inaugurated to \$25,000,000. That exemplifies what I said during the debate on the Estimates of the Department of Primary Industries about the number of people engaged in the cattle and sheep industry and the indebtedness within that industry.

Mr. Marginson: We are not discussing Primary Industries Estimates now.

Mr. GLASSON: No, but I just refer to those figures now while we are debating the Lands Estimates. Those figures are very important. After all, stock and land are interdependent. One cannot survive without the other. There cannot be primary industries

without land, and there cannot be full land usage without primary industries. They are coupled as closely as any two factors ever have been in the history of the State.

I have referred to the figure of \$25,000,000 for the rescue operation of the Rural Reconstruction Board. I brought that figure out because of the earlier mention of wool and cattle barons in this State. There are no wool barons or cattle kings in Queensland. There might have been once, but not any more. Cost of production has reduced the industry to barely an economic level.

During the debate on the Primary Industries Estimates, I said that very few budgets were balanced in my area last financial year. I forecast that fewer would be balanced this year. My forecast is proving to be correct. I have checked up with individual persons, banks and wool brokers. In 1975-76 about 11 per cent fewer budgets than last year will be balanced. Even last year's performance was certainly less than desirable. So let us forget all the talk about wool and cattle barons.

The Rural Fires Board comes under the Minister's jurisdiction. On many occasions the Minister and his department come in for a great deal of criticism, most of it unjustified. However, I wish to refer now to the fire levy included in insurance premiums paid by persons in pastoral areas who have no access to a local fire brigade. Those contributions by way of levy help to provide funds for the purchase of equipment used by fire brigades throughout the State. Incidentally, the voluntary fire brigade service is the biggest voluntary organisation in the State and it does a remarkable job.

Over the past 12 months, the Government came to the assistance of two local authorities whose areas lacked sufficient manpower to fight outbreaks of fire. I refer to the Boulia and Bulloo Shires. They cover vast pastoral areas, many parts of which are far removed from the markets and therefore sparsely populated. In them there were simply not enough people available to combat the outbreaks of fire.

Thank heaven the two local authorities took upon themselves the responsibility of fighting the fires and succeeded in extinguishing them. The Government then came to their assistance and reimbursed them for many of the costs involved. Of course, the local authorities suffered severe loss. Although the Government met the cost of plant hire and wages of men involved in fire-fighting, the wear and tear on vehicles and machinery owned by the local authorities was not covered. No-one could estimate the cost of that. With pride I say that the Queensland Government came to the rescue of the shires during the period of these tragic fires, which, in one outbreak alone, ravaged hundreds of thousands of acres. If it had not been for the quick action of the local authorities, the damage would have been far worse.

The wool industry assistance scheme has been of tremendous benefit to wool growers in that, while the industry was going through a severe economic depression, the rents payable by wool growers were fixed at a realistic level. Many Queenslanders are under the mistaken belief that the wool industry is riding on the golden cloud. This is not so. Thank heaven, however, it is not in the desperate plight suffered by the cattle industry not so long ago. The current price of 250c per clean kilo has by no means got the wool industry clear of its indebtedness. The future for the industry is quite dark. The industry is beset by ever-increasing uncontrollable costs and, furthermore, faces the prospect of another drought. On the law of averages we must in the near future come in the under 20 in. rainfall area. If another drought occurs, the industry will once again be brought to its knees, and, as in the cattle industry, many wool growers will not be able to remain viable. I sincerely hope that the industry will gain for its product a realistic price. In the near future the current price of 250c will not be viable.

The Minister is also responsible for flora and fauna. The approach adopted by his department in this field is quite realistic. Steps have been taken to allow for the balanced harvesting of kangaroos, thereby providing a livelihood for a great number of people who depended on this industry.

(Time expired.)

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (3.15 p.m.): In entering the debate on the Estimates for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service, I would like to confine my remarks to what would probably be referred to as urban land development. In the electorate I represent and the environment of Brisbane, when land is mentioned, most of the people I come in contact with are concerned primarily with the availability of land for home-building so that a young married couple may set up a home, establish a family and live a decent way of life on their own plot of land. It is in that area that I would like to make some comments—comments which may to some members on this side of the Chamber seem a little radical.

Mr. Moore: I don't mind if they're radical as long as they're not socialist.

Mr. LANE: I would not propose anything of a socialist nature. What I would propose, however, is that the State Government move into the area of land development in the vicinity of Brisbane—at least as a pilot scheme—to test the market so that we may gauge what may be achieved. There is such a great need and desire by young people to establish themselves in their own homes that I feel the Government has a responsibility to

step in and explore the possibility. I think that responsibility falls on the State Government.

Mr. Chinchin: Don't you think an investigation should take place as to why land is so expensive?

Mr. LANE: Yes, I do.

Mr. Chinchin: And as to the delays of the City Council, the requirements of the City Council, the high cost of money and all those things?

Mr. LANE: Yes. I thank the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt. I intended to come to those matters. His interjection is most helpful.

What I suggest is that the Government embark on a small pilot project as a test run, as it were, in the vicinity of Brisbane to test the market so that we can accurately gauge the obstacles to providing land at a reasonable price to people living in the capital city.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. LANE: The Government has certain powers to make things work.

I must say, Mr. Miller, I am experiencing a lot of interjections today—and all from this side of the Chamber. As usual, the Australian Labor Party members are absent from the Chamber, leaving the pitiful member for Bundaberg to hold the front bench for them, with his usual silly look on his face. I am only concerned that if he shakes his head we will all hear it rattle.

I am putting forward what I consider to be a very serious proposal aimed at filling a need in the community. We are told by the Urban Development Institute of Australia and by many people in the private enterprise field of land subdivision that they can develop land more economically than can local government, State Government or even the Federal Government, which in recent years has shown an interest. I do not doubt the word of those people, but I would like to see it put to the test. I can see no harm in embarking upon a small pilot project. I think the experience and the knowledge to be gained from such an endeavour would be well worth the effort. It would provide more land for the young home buyer.

I am aware of the other problems that beset the young home buyer at the moment. I am aware of the problems that the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt outlined, such as the charges imposed by local government for providing the services that are necessary in such development. I am aware of the crippling interest rates as a result of the almost three years of Federal Labor government. I am aware of the effect that rampant inflation has had on this market.

I am also aware of what is probably the most terrible problem—the growing level of unemployment in the community. This has left young people with the feeling that they are not secure in their jobs, so that they are very reluctant to enter into hire-purchase agreements. They are living on a day-to-day basis and have been since the Labor Government gained power in Canberra. That gives them a feeling of insecurity in their jobs.

Mr. Murray: Hand to mouth.

Mr. LANE: Hand to mouth. Of course. These are some of the major burdens that any young home buyer has to carry. I am suspicious that an unreasonable profit margin is built into land development and that this also adds to the cost of the product made available to the land buyer.

In the next few decades until the year 2000, there will be a great need to provide additional land in sizeable proportions to people in the area surrounding Brisbane. Already the Moreton Regional Growth Strategy Investigation, which was conducted by this Government, has noted that by the year 2000 it is anticipated that somewhere between 900,000 and 1,200,000 people will be living in the Moreton region. This represents an increase of something like 800,000 people who will need to be housed and housed properly.

I do not subscribe to what has been done in cities overseas and in the South where people have been stacked one on top of the other in multi-unit developments. That type of accommodation may be suitable for retired people or couples without children. But I am opposed to any suggestion that, in a country as vast as this, families should have to live in a development of that type. It is important that they be allowed to spread and have some land available to them for their children to run on and lead the normal Australian way of life.

The Moreton Regional Growth Strategy Investigation has noted also that the Greater Brisbane Area, with its present boundaries, can only accommodate an additional 100,000 people in the type of development that is being undertaken at present. This will leave something like 700,000 people to be accommodated outside the Greater Brisbane Area by the year 2000.

There is only about six years' supply of subdivided land remaining in the Brisbane City Council area. Throughout the whole region the average is only eight years' supply of land. Someone has to move in this field. It may well be that the private developer will be able to undertake the task of supplying the necessary land when he does not have to carry the huge financial burden that has been imposed on him by the socialist Government in Canberra. I should like the State Government to engage in a small pilot project in the vicinity of Brisbane to see how

it works out. It may be a disaster as we heard lately the Monarto Growth Centre near Adelaide is showing signs of becoming. We hear rumours from the South even now that some of the land set aside for this new development, which is apparently a joint project between the Federal and South Australian Governments, has already been released for agricultural purposes. The scheme has not been a success, and this could well be our experience if it were tried here.

We all know that there are problems in the development of the Albury-Wodonga complex. That is quite a sizeable development and not what I propose for the Brisbane area.

Queensland is the most decentralised State, and the Lands Department is engaged in some forms of development outside the Greater Brisbane area, particularly in coastal areas such as Bribie Island and Caloundra. The land is put to auction and the market finds its own level in this way. I understand that the Lands Department is also engaged in some other development centred on some of Queensland's resource areas. These are quite decentralised. Queensland has a sparse population, which does not automatically guarantee success in land development. There is not in this State the population density of countries overseas in which people virtually crawl on top of each other to own their own piece of land. We in this country have come to enjoy a high standard of living, and I should like to see it maintained.

At one stage there was some hope of a co-operative scheme between the Federal and State Governments for the distribution of land. However, early discussions that took place between the State and Federal Governments revealed so many strings attached to the initial Federal Government proposal for a form of land commission for the development of land that it was quite unacceptable. One of the more important strings was that if the State borrowed money, which was to be a repayable loan only, the State would implement Labor land policy. This was an attempt to dictate to the State and to impose socialist policy on it. The Federal Government attempted to interfere with the State's right to govern in this constitutional area. The Federal Government flatly refused to advance funds unless the State accepted forms of land tenure spelt out by the Federal Government. Land tenure is purely a State matter, and the Federal Government had no right to require compliance with Labor land policy as a condition of a financial agreement.

Under the proposed agreement the State was to be required to make all commercial sites leasehold. The State would also have been obliged to make all industrial sites leasehold, and it would have been further required to apply a new form of land tenure to housing blocks for young people. This

is an area in which I am particularly concerned. This tenure was referred to by the Federal Government as restricted freehold. It was to be a conditional or restricted freehold which reserved to the Crown the right to develop or redevelop at any time. It was not a true freehold title at all; it was merely a play on words. And that is how it was seen immediately by the public at large. I do not think that it fooled anyone.

I commend the Minister and the Government for sticking to their guns and resisting pressure to enter into an agreement on such terms. Later in the year, on 20 August, I asked the Minister by means of a question in the House the latest position concerning these agreements. He replied that discussions had been continuing and it was hoped that the matter of land tenure would be resolved.

Again, on 14 October, I asked the Minister a further question relating to land tenure for home siting. He indicated to me on that occasion that negotiations at officer level had progressed to a stage where a satisfactory agreement in principle had been reached on the problems that I referred to before. Land tenure and these problems had been the obstacles that had precluded finalisation of the agreement at that time. But apparently now, because the Queensland Government was stout-hearted enough, had the courage of its convictions and stuck to its guns and resisted these quite outrageous proposals from Canberra, Canberra finally has had to knuckle under.

I am all for going it alone if necessary. My proposal is that the Land Administration Commission engage in a small pilot scheme to develop housing blocks in or near the Greater Brisbane Area, which housing blocks could be made available to young people. We could then see how it would work out. I put that forward as a suggestion to the Minister.

Very briefly, in the few moments I have left, I would just like to make reference to the Mt. Coot-tha National Park, which was referred to earlier by the honourable member for Ashgrove, who has been a champion of this cause since he entered Parliament, as was his predecessor, Sir Douglas Tooth, before him, and as is the Minister for Survey, Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs.

This is a concept which is very much appreciated by people in the densely populated areas of Brisbane, particularly those inner city suburbs, such as the one I represent, where there is more bitumen than green grass. Down around some of the hot, concreted streets of New Farm the people have to leave their homes and go to public park areas to give their children a breath of fresh air. This national park would, I believe, provide very necessary breathing space for people living in densely populated suburbs such as mine. I think it is a regrettable thing that the Brisbane

City Council, which owns approximately one-third of the freehold land contained in the 14,165 hectares of the Mt. Coot-tha National Park, has flatly refused to co-operate with the Minister in any way.

Mr. Moore: It should hand it over.

Mr. LANE: Yes. It should hand it over gratis. Instead of that, it is holding out so that the taxpayers of Queensland will have to pay—

Mr. Moore: A fortune.

Mr. LANE: Yes, a fortune for this land. I understand that early in the piece the present Lord Mayor of Brisbane flatly refused to discuss the matter with the Minister. He would not come to his office or even sit round a table with others and discuss it. I think that attitude is disgusting. If I were a lord mayor running for office at the present time, I would be trying to do something for the people of Brisbane instead of resisting a proposal by the State Government to develop, within a few kilometres of the centre of Brisbane, a great national park for our families, where our children could run around and enjoy some of the beauties of nature with which Australia is endowed. The matter is in the hands of very capable officers of an efficient department and I hope that they, too, will be resolute in trying to establish this complex.

I think we should pay tribute in this debate to the great work in the national park management that has been carried out by the department over the past 70 years. Since the national park estate became a reality in 1906, and up till the present time, the national parks in this State have been in good hands. They have been in the hands of administrators who knew what they were doing. I think the early policy decision made by the Government back in 1903, which recognised that a national park is a legitimate form of land use deserving of equal consideration with other potential uses and not to be ruled out merely by the existence of alternative uses, including that of commercial forestry, is the principle and policy that has been adhered to by this department since then.

I think that a tribute ought to be paid to the officers who, in those early days, had the foresight to make those recommendations. It is a great pity that the Brisbane City Council is not more flexible, more agreeable and more co-operative with the State Government in its approach to the establishment of the national park. I understand that the council will not even agree to the establishment of a trust over the land that is needed.

(Time expired.)

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (3.36 p.m.): First, I express my

thanks to the honourable members who have made contributions to the debate. I appreciate very much some of the remarks that have been made today about myself and, in particular, about officers of the Lands Department and my own staff. I believe that they deserve commendation. We certainly have top officers in the Lands Department, and the dedicated officers of the Forestry Department deal extremely efficiently with all aspects of forestry. As honourable members are aware, the National Parks and Wildlife Service is a completely new department. I am quite sure that, under the guidance of Dr. Graham Saunders and Mr. Clive Price, it will work equally efficiently, but it will, of course, take some little time to become fully operative. I propose now to reply to some of the comments made during the debate.

The honourable member for Balonne made some very topical remarks in relation to new living-area standards. I am pleased that these standards have been adjusted to have regard to present-day needs and the problems that have confronted primary producers over recent years. Also associated with living-area standards is the problem of dealing with Crown lands as effectively as possible. The honourable member supported the Government's freeholding policy, and I repeat that I think that policy has been a significant step forward for the man on the land.

I was very interested to hear the honourable member's remarks about the Homeboin-Bindebango additional area allocations and the difficulties encountered by the department in allocations under section 269 of the Land Act. In respect of eligibility of applicants, a situation arose that, in my view, had to be corrected somehow. Of the 39 applicants, 17 were regarded as being eligible, and a ballot was then held. Invariably when a ballot takes place, the ones who are most deserving do not win. Although one may be accused of a little bit of favouritism in making allocations, I firmly believe that today the system of allocating additional areas is the correct one.

Of course, allocations would not apply to new settlement. When one speaks of new settlement, one speaks of allowing onto the land people who have experience. Once it is established that they have experience, I believe they should be regarded as equals. However, in my opinion the case is quite different with additional areas because there one is trying to build some people up, as in the case of Homeboin-Bindebango, to 8,000 sheep. One fellow might have 6,000, another 2,000 and another 4,000. Consequently, in my view, the answer lies in a system of allocation, and this is the system that was used in the subsequent ballots at Bangalow and Tullamun, to which the honourable member for Balonne referred. Under another section of the Act, which has not been used previously for this method, need, merit and prospect were taken into account. In the

case of Bangalow, two areas were allocated under special lease tenure on 20-year terms at 6½ per cent interest. It is a bit difficult to explain why in one area one method is used and in another area another method is used. However, in the case of Tullamun, nobody appeared to have a better case than anybody else. Bangalow was in an area that was more closely settled. Consequently, a ballot was held in one case and allocations were made in the other.

The honourable member referred also to the committee of inquiry into animal and pest control, and I am pleased that he agrees that a single authority may be necessary. The committee has a very big job to do. As I indicated earlier, it is composed of the president of the Land Court, who is chairman, Mr. Bob Wicks, who comes from the Dalby district, and Mr. Ian McClymont, who comes from the Richmond district in New South Wales and is interested in both the wool industry and the cattle industry. They form the committee, and I shall be meeting with them later this week so that the committee can get on with the job. It has a big job to do. It has the future of the dingo barrier fence to consider. The honourable member for Mackay referred to harrissia cactus at Collinsville. That is another thing it will have to look at.

I was particularly interested to hear the views of the honourable member for Balonne on the use of "1080" in combating the feral pig problem. The feral pig has assumed major pest proportions and is causing a lot of damage throughout the State. A concerted effort is needed by everyone to control it. The honourable member referred to the loss of some non-target animals. I am pleased to know that he is in agreement with the use of meat baits, properly supervised, and considers it a more acceptable type of control than some other preparations being used by landholders.

The honourable member for Ashgrove outlined the history of the proposed Mt. Coot-tha-Mt. Nebo park project. There is no doubt that the project will not proceed in its full original concept without the ready co-operation of the Brisbane City Council by inclusion in the project of freehold land owned by the council. It is interesting to note that the Australian Labor Party believes wholeheartedly in leasehold land tenure but in this case where the Labor-controlled Brisbane City Council holds freehold titles obviously belonging in essence to the people, it appears unwilling to convert the tenure to one which can be used by all the people, namely, open space or recreation park.

I am pleased that the Leader of the Opposition is in the Chamber. It concerns me that we cannot come to a deal with the Brisbane City Council on this project. The honourable members for Merthyr and Ashgrove have referred to it today. With co-operation all round, I believe, we could

do a lot in the interests of conservation, in which I know the Leader of the Opposition is interested. I will repeat here what I said to the Lord Mayor yesterday. I should like to think that somewhere along the line the Leader of the Opposition might confer with him and try to get him to be a bit more co-operative in dealing with this project. The Brisbane City Council owns a lot of freehold land. The Lord Mayor said, "It is our property and we can do what we like with it." Nobody is disputing that but when we are talking about 800,000 to 900,000 people living in Brisbane with access to that park, I believe the time has come to forget about politics and do something. I genuinely believe that that is the way the Leader of the Opposition feels about it.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. TOMKINS: That is the first thing that the shadow Minister for Lands has said during the debate. He didn't say a word in the course of the debate, so I cannot tell whether he knows anything or not.

I certainly support the advocacy of the honourable member for Ashgrove for the development of a park for the people in the Mt. Coot-tha-Mt. Nebo area. I envisage a park managed by the present holders of the land, the Brisbane City Council, the Department of Forestry and the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the direction of an appropriate authority to control the co-ordinated development of the recreational values of the park. Other uses of the park, such as grazing, timber production, honey production and water catchment, could also be catered for. As I mentioned earlier, the concept goes beyond that of a national park as we know it. Without the co-operation of the council the Government has been proceeding with the development of the State-owned land, and this will continue. As the honourable member mentioned, quite substantial improvements have been effected at Camp Mountain and at McA'Phees Look-out. We are hopeful that the development of these areas for the further recreational use by the citizens of Brisbane and the surrounding districts will continue as funds become available.

Speaking of development and the need for sufficient funds—it would have been gratifying to receive some assistance from the Federal Government. It was interesting to hear the honourable member's comments in this regard. In actual fact, of course, under the nature conservation grants Queensland did not get any funds at all.

Mr. Burns: The Government was a bit slow putting in for them.

Mr. TOMKINS: We did put applications in but they were just not dealt with. I do not know why the Federal Government holds such things back. Queensland just missed out, and that is all that I know.

Mr. Burns: You were slow off the mark.

Mr. TOMKINS: I don't think so.

The honourable member for Cairns is apparently seeing some association between various development proposals which are proceeding along the Queensland Coast. This is evidenced by his reference to the proposed Iwasaki development near Yeppoon in conjunction with the calling of tenders for the development of North West Island. The Government is well aware of the need to look closely at all development proposals and, as the honourable member is aware, it instituted the committee of inquiry to have a close look at the Iwasaki project. The committee has suggested that further comprehensive details be supplied by Mr. Iwasaki in respect of the whole proposal, together with a documented development programme. This information has not yet been supplied.

At this point in time the Iwasaki proposal for development as a tourist complex has not been approved and is the subject of further investigation. The honourable member may be assured that all aspects of the proposal will continue to be closely looked at. I would mention for the information of the honourable member that the records of my department reveal that Mr. Iwasaki does not hold any leasehold land in Queensland.

As to the application in relation to North West Island, I can assure the honourable member that there is no association between that project and the Yeppoon project. The application for North West Island will be dealt with entirely on its merits.

I might say I was surprised to hear the member for Cairns speak in such derogatory terms about the Japanese. After all, we trade with them a lot.

Mr. Jones: That was my personal experience when they would not let us go to where the B.C.O.F. had been at Boifu and Osaka and other places. That was the attitude reflected by them.

Mr. TOMKINS: The honourable member is talking about a very small area.

Mr. Jones: Have you been to Japan?

Mr. TOMKINS: Yes.

Mr. Jones: How long ago?

Mr. TOMKINS: 1973.

Mr. Jones: Who did you talk to?

Mr. TOMKINS: I talked to anyone I was able to talk to.

Mr. Jones: You talked to the big guns. Did you talk to the ordinary people?

Mr. TOMKINS: I had no trouble in making contact with them. As I say, Japan trades with Australia, and our future is tied to that of Japan. It is interesting to

note that the honourable member for Cairns runs down the Japanese but does not criticise Red China or Russia. He is being a bit unfair.

Only last week I visited the area represented by the honourable member as well as other parts of North Queensland.

Mr. Jones: It's the best country in the world.

Mr. TOMKINS: Yes, I think I would have to agree with him on that. My department has had no end of representations from all sorts of conservation groups in our midst, and all have said the same thing, namely, "We want you to appoint a committee of inquiry into Cape York Peninsula to study its conservation needs and to prevent the destruction of the area." Many of the groups that have approached me are very good ones and ones of which I take a lot of notice. I cannot say the same for all of them. Some of the groups are the Wildlife Preservation Society, the Cape York Conservation Council, the Townsville Environment Centre, the Capricornia Conservation Council and the Australian Conservation Council, under the directorship of Dr. Mosely. For a long time these people have said we should do something about Cape York and establish a committee. I have told them, "Just wait until our National Parks and Wildlife Service gets going. At this stage we have to get organised. It takes time."

Last week I obtained leave from Parliament to visit the Cape York Peninsula, which is one of the most important regions of the State. As with all such regions, I endeavour to visit it at least twice a year. During my visits to the peninsula I have made it my business to bring to a head the real need to preserve under national park, or some other environmental park status that is just as good, the virginal areas that might represent the various types of soils and vegetation that occur on the peninsula. Following my recent visit to the peninsula, I arranged to bring to Brisbane today our District Land Commissioner, Mr. Doug Grant, from Cairns.

Mr. Jones: I came down on the plane with him.

Mr. TOMKINS: Then the honourable member probably knows about this. He is presently in conference with members of my commission and representatives of the National Parks and Wildlife Service with a view to promulgating several substantial national parks on the peninsula.

Following my inspections, the main area of interest is that I would like to preserve a substantial area of the heath-type country that occurs right at the tip of the cape, immediately south of the Jardine River. This is a sandy-type country on which very small vegetation grows. Although it is not very good country, it is ideally suited to the creation of a national park. I have asked

my committee to reserve at least 50,000 acres of that country, which is typical of that section of the peninsula. The area is of tremendous interest in so far as wallum-type flora is concerned, associated as it is with substantial bird life.

To the west of the former overland telegraph line, there occur substantial areas of open forest, which I feel certain will one day be used for paper pulp. I intend to preserve a substantial area of that type of country at the northern end of the cape to satisfy our national park needs in that field.

At the same end of the cape, on the eastern side of the Dividing Range, abutting the Pacific Ocean, there is a need also to preserve some of the typical flora and fauna which occurs in that region. This is a unique type of vegetation peculiar to that particular part of Australia and I am arranging for a substantial area to be preserved as a national park.

On the Divide itself, separating the heath to the west and the coastal lowland wallum on the Pacific Ocean, there is a substantial area of very attractive rain forest. The area would be approximately 70,000 to 80,000 acres. This is also to be preserved under national park status.

Coming south from the cape itself, towards the Iron Range area, I am looking to get a substantial part of "Weymouth" for a national park. I have already negotiated with the Huyber interests and have obtained a substantial area of what was formerly King Park Holding and Line Hill Holding, and I anticipate preserving this area, if not for national park, as I would hope to do, then at least under a suitable open-space tenure.

During my recent visit to the peninsula, I concentrated my inspections on the Daintree region. I am convinced that this region generally is likely to become a future playground for the northern people. The beaches are beautiful; the fresh water streams, particularly Coopers Creek, Bailey's Creek and the Noah, offer wonderful opportunity for public recreation. The mountain drive is one of the most scenic in Australia; and the area abounds in virgin rain forests and scrubs. I have decided that all of that area east of the Dividing Range to the Pacific Ocean should be preserved—some as national park, some as environmental park and some as recreation reserves—for the use and enjoyment of future generations. It will be necessary to delineate two or three seaside township sites to satisfy the needs of the region, but now is the time to preserve practically the whole of the Daintree area which, to date, has not been developed for cattle fattening.

The District Land Commissioner at Cairns, who as I indicated earlier is in Brisbane at present, accompanied me on my recent inspection. He knows my views and is putting them into effect.

For the record, I would like to inform the Committee how extensive this proposal will be—

Name	Area	Position
	Acres	
South and Palfeys Islands— Extensions to Lizard Island. N.P.	159	Declare near future
Cedar Bay—Extensions to Mount Finnigan. N.P.	11,610	Declare near future
Iron Range—Weymouth ..	30,000	Declare near future
Balance Iron Range—Wey- mouth	73,600	Proposal
Thornton Peak Extensions ..	33,643	Proposal
Alexandra Bay Swamps ..	3,661	Proposal
Annan-Normanby River ..	35,162	Proposal
Archer Point	11,494	Proposal
Headwaters Starke and Jack Rivers	58,402	Proposal
Extensions to Cape Melville	49,216	Proposal
Jack Lakes	9,396	Proposal
McIlwraith	232,999	Proposal
Range-Nesbitt River		
Olive River	90,342	Proposal
Jardine River	873,537	Proposal
Cape York (Tip) and Locher- bie-Somerset	38,842	Proposal
Possession Island	1,200	Proposal
Archer Bend	234,278	Proposal
Holroyd, Edward Rivers ..	302,016	Proposal
Mitchell, Alice Rivers ..	105,647	Proposal
Total	2,195,294	

I think that presently something of the order of 4,000,000 acres or a little more has been declared as national parks. If the Simpson Desert is excluded, that brings it back to about 3,000,000 acres. We propose declaring over 2,000,000 acres in the Cape York Peninsula. So anybody claiming that we are not conservation minded and do not know our jobs would be hard to please.

I thought I would give that information to the Committee. It gives an indication of how much we have been working on it. These things take a little while. A lot is involved in having national parks declared. In certain cases there are people to contend with; in others there is the Mines Department. All of those proposals will proceed—if not at national park status, then as environmental parks or, in some cases, timber reserves.

Mr. Jones: You have very competent officers.

Mr. TOMKINS: I hope that the honourable member is quite satisfied on that.

The honourable member for Mackay passed some complimentary remarks about the brigalow development scheme. It was gratifying to hear his support of the Land Administration Commission and also of the District Land Commissioner and his officers. This is a scheme which I spoke of at some length during my introductory speech. I think I can reiterate that it has been one of tremendous importance to the State of Queensland. We know that certain problems have been encountered by the settlers, and in fact they are now facing up to the problem of low cattle prices, with the associated lack of cattle and income to support their undertakings.

As the honourable member said, problems change with the passing years and there are now some modern-day situations which are a natural extension of the progress of the area. With the influx of settlers and their families to these areas, the matter of facilities for their better enjoyment of the somewhat isolated situation needs increasing attention. My department has always been aware of the need for schools, the provision of better access, the provision of electric power and general infrastructure improvement. This has been an important consideration in the initiation and development of the whole scheme.

I would like to say for the benefit of the honourable member for Mackay, because I was up there just recently, that there are schools at Clarks Creek, Mackenzie River, Valkyrie, a primary school at Dysart and also a pre-school at Dysart, another one at Pasha, which is just north of Clermont—the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities said he opened it just the other day—and also in Arcadia Valley, which is in Area II, a school was opened the other day. Although he says that we have to look at the infrastructure, some of these things cannot be started off until we see how the scheme will develop. I think that the schooling side of it has been pretty well catered for.

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. TOMKINS: As I say, we do not know who will draw blocks of country and whether children will be there to need schools. I think the one at Arcadia Valley started off with eight or nine children. Next year there will be a lot. One family out there has had triplets and that is going to help. We cannot do these things until we see the need. In other words, we do not build a school until we know what is going to happen.

Mr. Casey: You have to accept that the soil is not the only fertile thing in the area.

Mr. TOMKINS: As the honourable member realises, all of the bragalow country is good, particularly the area he referred to—the area inland from Mackay and down around Clarks Creek. The people there have been very unlucky. Some of them started in 1973 and some as late as 1974 when cattle prices were on the way down. It is unfortunate the way it happened.

The provision of electric power and general infrastructure improvement has been an important consideration in the initiation and development of the whole scheme. I agree that no position is static, and the further development of aspects of the scheme will certainly be part of my department's general role in the area.

The agreement with the Commonwealth for the funding of the scheme expired in June this year. It was hoped to get some further funds for some development advances to the settlers, but our request to the Commonwealth for \$1,500,000 for that purpose was refused. This has precluded the extension of the scheme to that degree.

The honourable member for Mackay mentioned the Broadsound Shire Council and the fact that it had spent \$1,500,000 on road construction, that it had a much lower rating valuation, that it had no major towns in the area and that the payment of loans for road construction was raising some difficulties. These problems have been discussed with the council and I have seen them personally. I will be seeing council members shortly, because they are coming down to see me and also, I think, the Treasurer.

