

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 1975**

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## WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 1975

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

### PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913–1974.

Mining Act 1968–1974.

Survey Co-ordination Act of 1952.

Regulations under—

Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913–1974.

Construction Safety Act 1971–1975.

Weights and Measures Act 1951–1972.

Statute under the University of Queensland Act 1965–1973.

Rule under the Factories and Shops Act 1960–1975.

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1. INVESTIGATIONS INTO POLICE FORCE

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

(1) What advice has been received from the two Scotland Yard detectives who came to Brisbane to make an initial investigation into Queensland police matters?

(2) Has the advice had any bearing on the date to be fixed for the open judicial inquiry which was promised by him on 11 August?

(3) Is he in a position to advise when the inquiry will open?

*Answers:—*

(1) No report has yet been received from the Scotland Yard officers.

(2) See answer to (1).

(3) Not at this stage.

#### 2. REGISTRATION OF FRINGE MEDICAL PRACTICES

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

(1) Has he seen the report presented to the Victorian Parliament which recommends that fringe medical practices be registered?

(2) Does he agree with the recommendation?

(3) Will he ensure that the report's recommendations are implemented in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) The report referred to has not yet been received by me.

(2 and 3) The National Health and Medical Research Council through its Medicine Advisory Committee is investigating these practices, and the Commonwealth Government has set up a Committee of Enquiry into Chiropractic, Osteopathy, Homeopathy and Naturopathy under the chairmanship of Professor Edwin Webb. When these reports are available, they will be studied and careful consideration given to their recommendations.

### 3. DELAYS IN MENTAL HEALTH STUDIES

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

In view of the report in "The Sunday Mail" of 30 November, wherein he was accused of going slow on submissions made to him on the new Mental Health Act, will he be setting up a committee to examine the Act and conditions in psychiatric hospitals in the near future?

Answer:—

I did read the report in "The Sunday Mail" and was surprised that the confidential document forwarded by Drs. Wilson and Gardner to me at my request after interviews with these gentlemen, again at my request, has obviously been circulated. Drs. Wilson and Gardner have provided no tangible evidence indicating that the Mental Health Act is not working completely satisfactorily. They have been unable to produce one single instance where a person has been mistreated under the Act. I believe that they have failed to understand the spirit of the Act in that it is centred on the needs of sick people. Their own academic isolation and their separation from real life clinical problems prevent them from a full appreciation of the day-to-day applications of the Act. I have, however, responded to a suggestion put forward in their submissions to me, and intend to write to leading citizens mentioned by Drs. Gardner and Wilson asking them to prepare any comment they have on the Mental Health Act. I repeat again my request to any citizens who have complaints regarding the Act or their treatment under the Act to communicate personally with me and I will undertake to investigate the matter. In the half dozen or so complaints I have received, no fault has been found in the Act or in its use.

### 4. ACCESS ROAD TO BRISBANE AIRPORT

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

(1) Have any plans been drawn up to re-route traffic travelling to and from the Brisbane airport so that the level crossing in Nudgee Road is bypassed?

(2) If not, will he urgently institute an investigation into the ways by which traffic can bypass this very serious traffic impediment?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) This is not a matter which comes within my ministerial jurisdiction. The honourable member should direct his question to the Honourable the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

### 5. FUNDS FOR MONDURAN DAM

**Mr. Powell**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Water Resources—

(1) What was the total amount of money contributed by (a) the State Government and (b) the Commonwealth Government for the Monduran Dam and associated works?

(2) How much money was promised by (a) the State Government and (b) the Commonwealth Government?

(3) When was the last approach made to the Commonwealth Government by the State Government for extra funds, and what was the result?

Answers:—

In April 1969 the Queensland Government renewed a previous request to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance to implement the Bundaberg Irrigation Project and requested a grant for the full cost of \$47,079,000 to complete stage I of the project.

In September, 1969, following a recurrence of severe drought conditions in the Bundaberg area, alarming declines in the levels of underground water and a review of the programme of works which could be undertaken by the State from its own funds, the Queensland Government approved the allocation of \$8,300,000 from State funds for initial development of the project. Consequent upon this decision, the Commonwealth Government was advised that the State wished to revise its request for financial assistance to a reduced amount of some \$38,800,000 for the completion of stage I of the project.