The honourable member for Gregory supported not only myself and my commission members, which I appreciate very much, but also the new concept recently introduced into land tenure, namely, the grazing homestead perpetual lease. As a man who thoroughly understands the land and its problems, he would know just exactly what is required out there.

The honourable member for Merthyr was the final speaker and, quickly, I would like to say that the Lands Department does develop residential land in the Brisbane area, but there is little Crown land available to cater for the demand. In other words, the Land Administration Commission has done this for years. It does it with Crown land and has never attempted up to this stage to enter the land development field. If the Commonwealth Government provides money to establish a Lands Commission for the acquisition and development of residential land, Brisbane will be one of the localities where development will take place, and I hope that prices will be at least dampened by the availability of residential land in excess of demand. Such residential land will be sold under freehold tenure. If funds are available, there is no doubt that the Lands Department could go it alone on a pilot study. I can assure the honourable member for Merthyr that the Government will look into his suggestion.

At 4 p.m.,

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 22 October, I shall now put the questions for the Vote under consideration and the balance remaining unvoted for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The questions for the following Votes were put, and agreed to—

Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

	\$
Chief Office, Department of Lands	6,522,544
Balance of Vote, Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds and Loan Fund Account . .	85,063,194

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

CHIEF OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Hon. V. J. BIRD (Burdekin—Minister for Education and Cultural Activities) (4.2 p.m.): I move—

“That \$5,688,027 be granted for ‘Department of Education—Chief Office.’”

This is the first Education Vote that I have been associated with since I assumed the portfolio of Minister for Education and Cultural Activities. I feel honoured to occupy the position of Minister at a time when we are commemorating the achievements of the first hundred years of the Queensland education system.

The Estimates for my department again demonstrate clearly the State Government's continued recognition of the growing needs of education in terms of finance and expertise. We intend to press ahead with many programmes which will enhance the high standards of educational services offered to students in our schools. This will be done notwithstanding the stop-go decisions of the Whitlam Government in providing financial assistance to the States for educational purposes. The shifting attitudes and policies of the Whitlam Government will have a detrimental effect this financial year in many areas of our educational endeavours, principally in the school-building programmes and in tertiary education.

To the discredit of the Whitlam Government, tertiary education in Queensland today operates, as it does in other States, too, in an atmosphere of extreme confusion and uncertainty. For the first time in more than 20 years since the system of triennial planning and funding was introduced for universities, a Commonwealth Government failed to act upon the proposals of its own expert commissions. The Whitlam Government decreed that the triennium due to start at 1 January 1976 for funding purposes simply will not start. Colleges and universities cannot therefore organise their affairs on the basis of a three-year plan thoroughly assessed by the Commonwealth's Advanced Education Commission and its Universities Commission. A tertiary education institution clearly needs information about the funds it can reasonably expect to get during a calendar year. This information is necessary to determine sensibly the numbers of students that can be admitted and the staff to be employed.

When announcing the deferment of the 1976-78 triennium, the Whitlam Government indicated in its Budget the funds to be made available for universities and colleges for only the first six months of 1976. There was not the slightest hint of the level of funding likely during the second half of 1976. On 8 October, Mr. Whitlam, in an attempt to remove some of the uncertainty from the situation, advised by telegram of the funds which his Government would provide for the second half of 1976. This advice was only a global figure for Australia as a whole and clarified the general situation to no practical extent. As late as October in 1975, individual colleges and universities in Australia were unaware of the full year's funds to be provided to them in 1976.

Those actions of the Whitlam Government are forcing, in 1976, a year of “no growth” in our ten colleges of advanced education. The introduction of new courses is being stopped. Student enrolments are to be tailored to restricted funds. As a result of this treatment by the Whitlam Government, there will be places in Queensland colleges of advanced education for some 1,000 fewer new students in 1976 than in 1975.

With unemployment at levels almost unknown in this country, the Whitlam Government chose this time to restrict opportunities for entry to colleges and universities. It is a sorry day for Australia when the message given to increasing numbers of our qualified school leavers is, frankly, “You can't have a job, you can't even go to college or university, but you can get the dole.” Page 102 of the Estimates shows how capital expenditure in universities in 1975-76 will be cut to \$5,000,000 from almost double that in 1974-75. Page 107 similarly records the cut in capital expenditure on colleges from more than \$12,000,000 to \$8,850,000.

As honourable members will know, the Whitlam Government assumed responsibility for providing directly the full costs of tertiary education at the beginning of 1974. We now see the sad results of this further centralisation of power in Canberra. By the mere stroke of a pen, the Whitlam Government made inoperative the triennial system of funding universities and colleges, tried and tested for the past 21 years. The Vice-Chancellor of the Sydney University has aptly described the triennial system as “one of the few examples in Australia of successful planning”. Tertiary education struggles amongst the wreckage wrought by Mr. Whitlam of that system.

The appropriation of \$5,688,027 for Department of Education—Chief Office makes provision for the costs to administer and service the functions of the department. Estimates of recurrent education expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1975-76 provide for a total spending of \$329,081,878, which in round figures is \$100,000,000 higher than the 1974-75 appropriation.

In 1975-76, financial responsibility for the recurrent expenditure of \$329,081,878 indicated in the Consolidated Revenue Estimates of my department will be shared as follows:—

State Government	..	90 per cent
Commonwealth Government	..	10 per cent

Recently, we have witnessed the high idealism and aspirations of members of the Schools Commission being torn to shreds and left in disarray by the actions of a Federal Labor Government. Claims by the Federal Labor parliamentary colleagues of honourable members of the Opposition that they are making a contribution in real terms to the educational services of this State are misleading. The spiralling costs of inflation forced on our education services through the economic mismanagement at the national level of the Canberra colleagues of honourable members of the Opposition erode the real benefits of Schools Commission grant moneys to the State and non-State schools systems.

With a fanfare of propaganda a Federal Labor Government on the one hand announced special grants to the States to supplement State efforts in the provision of education services. On the other hand, there was a deafening silence from the same Federal quarters on the effects of their legacy to the States of crippling inflation which overruns these grants. Where in fact is the over-all gain when we look at the magnitude of the depletion of our State resources to meet cost escalations of previously unheard-of dimensions?

My appreciation of Federal Labor grant moneys for educational purposes is qualified by these circumstances. Appropriations in the Trust and Special Funds for 1975-76 provide for a spending of \$123,159,465 on educational services compared with appropriations totalling \$102,093,921 in 1974-75.

In guidance, I will summarise some of the new educational ventures to be introduced in 1975-76 as well as schemes to consolidate and build upon existing services—

Provision for an increase of 2,024 in teacher numbers at primary, special and secondary schools.

An 11.5 per cent increase in the establishment for teachers at technical colleges.

Payment to all primary schools of a general purpose grant estimated to cost \$1,000,000 yearly.

Liberalising the subsidy scheme for local authority libraries to cost an additional \$900,000 per annum. The total annual cost of this scheme will be \$1,500,000.

A tangible lift in per capita grant payments in 1976 to the non-state schools. Primary grants per student will rise from \$81 to \$111 and secondary grants per student from \$132 to \$177.

A 50 per cent increase in the scale of remote-area allowance payments for 1976.

A new senior secondary scholarship scheme in 1976 for grades 11 and 12 students qualifying for the remote-area allowance and attending board schools throughout the State. This scheme is estimated to cost \$500,000 yearly and will continue during the period of the present rural depression.

Completion of about 350 pre-school units by 30 June 1976.

Employment of an additional 500 teacher aides in primary schools.

Scale of payments to school transport operators to be increased by one-third from 1 November 1975.

Improved financial assistance scheme for parents carrying their children by private vehicles.

A subsidy scheme in 1976 to assist parents of students travelling on Brisbane City Council buses during morning periods when full adult fares are demanded.

A 33½ per cent increase from 1 January 1976 in the Administration allowance paid to smaller schools for the employment of part-time janitor-groundsman and clerical assistance.

A 100 per cent increase in petty cash allowance to schools from 1 January 1976.

Increased allowances payable to student teachers.

Increased grants to cultural organisations. The 1974-75 appropriation of \$1,120,000 will be lifted to \$1,575,000 in 1975-76.

Increased provisions for the purchase of materials and equipment needed in our schools.

Continued provision for a high level of spending on book stocks for school libraries.

Provision for the full operating cost of education services for handicapped children to be met by the Department of Education.

PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO

During the 12 months to 1 August 1975, the number of students in secondary schools increased to 102,459. In primary and special schools, the numbers were 219,056 and 4,414 respectively. During the same period, the number of teachers (excluding pre-school teachers) increased by 1,983, or 13 per cent. Even though the number of students increased during the period, the pupil-teacher ratios once again improved.

In primary schools, the ratio at 1 August 1975 was 23.0: 1, while in secondary and special schools, the ratios were 15.1: 1 and 7.3: 1 respectively. This latter ratio does not take into account the special teachers who provide remedial and resource services in primary schools. In August 1972, when

the student population was almost 18,000 lower, the ratios were: primary schools 26.9: 1; secondary schools 18.0: 1 and special schools 10.1: 1. Such changes in a period of only three years represent a real improvement.

PROVISION FOR FURTHER TEACHERS

At 1 July this year, the total number of teachers in primary, secondary, special and pre-schools was 17,555. Provision has been made in the Budget for the employment of 19,579 teachers in these schools at the start of 1976. This will allow a substantial expansion in the provision of pre-school education to Queensland children as well as a continuation of further improvements in pupil-teacher ratios and in the numbers of professional support staff. In addition to these improvements, there will continue to be opportunities for teachers to be released for in-service courses without disruption to class teaching as the increased numbers will allow for replacement teachers.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

The progress made in all areas of primary education continues. During the 1975-76 financial year, the school-building programme will proceed as planned and new initiatives aimed at improving teaching conditions, relieving parents and citizens' associations of some financial burdens and lifting the level of teacher involvement in in-service education programmes will be launched. The 1975-76 building programme includes new schools at Redcliffe West, Kingston (Infants), Waterford West and The Monument. Planning is proceeding for the provision of an additional school in the Woodridge area. Besides these schools, some replacement schools will also be erected.

Library development programmes will continue to receive high priority. Library facilities will be provided at 48 centres throughout the State during the financial year.

As part of the continuing programme of improving teaching conditions, the teacher aide scheme is to be further extended by the employment of an additional 500 classroom aides in primary schools from the commencement of the 1976 school year. This means that the teacher aide service will be doubled. Besides this, an additional 10 indigenous classroom assistants will be employed, bringing to 64 the number in the service. Indigenous classroom assistants form an invaluable link between the school and its community and do much to break down ethnic barriers.

From the commencement of the 1976 school year, a general purpose grant will be made to each State primary school on the basis of a grant of \$100.00 per school, plus \$4.00 per student per annum. Funds from this grant will provide schools with

the means of completing some locally initiated developmental schemes. Existing grants schemes will continue.

Substantial primary funds will be devoted to the development of education centres that are being established on the initiative of teachers. Such centres are making themselves responsible for a wide range of in-service education activities to meet teacher-felt needs. Existing centres are extensively used by teachers from all sections of the Education Department and it has become the policy of this department to support teachers showing this interest in their own professional development. Funds spent on education centres benefit the children in our schools through the teacher-development programmes mounted by the centres.

The primary education section has established a fine record of in-service education. The professional needs of teachers are being catered for to ensure that both sound methodology is being applied and that the wide variety of equipment in schools is being used effectively. Schools will continue to receive equipment and reading material grants which may be used to purchase items and systems selected by the schools themselves.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

In February 1976 the total number of remedial/resource teachers will exceed 170. Within the past four years the number of remedial/resource teachers has increased as follows:—1972, 25; 1973, 45; 1974, 85; July 1975, 157. In February 1976 the total will approximate 170. With the rapid expansion of remedial services, new schools and the growth of smaller attached units, an additional 30 teacher aides will be appointed in 1975-76. All personnel associated with this area of education warmly welcomed the introduction of teacher aides to schools as they have played an important role not only in assisting the teachers but also in the physical care of the children.

The appointment of occupational therapists and physiotherapists to the Guidance and Special Education Branch adds further dimensions to the support services offered by the branch to schools. Occupational therapists and physiotherapists will give treatment to handicapped children in schools and act as consultants to parents, teachers and other professional personnel in special education. The occupational therapists will assist in the development of perceptual-motor programmes and programmes to foster the skills of independence and daily living. Physiotherapists will assist children with movement problems, provide developmental and remedial programmes, and support parents and teachers in their implementation of programmes within the home or the school.

The Estimates make provision for the full operating cost of education services for handicapped children to be met by my department.

Many handicapped children, with their parents, are required to attend a centre for assessment and educational assistance. Overnight stay is required for the children to make effective use of the centres. For example, children assessed at Narbethong by the panel there are often required to stay overnight with parents to take advantage of the service offered. Provision has been made in the Estimates to assist in the accommodation of parents and handicapped children attending centres for assessment and education.

The works programme provides for the construction of a special hospital school and special hospital pre-school at the Royal Children's Hospital as well as new schools at Narbethong and Rockhampton. The programme provides for speech therapy rooms in five schools, remedial/resource centres in seven schools and five special education centres.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The effect of the very considerable reduction in the availability of Commonwealth funding for capital works programmes for 1975-76 is that no new initiatives will be possible in the coming financial year. The very rapid inflationary spiralling in costs has meant that any new funds becoming available in the period January to June 1976 will be used as carry forward to complete programmes already committed. The Craigslea project was opened at the beginning of 1975. This new design is proving very successful educationally and all new State high schools and substantial extensions to existing high schools will be built using the flexible planning approach followed in the Craigslea concept.

There has been a considerable growth in music education in secondary schools and special music complexes to cater for this rapid expansion will come into use during the current financial year. New art centres in schools also mirror the latest teaching techniques in this subject. It is pleasing to be able to report, too, that the replacement of out-of-date manual arts and home economics facilities in some of the secondary departments in country areas is proceeding. An allocation of funds has been made to provide teacher accommodation in some of the more remote areas of the State. Bamaga is one in question and other areas are under consideration for the 1976 year.

The technical colleges in Bundaberg, Mt. Isa and Cairns have transferred, or are in the process of transferring, into new premises. Consequently, some technical college buildings have become available for high school use in those centres. The conversion of technical college buildings in Mt. Isa to flexible planned classroom space and art and music specialist facilities has been approved, and work is proceeding. It is also proposed to convert areas of the Bundaberg Technical College to high school use.

The Budget has also made extra provision for an increase in per capita grants to non-Government schools from \$81 to \$111 per student per annum for primary school students and from \$132 to \$177 per student per annum for secondary school students, and an increase by 50 per cent from 1 January 1976 in remote-area allowances. This will be of added assistance to parents living in remote areas of the State and will help to cushion some of the effects of inflation and depressed rural income.

Provision of equipment and materials for manual arts and home economics students has been liberalised, and special funds have been allocated for the media centre to produce materials for secondary schools; for religious education resources; and to provide equipment for resource teachers in high schools. Secondary school libraries have been benefited to the extent of \$684,000. This will enable further steps to be taken to upgrade the facilities offered in school libraries, which are now the hub of resource activities in secondary schools.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Rapid progress continues to be made with the implementation of Government policy on pre-school education. During 1974-75 a further 90 units commenced operation, bringing the total number of pre-school units completed to June 1975 to 200. In addition, work on a further 90 units was well under way so that by 30 September 1975 some 250 units were in operation. The 1975-76 building programme is anticipated to bring the total number of pre-school units completed to over 350.

Owing to sound planning and a high level of co-operation from teacher-training institutions, recruitment of staff does not present the problems being encountered in other States. All colleges of advanced education, with the exception of the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education, now provide teacher training in early childhood education.

The development of associated services for pre-school children continues to expand. The School Health Services will be made available to children in State pre-schools. Also, from the beginning of 1976, the expansion of the pre-school correspondence programme for isolated children will be completed. (This latter project is receiving world-wide attention through a research project undertaken by officers of the Department of Education, which was nominated as the Australian research project to be adopted by O.E.C.D. in Paris.)

In the area of pre-school funding, the former Federal Labor Government's original loud promises and assertions were soon subject to the protestations and lobbying of particular-interest factions who confused the

amateurs in high places till they were unable to distinguish between pre-school education, child-care and social engineering.

Indeed, it is curious to note that, after the removal of responsibility for programmes for children under school age from the Federal Education portfolio, pre-school education was progressively downgraded in favour of obscure policies that emphasised social manipulation of young children and a "de-emphasis" upon parental responsibility and family life, the upshot being that the various factions received too little, and somewhat late, so that inflation had destroyed the potential effectiveness of the funds. Fortunately, the Queensland Department of Education had foreseen the likelihood of a typical Labor mess and had already commenced its well-balanced and far-seeing programme to provide free pre-schooling.

Recent proposals emanating from the interim committee of the children's commission regarding the Whitlam Government's funding schemes not only alienated voluntary groups involved in the kindergartens but also presented a further example of confused thinking about the priority of needs within our community.

Although I have been in my portfolio only since 10 March this year, I am already thoroughly aware that a major requirement in Queensland is for pre-school education. In saying this, I do not dispute the need of other kinds of services for sections of the community. The outstanding impression, however, is of a strong desire for my department to provide immediately in every corner of this State the type of pre-school facilities that are so quickly becoming a feature of our communities. It seems absolutely remarkable that Canberra was so totally unaware of this fact, for I feel certain it was not restricted to Queensland.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The past year has been characterised by a continued growth in enrolments, in spite of the depressing effects of the economic situation. In keeping with the changing needs of the community, the educational and management philosophy of the State technical education has been continually refined, the objectives restated and the means by which its goals might be achieved, reassessed. Apart from financial provisions, the major influences on development have been the changing emphasis to mass post-secondary education and the acceptance of the recurrent education concept as the long-term educational strategy.

The narrow and rigid idea that technical colleges exist simply to meet the manpower needs of industry and commerce has been abandoned in favour of the broader premise that they must meet the needs of people as individuals. These needs include the making good of omissions in the previous education

of adults, the offering of opportunities to bridge from one course to another, remedial education, the provision through new facilities and building design for the handicapped, opportunities to retrain for new occupations, the provision of enrichment studies and technician courses, the removal of barriers to access for women and the provision of alternative methods and approaches to study.

Technical colleges already offer a greater diversity of courses than any other educational institution concerned with the post-secondary phase of education. Course admission requirements vary widely in accordance with the type and level of vocational competency or personal development aimed for. At the same time, equal education opportunities to all people in the post-school-age brackets is ensured, irrespective of their educational backgrounds, life styles and experience.

In 1975, 240 different courses comprising 1,500 different subjects were undertaken by approximately 53,000 students. Oral tuition was provided at six metropolitan technical colleges and seven annexes thereto, also at nine country technical colleges and one high school annex. In addition, the technical correspondence school has provided effective services to students living in the more remote areas of the State.

A total of 24 new courses were introduced in 1975 and a further 11 were modified considerably. Block release training was established for a further 11 trades, bringing the total to 34. I believe Queensland leads Australia in apprenticeship training; with only 14 per cent of the national population, we prepare 17 per cent of all Australian apprentices. It needs little stressing that well-trained tradesmen in sufficient numbers are absolutely essential for the well-being and progress of modern society. Butchers, bakers, cooks, plumbers, motor and television mechanics, watch-makers, etc., all need education and thorough training in their particular trades. Historically, technical education began with the training of apprentices and it will continue to make a unique and very significant contribution in the future.

I also believe that a few thoughts should be expressed concerning another major area of technical education activities—the education and training of technicians. The technician is pre-eminently the product of the advanced industrial society. The varied needs of commerce, industry and government have brought about a growing demand for technicians who have been trained either on a broad base or with specialisation. While the Queensland colleges of advanced education will continue to provide courses of study for technicians, there is a growing requirement for technical colleges to offer technician-level courses some of which may be of a different character. This commitment will grow in the next few years to

meet the demands of industry and commerce for a balanced work-force at this level.

Since 1973, enrolments in technician-level courses have increased by 50 per cent and some 70 courses are offered at present. The range of these varies from that demanded by highly specialised fields (such as those prevailing in the hotel and catering industry, electronics and communications and plastics technology) to the broad needs of the mining and agricultural industries. Any further development of certificate courses is entirely dependent on the availability of financial and human resources as these courses require the recruitment of highly trained teaching staff of the appropriate disciplines, and intensive expenditure in both capital and recurrent areas.

The intimate relationship between technical and further education and the needs of individuals at all levels makes community involvement inevitable if people are to realise their full potential. Maximum availability and utilisation of educational, welfare and recreational facilities of colleges will demand that these be open to the community to an extent not previously seen in any educational establishment in this State, which means that college opening times will be extended from the present 14-hour day five-day week to seven days per week as required and for 50 weeks of the year. Small community groups, associations, cultural groups will have a ready venue and the use of a comprehensive range of resources.

During 1974-75, capital funds provided for the construction of three buildings in the School of Technology at the Bundaberg Technical College and almost all of a multi-purpose building at the Eagle Farm Technical College. Covered bricklaying areas were completed at the Yeronga and Eagle Farm Technical Colleges. A new store also was constructed at Yeronga. Substantial progress was made at the College of Art, Seven Hills, on the pottery and ceramics facilities, also the alterations to the timber store at Ithaca Technical College.

Fitting and turning buildings were completed at Rockhampton and Maryborough. In addition, substantial renovations were made to the Hall of Residence at Maryborough. The majority of construction was completed on the fitting and turning/wood-working building at Bundaberg College of Technical and Further Education, the exhibition and sculpture building at the College of Art and the administration and classroom building at the Cairns College of Technical and Further Education. Substantial progress was made on four buildings in the School of Technology at the new Cairns College, with expected occupation date in January, 1976. Several colleges, including two new complexes at Mt. Gravatt and

Ipswich, were master planned, and the Empire Theatre was purchased to enable the extension of existing facilities at Toowoomba.

In 1975-76, the works programme makes provision for—

Ithaca (motor trades, boat building and painting buildings);

Bundaberg (boilermaking and plumbing buildings);

College of Art (complete the pottery and ceramics facilities);

Yeronga (commence the blacksmith workshop and the foundry extension);

Land acquisition at Ipswich and Mount Gravatt;

Planning of the buildings for automotive, business and general studies, and of an engineering node at the Mount Gravatt college;

Planning of the electrical and automotive buildings at Cairns and continuing the construction of four buildings;

Planning of resource material centres at Eagle Farm and Yeronga;

Commence construction of the library/administration block at the Lower Burdekin Rural Training School;

Minor building projects and capital equipment in excess of \$1,000,000;

Commence construction of the hall of residence at Kelvin Grove.

The day-release programme at Mount Gravatt College of Advanced Education is to be phased out and replaced by a semester-release programme. All new recruits of technical teachers/instructors who are not registered teachers are undergoing a mandatory four-semester training spread over two years as from July 1975. Two semesters are to be spent at Mount Gravatt full-time. The other two are spent in orientation, practical instruction in teaching techniques and actual teaching experience at colleges. Expenditure under this heading will more than double.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Maroon Outdoor Education Centre began operating in September 1975. Development of the staff residences, ablution block and staffing quarters is going ahead. A considerable amount of adventure equipment, such as climbing equipment, tents, kayaks, is being supplied for the outdoor programme.

Learn-to-swim classes are attended by more than 100,000 primary children. Where it is necessary to transport children to swimming classes, costs are paid by the department. The fees for admission to public pools are similarly paid for those learning to swim. There are 86 school swimming pools whose construction is subsidised and for which the operating costs are paid.

PLANNING AND SERVICES

At the beginning of 1975, the Division of Special Education Services was separated into a Division of Special Education and a Division of Planning and Services. The new Division of Planning and Services now contains, as individual branches:—Research, Curriculum, Information and Publications, Planning, Management Services and Media Services.

During 1975-76, the Research Branch will continue a number of important projects begun during the previous year. These projects will include the development of standardised tests for primary grades, the development of item banks, in foreign languages, mathematics and science and the evaluation of a number of aspects of Queensland education, including the overseas teacher recruitment scheme, teacher transfer policy, primary art syllabus, and the distribution and use of media equipment in schools.

The Curriculum Branch will be involved in a number of major projects including a revision of the primary science syllabus, and the design of a religious education syllabus with in-service training of clergy and lay teachers. Other projects will involve the design and preparation of material and resources for teachers. In addition to the preparation of existing publications, Budget allocations will enable the Information and Publications Branch to undertake the production of two new publications: a Queensland Education Digest, a journal for teachers reprinting edited articles from the many small-circulation educational publications throughout the State, and a magazine designed specifically for slow learners in secondary schools. The provision of information of both general educational and historical nature will continue to be provided to administration, teachers, students and public by the information and historical sections of the branch.

The Planning Branch will continue to be responsible for departmental planning activities and providing information to departmental decision-makers. In the areas of finance and programmes, it is hoped to extend the branch's involvement in plan formulation and implementation, and in the monitoring of those programmes. More extensive analysis of expenditure patterns will be initiated. The strengthening of the demography and manpower groups will permit more extensive integrated operations in these two related areas. Preparation of submissions to bodies such as the Grants Commission and the various Commonwealth agencies operating in the field of education will continue to be an important function of the branch.

Provision for additional staff in the Management Services Branch will allow for further developmental work in the area of

expenditure accounting systems, the commencement of redevelopment of existing computer systems onto new equipment, and additional work in revising office methods in the areas of records, mail despatch and receipt, film library and purchasing sections of the department.

The Media Services Branch will give a major emphasis this financial year to the production of materials for use with isolated children. The A.B.C.'s decision to cease broadcasts specifically for students of correspondence schools has seriously disadvantaged this group. This gap is being filled by the branch and regular productions on tape are being distributed to all students of the primary correspondence and pre-school correspondence schools. The film library collection will, during 1975-76, be increased by films totalling \$100,000. Budget allocations provide for a continuation of services through the School Library Service in the areas of grant in aid, contingencies, training of teacher-librarians and capital works.

BOARD OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDIES

Increasingly, secondary education is being seen to have its own objectives: to be an end in itself. As a consequence, we find in secondary schools today a need for much more diversity and much greater attention to the aims and objectives of courses of study and to methods of teaching. Such freedom for schools in curricula matters is not easily won. Because the material and social rewards which normally flow from a tertiary education are highly prized in our society, parents, teachers, students and the general public still see selection for tertiary studies as the main goal. Where the selection of students for tertiary studies dominates the minds of students, teachers and parents, opportunities for curricular freedom are not readily taken, however desirable and possible they are.

The type of school freedom and responsibility envisaged by the Radford report and sought by the Board of Secondary School Studies depends to a large extent upon public acceptance of the change in emphasis in secondary education. The board can point to two steps which it has taken to assist this change.

Firstly, it has gained acceptance of an aggregate school assessment re-scaled against the Australian Scholastic Aptitude Test (A.S.A.T.) for selecting entrants for tertiary courses, instead of an aggregate points score. This has removed the emphasis upon striving for points which had undesirable effects upon the teaching-learning process.

Secondly, it has continued to develop new syllabuses which provide, on the one hand, opportunities for diversity within the syllabus guide-lines and, on the other hand, a wider range of course offerings to suit the wider range of interests and abilities of students.

It can be said that, as a result of the changes implemented as a result of the Radford report, there is now much more diversity within and among schools and much more genuine innovation than before. This is particularly so in the lower secondary school; there are signs of it in the upper secondary school, also.

BOARD OF TEACHER EDUCATION

The Board of Teacher Education functions to maintain an oversight of teacher training. Its activities are directed towards improving the quality of teacher education and to ensuring that all children in this State are taught by qualified teachers.

In 1975-76, as part of its ongoing review of teacher education, the board will inquire into and make recommendations on the training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers. It will also examine the need for and the practicability of part-time pre-service courses for mature-age graduates wishing to qualify as teachers. It will identify other aspects of teacher education where inquiry and action are called for. In collaboration with the Board of Advanced Education, it will be involved in the assessment and accreditation of new courses proposed by the colleges, which are now offering a growing diversity of specialist training.

The initial stage of teacher registration has been completed by the implementation of compulsory registration and the registration of teachers in primary, secondary and special schools. The board will now give attention to other types of schools and classes where compulsory registration may be necessary to ensure that practising teachers are adequately qualified.

LIBRARY BOARD OF QUEENSLAND

This year's Budget will have important implications for local authorities providing public libraries. Library subsidies will be more than doubled by increasing them from about \$600,000 to about \$1,500,000.

The Government has increased its cash subsidies to local authority libraries in several ways. It has more than doubled its accommodation subsidies. It has also increased its subsidies on library materials and on maintenance costs, by changing the subsidy formula. The Government will now provide a 75c per capita subsidy on all library expenditure for public libraries which do not charge subscriptions. Increases in these subsidies will be attached to the Consumer Price Index. The salaries of unqualified staff are now subsidisable in terms of the general per capita subsidy. It has also increased special regional subsidies to 30c per capita, in addition to the other subsidies, and will continue to pay subsidies on the positions of qualified librarians in positions of authority and responsibility. The requirement placed on local authorities is to ensure that the

increased subsidies will, in fact, be directed towards their library services. This will complement the alternative library subsidy scheme for small local authorities with a population of 4,000 or less, which was begun earlier this year.

All local authorities qualifying for the scheme were notified by the Library Board of Queensland; inspections were carried out, and existing libraries were upgraded by installing a fresh collection of books in them. Several of these collections have been placed with local authorities which have suffered from the rural recession, and reports of increased use of the libraries have consistently been received by the Library Board. These small libraries receive subsidy in the form of processed books, and much of the work involved in assembling and installing them is carried out by experienced and qualified librarians on the staff of the State Library. Broadly speaking, this new subsidy scheme represents a responsible and serious attempt by the Government to support viable library services through local authorities which vary extensively in size and resources. Indeed, it is an attempt to establish a strategy of public library service for Queensland on a more fundamental basis than has ever been done before.

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY

The Estimates provide for the gallery's annual endowment to be increased from \$85,000 to \$150,000. Provision has been made for a total spending of \$325,801 for the gallery in 1975-76. Since the gallery was officially re-opened on 25 March 1975, in its new temporary premises in the M.I.M. Building, it has presented constantly changing exhibitions from its own collection as well as various loan exhibitions from overseas, in some instances two new exhibitions a month. An education programme has been established with the appointment of an education officer. This programme works in conjunction with schools, and secondary school groups have visited the gallery from as far afield as Maryborough, Noosa, Pittsworth, Laidley, Yeppoon, Atherton, Palm Beach, Pinalba, Hervey Bay, Buderim and Mullimbimby (N.S.W.). Monthly lectures and lunch hour films have also been established. The response from schools and the public has been very keen.