In subsequent discussions with Commonwealth officers in respect of this request, reference was made by them to comments in the original project report on "possible transfers of assignment" in respect of certain lands proposed to be supplied through the Bingera and Isis irrigation systems which involved very high pumping heads, steep topography and certain areas considered to be of doubtful suitability for irrigated production. The report indicated that investigations could prove it desirable to consider means whereby landholders in these unfavourable areas could be relocated on more suitable land in other parts of the project area,

with subsequent reductions in the capital cost of works required and annual costs of water supplied as well as improvements to the security of, and return to, individual growers. It was therefore agreed that the State should reconsider the possibilities of substitution of assignments before any firm commitment was made for the construction of the Bingera and Isis irrigation systems.

Consequent on this the Commonwealth Government indicated it was prepared to make available a non-repayable grant of some \$12,800,000 towards the cost of Monduran Dam, Monduran Dam pumping station and the Gin Gin main channel. In consequence of this offer, the August 1970 report by the Department of Primary Industries and the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, laid before the Legislative Assembly on 22 October 1970, proposed that the Commonwealth grant would finance the completion of the works listed above, while the allocation of \$8,300,000 from State funds would be adequate to finance the remaining phase I works comprising the Kolan and Burnett River tidal barrages and the Gooburrum, Abbotsford, Woongarra and Givelda irrigation systems.

Within this general background, I would answer the honourable member's individual questions as follows:—

(1) To 30 June 1975 actual contributions by the two Governments toward the cost of construction of Monduran Dam and associated works were:—(a) State—Nil. (b) Commonwealth—\$14,689,000.

(2) Funds promised by the respective Governments for the construction of Monduran Dam and associated works are:— (a) State—Nil. (b) Commonwealth—\$17,200,000.

(3) When requests for funds for the 1975-76 financial year were being formulated by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, the commission indicated to the Commonwealth Department of Northern Australia (then Department of Northern Development) that in addition to the unexpended portion of the total grant of \$17,200,000, it would require an additional \$1,250,000 if employment at Monduran Dam was to be kept at the then level and the retrenchment of employees avoided. It was appreciated that this latter request was outside the grant previously approved by the Commonwealth Government, but because of over-all rising costs it was considered the request was a reasonable one. The request for additional funds over and above the balance of the grant of \$17,200,000 was refused by the former Commonwealth Government at the time the 1975-76 Budget was presented to the Commonwealth Parliament. Cabinet recently approved that a further submission should be made to the Commonwealth Government seeking an additional grant

to complete the outstanding sections of the Monduran Dam and associated works in the years subsequent to 1 July 1976. This submission is expected to go forward within the next few weeks. For the information of the honourable member, I would point out that expenditure from State Loan Funds on the Bundaberg project was \$5,300,000 at 30 June 1975. It is anticipated that by 30 June 1976 expenditure will approach \$7,600,000. The State is committed to complete the balance of the phase I work and in so doing, will be required to expend considerably more than the \$8,300,000 originally allocated.

6. SUBSIDIES TO TOWNSVILLE AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER SPORTING BODIES

**Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport—

What was the total amount of cash subsidies given to sporting bodies over the last three years—and in particular, what was the amount given to the Townsville Basketball Association—and what proportion of these amounts was given by the Commonwealth Government?

*Answer:—*

Since the inception of the scheme by my Government for assistance to sporting bodies in September 1972, the subsidies and grants paid from State funds in the three financial years are as under:

	\$
1972-1973 .. ..	117,806.10
1973-1974 .. ..	468,615.58
1974-1975 .. ..	824,995.45
Total .. ..	1,411,417.13

Commonwealth grants paid to sporting bodies in the same period were:

	\$
1972-1973 .. ..	NIL
1973-1974 .. ..	72,296.20
1974-1975 .. ..	237,324.70
Total .. ..	309,620.90

As can be seen, State Government assistance to sport in Queensland is more than four times the Commonwealth contribution. The total amount of State subsidy and Commonwealth grant paid to the Townsville Amateur Basketball Association towards the cost of the construction of an indoor basketball stadium and outdoor courts was \$82,262.31. Of this, the total Commonwealth grant approved and paid was \$36,400 against the State subsidy of \$45,862.71.

## 7. POULTRY INDUSTRY

**Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) How many fowls can be held on a farm when the owner does not sell the eggs or carcasses, without having to obtain a licence under the recently amended Poultry Industry Act?

(2) When the personnel of the Poultry Advisory Board are being considered, will consideration be given to including a member representing the poultry industry of North Queensland?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Poultry Industry Act 1946-73 and the Poultry Industry Act Amendment Act of 1975 do not limit the numbers of poultry that a person may keep. However, under the Hen Quotas Act 1973-1975 any person who owns 20 or more hens is defined as an egg producer irrespective of whether eggs are sold or not, and as such is subject to the provisions of that Act. If he wishes to keep 20 or more hens, he must be the holder of an egg producer's basic hen quota.