The collection has received considerable gifts of art works from various donors, both local and interstate and also from California (U.S.A.). With the new gallery imminent, people are becoming interested in giving art works to the gallery. The trustees have continued to make worth-while acquisitions of art works for the collection, anticipating the needs of the new gallery. When the new gallery is built and the cultural complex at South Brisbane is completed, there will be an unprecedented increase in interest in the visual arts in this State, and indeed in

all the arts. Queensland then will have facilities second to none elsewhere in Australia.

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

Provision has been made in the Estimates for the museum's annual endowment to be raised from \$76,000 to \$113,800. Total expenditure on the needs of the museum is estimated at \$687,618 in 1975-76.

The Queensland Museum is being increasingly used by Government departments and the general public in both its educative and scientific capacities.

The public displays and information services at the museum will be further upgraded during 1975-76. New exhibits capable of immediate use and for incorporation in the new museum location in the South Brisbane cultural complex will be prepared.

RURAL TRAINING SCHOOL BOARDS

The Estimates provide for financial assistance grants totalling \$1,429,000 for the needs of the rural training school boards at Emerald, Longreach and Lower Burdekin. The appropriation for the three boards in 1974-75 was \$830,000. Satisfactory progress is being made to complete stage 1 of the new college at Lower Burdekin for an intake of students in 1976.

In conclusion, I feel I should emphasise my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by my directors in particular and of the entire personnel of the Department of Education in general. As I said earlier, I assumed the portfolio of Education and Cultural Activities on 10 March this year. Without the loyalty and assistance of everybody from the director-general right through all my directors and regional directors, school principals and members of parents and citizens' associations, my entry into the portfolio would indeed have been far more difficult than it has been. Thanks to them I derive a great deal of pleasure from being Minister for Education and Cultural Activities.

In particular I place on record my appreciation of the loyalty and scholarship of Mr. Bill Wood, who recently retired from the post of Chairman, Board of Advanced Education.

Mr. Jensen: When are you going to tell us about the other Bill Wood.

Mr. BIRD: Never heard of him!

I am very aware of the fact that had my directors been anything but totally loyal, dedicated and—I might say—extremely patient, it would have been a great deal more difficult for me to grasp and absorb the multitudinous details and ramifications pertaining to the responsibilities of my portfolio. In a little over six months I have been

privileged to undertake an in-depth course in educational administration that has certainly been enlightening for me, and I hope will enable me over the years, to come to prove the value of this course.

Giving merit where due, I believe I must say here and now that having travelled throughout the educational regions of Queensland, having visited some 200 schools, both State and independent, having addressed thousands of students, many hundreds of teachers and parents, I am confirmed in my view that our teachers are, in the main, very fine people, conscious of their responsibilities and justifiably proud of their professionalism. Certainly at various meetings there has occasionally been the odd militant unionist, but it was always clear that their credibility among their colleagues was somewhat less than what perhaps they would have desired. But as I have said, I remain confident that the Queensland teacher is an excellent example both as a person and as an innovative, interested and dedicated educationist.

Of our clients—that is, the students and their parents—I gain the impression the parents are becoming more and more interested in school affairs and will welcome opportunities of involvement on a greater scale than previously. Parents here are paralleling the overseas trend towards seeking accountability for tax dollars spent on education. This I think is a good thing. The students, I feel sure, are also seeking an accountability—in terms of course enrichment and an education related to life and the world in which they live today. Students today possess a greater awareness and easily discern humbug for what it is. Much is said about school leavers not being as well educated as their counterparts of yesterday. The fact is that the able student has far greater opportunities for further education and is therefore not moving into the work-force as early as the student of years ago.

Developments in education in Queensland continue to ensure a more dynamic and creative experience for teachers and pupils alike. Many of the initiatives in this area are unique to Queensland, and developments here are being closely watched by other States. Queenslanders can now take justifiable pride in having an education system, teachers, facilities, development and progress which compare most favourably on the world education scene. The future looks bright for the children of Queensland. Never before has there been such a united commitment to producing quality education for all. As much as anything, the continued growth of our education services is a vote of confidence in the future of our vast and beautiful State.

I commend to the Committee the allocations made for educational purposes for the 1975-76 financial year.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (5 p.m.): The portfolio of the Minister for Education may be regarded as one of the most interesting and most important areas of government in the State. It is one portfolio that affects every citizen at some stage of his or her life. With today's developments in the field of pre-school education, adult and further education, that effect begins at a much earlier stage and continues for a much longer period. The decisions of the Minister and his department can in fact influence and shape the very destiny of the individual citizen. They can directly and indirectly determine the quality of life and the standard of living enjoyed by that citizen, so it is obvious that the utmost importance of these decisions must be appreciated. They cannot be taken lightly. It is very, very important that the policies that are adopted by Government are equal to the education needs of society.

As the Opposition spokesman on education at this point—and also as an ex-teacher—I have watched the new Minister very, very closely. I have not always agreed with the decisions that he has made, but it is pretty clear that he is a man who has at least taken his job seriously and that he is prepared to knuckle down to what can often be a thankless and onerous task as he tries to meet the needs and often the demands of the various facets of his portfolio.

He is somewhat fortunate in having come to the helm at a time when the Federal Government has been prepared to inject millions upon millions of dollars into education—nationally, something like \$2,000 million in three years. While we have had many initiatives and innovative programmes in this State, that money has meant the initiation of new in-service training schemes for teachers, the employment of teacher aides, the provision of much-needed audio-visual equipment, the construction of numerous pre-schools, libraries and teaching facilities, and the expansion of tertiary and further education establishments.

As I stated in the Supply debate—and I state it again—not enough credit has been given to the Australian Government for the important part that it has played in improving education in Queensland. I was going to say that it would be unfair to blame the Minister for this, because after all that was the attitude and policy adopted by the Premier years ago—three years ago, in fact. However, after listening to part of the Minister's speech today, I am afraid that he may have strayed off the track and decided to play a little bit of politics. Regardless of his statement in the Chamber some time ago that there is no fear or worry about unemployment for students coming out of teacher colleges or for those who are on teacher fellowships at the university, he is

now suddenly advancing the thought that, because of the cut-back in Federal finance, many of those trainees may not be employed.

Mr. Bird: Have a look at what I said.

Mr. WRIGHT: I will let the Minister clarify it.

Mr. Bird: I said that, unfortunately, there will not be the positions in colleges.

Mr. WRIGHT: We will see. I have spent some time going through exactly what this State has received. I accept the part played by the Minister. I was fairly critical of him, to start with, but I think he is trying very, very hard. As I said, he has knuckled down.

But let us compare the situation today with that which obtained several years ago. It is all very well for Government members to take all the credit. Let us not forget that in 1971-72 the total amount of money given to this State for education amounted to the fabulous sum of \$6,335,000; yet last year alone the grants received by this State amounted to 10 times that—\$63,573,000.

Let us accept the fact that a lot of money has been spent. I intend to read out all the figures, so that they will be recorded in "Hansard". I first make this point about colleges of advanced education: in 1971-72, under the Liberals in Canberra, colleges of advanced education received \$5,636,000, but last year under the Whitlam Government they received \$40,668,000. Similar comparisons can be made in all areas.

We find that almost \$1,500,000 has been given to State primary and secondary school libraries; \$67,000 for training courses for library teachers; \$75,000 for teacher education centres; \$6,335,000 for technical and further education; \$361,000 for migrant education; \$209,000 for education research; \$59,697,000 for universities; and another \$5,500,000 in the pre-school area. So it is fairly obvious that the Federal Government's involvement in education has been misconstrued.

I admit that there has been a cut-back, yet I have seen members get up in this Chamber time and time again and criticise the expenditure of the Australian Labor Government. When it tries to prune in the areas that it thinks best can be pruned, the criticism is still forthcoming. It ill-behoves the Minister to do this because up till now he has tried to administer in a non-political fashion. Certainly he has helped me in this way, and I shall mention this at a later stage.

Mr. Bird: I am deeply concerned.

Mr. WRIGHT: The Minister may be, but I think he must give a little credit where credit is due because in politics one gets a little more with sugar than with lemon.

Regardless of who wins the election on 13 December, we will need further assistance from the Federal Government to maintain the standard we are achieving, and this will be forthcoming only if we give credit to that area of Government where it is due.

This Government is belittling not only Ministers and politicians at the Federal level but also the administrative advisers and the public servants who have dedicated their whole lives to improving education. They have determined that certain sums of money should be spent in this State.

Mr. Bird: They haven't followed the recommendations.

Mr. WRIGHT: If the Minister wants to give credit to his own officers for the way things have improved, he should also realise that therefore credit must be given at the Federal level when things are improving. We must be careful what we are doing. I think that education has improved greatly in the past few years. We have had hundreds of pre-schools built. Teacher-student ratios have been decreasing.

Mr. Elliott: Whose money are they using? Aren't they using our money?

Mr. Lane interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dean): Order! I warn the honourable member for Merthyr that I will not put up with his persistent interjections.

Mr. WRIGHT: I inform the honourable member for Cunningham that there is an adult education programme in this State and I suggest that he enrol.

I also realise that a new approach is being made to school design and that the professional status of teachers has risen in the eyes of both the department and the public. No doubt a good share of this credit must go to the Minister on a departmental level and the decision makers in this State. But I say that some also must go to the Australian level too.

We must not forget that the Queensland Teachers' Union has played a very positive and progressive role here, first of all by coming forward with rather good ideas, initiating new ideas and programmes, and also by acting as a pressure group. This is true also of the parents and citizens' associations throughout the State and of the teachers themselves to whom credit has to be given, as the Minister admitted, for the rather innovative approach they take to education.

I am confident that education is on the threshold of further exciting developments. This is so regardless of the political colour of administrations. That must be recognised in this State. But I also see many problems. Whilst I do not have the time to discuss many of them, such as textbook

costs and living allowances for trainee teachers, I do have time to mention a few that are very important to me.

Only a few days ago it was announced that major changes would be made in the area of religious education in schools. We have been expecting this for a long time. To my mind the discussion was going on even before the Gutekunst report, which created such controversy in this State. We know now that there are four teachers whose task is to formulate a curriculum. It has been pointed out that individual denominations will still be responsible for organising instruction of the school-age members of their congregations, and this is how it should be.

It has been suggested that pupils of different beliefs will be able to opt out; that it will not be enforced in any way. It has been said also that religion will not become a class subject at this time. One could tie up the whole aim of this scheme—and this has been said before—by saying that we will have a brand new co-ordinated approach to religious education. We will try to get material that is, in a sense, non-denominational and acceptable to the various churches. This will be achieved by skirting the difference in doctrines—and obviously this is necessary—and concentrating on the basis of Christianity.

We all realise that change is needed. Those honourable members who were teachers very clearly and personally understand the problem we had with the religious instruction programme in the schools. Some of the religious instruction sessions in schools did more harm than good to Christianity. They were often everything but religious. Very often they could not be described even as instructive or educational.

When visiting schools and when I was teaching, I knew of students who simply went to religious instruction because the time was looked upon as a spare. It was an opportunity to waste time and to muck around.

Unfortunately this is the attitude taken by some teachers. Teachers dismissed the importance of this instruction because it affected them. They lost valuable preparation time because the clergy did not turn up. They found themselves virtually simply caring for a classroom of kids who did not know what to do with themselves. It was certainly unproductive for both. I am sure that the standard of the lessons left much to be desired, because some were not religious discussions or even religious talks. They were simply a waste of time. Preparation was not always done by those who took those classes.

We have known of these problems for a long time. Whilst I have continued to ask for the Gutekunst report and its publication here, I admit that I have seen it. I have

had the opportunity to read some very important parts of it, and I can only describe the report as dynamite. But it was important to see what the report contained because it was an in-depth study of religious instruction in this State. I still say that it is too important a matter to cover up, because the problems were clearly dissected and pinpointed. Whilst not all would agree with all the solutions proposed, at least some were suggested both directly and indirectly.

I accept that a co-ordinated approach is needed in religious education. I accept the value of comparative religious studies because I cannot see any great threat to Christianity arising from an understanding of the teachings of Buddha and Mohammed. In fact, I think such a study would improve the attitude to Christianity because students would see the importance of it.

I acknowledge also the need for some type of in-service training for teachers, clergy and interested lay personnel, but it must be remembered that this is supposed to be Christian education rather than religious instruction in that sense. I think the idea of R.I. was put out the door a long time ago. The rights of the smaller denominations have to be maintained and safeguarded, but it is vital that changes brought about are not the beginning of the end of teaching and preaching Christianity in schools.

We do not accept the idea of making a commercial teacher or a history teacher responsible for the teaching of physics or chemistry in schools. We do not agree that, because a teacher is competent in English, he should take charge of a class in German or French. Therefore we should not say that any teacher can teach Christianity. I believe that we have to accept that the ones to teach this subject, which is so very important and basic to life, are those who personally understand and, above all, accept the importance of such teaching. I make the point that change is needed, but let us ensure in this Parliament that changes brought about are indeed changes for the better.

I now wish to comment briefly on another point. The Minister said that the student leaving school today has just as much chance as did students in the past. That may be so generally. However, I bring to his notice an article by Douglas Rose dated 14 August 1970 in which it was stated that one in four children have learning problems. I have been greatly concerned for some time about the failures under the present system. Numerous young people coming out of schools are simply unable to communicate. I am not speaking about being unable to write and spell so that they cannot type sufficiently well to be able to work in an office. They are unable to communicate with their fellow beings. They are unable to express themselves, to converse and to make clear their desires and attitudes. This worries me. Whilst we take a special interest

in children who we say have special learning difficulties, we tend to overlook those whom we tend to pass off as slightly below average or as difficult students.

I do not blame teachers. I know that the pressure on teachers in the classroom is extremely heavy. They do not have enough time to deal with such children, and in high schools they do not have enough contact to deal with them. But surely we have to accept that education is not just preparation for a job or profession. This point was made by the Minister, and I agree with him wholeheartedly. We are supposed to be preparing children for life in what could be a very difficult and demanding society. Surely the most important skill that a person needs in society is ability to communicate. A person who cannot communicate with others, and who cannot express his attitudes and desires, will be disadvantaged occupationally, socially and from the point of view of companionship and friendship. We know that this is an ongoing trait that will be passed on to those who follow them. We have accepted the difficulties of migrant children in this area. We have long recognised them and we are spending a fair amount of money to meet this problem, but I do not believe enough cognisance has been given to these children—the 25 per cent who could in fact be above average but at the moment, because of special difficulties, because of classroom situations and because of parental and domestic situations are losers and are losing under the education system.

One answer is to have more specialist and remedial teachers. I know we have improved the number of remedial teachers in the Queensland system already; I accept we are trying to do something here; but I suggest that the problem is of grave importance and we do not just want one remedial teacher in an area covering four or five schools; we need three or four in the one school. Naturally it will depend on the number of pupils, but we need to have these people so that we can carry out rechecking and retesting of performance and ability for assessment at those areas where children are failing. And this is what it really is we are talking about—failures. I know money has not always been available, but money is available today if the need can be shown and the priority can be given; and it is not to be wasted. I would rather have one overhead projector at a school and three or four specialist teachers than what has happened in Queensland—admittedly only in a few situations—where we had three or four overhead projectors and no access to specialist personnel.

Mr. Bird: It is not a matter of finance in this one.

Mr. WRIGHT: It is a matter of finance, a matter of retraining people and of finding experts.

Mr. Bird: It is a matter of getting the right people.

Mr. WRIGHT: Yes. I want to make that point because I know of at least three teachers who have the expertise. Admittedly they come from the South, but they have not been able to gain employment in the Queensland system. I have written to the Minister about this, or perhaps the previous Minister, Sir Alan Fletcher. But we have to relook at teacher methods, we have to relook at the material that is being used and we have to relook at the training of teachers. Apparently at the moment some student teachers at the Mt. Gravatt college cannot undertake courses in these special areas. I believe it should be part and parcel of the training of every teacher. More suggestions have been given in this article, and I have not the time to refer to them all, but action is demanded because the future of many young people is at stake.

Another area want to speak about very briefly is that of community involvement in education. I want to thank the Minister for sending to me in Rockhampton Mr. John O'Donahue, who was the guest speaker at a seminar recently in our city. I am very pleased with what we gained from that because we came to an acknowledgement that most people accept the use of school facilities by the community. Most people accept in part the idea of the community providing these facilities, but the real conflict arises when we come back to the role of the parents and the role of the general citizen in the management of the schools. We have realised in the past that this is a difficult area for the professional teacher, and in fact there is no policy by the Queensland Teachers' Union or the Queensland Council of State Schools on this matter.

We notice, too, that the special committee that was set up by the Education Department to co-ordinate the activities of other departments has not been able to come out with a programme or policy on this matter. I think this is understandable, but I suggest that we need to at least start experimenting, and one way in which we could experiment is to set up a type of regional system, a regional system that involves the various representatives of parents and citizens' groups. Set up a regional council if you want to call it that, that will involve not only the State schools representatives such as the regional director and inspectors but those from the Catholic system as well. There is a real part for the community to play in deciding, for instance, certain aspects of design and siting of buildings, of colour, of the purchase of equipment and deciding even areas of study—whether or not there should be grassroot law courses, a course in consumer education, an advanced course in political science, and a home mechanics course for boys or home management course for girls. I think the community could play a part here.

We need to experiment. I know that the activities in the United States have not always been successful. We can condemn many of the experiments conducted there, but it is an area we must catch up with because there are pressures in this community to go a lot further than I would like this involvement to go. I think the quickest way of overcoming these pressures is to start experimenting and to have a pilot scheme introduced. There must be co-ordination in the various aspects of education. One of the greatest problems with this portfolio at the moment is this lack of co-ordination, not only in this sphere of coming to a decision about community involvement but also in meeting the needs of education in this State.

I cite very, very quickly, the school at Bracken Ridge. Somehow the Minister has to get to the Works Department and start co-ordinating the requests made to him for the provision of services given by the Works Department. These are the things that have been listed by the teachers. I apologise to the member in whose electorate the Bracken Ridge school is, but this list was given to me by the Queensland Teachers' Union. These are just some of the deficiencies: lack of covered walkways; lack of sealed pathways; lack of lighting in classrooms; lack of water facilities around demountables; distance of toilets from demountables for infant use; difficulty for infants to reach facilities in wet weather; unsuitable parade area for infants; lack of infants' play area; lack of covered seating; no activity hall or area; lack of physical education equipment for number of children in school; lack of storage space in demountables; pest control lack; lack of toilet facilities for teachers; noise level increasing with over-population—the list goes on and on.

(Time expired.)

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (5.21 p.m.): A discussion on education, it has always appeared to me, should commence with expressions of sympathy towards those involved. To the Minister, who has stressed that he has not been long in a difficult portfolio, and to his officers, I certainly express both thanks and sympathy—thanks for the sterling job done, and sympathy because there are tremendous changes in the world of education. For instance, today's perfect teaching technique becomes very rapidly tomorrow's anachronism.

In addition, education is an area in which there is a voracious appetite for funds. Truly, the Education Department is the *Oliver Twist* of all governmental responsibilities, because enough is never enough in education. The experts want certain amounts spent on teaching, and, of course, the teachers' union, quite often with unnecessary belligerence, demands that more money be spent.

It seems to me that for quite some years there has been a general naive notion—and probably it has been cultivated by all political parties for the votes that might be in it—that the more money that is spent on education, inevitably the better that education must be. But I think that many perceptive people have been looking at the end product of a very lavish and spectacular amount of spending on sophisticated facilities and are beginning to doubt whether the fine buildings and magnificent facilities guarantee anything much at all. Of course, this is not to deny—certainly, one would be foolish to deny it—that larger expenditures are needed at specific points of the educational structure. However, over all, questions whether advanced education is required to the degree to which it is cultivated at present are valid, and the community wants answers to those questions.

Experts will certainly know much better than I how education, particularly in the secondary and tertiary fields, has proliferated over recent years. In the last two decades, expenditure per head of population on education—I am speaking now in national terms—has multiplied sixfold, the number graduating from universities has almost quadrupled, and the proportion of students in the 17-22 year age group has more than doubled. Where 20 years ago the proportion of young people attending secondary or technical schools was less than one in four, now it is better than one in two.

In quantitative terms, these are very remarkable achievements. But what of them in qualitative terms? I would suggest that this is much more difficult to evaluate. In any case, how does one measure a result? Does one measure it by the sheer economic benefit that the community derives by having more and better-trained technical and professional people to serve it? Or does one measure it—and I think it should be measured in this way—by the moral and inspirational drive and leadership that clever and good people can impart to the community? If one measures it by that measuring stick, then perhaps we have failed somewhere.

I suppose that what I am asking is: does our educational system, especially at the advanced levels, merely aim to provide us with more of the “things” of life—that is, people who can contribute more and more of the hardware of improved and additional complicated goods and services—or does it consciously aim at enabling us to live more successfully with the hardware that modern science and technology appear to be determined that we shall have?

Professor Hollis W. Peter, of the Department of Management at the University of Queensland, made the point that 90 per cent of the world's scientists who ever lived are still alive today and that, of that 90 per cent, 90 per cent are dedicating their entire careers to innovations in the physical,

biological and life sciences. He suggested that only about 5 per cent of our resources at this level are being devoted towards understanding human behaviour, in other words, understanding how we make adaptations to the technology that the other 95 per cent are making their obsession.

If I were asked, “What is the end purpose of a good educational system?”, I would have to say that there can be only one proper subject matter for education, and that is life—life in all its myriad manifestations. But it seems to me that much too often our education at higher levels is geared to the conviction in the minds of parents and students that a degree or a diploma, or the equivalent, is an almost infallible passport to a good job on graduation and to a secure and first-rate career. This is not in any sense at all an education to cope with even a few, let alone all, of life's rich manifestations, and certainly it does not provide the leadership that a modern, technological, interdependent complex community requires. I submit that none of us can ignore the plain fact that, despite all the spending of money, all the enlargement of higher learning opportunity, the abolition of university fees and the spawning of many colleges of advanced education, there is in fact—paradoxically, perhaps, but it exists—widespread dissatisfaction with the education system. Many students are unhappy, some even rebellious; teachers are increasingly resorting to trade union tactics in order to vent their dissatisfaction. Governments are becoming unhappily aware that in this vexed field the more they do the less thanks they are likely to receive. Who knows; in these circumstances politicians of the future might decide to spend the money where there is a more predictably favourable reaction, and a better result obviously to be secured!

I would suggest that this great augmenting in the field of colleges of advanced education rests very heavily on the proposition that they satisfy a community need for training in professional and technical skills. Of course, the universities claim that, too, but they also make the extra claim—in this day and age it might not be much more than a claim—that they are concerned with the drive for excellence. But does this generally asserted need for more and more people with degrees and diplomas really exist?

If we have tried to research this at all, many of us will perhaps remember an article written in the A.N.U. News nearly three years ago by a Mr. William Ginnane, who did a great deal of research, and his article is painstakingly documented. He suggested that the supply-demand ratio had swung fairly permanently in an unfavourable direction for university and college-trained people. He went on to say that it was no longer the case that a degree in science, law, engineering or whatever would automatically guarantee entry to a safe and rich job.

So I would say that the question that one asks as to whether the enormous expenditures and obsessive concern about advanced education at the tertiary level are warranted begins to get a pretty ominous overtone to it. I am very much a layman in a field where many others are expert, but it seems to me, as one who has to be concerned with the expenditure of moneys raised from the taxpayer, that if education—I refer to the total process—is to justify itself, then obviously the moneys that Governments spend must be seen to be achieving useful results. After all, higher education is concerned only with the very small final percentage of those who start in our mass education mill. I should say it would be very difficult for anyone to demonstrate beyond question that our huge educational effort is making our society visibly a better place in which to live.

The mounting educational expenditure is becoming compatible with growing crime and delinquency, with the crime becoming increasingly violent as it moves down into ever younger age groups. Alcoholism, drug addiction, and illegitimacy are all becoming worse, and yet the hallmark of our times is more and better education, and more and more higher education. That bulwark of a civilised society, the family, is becoming increasingly threatened as the young products of the do-your-own thing credo enter marriage without enough sense of either compassion or responsibility. Perhaps these are old-fashioned value judgments which do not have much place in today's education. I would hate to think that this is indeed the case.

So I believe that education is very much under critical examination today. We have got to be sure that the money we spend is having a desirable end result. We must not believe that education can do things which other forms of training and education do not do. I am one of those who believe that child training is totally a sequential process. By that I mean we proceed from one point of education to the other. I fail to see how, if children are not properly taught matters of character, discipline and training in the home, school can put into them what has not been put there in the first place. It is like trying to build the bricks without first having the base course; all the rest that is built is a very shaky structure indeed. Education, to be seen in its full context, has to look at treating a child as a person and a part of a secure and stable family.

Many studies have been carried out into this. Some enormous ones have been conducted in America and in the United Kingdom, and all say exactly the same—that the differences in attention at school matter little when compared with the differences that children experience in the home environment. In other words, it is very difficult to "replace" in the education field what has not been there before.

I have tried to discuss in a rather generalised way what seem to me to be some enormous philosophic concepts and propositions that I feel have to be effectively answered if education is to warrant the continuing attention that I suppose most of us believe it should have. Certainly from some quarters there is a lot of pressure for much attention. But if education is failing to produce educated, well-rounded and integrated personalities, we have to look at the particular reasons for this failing.

As I get from the general to the particular—I think one of the great failings of education is its inability to succeed in the area of English appreciation and understanding. The member for Rockhampton mentioned this, and this is an area in which I agree with him. We seem to be producing students who increasingly are showing an inferior ability to use words, to understand them, to define them and to communicate ideas. This, I think, has been much eroded in recent years; thus the very basis of democratic process becomes endangered.

If we have a community in which a great many are unable to conceptualise their thoughts clearly and are able to see only abstract principles and notions in a fuzzy and superficial way, it is inevitable that it will become ripe for exploitation by demagogues. Indeed that is something of the point of the present Federal election campaign. People are using emotive and extravagant terms to evade rational argument. The rhetoric of demagoguery is always used to confuse, to inflame and to keep fury on the boil. And the words have been used. For example, in the description of events we have heard words such as "coup d'état" and "putsch". These words have no relation to what has occurred and are used to inflame people who, if not educated properly, may become inflamed.

The Oxford dictionary defines "coup d'état" as a change in the Government carried out violently or illegally by the ruling powers. This is nothing remotely like what has happened in Australia. The same dictionary describes a putsch as a revolutionary attempt to overthrow a Government. The continued use by Mr. Whitlam of these words is a determined piece of demagoguery, designed to exploit the situation in which more and more people, particularly in the academic fields, are unable to clearly conceptualise and therefore become easy victims of this type of name-calling.

As to all the talk about democracy being threatened—and we have heard a lot of it in recent weeks—for me, democracy has never been more threatened than if we continue to produce people who are unable to distinguish fact from fiction, who cannot clearly and concisely define their ideas, who cannot separate good ideas from meaningless

slogans or who are unable to identify the big lie if it is uttered from high places with enough specious emphasis.

For me, demagoguery thrives on modern illiteracy. My great fear is that our educational system is tending to produce what I refer to as the modern illiteracy—the areas in which men cunningly can make words mean the very reverse of what all of us believe the words should mean; men who can persuade one to suspend reason or submerge one's common sense in a sea of bigotry and partisan passion.

So education is failing us, no matter how much we spend on it, no matter how many fine buildings we have, no matter how much teachers complain about lack of facilities, if we are turning out more and more people who are susceptible to the political snow job and who are unable, as I say, to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Anybody who has been at all involved in tertiary education must recognise that there are great areas in that field for concern. A new kind of egalitarianism has been sweeping through the educational field of recent years. We have the do-it-yourself approach to school subjects, which suggests that learning by rote is not a very good thing at all. One throws away the old rules and standards and puts all the emphasis on self-discovery. This, I believe, is leaving in its wake an alarming number of what one might term as educational misfits.

Professor Crisp of the A.N.U. reported that, of his 75 second-year political science students, 25 had to go to remedial English classes because of their serious literary deficiencies. The same thing is said by Gordon Taylor of Monash University, who estimated that 2,000 of 12,000 students require remedial English lessons. At Macquarie University it is said that 130 of 800 first-year English students have been asked to attend the remedial classes that have just been resumed after a two-year break.

So it goes on. One understands very clearly why Professor Leonie Kramer, who is the distinguished Professor of Australian Literature at Sydney University, has been so deeply shocked at the abandonment of the old methods of teaching in favour of new methods, which seem to be failing. She has become President of the Australian Council of Educational Standards, which aims at trying to persuade teaching institutions that there is virtue in teaching by some of the older methods. In other words, unless we attach education to sound bases, we will finish up with an educational system which talks in a kind of jargon language about self-fulfilment, self-discovery, moral autonomy and so on. That means, of course, that we have an education system where discussion provides a great disservice, because we tend to find our children resorting to slogans rather than considering real ideas.

Mr. Powell: That is what the Labor Party wants.

Mr. PORTER: This may be so, but it is a dangerous proposition for any country to find that it is providing its children with a superficial and glib approach to the capacity to communicate ideas, thus making them the prospective victims of anybody who wishes to exploit them in the sense of demagogic rhetoric.

I believe that, in terms of tertiary education, a great deal of rethinking needs to be done. I think a great deal will be done. I believe from my own contacts that most educators who have had the advantage of tremendous sums of money being available for tertiary education—colleges of advanced education, universities and so on—over the last three years recognise that the golden years are now gone, if one could call them golden years, and they recognise that it is a jolly good thing that they have gone. I do not know of any prominent educator who does not doubt that education is suffering from a kind of financial constipation because of the enormous sums of money pumped into it, much of which is not being well used.

It is very obvious to all that the election result on 13 December—most people fervently want and all expect a return of the Liberal-National Country Party Government—will mean more recognition and a return to a co-operative federal system, and this, in turn, will mean that the University of Queensland and the Griffith University will both begin to look more towards the State Government for financial sustenance and not look two ways as they have done in the past because of Federal funding.

(Time expired.)

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (5.41 p.m.): In opening my remarks on the Estimates for Education and Cultural Activities, I pay tribute to the Minister and compliment him on the comprehensive report that he presented to this Committee between 4 o'clock and 5 o'clock this afternoon. Certainly I should like to have an hour to talk about education, and I am sure that I could use that time quite easily.

I pay tribute also to the senior officers of the Education Department with whom I have had fairly regular contact in the past few months, for their courtesy and their ability to understand the problems that I have taken to them. I pay a special tribute to the Director-General of Education (Mr. Arch Guymer), who without doubt has given sterling service to this State in education. He is an educationist in the true sense of the word and has led the Queensland Education Department in an excellent manner.

The Labor Party spokesman on education referred to the Federal money being used for education in Queensland. He quoted all sorts of figures for our consideration. I am willing to accept his figures as correct. But it is an interesting fact that prior to 2 December 1972, when disaster struck Australia with the election of a socialist Federal Government, the Liberal-Country Party Government was beginning to spend a lot more money on education. It could see the need, and the money for education was flowing from it to the States. The difference in the education philosophies of the Liberal-Country Party Government and the Labor Party Government is that the former gave back to the States the money which the States deserved.

The money given to the State for education is our own money. It is not a Christmas parcel. The Federal Government is merely returning to the States money that it has collected from them in taxation. The Australian Labor Government, acting as if it were Santa Claus, has been handing back money for pre-schools, tertiary education, secondary schools and primary schools, and attaching strings to the money. It has not given the States the right to decide how to spend that money; rather it has been saying that the money will be spent in fashion "A" or fashion "B".

This is why Labor members can rise in this place and refer with great gusto to the amount of money that has been spent by the Federal Government in various fields of education in this State. Let us never forget that the money is our money and that the Federal Government merely collects it on our behalf. It should be given back to the States without any strings attached.

In looking at the work done by the Education Department, which the honourable member for Toowong said certainly comes under fire in an extremely large number of cases, I shall first discuss something to do with tertiary education. I want to speak about colleges of advanced education and universities and perhaps be a little critical of the universities in our State. As I see it, the problem is that university lecturers receive a very high salary. They maintain that they deserve a very high salary. I question that. University lecturers have the opportunity to do research. Every so often they are granted sabbatical leave, which is not available to other teachers. They are lecturers and prefer at times to be called teachers.

Of course, there is a very great difference between a teacher and a lecturer. The function of the teacher is to motivate students to learn. Those who have been to a university or a college where students are lectured know that a lecturer enters the room, puts a pile of books on the lectern and lectures. If students do not want to listen, that is too bad for them.

Mr. Murray: One teaches a subject and the other teaches the students.

Mr. POWELL: Perhaps that is one way of putting it.

The lecturer's aim is to pour forth knowledge and, if students do not listen, it is too bad for them. The teacher motivates his students to learn. I do not believe that university lecturers should be paid considerably more than teachers at primary and secondary schools, as their functions basically do not differ. They impart knowledge and supposedly motivate people to research and learn.

The conditions of university lecturers are more than ideal. I believe no service is done to education in this State whilst university lecturers have very good conditions and teachers have in some cases very poor conditions. The ratio of students to lecturers at universities is approximately 14 to 1. The Minister quoted figures pertaining to ratios between pupils and teachers in schools. They can be misleading because some classes, particularly in one-teacher schools, can be very small indeed, and in some subjects in high schools the ratio of students to teachers is also very good. But in other forms it is not so good. From 1957 to the present time the Government has implemented a fair and reasonable scheme to improve the ratio of pupils to teachers and it is to be commended for the excellent job that has been done. I cannot see any reason why it should stop now.

The method of recruitment of teachers could possibly come under fire. As we look through the annual report of the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities, we see the numbers for teacher resignations and dismissals. We must face the fact that there are teachers in the service who should not be there. This raises the question, of course, of what can be done with them. I suggest that it is not in the main the fault of some teachers that they are in a calling for which they are unsuited. The fault lies rather with the methods of recruitment. I believe that a far better system of interviewing prospective teachers should be instituted.

I believe that during their first year at a college of advanced education student teachers should be interviewed and made fully aware of exactly what they are letting themselves into. There are people in the community who complain that teachers are underworked and overpaid and that they are not doing a good job. I completely refute that suggestion. It is my experience that on the whole teachers work much more than 40 hours a week, which is the generally accepted working week for the rest of the community. Teachers work in the vicinity of 50 to 60 hours, and sometimes more, a week. Their job is onerous because during the five hours in which they are in front of children they must give totally of themselves. After that period they are mentally and sometimes physically exhausted.

Some people cannot face up to this strain day after day, and this should be ascertained before a person enters the teaching service and becomes part of the system. I therefore suggest that in the recruitment of teachers suitability should be first considered, followed by academic ability. I feel that the reverse is the position now, and I do not think that those are the correct priorities.

In secondary education the Radford report is now being implemented. I must say that I believe assessments under this scheme to be far better than the external Junior and Senior examinations that were previously held. Although it may not be better for some students, continuous assessment now carried out at schools certainly gives a truer indication of the worth of a student than external examination results. It gives the employer, if he knows how to understand it—and I think that is a very real “if”—a much more accurate idea of the worth and ability of the student who is coming into everyday working life. The Minister is to be commended also for the initiative he has shown in seeking the assistance of people in the business community. We see teachers going into the business community to find out what it is all about.

I think it would be worth while to do this all the way through the grades. For example, I do not think that pre-school teachers should be completely encapsulated in the pre-school system. They should know what the grade 1 teacher wants, the grade 1 teacher should know what the grade 2 teacher wants, and so on right through the various levels. At the moment we have a real problem with the transition between grades 7 and 8. The grade 7 teacher is preparing the student for secondary school, and very often he does not know what is required in the grade 8 syllabus or what is required in secondary school as a whole.

I have attended a number of seminars on this subject where we have tried to tell grade 7 teachers exactly what they are preparing students for. It is reasonable to assume that the teacher should know what he is preparing his students for. The teacher of grade 7 students should know what they need to be prepared for in secondary schools and the teacher in grade 12 should know exactly what his students need to be prepared for in tertiary education. It is a truism indeed that we are preparing the student to perform a useful function in society, and we should be doing this with the utmost zeal.

Perhaps the chief criticism of the primary school system is the constant changing of the contents of the syllabuses. Then we have some misguided people who try to force other people's techniques on to teachers. The honourable member for Toowong gave us an excellent exposition of that subject. I can see no reason for changing a tried and true method for something that might not work. It might work for one teacher

but not necessarily for another, and teachers today have the individual freedom to use the techniques they find most suited to themselves. I believe it ill behoves an inspector or a principal to insist upon a teacher using one particular technique.

The Government is to be congratulated on its attitude on pre-school education. The number of pre-schools built in this State is truly remarkable, and the present Minister is to be congratulated for carrying on the work that was started by Sir Alan Fletcher in this field. As I have said before, the pre-school student should be absolutely ready for grade 1 when he leaves the pre-school.

I would like to digress a little here, Mr. Kaus, and mention that in my days we started school at prep. 1 and went on to prep. 2, prep. 3 and prep. 4. It just happens that the teacher who taught me in prep. 1 is about to retire this year. I refer to Miss McGladdery. She teaches at the Bundaberg West State School and has done a sterling job in that school for 40 years. I have a tremendous regard for Miss McGladdery, and I know there are many, many hundreds of people around Bundaberg and throughout the rest of the State who hold her in the same regard.

That brings me to another point. I find it disappointing that so many teachers die in harness. After their death so many people stand up and say what great people they were; how hard they worked for the community and what a good job they did in education, and yet while they are alive we fail to give them the recognition they deserve. The names of two of the teachers who taught me and are still alive spring to my mind—Miss McGladdery and Mr. Bill Millar, who recently retired from the Bundaberg High School. They are two people who have done a tremendous job in education. They certainly helped me greatly, though perhaps they often despaired when they had me in front of them.

The other two sections that I should like to deal with hurriedly are sex education and religious education. The honourable member for Rockhampton gave the Committee a very good insight into religious education, and I agree with everything he said. That religious education in this State must be changed is a fact of life; that the churches which have had the right of entry for half an hour a week have often not taken advantage of that opportunity is also a fact of life. The fact that teachers have had to sit in front of classes for half an hour and not be allowed to say anything to them, merely to babysit, is stupidity in the extreme. I know of cases in which trained teachers have been prepared to give religious education in a school but have not been allowed to do so, by direction of the regional director. In my opinion, that is a very backward step. I

have been one of those who have been prepared to give religious education, instead of using the half an hour for preparation and correction, because I have a knowledge of religious education and a faith and a conviction in it. As I said, I think it was stupid that I was denied the opportunity to do so.

Today, something must be done. However, let me say that there is no way in the world that my children are going to be taught something about the Christian religion by atheists. They could not possibly do it; they would not have a clue. There is a difference, you see, between religious education and the teaching of religion. If Buddhism, Shintoism and all other isms are to be taught, in my opinion that is history, not religion. If children are to be taught the Christian religion, they must have Christians teaching them. That is the important point that we must make, and I think we must be very firm about it. If the Christian religion is to be taught in the schools of this State, let it be taught by Christians, not by those who might purport to be Christians.

However, it is my opinion that the teaching of religion and the teaching of sex are the responsibility of the family and the church, not the responsibility of the State. If the family and the church abdicate their responsibility in the field of sex education, there are those who say that it should be taught in the schools. I could not disagree more, because, just as I will not have my children taught religion by atheists, so I will not have them taught sex by people of doubtful moral character.

Mr. Wright: Especially some of the homosexuals.

Mr. POWELL: Quite right. That would be completely foreign to me. As I said, it is my opinion that the right and the responsibility to teach sex and religion to children is in the hands of the family and the church. If they abdicate that right, that is their responsibility entirely. It should not ever be decided that the State has a responsibility to enter into the moral teachings of children, because—and I put this forward with all sincerity—the first aim of the socialist-type regime in taking over a country is to destroy family life. What better way to destroy family life than to introduce into the State system sex and religious education that is going to take children away from the belief that the family unit is supreme in our way of life? Immediately we take away from children the belief that they are sound and secure within their own family unit, we leave ourselves wide open for the take-over by socialist and other revolutionary-type regimes.

So I urge the greatest caution in the teaching of religious and sex education. I do not believe that sex education, in particular, should be given in State schools. If

the State wishes to do anything in the field of sex education, it should—and I know that the Minister has this in mind at the moment—try to foster the Family Life Movement, a movement based on Christian principles that is guiding children along the very difficult road of sex education.

Lastly, I mention the Cultural Activities side of the Minister's portfolio. Some criticism was levelled at the Director of Cultural Activities, Mr. Arthur Creedy, and I should like to say that I have found Mr. Creedy of the utmost help. He came to my electorate and attended a meeting at Childers, one at Bundaberg and then one at Hervey Bay. At each meeting he put forward the Government's policy on cultural activities. He put himself out, and for a person in Mr. Creedy's position to put himself out as he did indicates to me that he is a public servant in the truest sense of the term. In my opinion, he certainly is doing a really good job for the State. He is encouraging people to use the money that is available from the Government. We should be telling people that the money is available and doing all we can to make sure they use it in the best way possible.

(Time expired.)

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (7.15 p.m.): I congratulate the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities on his elevation to this important position. After Sir Alan Fletcher I know he is going to be like a fresh breeze on a hot day. I am not going to castigate Sir Alan Fletcher. I have expressed my opinion of him as a Minister on many occasions, but as a man he stands very high in my estimation. During his regime as Minister for Education and Cultural Activities many innovations were introduced. I do not agree with the cynical remark made to me by a very prominent member of the National Party that those worth-while innovations were introduced by the administrative heads of the department, and Sir Alan Fletcher knew nothing about them until they had become an established fact, but then he was too casual and uninterested to do anything about them. The fact is that any of the innovations introduced during his term of office as Minister for Education and Cultural Activities are here.

There are many matters in connection with the Education Department that I should like to deal with tonight, but I am going to touch on what I consider to be the most important ones. The first is that I expect, and I think all of the people of Queensland expect, from the new Minister for Education and Cultural Activities a vastly different approach to the university from that adopted by Sir Alan Fletcher.

With all due respect to the former Minister for Education, he was without doubt a toady, a sycophant of the university, and

as a result perhaps we have in Queensland the worst elements in university education in the whole of Australia. Out at the university we have a lot of academic riff-raff and a lot of student riff-raff. We have groups of vicious Marxists, morally debased by their splenetic doctrines. That has been clearly emphasised during the current election campaign. Those academics at the university are toadied to by people who should know better. If one wants to see examples of sickening adulation one should talk to some people, who should know better, about the university. The moment the university is mentioned, those people, who are quite sound in many other respects, immediately drop to their hands and knees and start to bump their forehead on the floor in adulation.

Those groups at the university, particularly the Marxists, are toadied to by the Press during the election campaign. They are basking in the favour of the media. One cannot turn on the television or radio any day, now that the election campaign is warming up, without having the opinion of one of these Marxist riff-raff from the Queensland University forced into one's ears. It is about time we did something about it. All Queenslanders are not fools. It is all very well to say that those men have a right to express their opinion. So they have. Everybody has the right to express his or her opinion. But why should the unfortunate people of Queensland have to pay for them? Why should they have to pay for those festering political sores out there at St. Lucia? I have written something down here so I would not be too hot on them. I do not want my speech to be spoilt by any suggestion that I am bitter or vicious against them. They are pachydermatous-hided, vociferous flotsam and jetsam washed up on the shores of the Queensland University.

Mr. Alison: They set themselves up as experts.

Mr. AIKENS: They set themselves up as everything. We have only to read what that group has been saying recently over the air. We see big headlines in the Press about statements by a group of vicious, splenetic Marxist and Communist riff-raff at the university. They are all named and we all know them for what they are.

Fortunately we have in Townsville a very conservative newspaper known as "The Townsville Daily Bulletin". This is what that newspaper said only today in its leading article—

"Scientists"—How 'Political'?

"Australian voters should not be over-awed, nor should they be unduly influenced, by the pronouncements of various organised groups of academics, lawyers and writers condemning the Governor-General's dismissal of the Whitlam Government.

"Such groups have a right to express their opinions.

"But it would be misleading if the impression were fostered that just because certain critics of Sir John Kerr and Mr. Fraser are so collectively vociferous, then they speak generally on behalf of professional sections of the community.

"There is in fact no shortage of opinion among professional people that the Governor-General acted not only constitutionally correctly but also reasonably under the circumstances.

"The difference is that such people have not organised themselves into corporate vocal groups in the way so characteristic of those who support the Labor Party.

"The latest example of professional group intrusion into politics is the action of 'more than 150 Australian political scientists' in expressing 'grave concern' over Sir John Kerr's dismissal of the Whitlam Government.

"The inference from their statement is that, as 'political scientists' they are peculiarly qualified to comment on the Governor-General's actions.

"People might be forgiven for suspecting that the operative word is 'political'.

"Are the 'political scientists'—and various other groups—politicising their profession?

"The Australian people should not allow themselves to be carried away by the assertions of certain academic groups that stable government is being undermined, that democracy is in danger, and that Sir John Kerr has (to quote the 'political scientists') 'seriously damaged the integrity of his office'.

"They should give adequate weight to the view, held in some other quarters, that the dismissal of the Whitlam Government was a classic exercise of the monarchical system's safeguards against improper attitude or actions by a Government—for example, Mr. Whitlam's refusal to resign or advise an election when supply was blocked, and his attempt to circumvent the Parliament by seeking finance elsewhere without its approval.

"Whether Sir John Kerr was right or wrong is, and will continue to be, one of the most fiercely debated questions in Australia's history. But the people should think the issues through for themselves, refusing to allow their thinking to be done for them by political pressure groups within the professions."

That is abundantly true. These fellows set themselves up as celestially begotten and the anointed of God; they look down their noses at us and tell us what we should think and what we should do.

I earnestly hope that the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities will put the cleaner right through the universities. The time for that is long overdue. I

hope he gets rid of the scum section among the academics and the students. For far too long the people of Queensland have had to shove their hands into their pockets in order to keep the loafers, spongers, time-servers and no-hopers at the Queensland University fattening and battenning on the people.

There are, of course, good elements at the University of Queensland, and much good work is being done there. Similarly, there are good elements at the James Cook University, and much good work is being done there. It does not have the same percentage of loafers, spongers and bludgers as has the University of Queensland. I suggest that when the Griffith University really gets going, it will outstrip the University of Queensland for pure uselessness and waste of public money.

A couple of weeks ago the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities paid Townsville South the compliment of visting several of its schools. He made a tremendously good impression. He mixed with the children and, unlike Sir Alan Fletcher, showed no aloofness in his attitude. He saw for himself the problems confronting the Education Department in Townsville. I feel sure that he will grapple with them, and I thank him for that. If he does not, I shall have a few well-chosen, temperate, mellow words to him about it; but I feel sure that I will not need to have them.

The other night I attended the annual speech night of the Townsville High School, at which the guest speaker was one of the deputy principals, Mr. Hanley. He had recently returned from a study tour overseas, where he spent a great deal of time in the United States of America studying extensively and intensively the education system in that country. It was a most remarkable speech. I suggest to the Minister for Education that he have Mr. Hanley either give him a copy of it or make a speech on tape for him, because there was much good stuff in it. He told us that in the United States today the wheel has turned completely around. They have got away from all this high-falutin academic stuff; they have got away from the sociology, psychology, political science and all the flim-flam and hoo-ha associated with what we call the humanities section of the university. They are going back to the basic principles of English and maths. They are going to train their children—as children should be trained in a free country—in the basic things that are necessary not only for their survival but also for their nation's survival. It is about time we cut away from all this high-falutin humanities flim-flam that we get from our universities.

Of course, the Minister for Education will not have an easy row to hoe with the Queensland Teachers' Union, which is a blatant political group of crawlers to the A.L.P. movement in Queensland—and, I

suppose, in the rest of the country. Where would one find a greater group of crawlers than the Queensland Teachers' Union today? As I see it, they are not interested in the teachers. They have never been interested in the students. Pupils are something that they know nothing about. Officials of the Teachers' Union think pupils are things that crawl out from underneath the stonework on a cold morning. They are interested only in the political propaganda that they can vomit forth for the benefit of the A.L.P., which they love so well.

We have had some talk this afternoon about religious education in schools. A chap up the back—one of the new members who spoke just before dinner—made the rather startling statement, I thought, that he believed in religion, but only his own religion—that only the Christian religion is any good. As a matter of fact, the Christian religion is the newest of all the religions. Many religions convey many things just as worth while as the Christian religion.

When we talk about religious teaching at our schools, what does the Minister propose to have the children taught? I think the Minister should spend a little time to tell us that. Surely he is not going to have them taught excerpts from the Old Testament, on which the Christian religion, the Mohammedan religion, the Jewish religion and other religions are based. If he is, I can—and I think I should do it now in the interests of the unfortunate kids—mark out passages, page after page, chapter after chapter, of the Old Testament that should not be read to any decent child or to any clear-thinking adult.

It is quite all right if we use those stories in the Bible as legends and teach them as legends; but when we teach them as events that must be believed or else we will be eternally damned, then it is quite a different story altogether.

I have a very simple philosophy about religion—and I am very friendly with many men who wear the cloth of God. Up in Townsville we are particularly fortunate inasmuch as we have two very fine bishops—the Anglican Bishop and the Roman Catholic Bishop—Faulkner and Lewis. I meet with those men as often as I possibly can. I exchange books with them; I talk with them and time and time again they have asked my permission to use statements I have made at various functions so that they themselves can spread the gospel—the Tom Aikens gospel. My gospel, of course, has nothing at all to do with orthodox theology.

When Bishop Shevill was the Anglican Bishop in Townsville he wanted to know what my idea of religion was. I said this to him, "If your belief in a religion makes you a better man, a better citizen, a better husband or a better father, then you should stick to that religion and you should fight

anybody who attempts to denigrate or ridicule that religion. Hang onto it at all costs and die with it. But, if you attend church merely for social purposes or for purposes of your business aggrandisement, then you are a hypocrite and you should be exposed as such and turned out of the church." That is the position as I see it. I make the appeal again to the new Minister for Education.

My friend at the back referred to Arthur Creedy. Let it never be forgotten, because it will never be forgiven, that it was Sir Alan Fletcher who inflicted Arthur Creedy on the people of Queensland. He told us that Arthur Creedy had been to his schools and had put up a very good performance. He had talked to these and he had talked to those and everybody thought that Arthur Creedy was a pretty good bloke. Personally he may be. I do not believe it. He might not believe that I am a good bloke, but that does not matter.

But Arthur Creedy is no fool. The way he secured his appointment as Director of Cultural Activities in Queensland indicated that he was no fool. He knew Sir Alan Fletcher's Achilles heel and he shot his arrow into it and got the job. On 7 December last year Sir Alan Fletcher lost his position as Minister for Education when the will of the people was expressed at the ballot-box. Immediately that occurred Arthur Creedy knew that Sir Alan Fletcher was no longer his sword, buckler and shield in the Education Department; that he was no longer a man to whom he could go and cry upon his bosom and have all his troubles smoothed away.

In anticipation of a new Minister for Education, Arthur Creedy started to pull up his socks and superficially at any rate adopted another attitude. What he said when he read or heard that the Honourable Val Bird had been appointed Minister for Education and Cultural Activities could best be left to the imagination. I feel certain that, in the present Minister for Education, Arthur Creedy will not have the spineless toady that he had in Sir Alan Fletcher.

It is time that this man was pulled into gear. I have not had time to go into the matter fully. Had I known an hour or two earlier that I would speak to these Estimates, I would have looked up some of the copious stuff that Arthur Creedy churns out. It seems to me that he has a staff in his office to go through every newspaper in Queensland, from the smallest to the largest, and take out of them any reference at all to any cultural activity—any concert, any song, any visit by any orchestra—and this great big Domesday Book is issued monthly and Arthur Creedy claims credit for the lot. It is not too bad from his point of view. While he was obviously able to fool Sir Alan Fletcher, I am prepared to wager a guinea to a gooseberry that he does not fool Val Bird, because when all is said

and done no man knows the value of money and the value of getting service for money paid out better than the present Minister for Education.

If we can, let us set down two guide-lines for this Assembly. Firstly, let us determine, with a new Minister for Education, that we will put the cleaner through the universities and that we will make the universities places of which we can be proud, where the academics and the students will be serving some useful purpose—befitting themselves not only for their own lives but also for the job that they should be doing for Queensland and for other parts of Australia.

Secondly, let us determine that we shall continue on with the very fine avenue of development that has taken place in the Education Department in the past five or six years. If we do that, then at the end of this Parliament members from both sides of the Chamber can all claim that at least we have served some useful purpose for the pupils, the students and teachers of Queensland, and also that we have served some useful purpose for Queensland itself.

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (7.34 p.m.): I rise to speak in this debate because as a young mother I have a vital interest in the quality of education in this State. I must congratulate the Minister on his address and on the way in which he has grasped the reins since assuming office and guided his department in the way it should be heading. With so much change taking place so rapidly, the Minister must keep a tight rein to ensure that change is not made just for change's sake. In education it is much wiser to be a step behind the pendulum than a step in front.

Some of the changes have been implemented throughout the whole education system far too rapidly, with resultant lowering of standards in the general basics—mental arithmetic, spelling and grammar, for example. I am sure that most realistic teachers would agree that the recognition or look-and-learn method of teaching children to read was not a huge success on its own. However, combined with phonetics it is most useful and has produced the highest level of reading ability very early in the school life of many youngsters. This in fact was recognised by many experienced teachers who combined the new sight method with the old phonetic method right from the beginning. A few years in a trial situation would have shown this up and an expensive mistake in terms of standards would have been avoided.

In fact, I think it would be a good idea if members of the Research and Curriculum Branch, who are responsible for the formation and introduction of new education techniques and courses, followed their ideas into the classroom until they were satisfied that their innovations were in fact an

improvement on the present methods or practices. This might appear to be a novel idea and rather hard to implement, but it might help to eliminate the headlong rush into change that has been typical of the department in the past. Too often we have seen changes introduced before teachers were fully aware and instructed and before textbooks were ready.

I know that the unavailability of textbooks is not the fault of the department, but it is very hard for teachers to implement a new course without textbooks. This was particularly evident when the Scholarship examination was abolished and grade 8 was moved into secondary schools. Young teachers graduating from training college might have been ready for the new system, but many of the older Scholarship teachers who had received very little instruction in the new science subjects were completely at sea.

A similar situation arose with the introduction of the Radford scheme. Even the general public received the distinct impression that teachers were not really well versed in the techniques of assessment associated with the implementation of the Radford scheme, and this unnecessarily caused much suspicion and uneasiness amongst parents.

I think that the introduction of pre-schools could also have been a little smoother, particularly in country areas. In the Innisfail district there was one pre-school and the teacher was instructed to accept children from the area serviced by the associated State primary school. I would agree with this ruling if there were a number of pre-schools within an area, but as there was only one in this district the ruling caused endless fuss. The poor pre-school teacher was nearly demented by the beginning of the year and I was nearly at that stage, too. I had country women coming to me in a constant stream saying, "Are we never going to get a chance to send our children to pre-school? They will eventually go to little country schools and they will never have pre-schooling." There is now another pre-school in the area, which will open at the beginning of next year, and this will ease the situation quite significantly.

There is also a chance that a temporary pre-school might open in a country area and the district should then be fairly well served with pre-schools. Had a more reasonable approach been taken to the situation last year, the Government would have been saved a lot of completely unnecessary odium.

I still maintain that in the initial years of pre-schooling it would have been preferable for pre-schools to service as many children as possible. Instead of giving two groups of 25 children a half-day session five times a week, three groups of 25 could have attended three half-day sessions and 50 per cent more children would have been accommodated.

Another function of pre-schooling that I think requires particular attention is the early detection of disabilities in young children. Experienced mothers and older teachers have some idea of the children who will have trouble in later schooling, so I do not see why it should be difficult for pre-school teachers to detect such disabilities in young children during their year of pre-school education. If this were done, particular attention could be paid to these problems and this would overcome much of the heartbreak experienced by children when they cannot keep up with the rest in their classes in later life.

Some of the out-of-town mothers in my district who could not get their children into pre-school this year enrolled them in the pre-school correspondence course. These people have nothing but the highest praise for the pre-school correspondence course. We all know that Queensland leads the world in the education of isolated children, and this is just another example of where the department has made a valiant effort to help children in isolated areas. I read in this morning's "Courier-Mail" that the Minister is in fact inviting applications from parents who will next year enrol their children in these pre-school correspondence courses. These courses should be of immense benefit to mothers who, in the past couple of years, have struggled to organise play groups in areas where there are no State pre-school facilities.

We have seen much change in primary education, and most of it has been for the best, I will admit. In fact, I am sure that there is hardly a parent in the State who is not most impressed with the breadth of the education their young children receive today. My son is only in grade 2, and even at this stage I am jealous of the education that he is receiving. However, I do think that still more attention should be paid to the basic three Rs. We have many employers complaining that when they get children out of school today they are virtually unemployable and have to be re-educated. In fact, I had an employer the other day complaining that he had interviewed anything up to 19 applicants and not one of them could tell him what a tenth of a dollar was. I think this typifies the lack of attention to mental arithmetic in our education system today. I have even heard people suggest that children in primary and secondary schools should be allowed to use calculators. In my opinion this is absolutely ridiculous.

Another thing about which I feel there has been a lack of attention is the need for tidiness and neatness, particularly in writing. We do not have copy books any more. These exercises may have been tedious, but they did instil in a child a sense of neatness, which is most important. I wonder whether the lapses we see today are not the result of the rather vague curriculum now in use. I do not for one moment suggest that we

return to the restrictions that teachers felt were placed on them 10 years ago, but I have heard comments, particularly from many young teachers, that they would like more detailed guidance about the syllabus.

I would like to see more attention devoted in primary schools to sewing and cooking for girls, manual training for boys and typing and book-keeping for both. Despite the trendy idea that girls and boys should be given the same education, most girls at some stage have to spend time in keeping house and most men are called upon to do the handiwork around the house. Typing and book-keeping could be included in a home-management course, together with the other subjects I mentioned. I think time spent on those subjects would be time well spent.

A most welcome innovation in primary education is the added attention being given to music. In the Innisfail district we have had two full-time teachers and one supply "B" teacher travelling around for most of the year. We are very fortunate, in fact, that these teachers are very dedicated, and they have whipped up enormous enthusiasm amongst the students. In the department's annual report Innisfail was not included in the list of towns which have formed musical groups as a result of the school music programme. Surely a group of 60 to 90 players who hold regular concerts should have been deserving of inclusion. I hope that this is not an indication that the department has also overlooked the North Queensland Youth Orchestra when allocating financial assistance for the coming year. Unfortunately, our youth orchestra conductor has resigned to return to America, but I must congratulate the department on its foresight in supplying us with another music teacher before he has to leave. This will help maintain the continuity of the instruction that the children are receiving, and it should actually assist a smooth take-over. Next year a number of students will be entering high school. I certainly hope that they will be able to continue their tuition under the school music programme.

I suggest that the State Department of Education could well keep a watchful eye on school radio broadcasts and television programmes. I have received a number of complaints that school programmes are oriented to and biased towards socialist philosophy. I know that these programmes are planned and produced in conjunction with the A.B.C., and that is all the more reason for the department to watch their content carefully. When a programme on industrial relations features Jack Munday and a programme on Aboriginal affairs features only Denis Walker and Senator Keeffe, what else can one expect?

Mr. Tenni: They are blood brothers of the honourable member for Cairns!

Mrs. KIPPIN: Are they? Well, they are all known socialists.

"Sesame Street" has been with us for a number of years. Although it serves the good purpose of assisting to instruct youngsters in basic facts, many parents to whom I speak detest the programme, and every one I know certainly detests the pronunciation of "Z" as "zee" instead of the Australian "zed". It surprises me that the Australian Government has not provided the A.B.C. with a grant to produce an Australian prototype. This would have been much more acceptable to most Australian women than the grant \$100,000 to Germaine Greer to produce a sex film overseas.

Religious education and sex education have been educational hot potatoes for some years. I think it is high time that the Government and the Education Department arrived at a positive decision and made a move in both areas.

Ideally sex education is the prerogative of the parents, but many parents neglect their responsibility in this field. Personally, I believe that there is an urgent need for formal sex education within State schools. However, I do not agree with a separate subject for "sex"; I think there should be an integrated course developing from primary school biology. That course should encompass moral and social responsibilities, deviant forms of sexuality and their problems and venereal disease, and it could also include a section on drug awareness. However, the big unanswered question is: who will teach this course? Once that question is answered, the way will be easy.