(2) No specific provision has been made for representation of producers from particular areas of the State on the Poultry Advisory Board. However, provision has been made for panels of names to be submitted by organisations representing certain sections of the industry. The organisations recognised by the Minister as being eligible to submit panels of names will be prescribed in the regulations. When the regulations are being framed, consideration will be given to the inclusion of organisations on which North Queensland producers have membership or are eligible for membership.

## 8. COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ACT COURT CHALLENGE

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

(1) With reference to the High Court case relating to the Commonwealth Electoral Act, who were the plaintiffs and what was the nature of the challenge?

(2) Is there any evidence of collusion between the former A.L.P. Government and the plaintiffs in the case and, if so, what evidence is available?

(3) What was the outcome of the challenge?

*Answers:—*

(1) There were three separate actions. One was brought by the Commonwealth Attorney-General on the relation of Brian John McKinlay. The second was brought by the State of South Australia, the South Australian Attorney-General and one Christine Anne Goodchild. The third was brought by Mary Bridget Lawlor. The basic claim made in these challenges was

that section 24 of the Constitution required all Federal electorates be as near as practicable equal in numbers of people or, alternatively, equal in numbers of electors. An injunction was also sought restraining the Commonwealth from holding or conducting any House of Representatives election other than an election in which the electoral divisions within each State consisted of numbers of people or, alternatively, electors which were nearly as practicable the same.

(2) The political persuasion of the South Australian Government is well known. Mr. McKinlay is an endorsed Australian Labor Party candidate for a Victorian State seat and I believe that at the time Mrs. Lawlor commenced her action she stated that she was an Australian Labor Party supporter. I understand that the individuals were offered legal aid by the A.L.P. Commonwealth Government to fight the case at the taxpayers' expense. The purpose of the action was to prevent a Federal election being held. The A.L.P. refused to go to the people when Supply was deferred. It was reluctant to go to the people when the Governor-General dismissed it. It now has endeavoured to prevent the election being held at all.

**Mr. Houston:** What rot!

**Mr. KNOX:** That is absolutely correct.

**Mr. Houston:** The action was taken before the Governor-General—

**Mr. KNOX:** The action was taken before the Governor-General dismissed the Labor Government because it knew Supply had to be deferred. The action was taken to prevent an election from being held.

**Mr. Houston:** Are you claiming that they knew the Governor-General would do it?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Bulimba—

**Mr. Houston:** I ask him to tell the truth.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Bulimba will obey the rules of the Chair. He has been here long enough, as I said before, to know the requirements. Any member who interjects while a Minister is on his feet will be dealt with under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. KNOX:** I remind the honourable member for Bulimba that, when the actions were taken, the Prime Minister said that it would not be possible—and he was supported by the Federal Attorney-General of the day (Mr. Enderby)—to hold a general election while these actions were before the High Court. That is the situation.

*Answers (contd.):—*

The public should understand that the only political party which refuses to face

the people on 13 December is the A.L.P. The only way the problems of the nation can be resolved is by the ballot-box and solid support for Mr. Fraser's team.

(3) Although certain provisions in one Act under challenge were held to be invalid, the effect of the decision was to confirm the validity of the existing Federal electorates. On the question of equality of numbers in electorates, the High Court held by a 6-1 majority that no such principle was implied in the Constitution. The only dissenting judge was Mr. Justice Murphy, who applied American decisions which the other judges held to be inapplicable to Australia because they were based on historical grounds which had no relevance in this country.

#### 9. UNLICENSED CHARTER BOATS ON FISHING TRIPS

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

(1) What action is his department taking to stop unlicensed charter boats from being used to take tourists on fishing trips?

(2) Is there any substance in the statement in "The Cairns Post" of 27 November headed "Unlicensed boat danger"?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Harbour masters and boating patrol officers serving my Department of Harbours and Marine throughout Queensland have been instructed to investigate and report on any operator of a vessel whom they suspect of carrying paying passengers in a vessel not properly certified for survey in terms of the Queensland Marine Act. When there is evidence supporting a breach of the Marine Act, legal action to prosecute the offence is taken, subject, of course, to recognition of extenuating circumstances. My Department of Harbours and Marine has reason to believe that there are some operators of uncertificated vessels taking on board fare-paying passengers out of Cairns. Legal action against such people is rendered most difficult because in many instances the passengers will not admit to having paid a fare, in which case it is difficult to prove that the vessel is not a pleasure yacht to which the survey provisions of the Act do not apply. The honourable member may be assured that my department is very conscious of this problem and that legal action will be taken in all but extenuating circumstances, where evidence can be obtained that any operator is carrying paying passengers in a vessel not properly certified for survey in terms of the Queensland Marine Act.

#### 10 and 11. VIETNAMESE COMMUNE, MORETON ISLAND

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

With reference to a news item in the "Sunday Sun" of 30 November headed "Viet. commune hope on Moreton Island" concerning a group of Vietnamese refugee families planning to set up a fishing community on Moreton Island, has his department received an application from this group for the acquisition of land on that island and, if so, for what part of the island?

*Answer:—*

A recent inquiry has been made on behalf of a number of Vietnamese refugee families for information on freehold or leasehold land on Moreton Island which could be made available to them near the towns of Bulwer and Koorringal, with a view to giving them an opportunity to follow their professions of fishing and farming. The Government has recently commissioned the preparation of a total environmental impact study and strategic plan for Moreton Island. Examination of the proposal mentioned will need to await the result of, and be considered in the light of, that study and any over-all plan which may be adopted.

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

(1) Is he familiar with the contents of an article which appeared in the "Sunday Sun" of 30 November concerning a venture to encourage Vietnamese families to set up a fishing community on Moreton Island?

(2) Has his department been approached in connection with the establishing of such a fishing community and, if so, what type of fishing is being considered by this group?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

#### 12. SUBSIDY FOR COAST GUARD

**Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Lamond**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) With reference to an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 1 December headed "Close shave for bay rescue boat", is he aware that this is not an isolated case of the excellent work being carried out by the Volunteer Coast Guard?

(2) In view of the vital service being afforded the public by this group and the heavy cost of maintaining this service, will he consider increasing the State subsidy to a dollar-for-dollar basis?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The State Government scheme providing subsidies of 75 cents in the dollar on endowable collections of voluntary air-sea rescue organisations was established in 1972 in recognition of the costs incurred by them in providing their very valuable service. The rate of endowment is the same as that applicable to surf life saving clubs and comes under regular review. The honourable member might be interested to know that \$55,000 has been provided in the Estimates of the Health Department this year for payments to voluntary air-sea rescue organisations under the subsidy formula.

13. FREE RAILWAY PASSES FOR PENSIONERS

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

(1) Since 1 July 1972, how many free railway passes have been issued to pensioners (total only), and what was the cost?

(2) Is he aware that A.L.P. touts in the Townsville area are claiming that the Commonwealth Government bore all or some of the cost of these passes? If this is correct, how much did the Commonwealth Government contribute? If it is not correct, what action can be taken to expose this blatant A.L.P. untruth?

Answers:—

(1) From 1 July 1972 to 30 November 1975, 98,800 annual rail concession requisitions were issued by my department to qualified indigent persons at a total fare cost of \$1,803,668.

(2) I am not aware that "A.L.P. touts" in the Townsville area are claiming that the former Federal socialist Government bore all, or some, of the cost of these passes. I would not be surprised, however, if such claims are being made, because these would be consistent with false A.L.P. propaganda in so many other fields. The Commonwealth Government does not accept, nor has it ever accepted, responsibility for any part of the cost of this generous Queensland concession to senior citizens. The former Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) has made it quite definite that a Government led by him would not accept any responsibility for the payment of these concessions. There is no need for me to expose this "blatant A.L.P. untruth". This has already been done by Mr. Whitlam himself. It is in line with his current lie that the Liberal-National Country Party Government would reduce pensions.

14. INVASION OF PRIVACY OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH SOLICITORS

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

(1) Does a solicitor commit any breach of law or ethics if he sends on to an irresponsible person, for publication, the contents of a sealed letter received by him from a reputable citizen and sent to him in confidence and as a friendly gesture, and if so, will he inquire into the circumstances under which the contents of a sealed, personal letter received by a Townsville solicitor named Lindsay got into the possession of a man named Hawke, who immediately publicised it?

(2) If the action of Lindsay in this case is in accordance with law and ethics, what assurance can be given to clients of all Queensland solicitors that any letters written by them, and posted in sealed envelopes to their solicitors, will not be handed over to irresponsible people for public perusal?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Allegations of misconduct by solicitors in the course of their profession should be made by the person aggrieved to the Queensland Law Society. That body is responsible for investigating such complaints. Any private grievance is a matter to be settled in whatever way seems appropriate to the person who claims to have been wronged. If the circumstances outlined by the honourable member occurred, then there is grave cause for concern, and I suggest that the information be placed in the hands of the Law Society for investigation.