Towards the end of each year for the last three years, I have received complaints from parents about ad hoc sex education and questionnaires given to children, especially when exams are over and everyone has a bit more time in which to relax. It is obvious to me that most frequently it is the wrong sort of teacher who takes it upon himself or herself to give this instruction. I have no doubt that there are many sensible teachers who could teach a course such as that which I have outlined, but they would have to be carefully screened. I tend to favour the father-and-son, mother-and-daughter type of sex education programme. However, the big problem is that most of the parents who neglect their responsibility in this field would not make the effort to attend the lectures.

Adult education is another section in which significant changes are taking place. This year lectures and group meetings were conducted in seven centres in the Mourilyan electorate, which is commendable. However, there is now a move to have adult education centralised in the larger towns in a district. This year, 16 people at Herberton wanted to study typing. People at Atherton also wanted to study typing, and the two

courses were combined in Atherton. That was very unfortunate, because only five of the 16 people from the Herberton district could manage to go to Atherton for adult education classes. I really cannot agree with that trend. Irrespective of the size of the town or its proximity to a larger centre, I suggest that if a locality can provide the number of people required for a course, the course should proceed in the locality. I agree that greater cost would be involved; but instead of depriving country people of the opportunity to attend a class, consideration should be given to the possibility of charging a small fee for adult education. I do not think this would be beyond the means of most adults today.

The response to adult education has been growing steadily, and the future looks even more demanding. As more adults find increased leisure time available to them, there will be a greater need for a range of activities, whether purely educational, cultural or recreational. Young adults and housewives are now showing a greater interest in adult education. No doubt they are realising that personal satisfaction in life requires a well-informed outlook. However, I think that the Board of Adult Education should look closely at its public image. I have found that, in the opinion of the general public, adult education is considered to be rather dull and conservative. In fact, until only last year my concept of adult education was typing in a dimly-lit State school classroom. Most people think that the board decides the courses, and then advertises for participants. That should not be so. The board should make it freely known that courses can be initiated in response to public demand, provided the necessary competent teachers can be obtained. Of course, this is always a problem in country areas, where there is just as much a demand for programmes relating to quality of life as there is for those dealing with vocational objectives. Funds should be made available to ensure that country people are not discriminated against in adult education. Our Government stands for equal opportunity for all.

I know that adult education has an important role to play in helping women realise a fuller life, particularly in these days of so-called women's liberation. TV educational programmes have been received enthusiastically by women, particularly those who are house-bound. I think they could be used much more. Programmes should not be restricted to macramé or floral art. I know a lot of women who watch and enjoy history, geography and biography school programmes on TV. Women really appreciated the news bulletins and replays of T.D.T. that were broadcast about midday. It gave women who are normally busy in the evening when the news is broadcast the

opportunity to catch up on current affairs, even though they were a day late. It is indeed regrettable that the A.B.C. has discontinued that practice.

The final matter on which I should like to touch probably comes more within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Works and Housing, but the problem I refer to seriously affects teachers. In fact it is the problem first presented to me when I visit a school. Most schools are short of space. We all know that that has arisen because the Federal Government allocated extra money to employ more teaching staff, but it forgot that we needed more space to house the staff, so we have an acute shortage of teaching and storage space in most schools today. There is another problem within the State jurisdiction, namely, the irritating problem that teachers have when they cannot get maintenance done on their school. The problems are probably very small ones, and not of an educational nature, but they are responsible for more union activity within the teaching service than anything else. There is a lot of room for improvement here by the Works Department. Probably it will be the Education Department that will have to see that those improvements are effected.

(Time expired.)

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (7.54 p.m.): I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate on the Estimates for Education and Cultural Activities. These are the first Estimates the new Minister has presented. As a fellow North Queenslander, I know he will do his best in the field of education for our children. As a North Queenslander, his word can always be taken as his bond. I congratulate him on his Cabinet appointment and wish him well in his new portfolio.

I wish to outline why certain planning and organisational decisions in North Queensland leave me perplexed. Perhaps the Minister will see the need to needle somebody to have this anomaly in the Education Department removed. The problem also concerns the Works Department, and in this connection I refer briefly to a letter from the Works Department dated 25 September concerning the acceptance of a tender of \$176,740 for the construction of classroom block "C" at the Yarrabah State School. The building was to have been the usual two-storey building with a ground floor, the first floor to contain double teaching areas, which are defined, activity areas, withdrawal areas and storerooms. Very recently, however, I was informed that the four school-rooms and two open areas in this building will be replaced by stramit buildings. It seems that this matter calls for the Minister's attention.

The needs of the school at Yarrabah are commensurate with an Aboriginal community. Obviously some planning has been carried out. However, the tender was accepted and now it is to be cancelled. The proposed building is to be replaced by a stramit building, which indicates that there is something amiss here. I draw the Minister's attention to this situation, knowing that he will be as concerned as I am about it.

Mr. Farwley: What's wrong with stramit buildings?

Mr. JONES: If the honourable member cannot tell the difference between a stramit building and one costing in the vicinity of \$176,000 he should go back to school.

While I am dealing with needs in schools, I express my concern at the lack of accommodation in some schools in Far North Queensland, particularly those in densely populated suburban areas. I am sure the Minister shares my concern. In some school-grounds demountables are springing up like mushrooms.

Mr. Bird: I sometimes think they breed.

Mr. JONES: I agree with the Minister. I felt sure he recognised the difficulties here. Stramit buildings certainly detract from the aesthetic qualities of schools.

As the member for Rockhampton pointed out, they bring with them the associated problems of inaccessibility to toilets, watering points and so forth. Problems of this type seems to be peculiar to buildings of that nature.

I am sure the Minister is aware of the difficulties encountered by the West Cairns State School in trying to provide ample accommodation for its pupils. I know that the parents and citizens' association has contacted the Minister about the problems arising there, and I trust that when the Minister is in the area in the near future he will visit the school and make an on-site inspection of it.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gunn): Order! The honourable member for Murrumbidgee and the honourable member for Rockhampton are engaging in audible conversation. I desire to hear the honourable member for Cairns make his speech.

Mr. JONES: I am also aware that the Minister for Works and Housing has been requested to accompany the Minister on an inspection of the school. Two classrooms are needed immediately. I understand that Stramit buildings have been promised. The p. and c. association seeks their replacement with permanent buildings, as do most schools that have temporary classrooms. The merit of its request for a free-standing library is shown by the fact that the schools

on each side—one at Balaclava in my electorate and the other at North Cairns, just across the boundary into the electorate of Barron River—have recently benefited from the construction of free-standing libraries. The provision of an administration block at the school is a necessity, and here, too, the association is making comparisons with other schools. The parents and citizens' association feels that its school has been less favourably treated. I suggest to the Minister that this is a matter for concern.

The honourable member for Rockhampton spoke about toilet facilities. When additional classrooms are provided, toilet facilities are not improved, either for the pupils or for the teachers. The Minister for Police recently opened a \$40,000 toilet block in Gympie. I hope it is not thought that, because it was in his home electorate, it would flush away the need for some attention in the outlying areas of the State. I hope that he draws attention to the need for planning and organisation in the provision of adequate toilets, covered play areas and staff-room accommodation. Staff accommodation seems to be a bugbear. When a school is expanded, the department concentrates on the classrooms. Once that immediate need is fulfilled, the ancillary services such as staff-rooms, administration blocks and so on are forgotten. I feel that they should be planned at the same time as the classroom expansion.

The problem of schoolgrounds being used for pre-school centres seems to be of some concern to parents and citizens' associations in Cairns, particularly in old established schools where the grounds are quite small. The Central State School has severe problems. A pre-school centre was planned for the existing schoolgrounds. I was pleased to report to the p. and c. association the Minister's reply to my question.

Once again, without labouring the point, I ask that special attention be given to both the Central School and the Parramatta State School in the acquisition of land away from the school areas and without the resumption of existing residences.

The need for extra school accommodation is highlighted, as I said, by the problem of mushrooming temporary classrooms and Stramit buildings. I am pleased to see that high priority is being given to the new primary school in the Bayview Heights area in South Cairns. I know that the Mulgrave Shire Council has been in conference with the developers of the area. I am sure that by this time they will have had the go ahead to acquire the land on the southern side of Gordon Creek for the establishment of that school. Perhaps the state of our finances as outlined by the Minister makes it impossible for the school to be opened in 1976.

I hope that planning and construction of this school will get under way shortly because the accommodation of adjoining schools, for example, Balaclava State School, is overtaxed and there is a great deal of difficulty in this regard. I am sure that the Minister will agree that the Trinity Bay High School is suffering similar problems, and the sooner we get on with the construction of a third high school in the Cairns area, the sooner we will relieve the problems that are confronting the department in its planning at the Cairns State High School, which is now taking over technical college buildings, and also at the Trinity Bay High School, where the problems of toilet and staff-room accommodation are the same as those at the Cairns West school. In saying that, I am reiterating what I have already drawn to the attention of the Minister.

I shall now comment on the statements of the two previous speakers. Much of what they said is being discussed in more numerous conversations with educators and parents and citizens in North Queensland. It is indicative that both of the previous speakers who raised this point are representatives of North Queensland electorates. I am speaking of the modern trend of letting the basics of education slide at the expense of the traditional disciplines such as maths., English composition and the sciences. Surely reading and maths. achievement must decline if we allow the basics to slide at the primary school level.

Students should be given the opportunity to think for themselves. This is not being practised in our schools. We are falling behind more and more in our school curricula and the children have difficulty in thinking for themselves. Worse still, they seem to be less able to communicate their thoughts in writing. This was said by the two previous speakers. Deficiencies are appearing, particularly in the basic English skills. I wonder whether our experimentation is now finding root in the community itself.

I do not believe that, as educators, teachers and parents, we should condone compromising the fundamentals such as English composition, maths. and reading comprehension. We are doing a disservice to our children by skimming across this facet of education. The teaching of reading and writing is the basic form of education; it always has been and it still should be. It is unfortunate that it seems to be the in thing to somehow bypass this matter and it has been to the detriment of the children.

We appear to endeavour to relax the pressure too much for fear of frustrating the student, the pupil or the child, instead of commanding the respect of the child by insisting that he does learn something. If we do not insist that he learn, if we do not exercise that discipline and let him find

his own level, I fear that we will lose him in our society. I do not believe in being over-protective and giving vent to that particular feeling; nor do I believe in teachers not teaching. If teachers do not teach, children do not learn.

I feel that it is at the primary level of schooling that the basics have been allowed to slide, so that when a child in eighth grade has to choose his career he is confused and unable to assess the situation. I do not believe that a child at that age is able to choose his career, but unfortunately that is what happens. We seem to disarm the teacher, confuse the child and give rise to dissatisfaction among parents and the general community.

I think that a new teacher leaving the training college should be able to teach the basic skills. With all the other highfalutin stuff that is now going on in schools, the basic fundamentals of education are perhaps being missed. If a child is sent out into the community unable to spell, unable to add, unable to do mental arithmetic and unable to write legibly, he will enter the adult world very confused and with poor qualifications as a job seeker.

I wonder if experimentation in this field has been going on for the sake of experiment, without the results of the exercise being tested. If we use the lives of children for the carrying out of experiments, I feel that we are falling down as educators, legislators, parents and citizens. I am sufficiently idealistic to believe that in the end it will be the teachers, parents and students themselves who will demand that the experimenters stop experimenting and get back to the basic three Rs and the basic behaviour patterns that most of us in this Chamber were taught when we were at school.

Mr. Lindsay: What about a fourth R—road safety?

Mr. JONES: I quite agree. When we see that one out of five children will be killed on the roads before they reach adulthood, we see that road safety should be taught in school. It may sound dramatic to say that one out of five children starting off at school will be killed before they reach adulthood, but I am afraid that that is the situation statistically. Road safety is therefore another extra-curricular activity that should be undertaken, and for once I agree with the honourable member for Everton.

I think that without the measurable achievements of education life would be harder for children.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BYRNE (Belmont) (8.14 p.m.): Of all the ministerial portfolios that can be held in any Government, Education is undoubtedly one of the most important because it deals with the heart and essence of the structure of all societies. It must therefore have as its base policies and goals. It must not simply be a matter of administration. It must take into account the fact that it is a portfolio that deals with the lives of young children and therefore the future of our society. Today we create the society of tomorrow, and that is something that we can say every day; but it is important—because of the cynicism which is appearing in schools today, because of the cynicism which is appearing in educational institutions throughout the country today—that governmental bodies do set themselves goals, do have in mind policies and do comprehend what issues are at stake.

Education itself deals primarily with three things, and from those three things I shall develop three definitions. One of those deals with capability development, another with personal development and the third with cultural assimilation. It is always very difficult to try to put things into categories, and just as difficult to categorise people. So also is it difficult to categorise educational structures. However, I do feel that three definitions do perhaps give us an understanding of what Government departments and educators themselves should actually be striving for and have at their base in all policy-making incentives that they introduce.

The first of those definitions deals with capability development, and I see that as the aggregate of all the processes by means of which a person develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour of positive value in the society in which he lives. It is crucial that we realise it speaks not only of our policies but also of our attitudes. If a person has a negative attitude his ability is not conducive to positive acts for the society. And it is seen as positive values in a society—positive values which form the basis for the lives of those people and for the lives and development of the society itself. Secondly, and this also being an important part of the continued definitional structure and social process—this is education again—by which people are subjected to the influence of a selected and controlled environment (especially that of the school) so that they may attain social competence and optimum individual development. Once again in that structure and the definition it is seen that education plays a part not only in the development of the capabilities of the person but also in endeavouring to create within the society those structures which will maintain and develop that society. It sees schools are those environmental areas in which it is possible for people to attain the capabilities needed by a society for it to develop, and any comprehension or understanding, any goals sought in the field of education must also take that stead into account.

The third section of that definition, which I also consider to be of very great importance, deals with the art of making available to each generation that organised knowledge of the past. It is unfortunate, I think, that today there is a very great relegation of the past to the past, and so much of what man has learnt, so much of the knowledge and understanding that man has acquired over the years is slowly being lost because of an overstress upon modernity, because in certain fields, these modern goals are seen as important, whilst the total cultural, social and intellectual development of the person is not seen as so necessary.

The most important aspect of education, then, which develops from those broad definitions is the fact that it is crucial for the development of a society; it is crucial for the structural development of a society, and it is crucial for the development of the individual that there be knowledge of self. That, indeed, is the primary element towards which education must strive, to enable the individual, no matter at what level, to gain self-knowledge, for only from self-knowledge is the child able, or the person able, to thereby relate in any altruistic manner to others in the community and so enjoy a self-knowledge leading to a knowledge of others and therefore increased knowledge of self.

It is unfortunate that in the development of these attitudes, which are important to the development of any society, these matters are forgotten. The individual is left out, and the goals are seen not so much as the development of the capabilities of the individual in association with his personal development and his fitting himself into a cultural framework, but simply the development of those capabilities because of some part he can play in a job or in employment in the community. It is unfortunate that such an attitude should develop, and it is even more unfortunate if governmental bodies allow themselves to have that end as their goal, because it creates within our society a broken society—a society in which people are unable to comprehend them, a society in which people are unable to co-ordinate and co-operate with each other sufficiently.

Buildings are really no more than utilities. They play an environmental and psychological part in schools. They enhance the environment and aid learning, but they are in fact utilities for the use of the educational growth of children and of people. When the mainstream of education rests upon the development of those utilities rather than upon the development of the child, once again the point is missed; once again the issues are distorted.

It is essential that all developments in education are directed towards the concept of communication—towards communication of self to others. The modern society has proven to us that, with the introduction of extended mass media and with the broader

implementation of television, there is a breakdown in communicational structures, a breakdown in the necessity for people to be able to express themselves more clearly and more specifically. One honourable member mentioned earlier that there appeared to be a breakdown in writing. There appears to be a breakdown in that method of communication which exists in the English language as expressed in written form. Although I accept that, and although I have found it myself in teaching, I believe that largely the reason for it rests in the goals that are set by individual teachers or the goals that are set by the system itself. In other words, if the structure is simply one of knowledge rather than one of understanding, the development of the child's intellectual capacity is determined not in a field of how that child is able to understand something but what that child knows. As long as that is the goal, as long as knowledge of these things is the goal that the child must attain, and it is not pointed out, appreciated and realised by governmental authorities, teachers, or students themselves, that what they are trying to achieve is an understanding rather than knowledge, the level of communication and the capacity for people in the educational process to develop in relation to other things is very poor indeed.

So it is important for us to realise that we must strive in our educational policies, and departments must strive in their educational policies, not only for the development of a person's intellectual capacities but also for his personal development—the development of the whole person in a sociological structure in a cultural arena.

In the educational structures in Queensland today, there is a break-up, with the introduction of pre-schooling, and also with primary, secondary and tertiary education, which is, I think, itself in need of revision. In revision in that area, I suggest, there should be a breakdown in two ways—one in curricula, the other in structure of the secondary school itself. The secondary school should be broken into a middle school and an upper-secondary school, thereby enabling children who reached the 10th grade to receive responsibilities at school which they do not receive at present.

Having taught every class from grade 4 to grade 12, I think it is fairly easy to see—I am sure that most teachers would agree—that a grade 10 class is possibly the most unmanageable of classes, or perhaps the most uninterested. It falls in the middle of the high school structure. A 7th grader is at the top of the primary school. At that time his ego is at its highest. Those children are outgoing and probably at their peak in primary education. They move into secondary education at grade 8, but come at the very bottom of the secondary school. They are made to feel that, or they realise it, in any event. They are no longer the top of the primary school but the bottom of the secondary school. They are quiet, timid

and afraid to say very much. In fact the educational structure of the primary school, which develops the capacity for oral work to a very large extent over written work, is suddenly broken down, and the stress is no longer on outgoing oral work but moves more on to the written, academic side. As the child progresses to grades 9 and 10, he begins to realise that no responsibilities are given to him. He has none to accept and finds that the curricular structure does not develop towards his understanding of abstracts.

That might be a complex way of stating it, so I will endeavour to explain it. Structurally what has happened is that at grade 10 the child is in the secondary school. He is able to accept responsibilities but is given none. A very large number of children leave school at that time. Having left school, they do not fully appreciate what it means to receive, accept, and fulfil responsibilities at least to the level of leadership. What I propose is a breakdown in structure between primary and secondary, and secondary to upper secondary, in grades 11 and 12. That would enable a far greater degree of diversification in grades 11 and 12, instead of what it is today, something which leads towards matriculation rather than towards the fulfilment of a person's studies at that level.

I mentioned before that the child in 10th grade has come to the stage where he is able to appreciate abstracts but in the educational structure the abstract is not incorporated. By that I mean he is able to see things on a far more objective level. When a child goes into grades 11 and 12 he is expected in history, literature, science and various other fields he studies to appreciate or at least develop the concept of the abstract—what the thought of something is; what the theme is behind something and not merely the mechanics of it; not simply in English knowing what a metaphor or a simile is, or in history knowing what dates events occurred, but to be able to co-ordinate these to understand what theme exists and what thought exists and thereby move into the level of objectivity and bring about that child's intellectual, social and personal development, and, indeed, his cultural development within society. That is why I say it is important that we appreciate that those are the goals, not only for upper secondary but the goals which the Education Department and teachers must pursue throughout the educational structure.

An important point which should not be overlooked is that education consists of various elements which can be broken up into another set of structures dealing with the people themselves. It deals with the students, the teachers, and the school itself in its full administrative structure with headmasters, subject masters and teachers. It also deals with the Government and/or church organisations or independent institutions. One of the elements which have

not been used sufficiently as society has become more educated is the community. As the community broadly, outside of the school structure and outside of academic institutions, is becoming more educated, and as parents in the home are more educated and find that they are not using the capacities they have developed, I think it is important for our educational structure to broaden much more. This will enable far greater participation by the community in the educational structures, that is, in the learning process of the child, and in the use of the educational institutions as public utilities—which they are—not only in the very basic forms of education which schools and adult education offer but also in the use by specific organisations, clubs, groups and societies of school buildings.

Earlier tonight the honourable member for Townsville South cast aspersions upon academics. I am quite certain that in some cases there is a great deal of relevance in what he said. However, I do not view the academics in quite that sense. Academics such as we see them reported in the Press—political scientists and various people within government and history departments—find themselves in a unique position. They have at their fingertips the knowledge of the past and they seem to be able to assume unto themselves a form of divine judgment. They pass judgment upon people in political spheres, in spheres where they must assess public situations—for they must assess the feelings of the times when they have to face people before elections—and academics can say something without accepting any responsibility for it. Far too often today we hear academics—people who because of their intellectual capacity, their learning and their development in the fields of education, history, science, economics, politics and government, are able to look back upon history—say, “That is what happened at that time. This is a damnable situation that we see at the present time.” They can make any statement they like and can have it published in the Press. But if a politician were to come out and say exactly the same thing, he would be condemned for saying it or called upon to bear the brunt and responsibility for having said it. It would do many academics a great deal of good if they would ponder on that fact for some time and realise that there are two separate structures—the academic and the political. Academics are fortunately blessed in not having to accept the responsibility of the themes, theses or statements that they propound.

Finally, I thank the Minister not so much for presenting these Estimates as for the assistance that he has given me in the Belmont electorate. I convey to him the feelings of the various parents and citizens associations in my area at both primary and high school level for the improvements that are slowly coming about in their schools—admittedly through the efforts of the Works

Department as well. No doubt they look forward to continued advances and developments which will lead towards increased capabilities of the child as well as to his personal development and an increase of his awareness of cultural assimilation.

Mr. AHERN (Landsborough) (8.34 p.m.): Over the past 10 years the Queensland Government has afforded its educational programme top priority, and during the last few years the emphasis within the programme has been on innovation. In anybody's terms, tremendous change has occurred within every area of education. One has only to look at our new pre-school programme and to walk into pre-schools to see the wonderful new environment that has been created. This new experiment is rewarding our young people. It is innovative and pioneering in Australia to the extent that it has gone. Other States are grappling to reach the stage that we have reached here in Queensland.

There have also been dramatic changes in the design of classrooms and in a multiplicity of new curricula at pre-school primary, secondary and tertiary levels, which are all examples of tremendous experimentation and innovation and evidence of a wonderfully healthy environment. Our education system has completely embraced innovation and change. It is healthy that a system should be so quick to respond to new research material that has come to it from throughout the world.

Some would say—probably with some validity—that we have accepted change and introduced it too quickly, but I believe that, in toto, it has been very useful indeed. Education is alive in this State, and the department's very dedicated administrators—many of them young people—have sought to implement change at a tremendous rate. I compliment them for it. I believe that the Queensland community appreciate the tremendous efforts that have been made to afford our young people the very best in terms of education amenities and curricula that can be applied to them—the very best in the world.

One has only to look at the speed of introduction of the Radford scheme, which threw aside a generation of tradition overnight in an endeavour to improve the area of secondary education. It has had its problems—there is no doubt about that—and, in the light of experience, some changes are necessary. However, it was embraced quickly because the benefits of it were so obvious to our administrators. They implemented it as quickly as possible so that we might begin to appreciate its benefits.

Our Budget this year showed that something like \$329,000,000 was to be directed from the Consolidated Revenue Fund towards education expenditure in the State—a dramatic increase of 42.8 per cent. That included \$28,400,000 from the Schools Commission. Many people think that we received a tremendous amount of money from the

Federal Government, but that is the extent of it. It included \$5,300,000 in pre-schools and technical education also. On top of that, something like \$51,700,000 is being directed into capital works through the Loan Fund, making this year's over-all budgeted expenditure on education \$381,000,000.

We have again given it top priority. We believe that that is the way the community wants it. But let us face it, the community today is saying, "You are appropriating massive amounts for education. We believe it is right, but we have the feeling generally that in some areas, anyway, there should increasingly be accountability for the tremendous investments." I know, Mr. Hewitt, that at the various associations with which you are connected people come to you saying, "Where is all this money going to? Is it not being wasted in some areas?" In particular, they are asking the tertiary institutes of various types for a greater degree of accountability. They are asking the institutions themselves to talk about where the money is going and to rationalise the expenditure.

I believe that in the future this will be a fact of life. The public will demand a greater accountability for the tremendous public investment now being made in education in one form or another. Educationists and those in responsible positions just have to accept that that is a right and proper attitude for the people to adopt.

However, in this dramatic over-all effort—and in the context of \$381,000,000 out of our Budget, it is dramatic—it does seem to me that the four walls of primary school-rooms are still not getting the emphasis that they need to overcome the problems that exist in Queensland. Whilst our tertiary institutions are wonderful structures of brick, mortar and ponderous architectural design, our primary classrooms—the basic four walls—are not being provided in sufficient quantity to anywhere near overcome the problem that exists.

I have said before that we as a Government should be looking towards appropriating more money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for works of a capital nature. This is what is being done in the Health Department at the moment with money that is coming in from Medibank and other sources. It is being allocated to works that strictly speaking should be financed from loan funds. But the situation is that our loan fund expenditure this year increased by 20 per cent, with 30 per cent inflation in the construction industry, so obviously no headway is being made in terms of increased capital works. Inflation in the construction industry generally is the Achilles heel in our over-all dramatic education programme. The area I see as presenting considerable difficulty is primary school classrooms. The Treasurer has to consider providing money

from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to overcome this problem or we will go backwards in a time of 30 per cent inflation. I think that that is fair comment.

As we have a new Minister for Education—and I wish him well—it is appropriate that, during the debate on his Estimates, we look to the future as he is doing, and consider what has been done in the past. The record is truly magnificent. As I said, let us look to the future and discuss what we might do from here on. I want to offer what I hope is helpful criticism of the Education Department and ask it to think about the future and discuss what is going to happen four or five years from now, keeping in mind the new thrusts of policies that it might be interested in and ought to be interested in.

I know, Mr. Hewitt, that you are personally sympathetic to the view that more thought should be given to bringing our school institutions generally closer to the community in which they exist. I hope, by doing this, we can present a warmer climate for involvement by people in our schools—and I speak of schools at the four levels we have. Schools and their communities are coming together in many other places at a faster rate than in Queensland, and I make particular reference to the United States and other overseas countries.

I suggest that the Minister look at involving the community more closely in its schools and involving the schools more closely in the community. Philosophically there is much to be said for the encouragement of a much greater degree of integration of the schools and the community. I think it would be fair to say that at this stage the department has initiated some minor actions in this direction. But what I am talking about is a much greater involvement, and it will require a much stronger initiative from the Minister involved if it is to really get going on the scale that I believe should exist in the future.

Let us consider the tremendous public investment in completely separate playing fields. Right alongside them or only a few blocks away, there is again massive investment in playing fields, and neither of them is being used at the same time. Tennis courts built at considerable public expense are not being used at night or over the week-ends. There are swimming pools that are not in use at schools, and gymnasiums built at huge expense are closed at times when they could be used not only by children but by adults also.

Libraries are proliferating. Some small communities are struggling to provide up to six libraries. There are libraries at the pre-school, primary school, secondary school, senior citizens' centre, school of arts and the shire council chambers. Surely the best library is one that is large and can make the greatest use of qualified personnel and resources generally. There are school halls

that have a very wide use but which are not fully exploited at present. It is true that they are the responsibility of the school principal and he can allow their use for other purposes, but this is not a complete relationship of the type that I think the community should be moving towards.

More use, too, could be made of classrooms for adult education and general community purposes. There are also areas of land that could be much more effectively used by the community than as school grounds only.

I suggest that the Minister should be considering the construction of a couple of completely new schools designed deliberately to involve the community as well as the children. On the basis of experience in other places, I think that such a pilot scheme would afford the community very many benefits and encourage people to regard the school as their own. Local authorities could be more directly involved than they have been in the past. At the moment they do not become closely involved with schools. Many other groups also could be encouraged to make use of such public amenities which are not merely schools but community assets.

In various communities art centres are being constructed on pieces of land removed from schools. I think that they could be constructed closer to schools. In fact, they could be erected on small pieces of land on school sites excised for that very purpose so that the school, too, could make use of the amenity.

Mr. Wright: What about supervision?

Mr. AHERN: I shall come to that in a minute.

Mr. Wright: National Fitness?

Mr. AHERN: The honourable member mentions National Fitness. Is there any reason why the National Fitness organisation should not make use of school amenities at week-ends? Is there any reason why Scouts, Guides and Cubs should not be able to use these amenities in the public interest? I see no reason why they should not have access to them.

I think that, to bring this situation about, the Minister will have to take the initiative by saying, "This is something that we will deliberately encourage in the future" and then move directly towards it by establishing completely new schools designed specifically for this purpose.

The arguments against this suggestion in the past have been based on security, supervision and the extra risk of vandalism. The Minister knows only too well that there is already a tremendous amount of vandalism in schools. It seems to me that the reason for this is that school amenities are locked away from the community for entire week-ends and for a number of weeks in the year. It seems to me that we are deliberately

creating an environment for vandalism. Let us accept the fact that what I am advocating has been carried on in other communities in Australia and overseas and the arguments against it have not been experienced in those schools.

It has been suggested that the community might refuse to be involved, but this has not been the experience elsewhere either. It has been shown that where this type of thing is initiated, then the community thirsts for it and looks more upon the school as its community school, as its community investment and maintains a closer involvement with it than is the case now in Queensland. On a theoretical basis the words "mass democracy" are a contradiction in terms and I suggest that democracy is best achieved in small situations, and that the best democracy in the world is seen where small communities have vested in them the power to decide their own destinies. That is why greater participation in local government seems to be the order of the day rather than participation in larger governments. Where people are more directly involved with their community school, they seem in this way to have a say in its development, a say in the use of its resources and a say in its future growth, and this is something that is done best by communities generally.

I think the remarks I have made have particular reference to our high schools. I would suggest that in our traditional schools we have tended to isolate adolescents within segregated institutions and that we have joined with the media, the advertisers and the manufacturers of consumer goods to foist a complete self-contained subculture on teenagers which has been basically bad for them. They have lost contact with the community generally, which they really need at that time when they should be more directly involved. They should not be living in an isolated subculture. They should not be able to do this; they should be more directly involved in the community, and one way we can do this is by involving them in a community school. I suggest that in many of our high schools today we could do this, firstly, through an increase in library amenities. Time has run out on me, but I wish to offer that suggestion as a major new initiative that the Minister could valuably take. It is an initiative that seems to be emerging elsewhere in the world, and our Education Department has been ready in the past to respond to new initiatives and innovations. I think we should respond to that and be looking at it in a more intensive way than we are at present.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (9.54 p.m.): As I am not an academic and not very erudite, my speech tonight will be nothing like that of the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt or that of the honourable member for Landsborough, although I agree with the remarks made in the last part of the speech of the honourable member for Landsborough.

An Honourable Member: Belmont.

Mr. JENSEN: Of course, the honourable member for Belmont, not the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt. I hope everyone else could understand him, because I could not. But be that as it may; it is well to have both sides of the story in this Chamber. Now, Mr. Hewitt, you will have just a practical speech from a practical person.

Let me first congratulate this new Minister of ours.

Mr. Wright: What do you want?

Mr. JENSEN: I just want to say that his appointment highlights the paucity of ability of the other Ministers in this Government, or their laziness. When a new Minister like Mr. Bird can take over such a senior portfolio—it should be one of the most senior in the Cabinet—he must have astonishing ability or we have a paucity of ability or a lot of laziness in the rest of the front bench. I congratulate the Minister on doing a mighty job. As the honourable member for Rockhampton said, he has a grip of his portfolio and he is trying his damndest to do the right thing by the Education Department. It is a very senior portfolio and a very difficult one, and the Minister probably is handling it as well as anyone else could. Even though he is not an academic, he still knows what is going on in the field of education.

Let me now bring to the Minister's attention the cost of pre-schools. There has been a great deal of talk about education in the last 10 years. Somebody said that education has progressed so fast that all we have established is universities and pre-schools. Other honourable members have spoken about universities—academics, and the money that has been spent on universities—and what has come out of them. I saw on a television programme a week or two ago a person who had been educated at a university as a scientist who would not take a job as a clerk. If a person goes to the university today, the world owes him a living. He says, "I will not take a job as a clerk. I will go and draw unemployment relief." The person to whom I am referring said that he would not take a job as a clerk because he was trained as a scientist.

I am not as learned as persons such as that. I went to secondary school while the depression was on, and instead of going to the university I took an extension scholarship to do sugar chemistry so that I could get a job quickly. At the first sugar-mill at which I worked, bachelors of science and bachelors of arts were working on the carriers because no other jobs were available for them. When I went to munitions, I worked with hundreds of B.A.s and Bachelors of Science—people who had been working at B.H.P. for £4 a week. B.H.P. was paying them the lowest possible salary and working them 60 hours a week. Similarly, the sugar-mills worked their chemists about 60 hours a week and paid them £4 or £5 a week. I did better work than most of the

B.A.s, and that is recognised in the industry. There were Bachelors of Science in the sugar-mills, and I worked beside them all my life. In munitions, I was in charge of some of them. However, I will not go any further into that.

Today not sufficient jobs are available and too many people are being given a university education. They will not take a job as a clerk, let alone a job as a carrier-hand in a sugar-mill. I suggest, Mr. Hewitt, that we will have to look closely at the number of people we allow to attend universities. It is being said, "If they can't get a job outside, we must find them a job in the Public Service. The world owes them a living."

The honourable member for Landsborough said a little earlier that the Budget allocation for education this year is \$329,000,000, which is, in effect, \$6 a week per head of population in Queensland. In my office I have a report in which the former Minister for Education in New Zealand is quoted as saying, "We must put a stop to the training of academics. It will cost us \$2 a week for each person in New Zealand next year." Yet here we are, in Queensland, paying \$6 a week per head of population for education.

However, I wish to deal particularly with the cost of pre-schools. Not one pre-school built today costs less than \$50,000 for a single unit. Recently the Premier opened a two-unit pre-school at Walkervale, which caters for 25 in each unit morning and afternoon. It was supposed to cost \$90,000; in fact it cost more than \$100,000. One could build a mansion for \$100,000. Yesterday I heard a report on the radio in Bundaberg that the building of a block of flats for \$70,000 had been approved by the council. As I said, pre-schools are being built for from \$50,000 to about \$100,000. They all have carpets in them, and I ask honourable members: what do kids like better than muddy feet and dirty knees? We are providing amenities such as that because they are supposed to be part of our way of life. I suggest that we should get back to taws.

Many schools need new classrooms but cannot get them.

Mr. Frawley: What do you think of demountable classrooms?

Mr. JENSEN: We have not got enough classrooms in quite a number of schools; so we have demountables. Yet we are paying these high costs to establish pre-schools. In my opinion, it is damned ridiculous.

I said in this Chamber a couple of years ago that in America it was suspected that the value of pre-school education was doubtful. I have here a cutting from the Bundaberg "News Mail" of 21 October 1974. It says—

"Research in Sweden had shown that benefits children gained from pre-school education 'faded away' by the time they were eight or nine years old, a Swedish official said in Brisbane yesterday."

The same thing was said in America four years ago. I mentioned it in this Chamber. We are doing what America, Sweden and other countries did 10 years ago. We are moving so fast in this field that we are wasting money hand over fist on pre-schools. I know the value of pre-schools to the little kids. My grandchild is going to a pre-school.

Mr. Frawley: Do you deny them pre-schools?

Mr. JENSEN: No. How many children attend pre-schools? Can the Minister give us the percentage? People like my daughter can take their children to a pre-school for two-and-a-half hours in the afternoon. They have motor-cars, but what about the mother who is out at work? What about the poorer people who have five or six kids and cannot take them to a pre-school? A number of pre-schools have been built throughout the State. I cannot complain about what has been done in my area. Every section of my area has a pre-school. I cannot complain about what was done in Bundaberg. I have looked after Bundaberg, and Bundaberg is going quite well. But I am looking for value. I ask every honourable member to look at the value of pre-schools. My grandchild is going to a pre-school. Another grandchild is not three years old yet. He watches "Playtime" on TV with me in the morning. His mother goes to work. My wife has to look after him every morning. He says to me, "Poppie, come here. Quick, come and sit with me and look at this 'Playtime'. It's good." He gains from watching that. It shows the letters and the figures. It shows the "B's" and the "C's"—"B" for "Branch" and "B" for "Bear", and so on. Little kids learn that sort of thing from TV, if there is a television set in the house. They can go to pre-school if their mother is not working and has the time and facilities for taking them. In a few years' time the Minister will find that the kiddies who have gone to pre-school will not have gained very much apart from the benefit of mixing with other kids. I would rather see the money spent on child-minding centres. Children would gain just as much from them.

Mr. Frawley: That is a typical socialist attitude.

Mr. JENSEN: The experts say that by the time they are eight or nine years old they are not any more advanced than a child who has not had pre-school education. Working mothers can't send their children to a kindergarten or pre-school. They are not all like my daughter, who can drive her child to a pre-school. My grand-daughter went to kindergarten last year. If the money were applied to child-minding centres with some teaching facilities, it would help the working mothers of the State.

I have spoken before about the need for speech therapists and remedial teachers. I ask the Minister not to throw his arms

up in horror. He is racing around getting pre-school teachers and university lecturers, but he can't get speech therapists or remedial teachers. It is generally the poorer class kids who need remedial teachers. Those kids can't attend pre-school. Probably they have not got parents who can teach them to speak correctly. They are the ones who need to be got on to early with remedial teachers. The Minister has told me all about his trouble in this direction. Bundaberg has been squealing for speech therapists and remedial teachers for the last three years. The Minister's programme does not do enough. The syllabus for teacher trainees could be broadened to include subjects associated with remedial teaching. I know that some training is given to teacher trainees, but it is not enough..

Mr. Bird: People of this type are born; you don't make a remedial teacher out of anybody.

Mr. JENSEN: I realise that; but we can find plenty of professors at the university who are supposed to be smart and well educated. Train some of them instead of letting them bludge at the university. There certainly won't be any jobs for them outside.

Mr. Bird: That wouldn't be any good; they wouldn't be interested.

Mr. JENSEN: Maybe not. I raise this matter for argument's sake. Other members have spoken on the effect of this and the cost to the community.

Mr. Frawley: You want people to remain ignorant.

Mr. JENSEN: We certainly have some ignorant persons in this Chamber; but I won't get on to that. The honourable member for Murrumba proves that almost every day. He is ignorance personified.

I appreciate what has been done in Bundaberg, especially at the new technical college, which is to be opened by the Minister in the near future. I remember that a few years ago the Director-General of Education said that the college complex was so big that no-one was game enough to have a crack at starting it. It was claimed that it would be too expensive. Construction was commenced at the time when prices sky-rocketed. Instead of costing \$1,000,000, it cost more than \$2,000,000. It should have been provided years ago. Nevertheless, it is appreciated greatly by the people of Bundaberg.

For years the Bundaberg High School has complained about its play areas and the closure of Berham Street. Much of what has come about is the school's own fault. For years it did everything possible to prevent the erection of the Bundaberg North High School. When the Minister's predecessor asked me which should go first, I replied, "The Bundaberg North High School. Forget about the Bundaberg High

School. It has whinged for years." Now, today, with the new complex it will see the light.

The Minister must take another look at the situation in East Bundaberg. For three years the department has been saying that a school will be built there. In fact recently he wrote to me again concerning the area. The new pre-school is sitting alone on this area, and the primary school should have been erected about two years ago. In 1973 the regional director was reported in the Press as saying that the school was planned and it was hoped to make provision for it in the 1974-75 Budget.

I agree with the honourable member for Landsborough that libraries in schools should be open to the public. For years Bundaberg has argued the case in support of the establishment of a community library. About three years ago the cost of such a library was estimated to be \$150,000; now it is \$300,000. The three high schools in Bundaberg have libraries, and surely on one night of the week a library in one of those schools could be open to the general public. The school of arts library is said to be insufficient.

Mr. Bird: This is something that I am endeavouring to do, and as Mr. Jones will tell you, I raised this matter in Cairns when I opened the new library up there. The principal told me it is open every Wednesday.

Mr. JENSEN: I know the Minister is working on it in the North. However, Bundaberg does not have a free community library. As I say, the libraries at the three high schools could be used until a community library is constructed. The way the council is going, that might take anything from three to five years.

Mr. Bird: I suggest that you carry on and let them use them.

Mr. JENSEN: I am pleased to hear the Minister say that. I am sure we will get somewhere on this matter. I do not wish to go again over every detail concerning education in Bundaberg.

The Minister should look at the cost of pre-schools and compare it with their value. We should not be carried away about pre-schools. We should read what experts in other countries say about their value to the whole community, not just to sections of the community that can afford to send their kids to kindergarten. We should consider the benefit to the poorer members of the community who cannot send them there. We must consider the value of pre-schools to the community as a whole. Are they to be just for the benefit of one section of the community, as kindergartens were?

It is ridiculous in the extreme to spend \$100,000 on one pre-school. A mansion could be built for that. It consists of two open rooms, with a couple of little rooms in between. The Premier was there. He saw it. The small pre-school at Bundaberg East cost \$60,000. A five-bedroom brick

home could be built in Bundaberg for \$60,000 without any trouble, yet we spend that amount on a pre-school. It is all very well for the honourable member for Isis to smile. He was there. His name was put on it. He had nothing to do with it. He never spoke about it. He came into Parliament when the pre-school was built, but still gets his name put on it.

Mr. Frawley: You're only jealous.

Mr. JENSEN: I agree, but this is what goes on.

I hope the Minister will consider the cost of pre-schools.

I know he cannot do as he wishes, because the Works Department is costing him a fortune, the way it is spending the money. The Minister should be doing more for the primary schools that want new classrooms, but he cannot do it when he allows the Works Department to spend \$100,000 on one pre-school. I want him to compare the cost of pre-schools and their value to the community.

Mr. LESTER (Belyando) (9.12 p.m.): I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister on coming out to Pasha last Saturday and opening his first school. I understand that he has opened many school buildings since taking office but that Pasha is the first school that he has opened. It is very pleasing to me to know that the first school the Minister opened is in my electorate. For the information of the honourable member for Murrumba, I was there.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Director-General of Education and his staff for the wonderful assistance they have given me in any education matters I have raised with them. It has been very helpful indeed to see these men and ask their guidance on varying subjects. On different occasions I have had to speak on some aspects of education, and it has been very gratifying to go there and receive their co-operation and assistance.

I might also mention that I have had wonderful co-operation on education matters from all the principals and teachers in my electorate. I should not let this opportunity pass without saying that the work of the janitors, the school cleaners and all other people connected with the schools has been magnificent. I take this opportunity to wish those teachers and principals well who have been transferred from my electorate to other areas and to thank them for the job they have done while they have been in the Belyando area.

The convent schools should not go without mention. Sometimes we tend to overlook their efforts. In my area we have convents at Emerald, Alpha, Clermont and Collinsville. We have the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Presentation Order of Sisters. They are doing a magnificent job in teaching their young students

the finer points of life. I express publicly my appreciation—and the appreciation of the Education Department, in so far as I am able to—for the work they are doing.

I should now like to mention the work done by parents and citizens' associations. Various moves of different sorts have been made to have the Government fully sponsor parents and citizens' associations. The suggestion is that the Government pay fully for the recommendations that the associations put forward, provided they are approved by the Education Department. I would not support this idea. The p. and c. associations do a magnificent job and it is appreciated. But if the Government fully sponsored all the suggestions they make a certain amount of the pride and functions of the p. and c. associations would fall by the wayside.

It is important in life, if we are after something, that we make a little bit of effort and put something into it. If the Government fully sponsored p. and c. association activities, it would do away with the need for fetes and various other fund-raising activities, yet it is at those fund-raising activities that a great spirit of teamwork and co-operation is generated between principals, teachers, parents and children.

Let us keep going with the present situation of subsidising the p. and c. associations. In that way we are all involved; everybody is doing a little bit and the Government, the parents and citizens' associations and the public are helping the schools. When people are involved in spending a small amount of money to help their local school, they regard it as an investment. I am sure that everything goes much better for it. The p. and c. associations play a very important role in Queensland. They are a type of nerve centre for the teachers, the children and the parents and they help to co-ordinate the thinking that is not put to the Minister by school principals.

Mr. Frawley: If they are non-political.

Mr. LESTER: That is something for the honourable member to raise. I am sure that he is quite capable of doing it.

Mr. Marginson: You are upstaging him a little bit.

Mr. LESTER: I cannot help it if I have a certain ability that the Labor Party recognises. I thank the honourable member very much.

School tuckshops have been mentioned and what I say is mainly for the benefit of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who wanted to know what I thought of them. Tuckshops are a branch of the parents and citizens' associations. Most of the ladies go to the tuckshops every Monday. This again engenders community spirit, with the mothers getting together and serving the children and so involving themselves with work for the school. I am sure that we all benefit and that the kiddies, by buying food from

the tuckshop, are making an investment in the welfare of their school. Let us not do away with tuckshops; let us have them bigger and better.

Sometimes I wonder where we are going with education. In the olden days many people had all sorts of diseases. Hospitals were much bigger and people got sick more readily and stayed in hospital much longer. Over the years, with improvements in education, we have produced scientists who are capable of curing most of those diseases.

However, through the very momentum of education we have created all sorts of other problems in our world. The cancer rate has increased. Because of the high level of living made possible by our being educated better and knowing how to move faster, our bodies suffer certain tensions and many more people die of heart disease now than in early days. Many of the people who do not die of heart disease and cancer are killed in motor-cars, which again are an invention of educated people.

These are a few sobering thoughts to make us wonder where we are going with education. We are certainly making achievements in some ways but on the other hand nature has its way of bringing things back to normal. The number of people killed by motor-cars, cancer and heart disease in recent years far outnumbers those killed by those causes in the early part of this century.

I sometimes wonder how much further we are going. Man has invented television and ways in which to produce better films. But for some reason all sorts of things seem to be brought into films that make them perhaps not as good as they might be. There is a very great amount of violence on television and in films generally. Some films such as "Clockwork Orange" could scarcely come within the realm of education.

Mr. Jensen: What about sex in films?

Mr. LESTER: Yes, I might mention "R" films. Sex and violence are producing many problems in the community. Things have changed in Australia, and people have shown that they are becoming more violent. I firmly believe that much of the violence in the community today is done by people who have seen violence on television. Then there were the events of last Wednesday when a letter bomb was mailed to the Premier. I make no mention of who might have sent it. The fact is, however, that this act was probably generated by seeing some form of violence in films.

In these days of greater educational opportunities and increased knowledge, it is a fact that more marriages are going on the rocks than before. The marriage breakdown rate throughout the world is higher today than it has ever been. The incidence of V.D. is higher than ever before. Many more people cannot be trusted, as they could be in the old days. In spite of increased opportunities for education and new education methods,

we cannot even run our world properly. We have inflation, which we never had before, and people do not have the purchasing power that they used to have. There is an increase in the number of suicides. I found out only the other day that one person had committed suicide in my electorate. I am sure that this was not the result of frustration because of the representation given by the member for Belyando!

Let us look a little further into where we are going with education today. I believe that women are entitled to the utmost respect, but respect for women has deteriorated greatly in recent times. Today women are often leered at and they are prompted to use language unbecoming most women. Unfortunately much of this behaviour stems from the universities. When one reads university magazines, one wonders how really educated university students are. One becomes particularly concerned when one realises that these are the people who will run our country in the future.

I am not making these comments to have a go, as it were, at anybody. I am merely trying to point out that we have much to learn in the field of education and that we are not achieving the results that we would like to achieve. We may have beautifully prepared reports before us, but the fact remains that things are getting worse rather than better.

I think that we will have to have a hard look at generating, through the education system, the real quality of life, and bringing back the goodness in people to make them decent, hard-working citizens. If we in Australia could all be normal, good natured and hard working, our country would be much better off.

I represent an area that contains a number of small country schools. There is a tendency among some people to think that, because a person attended a small country school, he did not have the advantages that he might have had if he had attended a large city school.

Let us just look a little further at some of the people who have made good after attending a country school. Sir Donald Bradman, one of the world's greatest cricketers, went to a small country school in New South Wales for part of his education. Doug Walters also went to a small country school. Yvonne Goolagong, who was possibly one of the greatest ambassadors Australia has even had—possibly a greater ambassador than many of the paid ambassadors we have—also went to a country school.

An Honourable Member: What about Vince Lester?

Mr. LESTER: That is just taken for granted. Sir Robert Menzies, one of the greatest statesmen we ever had went to a small country school at Jeparit in Victoria before he went

on to complete his education at Scots College in Melbourne. It was Sir Robert Menzies who was called upon to try to settle the Suez crisis in 1956. He was chosen from all the world leaders to go and arbitrate on those problems. It is wonderful to think that it was his efforts, together with the efforts of many others, which helped to avoid a third world war. When we look back at his background, we find that he was educated for part of his life at a small country school. Our Co-ordinator-General, Sir Charles Barton, received part of his education at none other than the Clermont State School. That is why we have such a good Co-ordinator-General. To take this argument a little further—the late Merv Belshore, who became the starter at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, received his education at the Clermont State School.

Mr. Hanson: Did Des Frawley get a start down there?

Mr. LESTER: Yes; he started me in many of my races.

That is the background of some of the people educated at country schools who have done well. There tends to be a certain amount of snobbery among the better educated people of the world. I do not mean this in a nasty fashion, but it does seem to be the case. So let us just have a look at the role of tradesmen for a few minutes. Let us not forget the important part that tradesmen play in the world today. Let us just consider the house in which we live. The roof, the pipes and the toilet were all installed by a plumber. The frame of the house was erected by a carpenter. The lights, the refrigerator, the air-conditioning if we have it, and the wireless were all installed by an electrician. The patio at the front of the house in which we live—and if we do not have a house in which to live, it is pretty rough—was erected by a bricklayer or a cement man. Then we go outside and look at our motor-car. That car does not go unless it has been serviced by a mechanic or an auto-electrician. So tradesmen play a pretty responsible part in those two important aspects of our life, where we live and how we get to and from where we live. We should then look at the transport of goods into country areas. This is done by truck, bus, train, etc. Fitters and turners, mechanics, and a lot of other people are connected with keeping our transport vehicles rolling. Some very important people in the State have been tradesmen at some stage or other during their lives. None other than our Health Minister, Dr. Edwards, was an electrician before he became a doctor. Our Deputy Director-General of Education, Mr. Gilmour, was an electrician and I understand the Minister for Education was an electrician. So there we have three of the most important men in this State, three of the men who hold the highest positions in the State, who were tradesmen.

Mr. Wright: What about the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. LESTER: What was he?

Mr. Wright: An electrician.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. LESTER: If the Leader of the Opposition was an electrician, I will include him in that list.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is not obliged to take all the interjections.

Mr. LESTER: I thank you for your guidance, Mr. Miller.

I wish to go a little further and comment on the discipline problem that appears to have arisen in schools today. The Minister is of the opinion that discipline is no worse today than it was years ago, but I firmly believe that we should not be too easy on children attending school. In my opinion, a little bit of paddy-whack-the-drum-stick when a child does anything wrong will not do it any harm. In fact, a good whack on the tail would solve many of the discipline problems in schools today. I do not mean that children should be really hurt, but discipline certainly is needed.

Mr. Wright: What was the greatest number of cuts you ever got?

Mr. LESTER: I was never out of strife.

Mr. Wright: You were disciplined.

Mr. LESTER: Yes, and now I am the hardest-working member in the Chamber, which is recognised by members of the Government and members of the Opposition alike. I was disciplined when I was younger, and I had to work hard to get where I did at school. If I did not toe the line, I was given the cuts. I think now that I am a better man for it. What is more, when I was given the cuts I deserved them, and I make no apology for saying that.

(Time expired).

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (9.32 p.m.): Total expenditure from all sources in this State for the year 1975-76 is expected to be \$1,400 million. Of that, the Vote for Education and Cultural Activities will be \$329,000,000, or about 23½ per cent. That is far and away the largest single Vote of any to which honourable members have to apply themselves in the debate on the Estimates. It exceeds the Vote for the railways by about \$50 million, and it even exceeds the Health Vote by a massive \$114,000,000.

The Education Department employs a work-force of 22,849, including 20,877 school-teachers. In such a tremendous department with such wide ramifications, the administrative problems facing those who work in it must be enormous. The questions of staff training, staff placement and staff transfer would in themselves challenge the wisdom of a Solomon. If one considers also the constant forward planning of curricula that must be undertaken and the development of educational processes, one can understand the challenges faced by, in particular, those who work in research.

One hears much talk about new techniques that are constantly embraced by a developing educational system. Of course, the National-Liberal Government has been to the forefront in new developments in recent years. Queensland was the first State to propound the theories of the Radford scheme. Other States were prepared to let Queensland experiment. We showed them the way, and they then followed our lead. It is rather ironic that Queensland's critics in the South often refer to this as a backward State, whereas in many fields, and particularly in the field of education, Queensland is to the forefront. However, I would hope that those who work in research and consider new teaching techniques would not be in too big a hurry to abandon old techniques, because many of them are tried, tested and true. In fact, those who were in a great hurry to abandon the rote system are now finding that even such an old system as that still has a place in the field of education. I am told that there is increasing recourse once again to the rote system.

I see these Estimates as a legislator, as a parent and as one who, for four years, was president of a parents and citizens' association. I certainly do not see them as an educationist. I almost join that dignified company to which the honourable member for Belyando referred as having had a minimum of formal education. For better or worse, I am one of those who did not go past primary school. My place of learning was the Windsor State School.

Mr. Moore: A good school, too.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: One of these days my good friend from Windsor is going to take me on a sentimental journey back. Maybe I can still find the carved initials somewhere about the place.

Admitting those deficiencies, I pose the question: what is the purpose of education? There might be those who would say, "It is a pretty trite question. The purpose of education is to educate the children." But to educate them for what? Learning in itself is of very little value unless people know how to use it and how to apply it to the challenges of life as they come along. I am sure that I can speak for every member of the Committee when I say that I have met people

who have been educated to the nth degree but who were totally uninspiring, totally lacking in personality and totally lacking in the ability to use the knowledge they had acquired.

Dr. Crawford: Common sense.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: Lacking in common sense, as my friend from Wavell so rightly points out. I have known people with degrees as long as your arm, but give them a challenge and an opportunity to use that learning in practical terms, and they are lost. In contrast, I have met people with the most rudimentary education who still drop their "h's" and "g's", and do not express themselves very well, but when there is a bargain to be fought over or a deal to be considered they know the "ifs" and "buts" and can propound them pretty well. They have all the common sense in the world. We must never make the mistake of thinking that a mere formal education in itself produces the complete man. It is how that education is used. I should hope that the educational theorists apply themselves to this problem occasionally. How is the education to be used? There in itself is something of a challenge.

Certainly education techniques have undergone great change in the last 10 to 20 years. Most of that change has been highly desirable. There has been a notable change in the relationship between pupil and teacher. The days of the harsh disciplinarian have gone. There is a sensible, useful dialogue these days between the teacher and the pupil. The pupil is encouraged to work for himself, to find things out by himself and to toil independently. That is all to the good. If these processes have led to a relaxation of the disciplinarian attitude, on too many occasions they have led to a complete breakdown of discipline. I won't have a bar of that. While I believe that this new relationship between teacher and pupil is healthy, I also believe that the teacher has a right to the respect that his position demands, and I think importantly he has the complete right to exercise discipline, and that discipline must be accepted and respected. It is a sad fact that too many teachers these days do not receive the proper back-up from principals when they try to exert proper discipline. When principals are questioned about this, they seem to be a little tentative on two grounds—firstly, and lamentably, because parents too often take the side of the child instead of taking the side of the teacher, and, secondly, because they worry about how much backing they can depend upon from the department. There is a chain reaction here. A young teacher who in good faith has disciplined a kiddie and sent that kiddie to the principal only to find that the principal has not given him the appropriate back-up will be reluctant to apply that same degree of discipline a second time. We see the start of the breaking-up process.

There is no doubt in my mind that the department must indicate to principals quite clearly that reasonable disciplinary processes will be supported. The world at large—the parents—should try a little harder to back up the teachers when they find it necessary to apply discipline.

One should be careful about generalising on these things, because, if there is too much harshness, certainly parents are entitled to some recourse. The occasions on which I find too much harshness are rare indeed; almost without exception right is on the side of the teacher because the child has been intractable, troublesome, or otherwise disruptive. I emphasise again that, while we encourage a healthy and sensible dialogue between teacher and pupil, we must insist on the teacher's right to discipline a child and we must insist on the teacher's right to have proper respect extended to him. We lose teachers because they are disillusioned, but more importantly we make the first down payment on the ultimate disintegration of the entire system as we know it.

Those who have looked at the American scene, on which armed guards have to be present at schools and on which young female teachers are often in danger of assault or rape by senior students, cannot help thinking that when that situation arrives we are late in the day. We have to guard against that sort of thing.

Mr. Jensen: It will come.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: It won't come.

Mr. Jensen: It will come here. We follow the American pattern.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: The honourable member is a prophet of doom. If we establish and maintain the relationships I have touched upon, there is no reason why it should come.

It is inevitable that in talking about disruptive elements in the classrooms we should consider the minimum school-leaving age. I believe the age of 15 years is a reasonable one, and I would be reluctant to have an across-the-board reduction of that age. But I do not believe in applying it inflexibly. When there is a youngster who has not reached the age of 15 years, who is totally disruptive, who is not absorbing one damned thing from one day to another and who is only filling in time until he gets to the age of 15, I am more concerned about the adverse influence he is having on the other youngsters in the class than I am about him. Let him leave before he reaches the age of 15 years. I have on occasions found it necessary to make representations on this matter to this Minister's predecessor, and I am pleased to say that they met with the sympathy they deserved.

Mr. Moore: If they wake up when they are older, they can come back and have another go.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: That is very true.

I have spoken about the rights of teachers with regard to discipline and respect. It is timely to make some reference to the teaching profession. I am bound to say that by and large quite overwhelmingly the teachers in this State do a good job for the service. My own relationship with the many teachers in my electorate is very cordial and very good. I enjoy a happy dialogue with them and have very little complaint or criticism to offer about any one of them. However, some teachers are completely hopeless—hopeless at discipline, hopeless at communication and hopeless at professional expertise. We wonder how they ever got through the teachers' college. The best a member can do in those circumstances is to try to have such a teacher transferred, which achieves not a thing. It solves the problem in the school about which he is concerned, but transfers that teacher to another school, where the problem is repeated. That is not good enough.

I have always lamented the fact that it is almost impossible these days to sack a public servant. We have reached that silly stage in our development. Likewise, it seems extremely difficult to sack a school-teacher. That is a form of nonsense, too. I am not saying that this should be done lightly; but, if a teacher in his early days—maybe in his first year out at the college—is clearly not measuring up, perhaps he should be offered the opportunity of further training. If he does not respond there, he should be offered employment opportunity where he is not confronting children. If that is to no avail, reluctantly but realistically he should be told, "We are sorry, but we have to part company." Under all circumstances, the primary consideration is not the teacher; it is the children. If we keep that very much in mind, we will be a little more realistic about it.

Dr. Crawford: Do you think the head-master should have more autonomy?

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: I am not saying the head-master should have autonomy in choosing his staff.

Dr. Crawford: Should he have more say? He has none now.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: He has little say; that is true. I think that would be some progress indeed.

I emphasise again that my comments should not be interpreted as a criticism of the teaching profession. I respect that profession very highly indeed. But I do say that, on those rare occasions when a teacher is clearly not equal to the task, we should have the courage to say so.

If one is talking about the teaching profession, it is a sad commentary also that too many, particularly the male of the species, find their way into the teaching profession as a last alternative. When other

doors are shut to them, they then say, "I will take up teaching." Somehow or other, the profession of teaching has to be so elevated that people will be attracted to it in the first instance. When we have that appeal, the department can be more selective and determine which people appear to have the makings of good teachers and then channel others in another direction.

There is certainly one sphere of education about which this Government has grounds to be proud. When I came into the Parliament some 9½ years ago, one of the matters of constant contention was the teacher-pupil ratio. I well remember the agitation in my own electorate and the agitation in Parliament. The Teachers' Union in those days was particularly vocal about what it considered to be unwieldy ratios. The issue is defused. Who in the Chamber tonight can recall the last occasion when anyone found it necessary to lament about teacher-student ratios? They cannot, because it has been under control for so long.

Looking at the ratio, we find that in 1968 the ratio in primary schools was 29.5. In 1975 it is down to 21.7. In secondary schools in 1968 the ratio was 20.6. In this current year it is 15. The over-all ratio in 1968 was 26.4, but it has fallen this year to 19. So by any fair basis of judgment at all that is one of the many success stories that this Minister can be very proud about.

The matter of State aid has to a great extent been defused. It seems to be the attitude of all parties now that there should be State aid. It is a matter of some satisfaction to me that the Labor Party, federally in particularly, changed its attitude and it now believes in State aid and makes State aid available—although I am bound to say that I think there are still those strong undercurrents in the Labor Party—again, federally—that would happily abandon State aid.