15. BOVINE T.B. TESTING

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

(1) Is bovine T.B.-testing still being carried out in Queensland?

(2) What areas are declared free of the disease?

(3) Are dairymen still paying a levy?

(4) What is the balance held in the fund?

(5) What compensation is paid for positive reactors?

Answers:—

(1) Yes, under the national T.B. and brucellosis scheme.

(2) No areas are declared free. However, in all of the State east of the dingo barrier fence the level of infection is below that which enables it to qualify for declaration as provisionally free. This is comparable with the position in New South Wales and Victoria.

(3) No levy is paid for T.B.-testing. A levy is collected by dairy factories whose producers elect to participate in the veterinary mileage scheme which was incorporated in the Stock Disease Compensation and Stock Improvement Fund. This money is used only to defray mileage costs incurred in veterinary treatment of their dairy cattle.

(4) Balance of the Stock Disease Compensation and Stock Improvement Fund on 30 June 1975 was \$18,980.

(5) Compensation payable under the national scheme ranges from \$60 for heifers to \$112.50 for bulls. The amounts are currently under review.

16. HEPATITIS "B"

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

(1) Has hepatitis "B" been detected in Queensland and, if so, what is the mortality rate?

(2) As the disease is readily transmitted, what steps are being taken, particularly in medical institutions, to detect carriers?

(3) Has the virus responsible been isolated?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes, hepatitis "B" has been detected in Queensland. The mortality rate is very variable. It may differ from 0.3 per cent. to 30 per cent. It is affected by the age and clinical condition of the patient and probably also by the virulence of the strain of virus involved.

(2) All blood donors are screened at the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service at each donation. One in 1,000 are positive when first tested. At subsequent tests one in 10,000 are found to be positive. The staff and patients of renal units specifically exposed to risk are regularly screened at the Laboratory of Microbiology and Pathology and by the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

(3) No.

17. RECREATION RESERVE 2551,  
FERNY HILLS

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

(1) What is the present position regarding the application by the Pine Rivers Shire Council to grant a lease to the Ferny Hills Progress Association over recreation reserve 2551, Samford Road, Ferny Hills?

(2) When will the progress association be able to proceed with this community project?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The application by the Pine Rivers Shire Council to lease recreation reserve R. 2551, portion 107, parish of Bunya, having an area of 2.97 hectares, to Ferny Hills Progress Association is being examined by the district land commissioner. It is anticipated that his report will be available for consideration very shortly so that a decision may be conveyed to the council.

18. POLITICAL RALLY IN NATIONAL PARK

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

(1) Has he seen the advertisement for a Liberal Party barbecue rally at Tabletop, four miles inside Lamington National Park?

(2) Does a person require permission from the Minister to hold a political rally in a national park?

(3) Did Mr. Frederiks seek permission to use the national park for political purposes?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) Since organised rallies of any type are incompatible with the purposes for which national parks are created, I would not permit their being held on any national park.

(3) Mr. Frederiks is using for the rally not the Lamington National Park, but his own freehold property. It has nothing to do with the honourable member.

19. ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION OVERTIME  
BAN

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

(1) Is he aware of an overtime ban by the Electrical Trades Union on call-out work for the S.E.A.?

(2) Does he realise that this involves after-hour call-out to power supply failure which could be due to either mechanical breakdown or unforeseeable breakdowns caused by storms, cyclones, etc.?

(3) Does he realise that this could mean that power will not be restored as quickly as possible to both primary and secondary industries, particularly those which require constant refrigeration, such as the dairying and the meatworking industries?

(4) As this will mean a loss of income to many and possibly affect jobs and cause cruelty to cows that cannot be milked, which happened after last week's storms, and will lead to a breakdown in the quality of foodstuffs to the public, will he take all steps possible to overcome this totally unreasonable and callous approach by the union?



*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) I am aware that the Electrical Trades Union has made a demand on the electricity supply industry for substantial increases in the available duty allowance as prescribed in the Electrical Engineering Award—State. The demand was rejected by the industry and an offer made by the industry to the union was rejected by the union. No advice has been received by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission that an industrial dispute exists between the S.E.A.Q. and the E.T.U. in relation to this matter. If employees of the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland have refused to effect emergency repairs, this could be an industrial dispute and should be reported by the Southern Electric Authority to the State Industrial Commission pursuant to section 36 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961–1974.