As one who chose to educate his own children at State schools—and I have no regret for it—I believe very strongly in State aid, and I take pride in what this Government has done in that field. There is an obligation on a Government to educate or help to educate children at all levels. If their parents choose, as they are entitled to choose, to send them to private schools, that do not thereby opt out of the right to have assistance from the State. Those people who send their children to private schools make very real sacrifices and they accept them gladly. They pick up the tab. Many wives are going to work for this reason—to put their children through private schools or church schools. That is their business. But certainly it would be a sorry day if a State did not accept its obligations in this regard.

Once again, turning to State expenditure on non-State schools, the Government has more than accepted its responsibilities. In

the year 1968-69 its expenditure on non-State schools was \$2,890,000. For the current year it is estimated that its expenditure will be \$13,230,000—a very hefty movement and a clear indication that we have not only recognised our obligation but maintained that financial obligation as costs have risen.

Notwithstanding this assistance which has been forthcoming, a number of private schools are still in a very parlous financial position. In the main this is so of those that entered into heavy capital commitments, undertaking to service those capital commitments at a known rate of interest. The hike of interest rates over the past few years has imposed enormous challenges and problems on those schools. I speak knowledgeably about the San Sisto Convent in the electorate of Chatsworth—the electorate at Camp Hill where the air is a little fresher and the grass a little greener.

Because of these problems of interest rates, the Diocese of Brisbane has found it necessary to offer assistance to this convent. I know that the Government cannot accept all of these obligations, but I hope that it remains sympathetic to the problems of private schools.

(Time expired.)

Progress reported.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (10.53 p.m.): I move—

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

This Bill represents a major reform and a progressive step forward in the law relating to residential tenancies. It effects a complete separation between the law applicable to industrial and commercial tenancies and that applicable to residential tenancies. This has enabled its provisions to deal specifically with matters concerning the residential landlord and tenant relationship and matters which are peculiar to residential premises.

The Bill generated a good deal of debate following its introduction and several honourable members sought clarification of various provisions contained in the Bill. The answers to most of these questions are readily apparent upon a close examination of the Bill and I trust that those honourable members have now considered the Bill in detail and found the answers to these questions.

The Leader of the Opposition has raised a question concerning the rights of people who occupy rented caravans and who hire caravan sites. The Bill is restricted in its application to tenancies of dwelling-houses and I would draw attention to the definition

of the term “dwelling-house”. The position of a person who occupies a caravan in a caravan park is similar to that of a lodger in a boarding-house where the lodger is a mere licensee and not a tenant because the relationship of landlord and tenant is not created. The essential test for such a relationship to arise is that there must be the grant of a right to the exclusive possession of land for a determinate term less than that which the grantor has himself in the land.

The question of security deposits or tenancy bonds has been canvassed in some detail. The Bill does not contain any provisions relating to this matter. Last year the Small Claims Tribunals Act was amended to permit a tenant to make a claim in the tribunal in respect of any dispute with a landlord concerning a security deposit. To date approximately 365 claims relating to security deposits have been lodged. I might mention that the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia presented a report on tenancy bonds in January this year. That commission recommended that the course which was adopted in Queensland be implemented in that State and the Small Claims Tribunals Act in Western Australia was subsequently amended.

It has been generally accepted that there is considerable scope for clarifying and standardising the respective obligations of landlords and tenants. The Bill seeks to do this and implies certain rights and duties which will attach and be part of every tenancy entered into after 1 December this year.

It will be noted that the standard that a landlord will be required to provide and maintain for a dwelling-house and fixtures, fittings, goods and chattels let with the dwelling-house is “good tenantable repair”. These words have been judicially defined over the centuries and mean generally such repairs as, having regard to the age, character and locality of the house, would make it reasonably fit for the occupation of a reasonably minded tenant of the class who would be likely to take it.

There is also an implied obligation on the part of the landlord to allow the tenant quiet enjoyment of the dwelling-house. This obligation gives the tenant the right to be put into possession of the whole of the premises demised and to recover damages from the landlord if the landlord physically interferes with the tenant's enjoyment of the dwelling-house. The obligation is not one for “quiet enjoyment” in an acoustic sense. The landlord is under an obligation not that the tenant will be free from the nuisance of noise, for which the tenant has the ordinary remedy in tort, but that he will be free from disturbance by the exercise of adverse rights over the property by, for example, trying to drive out the tenant by persistent threats, or inflicting physical discomfort on him by cutting off his gas or electricity or removing windows or doors.

Under the common law, if a tenancy agreement is silent as to the assignment, subletting or parting with possession of the premises, the tenant has the right to assign or sublet without the landlord's consent. This was firmly established in England nearly 200 years ago. Accordingly, it is common for many leases or tenancy agreements to contain a covenant against assignment or subletting which is either absolute or subject to a proviso that consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

The provisions of the Bill will alter the common law rule and provide that a tenant may only assign or sublet the whole or part of the dwelling-house where the landlord consents in writing to the proposed assignment or subletting. Where the tenancy is for a fixed term of six months or longer, the landlord will not be permitted to unreasonably withhold his consent to a proposed assignment or subletting of the whole of the dwelling-house. However, the Bill makes it clear that the landlord has an absolute right to withhold his consent in respect of any proposed subletting of part of the dwelling-house or any proposed assignment or subletting under any tenancy which is not for a fixed term of six months or longer. These provisions will not alter any contractual provisions under an existing tenancy and will apply only to tenancies created after 1 December.

I have already explained in some detail the provisions of the Bill relating to the termination of tenancies and the summary recovery of possession of dwelling-houses.

Forms for use under the Bill have been drafted and it is proposed to prescribe these forms by regulation as soon as possible.

The Bill is the result of an attempt to redefine the relationship of landlord and tenant along more realistic lines. It has been designed to recognise the interests of both parties and it provides an efficient means whereby both can have their rights enforced. I am confident that both landlords who are engaged in a legitimate venture of letting houses or flats and tenants who are responsible and mindful of their rights and duties will benefit greatly from this legislation.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (10 p.m.): The aim of the legislation before the House is to upgrade and clarify the law as it relates to landlords and tenants, and now having had time to study this legislation I doubt very much if it is going to be welcomed with great joy by thousands of tenants in the State. Because there are some major improvements here, it would be wrong to say—in fact, unfair to say—that some of the aspects of the proposed legislation are not advances on the present law. It does achieve that degree of certainty that has certainly been required in this law. Both parties will now know where they stand just because of the provisions that we have

in Part II, because here we find the obligations of both the landlord and the tenant clearly stated. The responsibilities are set out for all to see.

As one reads through the Bill it is somewhat refreshing to see provisions that will ensure that from now on the landlord must maintain the premises, the fixtures, fittings and the goods and chattels in a certain condition. I know of many cases that have been brought to my notice of landlords who have refused to repair stoves. They have refused to do anything about hot-water systems or appliances that have played up. They have refused to replace broken window panes or steps that are unsafe. I have seen faulty electrical points that the tenant could do nothing about and the landlord was not prepared to repair. In another case I know of, the roof leaked like a sieve, and in another the doors could not be locked, but no action was ever taken. These places were unsafe and certainly not fit for human habitation. I found, too, that when the repairs were carried out they were done in a haphazard and second-rate fashion. Some of these landlords were too mean to employ a first-rate carpenter and often they would get a backyard man to do it.

So we have these improvements, and it is important that there is an obligation upon the landlord to keep the premises in a reasonable condition.

Mr. Dean: There is an obligation on the tenant to do the right thing.

Mr. WRIGHT: We know that, and it should be so. Previously, unless there was a written tenancy agreement under which the landlord agreed to maintain the premises, the tenant had no rights against him. Now at least the tenant can insist that the premises be maintained in good and reasonable repair, or, as the Bill says, "A condition fit for human habitation." I wonder if our legal eagles, our lawyers, are going to have some interesting clashes in the months and years ahead as they endeavour to determine exactly what we in this Chamber see as being conditions fit for human habitation. Apparently in England it is clearly defined and standards of human habitation are set down. I would like to hear the Minister explain what he believes are fit conditions for a person to live in.

Mr. Marginson: He might have one standard for one and another standard for someone else.

Mr. WRIGHT: I think he might endeavour to be fair and reasonable in this instance, although, when we come back to the law, what is "reasonable".

I think we have to accept that the Bill is an improvement and is in the interests of the tenants. But if one looks also at the responsibilities of the tenants, as the honourable member for Sandgate mentioned, it is sudden death for the tenant who fails

to meet some of his obligations—for instance, the obligation to pay rent—because it says, “After seven days if your rent is overdue you are out”, and that is what it comes back to. So if one wants to balance the rights of both parties it is clear that the advantage in the main would be with the landlord.

Mr. Moore: Why do you say that?

Mr. WRIGHT: I will come back to that in a moment. I have said that this is how it should be. After all, it is the landlord's property. He has thousands of dollars invested and it is important that we protect his property. We know, too, from the experience of those who have rented homes, how very easily they can get knocked around. We know that there are tenants—unfortunately, a large number of them—who do not always care or give a damn for the things that they do not own and so there have to be certain powers and certain rights for the landlord. We also have to encourage investment in accommodation because of the present accommodation crisis, which has been caused partly by the State not carrying out its responsibility and providing enough Housing Commission homes or accommodation for aged persons. We have to get those in the private sector to invest in this important area and they are not going to invest unless there is a return on their money and unless their investment is protected. So we are aiming somewhat for maximum protection for the landlord, and I will say that it could be argued this way.

We accept also that the landlord should have the right of entry, and the Bill makes special provision for that. He has the right to go in to repair the premises. He has the right to take in a prospective purchaser or another person who wishes to rent the premises. He has the right to inspect the premises and carry out requirements imposed upon him by local authorities. These are all acceptable, and no-one queries the right of entry or the reasons that are set down in the Bill for the right of entry.

However, I think there could be some debate on the notice to be given under the Bill. Notice has to be given in writing other than in exceptional circumstances, such as a need to protect the dwelling or in the interests of the tenant himself, but a warning period is not required. The Bill simply says “at reasonable times”, and the Minister stated in his introductory speech that that means in daylight hours. One notices that the Bill in fact says “after reasonable notice in writing”.

The previous Act provided for 48 hours' notice. That may have been too long, but I cannot see why it should be cut down to no definite, determined period. Surely it is not too much to ask a landlord, except in exceptional circumstances, to give due notice in writing to the tenant that he intends to

enter with other persons. For example, the landlord may desire to go into premises at 8 o'clock in the morning. To many people, that may seem a reasonable time. However, it certainly could be unreasonable and embarrassing to a tenant. For instance, it may be embarrassing to a housewife if the house is untidy. I am sure that many members of Parliament who have called on constituents early in the morning have received apologies for the condition of the house.

Mr. Hanson: She may be having a birdie bath.

Mr. WRIGHT: That may be so, too. She is not prepared in that sense. In fact, she might be in her night attire. As one drives to work in the morning, one sees women, even as late as 9 o'clock, standing on verandahs talking with dressing gowns on. So, although it may be reasonable for the landlord to go at 8.30 in the morning, it may be unreasonable for the tenant to have a landlord come in at that time, other than for a very important reason.

Under the Act, it may be interpreted that reasonable notice means receiving a letter or something in writing from the landlord at 8 o'clock to say that he is coming in at half past 8, and there is nothing to the contrary in the Bill. In my opinion, simply saying “reasonable notice” is not good enough and there should be some set period. I shall be looking at an amendment to provide for 24 hours' notice.

The harshest criticism comes back to another right of the landlord—and I will not refer to the clause, Mr. Speaker, because this is the second-reading debate—that is, the right to increase the rent. In 1974, a decision of the Supreme Court created a number of problems for the landlord. It virtually said that the landlord could not vary the rent. If he wanted to increase the rent, he had to terminate the tenancy by notice to quit and then offer the tenant a new tenancy at the increased rent. Landlords often found that, unless special provision was made in the tenancy to exclude section 18 of the Act, they were in a very difficult position when trying to terminate a tenancy or increase the rent.

No-one questions the right of a landlord to increase the rent, but that should not be an unfettered right or power. I accept that there is a need to improve these rights; but surely it is wrong, unfair and unreasonable to say that the landlord should have the power to increase the rent every month. In theory, that is what this provision could mean. It says very clearly that he simply has to give one month's notice in writing. That means that every month the landlord could come along on the last day of the tenancy when the rent is due and say, “In one month's time the rent goes up.” At the end of that month he could again come along and say, “In one month's time the rent goes up. It may be difficult for him to get 12 increases in a year, but there

would not be any difficulty in an unscrupulous landlord's getting 10 variations of rent in a 12-month period. That is totally unreasonable.

Let us look at commercial leases. Naturally, they contain review clauses, and many of them have a common formula applying the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. Many lawyers who draw up the leases write in such a provision. However, it will be noticed that both parties have some say. No unilateral decision takes place. In the case of commercial enterprises, the landlord does not simply say, "The rent will go up." I do not believe that it should happen to the ordinary tenant.

Why one month? That has not been explained. I cannot see the reason for it. The Minister did not give any grounds for it when he introduced the Bill. I believe he has an obligation to the Assembly and to every tenant in the State to explain his motives and reasons for it. I think there should be a notice of increase, but at longer intervals. Why not three months? Why not make it that the minimum notice is three months? That way there could be four variations in a year. Surely that is too many, anyway! At least that would be better than one month's notice. Perhaps a tribunal should be set up to determine what rent increases should be. Perhaps some equitable formula should be laid down, as we have with commercial leases. At the moment the Bill is weighted in favour of the landlord, and unnecessarily so. Let us keep in mind what the Bill says. It could be that a landlord is determined to get rid of a tenant, so he says, "In one month's time the rent is going to go from \$30 a week to \$100 a week." The law will mean that if the tenant does not vacate within that time, he will be up for the increased rent. Surely that is wrong. Surely it is unfair for the landlord, regardless of the investment he has made, to be able to do that. Although he may have inflationary costs to meet, and local authority rates may go up, he is not faced with the increased charges that could be placed on a tenant.

A comparison can be made with leases on equipment. Rental charges for any type of equipment under lease are not just put up like that. This is a rental arrangement whereby a person has access and use of the lessor's equipment for a certain period of time. The lessee of equipment has obligations to look after the equipment. If he damages it, he must pay for its repair. But two weeks or a month after he leases office equipment, equipment or machinery, he is not told, "We are going to vary the lease in one month's time." That does not happen in private enterprise, so why should it happen here? The Opposition intends to oppose that clause, but not by way of division because it is a rather useless exercise when it comes to numbers. We believe it is totally wrong and we will oppose it in debate. There is an obligation on Government members to

explain why they believe it is fair and reasonable for tenants to have to face monthly increases, and why they believe the tenants should have to put up with rights of entry without some type of notice.

I accept the other improvements such as the right to assign and sublet. I accept the notice to quit within 14 days. Those are improvements, and the Minister is to be commended for them, but there are areas, other than those I have just spoken about, that are not fair. I notice that, when a summons is issued for recovery of possession, the tenant has only five days in which to enter an appearance to show cause why he should not hand over the property. Five days! I wonder what that really means in essence. It could happen on a Friday. Leaving out the Saturday and Sunday brings it down to three days. Surely that is not fair. Why five days? Why not seven days? Why not two weeks? These things have to be explained.

I intend to ask a number of questions in the Committee stage. Although I welcome the desire of the Minister to upgrade the law to protect both the landlord and the tenant, I think he has gone over the fence in some instances. He has weighted the Bill too much in favour of the landlord, and unreasonably so. I am not sure exactly what his reasons are, but I am very interested to hear his reasons for all the points I have raised.

Mr. LOWES (Brisbane) (10.14 p.m.): The Minister is to be congratulated on the Bill. It is legislation that has come about after a great deal of research, and a Bill that complements the Property Law Act 1974 which comes into effect on 1 December this year. A great deal of work has been done in comparing the Bill with the law which applies in other States of Australia, in fact throughout the world, particularly in North America and England. Not all other countries and States have the circumstances that exist here in Queensland. We are, to our credit, in a somewhat peculiar position.

In commending the Minister, I do so on behalf of many of the electors of Brisbane, which is an electorate made up of dormitory suburbs where a large number of people live in tenancy and where the rules and law of landlord and tenant operate. For these people this law is something of a godsend, particularly having regard to the somewhat uncertain law that exists in the Termination of Tenancy Act of 1970. In the future we will look back on the years 1974 and 1975, to use the language of the wine industry, as good years. A spate of legislation has been introduced by the Minister for the benefit of the people at large. We as a Government have the welfare of the people at heart, and legislation such as this benefits the people as a whole, not merely one section of the community. This is so particularly in the electorate of Brisbane.

As I say, 1974 and 1975 will be regarded as good years, years somewhat comparable to 1867, when, too, there was a spate of law. At that time the State of Queensland was in its formative years, without a Labor Opposition and even without a Labor Party—which is probably one of the reasons why things were so good then. The laws that existed at that time were so good that they remained in force for many years. The law relating to landlord and tenant was the Summary Ejectment Act of 1867, which lasted throughout the years of office of various Governments of different persuasions until 1948, and without any alteration. That was a law that had as its sole purpose the speedy recovery of premises that were unlawfully held over by tenants. It made no provision at all for the terms or creation of tenancies, nor did it make any provision at all for rent control or such things as bonds, which we now hear about. Nevertheless it was a good law and lasted without amendment for 80 years.

By 1948, however, circumstances had changed considerably. It will be remembered that shortly before then the nation had gone through a period of war, a period in which there had been practically no building of residential premises. In 1948 returned servicemen were marrying and, quite rightly, wanting their own homes. It was in those circumstances that Queensland found itself in the position of having to provide homes for a large number of people. The law of supply and demand came into force. The supply was poor and the demand was great. So in 1948 a law relating to landlord and tenant—a law properly entitled the Landlord and Tenant Act—came into force. Unlike the Summary Ejectment Act, which provided only for the ejectment of tenants, the Landlord and Tenant Act provided for the creation and terms of tenancies. It went further and provided for fair rentals. In 1948 a fair rent was not an unreasonable restriction to place upon people at large. At that time the law of supply and demand was so disproportionate that some form of restraint had to be imposed.

The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1948 also made provision for the recovery and possession of premises. However, the Act was not all that was desirable. It was defective and was found to be so, and was in fact amended on some six occasions before eventually being repealed. It was introduced in 1948 and amended in 1948, 1949, 1950, 1957 (I think it was) and 1961. Finally it was repealed. By the time it was repealed, it had reached the stage where it was creating hardship—certainly a hardship for landlords, whose rentals had been pegged for so long (dating back to 1942, I think it was)—that they were unable to get a fair and just return for their investment. That was one of the reasons why the Act was amended from time to time.

The member for Rockhampton said that under the Bill the landlord will be able to increase a tenant's rent every month. If we were back in 1948, at a time when we had a Labor Government which did not encourage home-ownership, and when we had just come through a war, no home construction was proceeding and supply and demand were out of balance, the criticism that he levelled at this Bill might be valid. But it is no longer valid. Despite what has happened in the last three years and the serious deterioration we have experienced in the rate of home-building—that is well established and quite freely admitted—I believe that at present there is a sufficient supply of homes to make it quite reasonable for there to be, firstly, no rent control and, secondly, no risk of any unreasonable landlord approaching a tenant month after month and making unreasonable demands for increased rent. I think the honourable member suggested an increase from something like \$30 to \$100 a week.

If that sort of demand were made, without doubt the tenant could find—and find quite readily—suitable alternative accommodation. That is quite clear from the number of advertisements to be found in the paper, both by persons advertising homes for rental and by people looking for homes to rent. Adequate evidence of that appears in the columns of the daily newspapers. So, despite what Canberra has done to this State over the last three years, the home-building sector of the economy is at a stage where there is no need for the introduction of laws such as were introduced in 1948 for the control of rent, nor is there the risk of something happening as was suggested by the honourable member.

Let us bring ourselves back to 1975, when we find it necessary to introduce a Bill to supplement the Property Law Bill. This is a fine Bill in that it provides terms for the creation of tenancies. It is set out in the Bill that there are implied terms. It has been suggested—probably by the honourable member to whom I referred earlier—that there might have been a schedule to the Bill containing a sample lease. I might say that that matter was considered by the committee and rejected. Whilst a schedule may be provided with an Act such as the Bills of Sale Act—where there is a mortgage document, such a schedule is quite reasonable, because there is so little variation—nevertheless, the variations in a tenancy agreement can be so great that to try to include them in a draft as a schedule to the Act would be beyond the reasonable capability of the draftsman. The variations would be so extensive that a draft would not be possible.

Furthermore, we believe that it is not our duty as legislators to go into the offices of people who are contracting to lease and to rent. That is a matter for the parties themselves. However, it is reasonable for us as legislators to provide guide-lines. That

is what we have done. We have provided guide-lines as to what the implied conditions are. We have provided guide-lines for the conditions applicable to both the landlord and the tenant. This is as far as we need to go and ought to go. The rest is up to the parties themselves. To go further would be to intrude.

The benefits of the Bill are quite numerous. The Bill provides for the abolition of those uncertainties that existed at common law. No attempt was made in the Summary Ejectment Act to set out the rights and obligations of either party. Here we are doing that. The Bill gives clear definitions—further evidence of guide-lines. The grounds for the recovery of possession are simplified. The Bill does something that the Termination of Tenancies Act did not do; it allows for a variation of the rental. The 1970 Act had a serious omission in that it prevented a variation of rental unless by agreement between the parties. Hardship was experienced by most landlords who had tenants for a very long period. That is a remedy provided in the Bill.

It has been suggested that this legislation should make provision for the payment of money by way of bond. This again is a matter that has been examined closely. We noted what has happened in other parts of Australia and throughout the world. Here again it is reasonable for us, while laying down guide-lines, not to go beyond that. In Western Australia the Law Reform Commission made an extensive review of the landlord and tenant legislation and paid particular attention to the practice existing there, and indeed as it exists in Queensland, of tenants paying to landlords at the commencement of tenancies a sum of money by way of bond. It was found in Western Australia that the common amount paid was equivalent to two to four weeks' rental. It was paid to the landlord to be held by him pending termination of the lease. In Western Australia, as in Queensland, this has created troubles.

Queensland was again ahead of the pack in that last year we increased the small claims tribunal jurisdiction to include the right to consider claims for the recovery of bond moneys. Where this bond money varies is of course in degree. We talk of two weeks to four weeks' rental but in many cases the amount being demanded by landlords was in excess of that amount.

The questions are whether the amount paid is to compensate the landlord for damage done or to reimburse him for moneys outstanding or whether the amount paid is so much greater as to be in fact a penalty. The law on penalties is already well established and whether damages are of a punitive nature or for a liquidated purpose are well established. We believe that is the way we should leave it. The law already exists.

Western Australia decided that it should do what we have already done—extend the jurisdiction of the small claims tribunal to

embrace claims over bond money. Having done that, Western Australia decided to sit back and wait to see how the effect of that action was reflected through the Western Australia landlord and tenant legislation. That is what is proposed here.

I assure the Minister that the people of Brisbane will welcome this law. I am pleased to have played a part in the preparation of the Bill as a member of the justice committee, and when it is placed on the Statute Book I will have some pride in regarding it as legislation that I played some part in formulating. I support the Bill.

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (10.31 p.m.): In making a brief contribution to this important measure, I should like in the first place to compliment the honourable member for Rockhampton, the principal Opposition speaker, on his contribution. As is his custom, he made a very reasoned and logical speech. He does his homework very effectively, and I agree entirely with what he said.

When he referred to good tenants, I know that he was referring principally to those who play the game by doing the right thing by landlords and behaving responsibly as citizens. In addition to paying their rent regularly, they take good care of the properties that they are renting. The Queensland Government, through the activities of the Queensland Housing Commission, is itself to a very great extent in the position of a landlord, and I think that we should all be concerned about the way in which some tenants care for the homes that they are renting.

There are, of course, many excellent tenants, and one can tell their homes very readily from the way in which the lawns are cut and the properties generally are kept tidy. But some tenants do as little as possible in the maintenance of houses, and in more ways than one. I refer not only to the exterior but to the interior of the homes. I can recall vividly many years ago, in an area that happened to be in my electorate, a tenant who during his tenancy used all the interior walls for firewood to do the cooking. I was particularly interested in the Housing Commission at that time—as a matter of fact I worked there—and when the inspector went into that house after the tenants were finally removed he found that it was virtually a shell. All the interior walls had been demolished.

The next-door neighbour said, "We often wondered what was happening because each night when they returned home from work there was a tapping noise. We thought it was taking them a long time to lay the lino, because the tapping noise sounded like laying lino." But it was not that; it was the sound of a tommy-axe being used to hack down the walls to use as wood to cook the evening meal. I am sure that no-one would condone that sort of behaviour by tenants.

On the other hand, the honourable member for Rockhampton expressed concern for the tenant who might strike misfortune through illness or, in the case of a woman, the death of her husband. Although some landlords can be very harsh, I think that the majority today are reasonable people. I know many landlords and they are very humane in their attitude to tenants. I know of cases in which tenants have struck difficulties and their landlords have done the right thing in more ways than one. In addition to giving relief in the payment of rent, landlords have given other tangible help in the misfortune of their tenants.

Reference was made to home-ownership in this State many years ago. Let me inform the honourable member that in the days of the Labor administration Queensland was considered to have the highest percentage of home-ownership by workers in the world. The State Advances Corporation Act and later the Workers' Homes Act greatly encouraged home-ownership in Queensland and also dealt to some extent with residential tenancies.

Mr. Greenwood: How are the mighty fallen!

Mr. DEAN: The mighty have fallen, unfortunately, because of the change of policy of this Government. If it had carried on with the State Advances Corporation Act, many more people today would own their own homes. I think every honourable member would know of people in their areas who gained ownership of their homes because of that Act which operated many years ago. From memory, I think the Government of the day, after the first 12 months' tenancy, allowed the rent that was paid during that period to be used as a deposit on the home, and the tenant then paid the home off. I think that was an excellent idea from a tenant's point of view. In the initial period of 12 months the tenants could see whether they liked the home and the locality and they then had the opportunity of buying the dwelling in which they were living.

Mr. Lindsay: Are you agreeing with Labor's policy that six squares is enough for an Australian home?

Mr. DEAN: We live in different times, but I feel sure that many of the homes built during those times were far superior to what we have today. As the honourable member said, today we see many modern homes built to small dimensions through economic necessity, whereas years ago people could afford to build a larger home.

Mr. Lindsay: Don't you think we should improve upon those economic conditions?

Mr. DEAN: Of course we should improve on them. But are we improving on them? I doubt it very much. When we look around the areas in which the Housing Commission is building homes, I do not think we are

improving on them. We might be using modern architecture, but I think the main aim of modern architecture is to use the minimum of materials, thereby reducing the size of the dwelling.

I rose only to make those few brief points. The honourable member for Rockhampton dealt with the Bill very comprehensively, but I thought that some mention should be made of Housing Commission tenants. I think that the Government as a landlord should show some appreciation of its good tenants by allowing them some kind of rent remission or some kind of incentive to purchase, because these houses are not the Government's property. They are the people's property, the taxpayers' property. No Queensland Housing Commission home that is rented belongs to the Government; it belongs to the taxpayer. I think it is our job as custodians of the public purse to make sure that the amount of money spent on these homes and on their maintenance is kept to a minimum.

Mr. BYRNE (Belmont) (10.39 p.m.): I rise to deal briefly with a similar point to that made by the honourable member for Sandgate about Housing Commission homes, and to express my disappointment that in some sense the Crown is not bound by this Bill in relation to Housing Commission homes. I think I made the point adequately during the introductory debate, but I raise it again in the hope that the Minister will comment on the possibilities of having a situation similar to that covered by this Bill, a situation which I think is of advantage to both landlord and tenant, carried over into the Housing Commission area. I am aware that the Crown is not included specifically in the Bill and is thereby not bound by it, but I am quite certain that, from the Housing Commission's point of view as well as from the tenants' point of view, it would be a very great advantage if the Housing Commission tenancy agreement was altered to co-ordinate with the provisions of this Bill. I would appreciate any indication of the possibility of this coming about.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (10.40 p.m.): in reply: I am indebted to honourable members for their contributions to the debate, particularly to the honourable member for Sandgate, who put his finger on the Bill's philosophy when he spoke about playing the game between landlord and tenant.

This is legislation about reasonable people—not about people in constant dispute, but thousands of landlords and thousands of tenants who wish to make agreements mutually acceptable to them and with the minimum of inconvenience and without squabbling. I am indebted to members of my committee for thinking in these terms. The honourable member for Brisbane is one who contributed to the Bill.

Because the Bill is about reasonable people, we are not going to try to legislate, as was suggested by the honourable member for Rockhampton, for all the special circumstances that might arise. They are catered for in a general way. The Bill is to enable two people—a landlord and a tenant—to come to an agreement, knowing what their commitments are, knowing what they are obliged to do, without having recourse to law. I hope that is understood, because that is the background of the legislation.

Mr. Hanson interjected.

Mr. KNOX: Probably the honourable member for Port Curtis is regarded as the biggest landlord in the House.

Mr. Hanson: No.

Mr. KNOX: Well, the second biggest. He certainly has considerable experience as a landlord. With great respect to him, I point out that there are landlords and tenants on both sides of the House. As individuals, they have had experience of being landlords and tenants. The honourable member for Rockhampton spoke at the introductory stage of his experience as a landlord.

Mr. Moore: Happy to get a 3 per cent return on his investment.

Mr. KNOX: I do not think he said that, but he did say that he had had experience as a landlord and knew the problems faced by landlords.

Unfortunately, the connotation of the word "landlord" comes out of the last century. It is an unfortunate word, because it rather implies some sort of carry-over from a feudal type of operation.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. KNOX: Perhaps they do. The honourable member for Bundaberg is here to help us, and I am pleased that he is. But let us look at the people in the community who are landlords. They are railwaymen, public servants, policemen—people who own houses that are family homes and who are transferred all over the State but want to retain their homes for the day when they are transferred back to their place of origin or when they retire. There are thousands of these people in the community—far more of them than the rapacious type of landlord mentioned in the novels of Dickens. These landlords are themselves tenants in other parts of the State. They know and understand the relationship very clearly, and they have no intention of owning large estates and hundreds of houses. Their commitment as a landlord is one dwelling-house. Very often the tenant is involved only as a temporary arrangement. He hopes to own his own home and may in turn become a landlord with the passage of time. That has been the experience of most honourable members and indeed most members of the community.

So when we are talking about legislation of this type, we are talking about the relationship between ordinary citizens who, at various periods of their lives, may be a landlord at one time and a tenant at another, and sometimes both at once.

Mr. Jensen: The greedy ones are the ones we are worried about—the ones who want to put the rent up \$10 a week.

Mr. KNOX: Let us talk about the greedy ones. This legislation copes with that problem. Regardless of what is contained in any contract that may be made between the landlord and the tenant, there are implied obligations that have to be met.

Mr. Hanson: There is termination without cause.

Mr. KNOX: The honourable member for Port Curtis is very experienced in these matters. He would not want to have a tenant in one of his commercial undertakings—the Bill probably excludes him because it deals only with dwelling-houses—take advantage of the fact that the matter was under dispute to destroy the building or to do such damage to it as to make it uninhabitable or unusable. There is provision in the Bill to prevent that.

The honourable member for Rockhampton asked certain questions which should be answered. Human habitation standards are the subject of laws laid down by the State and laws and ordinances laid down by local authorities.

Mr. Wright: They vary considerably.

Mr. KNOX: Not as much as they used to. Model rules and standards of hygiene are now accepted throughout the community. Those laws I referred to are just the bare minimum. On top of that there are circumstances such as are accepted by people living in a particular area. It has nothing to do with my personal interpretation. It is the interpretation of judges and magistrates of what is tolerated in the community. It is a relative thing, and not something which can be specified precisely.

As to advice from the landlord to the tenant and warning periods before action is taken—that varies in the circumstances. We are dealing here principally with reasonable people, but it is necessary for action to be taken speedily, not just in emergencies. If the landlord does not get possession of his property, then it may not be a fit place for the next tenant to occupy. There are certain safeguards whereby the tenant can take action to protect himself.

It is incorrect for the honourable member to suggest that rents will be adjusted every month. In fact that does not occur. We provide in the Bill for other circumstances, other agreements and other contracts. Most of these arrangements are done with some specific contractual obligations. In those cases the situation referred to by the honourable

member for Rockhampton does not occur. I think the honourable member for Brisbane very effectively demolished the arguments of the honourable member for Rockhampton.

As the honourable member for Sandgate pointed out, there is a philosophical background to some of this legislation. He was off the track a little bit when he talked about the Queensland Housing Commission, but he did highlight the problems that can occur with unreasonable tenants. As an agent of the Queensland Housing Commission, the honourable member realises the difficulties that are placed in the way of taking any action in that particular circumstance. After all, if the landlord—we are dealing with the average citizen who owns a home—wants to provide for his retirement or some future occasion in the dwelling-house, which may well be the family home, he is entitled to take action to look after it. He is entitled to take that action not only for himself but for future tenants. Reasonable notice is provided for and reasonable opportunity is available for those who wish to take objection.

As to the matter of entry, it is fairly common for landlords to need the right of entry for various reasons. We have provided for emergencies and things of that nature. The honourable member for Rockhampton felt that it was unreasonable that there was not written notice of a certain time. We are not dealing only with emergencies; we are dealing with a situation that might not be regarded as an emergency, but nevertheless requires some action. After all, the tenant knows that the landlord has the right of entry. All we have provided for is that it should be reasonable—that it should be in the time of day, that notice of some sort should be given and that it should not create undue interference. Over the years plenty of stories about this have been told. We are correcting a situation that has been overlooked in the past. It is proper to do things the way we are doing them.

I do not think there is much else I need add. I believe the honourable member for Rockhampton wishes to deal with some of the clauses, so I think I should wait until then to comment further on the Bill.

Motion (Mr. Knox) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 6, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—Implied obligations in tenancy agreement—

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (10.52 p.m.): I accept the Minister's explanation as to the definition of human habitation; nevertheless I think we will still have problems here and that lawyers may have a field day when it comes to arguing the obligations of the landlord. Even though we know that the Minister's comments as recorded in "Hansard"

cannot be used when arguing a case at law, I think it is worth while getting some explanation so that at least the general public know.

I refer specifically to the obligation on the part of the landlord to keep common areas (in cases where the dwelling-house is part of a multiple house or other building) in a clean and safe condition, and also to subparagraph (ii), which reads—

"to provide and, during the tenancy, maintain the dwelling-house in good tenantable repair and in a condition fit for human habitation;"

At the introductory stage it was explained that when we are talking about the dwelling-house we are also talking about the property on which it is situated. One issue that arises many times is the responsibility of the landlord to keep a place clean by mowing. I would like some explanation here, because the member for Belmont mentioned the obligations of the private landlord and stated that they should also apply to the public landlord, such as the Housing Commission. I might say that I agree totally with his comments on this aspect. I know of a woman who was going to be asked to leave because it was claimed that she was not keeping the place in a reasonable and habitable condition and moreover was not mowing the lawn.

Mr. Kaus: Doesn't it create a fire hazard?

Mr. WRIGHT: The point is that it was her obligation to mow the lawn. Her excuse was that the lawn-mower didn't work, so we got the St. Vincent de Paul Society to go down and fix the lawn-mower. It seems to me that we are saying here that the landlord has an obligation to mow the lawn. This should be clarified.

I would also ask how the tenant enforces his or her rights. What is the tenant going to be able to do? We know what the landlord can do. We have the implied obligations in the tenancy agreement applying to the landlord. But how does the tenant enforce his rights? If the landlord has not looked after the fixtures, fittings, goods and chattels and so forth, what does the tenant do? Does he say, "I want to get out"? That will not solve the problem. Or can he bill the landlord in some way? Can he authorise the repairs or arrange for them to be carried out and then require the landlord to pay for them?

Mr. Jensen: They could give a month's notice.

Mr. WRIGHT: That could be so. It is all very well to say the tenant will have certain rights; but these rights are worthless unless they can be enforced. I know of instances where the tenant has said, "We have had the refrigerator repaired. We will subtract the cost from this week's rent," and the landlord has agreed. What about now? We need to say not only exactly what the rights of

the tenants are but exactly how they can be enforced. We need an explanation about the Housing Commission homes. Surely there is a responsibility on the State to see that its tenants have the same rights and responsibilities as the ordinary tenant.

I make one other point. This is new legislation. It will involve many, many people. Just as the Minister explained the rights and responsibilities in other aspects of laws that have been changed, I ask him to consider very earnestly and quickly the idea of producing some type of booklet that could be readily available from real estate agents, electorate offices and in fact general areas. He has done it before, so it is not a new idea. However, it has not been mentioned in this debate.

I ask the Minister to comment on the matter of the landlord's responsibility to mow the lawn, which is an everyday need. I also ask him to comment on how the tenant can achieve the rights that it is claimed he has under this legislation.

Mr. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove) (10.51 p.m.): The honourable member for Rockhampton made two points. The first one related to the right which a tenant would have—

Mr. Jones: He was talking to the butcher, not the block.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I was not aware that I was attempting to cut the member up. That might come later, but so far we are dealing with him gently.

Mr. Moore interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I am trying to hear a learned dissertation.

Mr. Wright: The Chairman has a sense of humour, too.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Yes, and the Chairman can read. If the honourable member directed his attention to some other parts of the Bill and read it as a whole, he would have noticed in clause 16 a reference to the right of a tenant to claim damages, and some of the duties that are consequent upon that right. It is quite obvious from the Bill that, where there is an obligation on the landlord to do something—whether it is in clause 7 or anywhere else—and he acts in breach of it, there is a right to claim damages against him.

Mr. Wright: So he has to go to a solicitor and pay \$150 to pursue a claim that is worth \$30. That is what you are saying.

Mr. GREENWOOD: If the honourable member knew a little bit more about the scale of costs in the Magistrates Courts and if he knew a little bit more about the innovations which the present Minister for Justice has introduced with small claims in this State, he would not say things like that in this Chamber. I hope he does not say things like that outside the Parliament,

because he might mislead members of the public about the state of the law in Queensland.

The first point of the honourable member as to whether or not a tenant has the right to claim damages is plainly answered by the terms of the Bill and is obvious to anybody who has gone to the trouble of reading it.

The second point relates to the obligation of a landlord to mow the lawn. I should have thought that the words of the Bill which impose the obligation on the landlord—

“to provide and, during the tenancy, maintain the dwelling-house in good tenantable repair and in a condition fit for human habitation”

speak for themselves. They are talking about a dwelling-house. They are talking about good tenantable repair. However, in addition, the Minister made it clear in his speech that the expression “good tenantable repair” was put there because everybody knows precisely what it means. The words have been judicially defined over the centuries, and they mean—

“such repair as, having regard to the age, character and locality of the house, would make it reasonably fit for the occupation of a reasonably minded tenant of the class who would be likely to take it.”

If the landlord were advertising a house with its own private bowling green in the back yard, I suppose a reasonable tenant would expect a bowling green in the back yard, but most people do not expect a bowling green in a back yard and they would understand what those words mean as used in the Bill.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.1 p.m.): After hearing Mr. Greenwood, I now understand—

Mr. Jones: Call him Mr. Greenacres.

Mr. WRIGHT: No.

What I was told when I first came into this Chamber was that lawyers who have come here have probably been the most despised and hated members. They seem to have this air of superiority that comes with certain members of the profession. The honourable member for Ashgrove is obviously the man. What is obvious here is that the Minister did not answer; he allowed his lackey over here to carry out this task for him.

The point I raised still has not been answered. I take it that tenants throughout Queensland can question whether the landlord should mow their lawn because the honourable member for Ashgrove has said that this is certainly so—if one can understand the diatribe that he read out. I make the point that he still did not answer me. He is like the honourable member for Brisbane, who spoke for 25 minutes and did nothing but state the law on tenancy, which

should have been given at the introductory stage. Exactly what will happen if the tenant desires to bill the landlord for the cost of repairs that he should have carried out? This is surely the normal way of doing things.

What the honourable member for Ashgrove is saying is that, while the landlord will have access to the law in the sense of having all the rights to a notice to quit, termination of tenancy or recovery of possession, the poor old tenant has to go to the legal eagles—to these gentlemen we have here, and they are very highly respected—and pay them something like \$100 to recover \$10. Is it any wonder that we are worried about what is happening here! Is it any wonder that we say that this is slanted mainly in the interests of the landlord! I do not think that this matter has been answered. With all due respect to our colleagues, I should like to hear the Minister's views on this matter.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.3 p.m.): The honourable member would have had them if he had not risen in his place so promptly. He tried to introduce an element of bush law which I think should be corrected. The relationship between landlord and tenant is not based on bush law.

Mr. Wright: You said common sense.

Mr. KNOX: Yes. Common sense is interpreted in the common law and indeed we tried to formalise it by having some minimum standards established in this clause—on the assumption that there is no other agreement. The honourable member keeps harping on this proposal in the legislation, assuming that all the arrangements between landlords and tenants are made in some airy fairy way without any commitments.

Mr. Wright: Most of them are verbal and you know it.

Mr. KNOX: Fewer and fewer of them are of that nature in this State because people are starting to understand their rights as tenants and to know that they can make contractual arrangements with landlords which protect their interests. Landlords understand that certain things can be done by tenants without prejudice to the welfare of the tenants in the community and which tenants are prepared to accept.

Every month, more and more people—either as tenants or as landlords—are seeking the advice of their solicitors to make firm arrangements about their commitments and obligations. I am pleased that this is so.

As was explained to me, in some other parts of Australia no-one would dream of entering into these arrangements without proper advice and without making some firm arrangements. But in case they have not made those arrangements, this clause provides certain implied conditions. Even if they have made arrangements and have not

thought of these conditions, this clause provides that they must be included because they are implied.

The honourable member for Rockhampton is making sweeping, general statements and misunderstanding the whole of the circumstances of our community by speaking as if these arrangements are made in a casual way. I am pleased to say that there is less and less of that.

There will be a publication on the provisions of this legislation. One of its first paragraphs will state that, when a person enters into an agreement, he should consult his solicitor so that he is properly advised on his commitments and obligations. I remind honourable members that most people who are landlords in this State are also tenants.

The honourable member for Rockhampton does not understand the situation in the community. He is still living in the past in his knowledge of the relationship between landlord and tenant. This is enlightened legislation to deal with the modern situation, and a tenant has far more rights today under this legislation than he ever had before.

I thank the honourable member for Ashgrove for his contribution because he has added something to the knowledge of the honourable member for Rockhampton. Perhaps he would do well to listen more closely to the honourable member for Ashgrove.

Mr. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove) (11.6 p.m.): I should like to say something more, not in the frivolous vein that I adopted last time when talking about bowling greens. This clause imposes on a landlord the duty “to provide and, during the tenancy, maintain the dwelling-house in good tenable repair and in a condition fit for human habitation”. That is really a very important provision, because there are a few landlords who are prepared to let their houses run down. There are a very few who are prepared to accept the rent whilst allowing the tenant to live in conditions of increasing squalor.

We believe that a tenant who is unfortunate enough to have such a person as his landlord should not simply be given Hobson's choice of putting up with it or getting out, because getting out can sometimes involve him in not only economic but social costs. Changing his place of living means taking his children from the school that they attend. It means the cost of having the telephone disconnected and a new connection made. It means all the costs of removal.

What we are trying to do by this clause is allow him to stay in the house in which he is a tenant but to stay there under reasonable conditions. We are giving him the right to say to the landlord, “Look, you have an obligation not to allow me to live in conditions of increasing squalor. You have an obligation to prevent this dilapidation

and I am going to enforce that obligation. I am going to make you repair this house, not make it into a palace but to put it into a state that a reasonable person would regard as fair."

That is what this clause does, and that is something in which the Government believes. I can hear interjections from time to time from Opposition members. Perhaps they do not think that these things are very important and perhaps they view with contempt the problems of some tenants. I know they pose as the friends of the working man. We will see in a few weeks' time what Australia thinks of that claim. We back our beliefs with actions, and by this clause the Minister is putting some teeth into the legislation and giving people rights that they can enforce. That is what this clause is all about. If Opposition members do not understand it, I am sorry for them. We will try to explain it, and explain it yet again. But even if they do not understand it, the people of Queensland will.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.9 p.m.): The Minister was at some pains to make out that my suggestion of allowing tenants to arrange for repairs was some type of bush law. That is the way the Minister put it, anyway. He said that a tenant should go through the normal process of law, which means consulting a solicitor and arranging representation by him. I draw the Minister's attention to a statement in the "Daily Telegraph" of 31 October where the Poverty Commission of Inquiry brought down 37 recommendations for the reform of landlord and tenants law. I suggest it so it is bush law; but let us get back to the point. They also suggest residential tenancy boards to permit tenants to arrange for repairs if landlords fail to repair premises using money paid into court. So it is obviously not something that is going to happen once in a blue moon, as the Minister suggested.

We know that most agreements are of a verbal nature, and while the Minister said that more and more are coming into contractual written form, most of them are of a verbal nature and, irrespective of the fact that the tenants are in fact landlords themselves in some other place, surely there needs to be some simpler way of overcoming the problems and ensuring that these obligations are enforced. So I stand by what I have said. I believe we could have simplified this provision by allowing for the tenant to arrange for repairs to be done and have that cost taken from the rent due—allow him to authorise these repairs because they could be of a safety nature. Are we going to stand by what the honourable member for Ashgrove says—that if a person suddenly needs an electrical fault fixed, he goes and sees a solicitor about it if the landlord does not fix it up in due course? It is set down for hearing—

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. I did not say that.

Mr. WRIGHT: I take the honourable member's point. He did say that there is a normal recourse to law under section 16, so I think my point is well made.

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (11.11 p.m.): The apparent misunderstanding of the members of the Opposition is a great mystery to me, as are the rather lame statements they make in debating not only the Bill generally but this specific clause. These matters have been explained, I think quite reasonably by the Minister and by the honourable member for Ashgrove. They have been explained in the most explicit way and if the honourable member for Rockhampton is so dense that he cannot understand, or if he rises with tongue in cheek and pretends not to understand, then I suggest he is wasting the time of this Committee because, quite plainly, what we have tried to do in this legislation is to strike a reasonable relationship between the landlord and tenant in the community, and for him to get up and try to cause trouble in this relationship could cause even greater trouble in an area that is of great concern to the community. Where people are seeking somewhere to live and where landlords are seeking a reasonable return on their investment, it is deplorable to try to cause conflict in this section of the community and I think the honourable member should be condemned for what he is doing. These way-out suggestions of residential tenancy boards and the like are quite impracticable. We have quite a well-structured court system, a system in which any reasonable person, these days with legal aid, can obtain justice. I see no need for any other layer to be put on the cake as proposed by the socialists opposite. So I hope we can get on with this legislation tonight without any further nonsense from the honourable member, who, I might add, has been absent from this Chamber for a couple of weeks prior to this debate and comes here tonight only to try to cause trouble.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Clause 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—Variation of rent—

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.14 p.m.): I have raised this matter of one month's notice before. The Minister said there was no need to be hard and fast about this, that we are dealing with reasonable people. If we are dealing with reasonable people, why make this provision so loaded in favour of the landlord? That is virtually what it is. I would like to know why one month's notice is required in that sense—

Mr. Knox: What do you want?

Mr. WRIGHT: Why not have, as the Poverty Commission of Inquiry says, a minimum of six weeks. But it is also going to ensure that a landlord just cannot increase rents any time he wants to. I think the honourable member for Ashgrove made a pretty valid point—that if the person cannot

pay that rent, then he is facing some pretty great difficulties. The honourable member raised some points that have not been mentioned before in this debate, in that a person may have to move to a different area; he may in fact face an increase in the cost of getting to and from his job and he may have to change his child's school. There are going to be some serious problems if a person cannot pay the rent that he is required to pay. I think the situation would arise. No doubt the honourable member for Merthyr, who I am told is a very big landlord, has some private interest in this matter and has a real reason to make sure—

Mr. LANE: I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks of the honourable member offensive and I ask him to withdraw them. They are untrue.

Mr. WRIGHT: May I know what is offensive? I have not said it yet.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Would the honourable gentleman indicate which words he takes exception to?

Mr. LANE: Yes. The inference that I am a big landlord and that I have a private interest in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The point of order is sustained. I ask the honourable member for Rockhampton to accept it.

Mr. WRIGHT: I accept it, Mr. Hewitt. I withdraw the words. I would have thought that, at least as a member of Parliament, the honourable member would have a private interest in the Bill.

Mr. LANE: I rise to a point of order. I asked for a withdrawal of the remarks.

Mr. WRIGHT: I have withdrawn them, Mr. Hewitt.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable gentlemen did withdraw them.

Mr. WRIGHT: I simply put it to the honourable member that we state that he has no flats or he is not a landlord. Is that correct? Because I don't believe that to be so.

I think that the Minister should explain why this one month's notice is necessary. His colleague the honourable member for Brisbane went on to make an analogy with 1948. If he begins talking about the demand for houses in 1948, he is only supporting the reason the Opposition is putting forward now. The supply and demand situation is very similar. It is extremely difficult for people to get houses now, as the Housing Commission lists prove.

Mr. Chinchin: Because of the action of the Federal Government.

Mr. WRIGHT: We are not talking about the reasons. Let us accept the fact that the building industry has not exactly had all the incentives that it ought to have had. I accept that and I have said so. I have criticised the Australian Government for its attitude.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. WRIGHT: I criticised it long before honourable members opposite ever thought about doing so. In fact, I was the first person to mention in this Chamber that the allocation for housing this year had been lowered. I have since found that there was an advance of \$6,400,000 beforehand. However, that is by the bye.

Mr. Hanson: They did not tell us about that.

Mr. WRIGHT: No, they did not tell us about that to begin with, and we now find that the amount has not really been lowered.

However, the Opposition believes that the situation is such that we cannot afford to be forcing people out of homes, and that is virtually what is happening. I would like the Minister to explain very clearly why the one month's notice is necessary. Does he not believe that a situation will arise in which people will be able to put up rents virtually whenever they like—in fact, about 10 times a year?

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.18 p.m.): I asked the honourable member for Rockhampton what period of time he was in favour of, and he mentioned six weeks.

Mr. Wright: I said that the recommendation of the Poverty Commission of Inquiry was a minimum of six weeks. I suggested three months.

Mr. KNOX: The Poverty Commission of Inquiry is concerned with what?

Mr. Wright: With rentals specifically.

Mr. KNOX: Yes. I have read the commission's report. It is concerned with people in dire straits and exceptional circumstances. The honourable member keeps on harping on this, as if this legislation is concerned with exceptional circumstances. It is concerned with the bulk of the people in the community.

Mr. Wright: It covers every circumstance.

Mr. KNOX: Yes, it does, but its philosophy relates to the bulk of the people in the community making reasonable arrangements. The exceptional circumstances have to be catered for, and this clause is used only in an exceptional circumstance. Let us assume that the legislation provided for six weeks. The very thing that the honourable member for Rockhampton says would happen in four weeks would also happen in six weeks.

Mr. Wright: That is why I said three months.

Mr. KNOX: Be it 5½ weeks or three months, a landlord who wishes to be oppressive will be oppressive regardless of the time.

We have made sure that, no matter how oppressive the landlord is, certain requirements must be met. The Bill provides for a period of four weeks. The honourable member for Rockhampton suggests six weeks. It is not a question of auction. One month's notice—that is what four weeks means in everyday parlance—is not unreasonable. Most agreements are made for six months or 12 months, with normal contractual obligations.

Mr. Wright: That is, the written agreements.

Mr. KNOX: Yes. More and more people are understanding their rights and making arrangements of that type.

Mr. Wright: Ninety per cent of them are still oral agreements.

Mr. KNOX: I don't agree with the honourable member. I refute that straight away. I am pleased that the honourable member has revealed his ignorance of the situation in the community at the moment. More and more people are understanding this. Because the Bill is concerned with modern circumstances, we make sure that there is no possibility of a person being oppressed by a landlord who can take advantage of his ignorance. That is why there is a one-month minimum. Of course, there will be people in exceptional circumstances who will try to up the rent all the time, but I trust that, as a result of the legislation, more and more people will be encouraged to become landlords instead of allowing their dwelling-houses to remain vacant for long periods.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 18, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19—Manner of giving notice to quit—

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.22 p.m.): The Minister has gone to some pains to ensure that notice to quit is well covered. We notice in previous clauses that the 14 days' period is there instead of seven days. We appreciate that. It will be noticed from (d) that the notice to quit shall be affixed to a conspicuous place upon some part of the dwelling-house. I wonder if that is wise. It is the only point I see in the whole question of the notice to quit that should be under debate. I accept that it could be delivered personally to the tenant or to his agent, and that it could be delivered to someone over the age of 18 years of age. Also it could be delivered personally to the person who usually pays the rent. All those provisions are reasonable. It could be sent by post. Irrespective of the criticism of the Australian Post Office, it can be expected that the letter will get there one day, even if it is six or

seven days late. But to say that it is allowable to simply fix the notice on some conspicuous place upon some part of the dwelling-house—could that be taken to mean the staircase?

Mr. Moore: The Governor-General's secretary was able to do that, and he got rid of Whitlam.

Mr. WRIGHT: That was a planned—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I suggest that the honourable member keep to the clause and not allow himself to be diverted.

Mr. WRIGHT: I took his point because obviously he realises that the Governor-General did plan for some time exactly what he would do.

Is it reasonable—no doubt the lawyers would have some thoughts on this—to say that the notice to quit could be simply put in some conspicuous place upon some part of the dwelling-house? Is it going to be on the battens of the house itself or on the garage door? I think we are leaving ourselves open to difficulties, and probably we are going to give excuses to people who do not deserve them. One party will say, "I didn't see it", and the other will say, "I fixed it to your front steps." Once it has been personally delivered or sent through the post, there is no excuse.

Mr. Lane: Is that how you got rid of your tenants?

Mr. WRIGHT: No. I have not had tenants. I meant to correct the Minister before. My father has a house with tenants in it. Unlike the honourable member for Merthyr, I have not badgered tenants. They are five flats in Red Hill, aren't they?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. WRIGHT: I should like to hear the Minister's reasons for allowing this to be so broad, because I think this aspect is unnecessary.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.24 p.m.): I think the honourable member is just filling in time.

Mr. Frawley interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Murrumba will contain himself.

Mr. KNOX: A number of alternatives are provided in clause 19 to enable notice to be given. Again we are dealing with a situation that is exceptional. Normally this presumably does not happen. When it does happen, one can imagine the circumstances that preceded the notice to quit. There is a strained relationship between the tenant and the landlord, and all sorts of difficulties have been placed in the way. Presumably they have been placed there by the tenant, but not

necessarily. There could be other circumstances. The tenant could leave the place empty, and all sorts of problems could arise. Normally most landlords would seek, with all the good graces in the world, to have these matters tidied up without any fuss. But it is quite conceivable that, when the matter reaches this stage, it is necessary to hammer a notice on the door of the building. It is also quite conceivable that the tenant might be away and might not even see the notice. But at least the landlord has taken some action according to law that will meet all the requirements of the law.

Mr. Wright: What about proof of performance on that one?

Mr. KNOX: The honourable member really is going to the nth degree. If the people concerned are not interested in living in the place, don't want to live in the place and don't want to meet their obligations, isn't the landlord entitled to take some action to recover the premises? If not it would be open to vandals and all sorts of operations. We are not trying to solve all the problems of the world. We hope that by this legislation we have covered most of the circumstances that are likely to arise. In covering these options in clause 19, we believe we are overcoming the problems that are likely to face the community. The clause envisages situations of last recourse, and nobody wishes deliberately to enter into such a situation. Clause 19 covers those situations.

Clause 19, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 22, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 23—Summons upon complaint for recovery of possession—

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.27 p.m.): I want to comment briefly at the outset that some Government members seem to think it is wrong for members of the Opposition to question certain aspects of legislation.

Mr. Murray: No, it's not.

Mr. WRIGHT: That is what they seem to think. With the exception of the honourable member for Brisbane and the honourable member for Ashgrove, Government members probably have not even read the legislation. Yet they always seem to be yelling out, "You should have known it." Let me say that in relation to every portfolio the Opposition will continue to speak at the Committee stage of Bills because we believe it is our responsibility and obligation to do so. If Government members are not interested enough to do it, that indicates the way in which they look upon their electorates. It is important that we ask questions. I hark back to the comment of Mr. Killen that too many things go through Parliament without members of Parliament really knowing about them. He was right on the ball.

The question I raise concerns the five-day period allowed to a defendant who wishes to contest the complainant's claim after service of the summons upon him, the period "in which to enter an appearance to the summons by filing with the clerk of the court named in the summons a notice stating that he wishes to answer the complaint and to show cause and setting out briefly the grounds upon which he intends to show cause." I accept the fact that clauses 25 and 28 give further coverage and that, if he does not appear himself, there is a chance to have a rehearing within seven days. But I still think that the five-day period is limited and I simply want an explanation from the Minister as to why he chose the five-day period.

Mr. Knox: You say seven; I say five. I am sticking to five.

Clause 23, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 24 to 35, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Knox, by leave, read a third time.

LIQUOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.31 p.m.): I move—

"That a Bill be introduced to amend the Liquor Act 1912-75 in certain particulars."

In 1973 a Licensing Court consisting of a District Court judge was constituted under the provisions of section 5A of the Liquor Act and it has been operating very effectively since its inception. Provision is made in that section for the notification of the name of another judge to constitute the Licensing Court during the illness or absence of the judge whose name has been notified to constitute the court.

In 1973 the Licensing Commission accepted the surrender of the licensed victualler's licence attaching to the Gresham Hotel and a claim for compensation has now been made by the owner of the hotel, which is to be heard by the Licensing Court. As His Honour Judge Broad and the shareholders of the claimant company have been friends over many years, Judge Loewenthal was appointed to constitute the Licensing Court for the purpose of hearing and determining this particular claim for compensation during the absence of Judge Broad. However, Judge Broad is not in fact absent and is not ill.

It is proposed to amend section 5A of the Liquor Act so that the Governor in Council may, from time to time as he thinks necessary, by notice published in the Gazette, notify the name of a judge or the names of judges of District Courts who will be the judge or judges to constitute the Licensing Court. It is desirable to make this amendment so that the validity of any such appointments are put beyond doubt.

I commend the Bill to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I would advise the Committee that, as the Bill involves one small amendment, which is of comparatively small consequence, I intend to confine the debate to that amendment only. I will not permit a full debate on the Liquor Act.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.33 p.m.): I accept your ruling, Mr. Hewitt. I realise that we could probably talk on many issues tonight. I intended to raise some matters, such as noise in hotels, until you made that ruling.

Personally, I thought—and we learn as we listen to debates and speak in the Assembly—that provision already existed for that to be done. Apparently that is not so for a judge serving on the Licensing Commission.

Mr. Knox: So did a lot of other people.

Mr. WRIGHT: I thought so, I must admit.

I see no reason for any opposition or further debate on it. We simply accept the amendment.

Motion (Mr. Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

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

VOTING RIGHTS (PUBLIC COMPANIES) REGULATION BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.35 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to regulate voting rights in public companies.”

One of the objects of the Interstate Corporate Affairs Commission constituted under the Interstate Corporate Affairs Agreement is the elimination of differences in the Companies Acts of New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. Recommendations of the commission necessitate a

number of amendments to the Queensland Act and a Bill for this purpose has already been introduced into this Chamber.

An area of difference which has not yet been attended to relates to the regulation of voting rights in public companies. These provisions are peculiar to this State and were enacted in 1972 following an attempted takeover of a Queensland incorporated company by a Sydney-based investment group. A scheme of share transfers had been adopted which would have eventually given the group control of the company. So that company legislation of the States which are parties to the agreement may be made uniform, it becomes necessary to repeal these provisions. To enable the protection they afford to continue, it is necessary that they be re-enacted.

The Bill before the Committee therefore merely repeals the provisions of the Companies Act relating to the regulation of voting rights in public companies and re-enacts them with the necessary drafting adaptations. No change in the law is effected, and I commend the Bill to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I advise the Committee that there is only one substantial amendment and I likewise restrict the debate to the substance of that amendment.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.37 p.m.): I again accept your ruling, Mr. Hewitt.

I recall that this legislation was brought forward in 1972, I think at the instigation of the Treasurer. I know that a member of Parliament at that time was deeply involved in this pirate company and I know that I criticised it as such.

Mr. Hanson: Private?

Mr. WRIGHT: We will not go into details.

It is important that this law should be placed on our Statute Book and that we have this protection. Again the Opposition supports what the Minister is doing.

Motion (Mr. Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

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

The House adjourned at 11.39 p.m.