## 20. UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND UNION FUNDS

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

(1) How much money was compulsorily extracted from university students by the University of Queensland authorities and handed to the students' union in 1975?

(2) How much is it anticipated will be passed to the students' union in this manner in 1976 and when will the first payment be made?

*Answers:—*

(1) It is expected that the total amount of student service fees collected by the university in 1975 will be approximately \$835,000. To date, the university has made grants totalling approximately \$802,000 to the University of Queensland Union and the Sports and Physical Recreation Association of the University. It is expected that by the end of the year grants totalling approximately \$620,000 will have been made to the union, and approximately \$215,000 to the association.

(2) It is expected that the amounts involved in 1976 will be approximately the same as for 1975. The first grant will be made at the same time as in 1975, that is, in February.

## 21. BALLOT-BOX STUFFING

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

As I have received very reliable reports that certain trade union officials are instructing their members to vote at every polling booth in their subdivision on 13 December, will he clearly and unequivocally inform this House and the people of Queensland exactly what the legal implications of such actions are and

outline the courses open to anti-socialist candidates to stop this deliberate ballot-box stuffing?

*Answer:—*

Investigations of allegations of this kind are primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth electoral authorities. However, anyone considering not complying with the instructions should be fully aware that he runs the risk of committing a variety of offences against the Commonwealth Electoral Act, such as knowingly making a false statement in answer to a question under the Act, which carries a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment; fraudulently putting a ballot-paper into the ballot-box, which carries a maximum imprisonment of six months; and voting more than once at the same election, which carries a maximum imprisonment of three months.

## 22. MR. E. A. DREW'S ADVOCACY OF LABOR; FALSE CLAIMS OF GENEROSITY

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

(1) With reference to a letter to the editor in "The Courier-Mail" of 2 December over the signature of E. A. Drew, why would a teacher who has benefited greatly under a National-Liberal Government since 1957 be urging people to return to the repressive policies of Labor as they have been demonstrated over the past three years?

(2) Is it a coincidence that the Commonwealth Labor Government, when making grants to the States, insisted upon putting on the tags so that in the future it would be able to brag about its so-called generosity, when in actual fact the money was ours to start with?

*Answers:—*

(1) I can only guess that E. A. Drew's lack of understanding that the major contribution to the improvements he listed came from State funds has caused him to make his misguided statement.

(2) I am unable to attempt to explain what has motivated the previous Commonwealth Government. I welcome the funds that have been made available for education from all sources. It is to me self-evident that no Government is "generous" in distributing taxes raised from the people.

## 23. ACADEMICS AND POLITICS

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

(1) Why is it that a group of academics who have never had to balance a budget in business are urging people to vote for the theoretical, experimental policies of the Labor Party?

(2) Who would give these academics the right to set themselves up as experts in government when they have never practised it?

(3) Do the so-called academics forfeit their right to be useful teachers by declaring their political stance so blatantly?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I will never dispute the right of individuals to publicly declare their political allegiance and beliefs, irrespective of whether they do so personally or collectively and provided always that their methods of such expression are within the customarily accepted norms. While I might privately deplore what I believe to be the misguided enthusiasm of the academic group to which the honourable member refers, I could not see such activities prejudicing their professional employment. By the same token, of course, if as many or more academics publicly proclaim their faith and belief in the Fraser-Anthony Government, then I would be adamant in my belief that their particular action should in no way prejudice their professional careers.

#### 24. INCIDENCE OF SKIN CANCER, MACKAY DISTRICT

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

(1) Is he aware that the annual report of the Queensland Radium Institute indicates that the Mackay subcentre of the institute has a patient and visit ratio which, on a population pro rata basis, is two to three times higher than that of the other subcentres north of the Tropic of Capricorn?

(2) As this would indicate that the Mackay district has the highest incidence of skin cancer in Queensland, is his department aware of any special reason why this is so and, if not, will he undertake an investigation into the reason for the high incidence?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The annual report of the Queensland Radium Institute indicates the patient loading at subcentres in Mackay, Townsville, and Cairns, but these figures indicate not the incidence of skin malignancy in those areas, but rather the variation in the treatment patterns adopted at these different centres. For instance, in Townsville, skin malignancy patients are treated by a dermatologist, several surgeons, and in private by radiotherapy as well as by the Queensland Radium Institute subcentre. The Mackay subcentre treats the majority of skin malignancies occurring in that district.

#### 25. LOANS TO SUGAR INDUSTRY IN 1960s

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

(1) What amount of money was lent to the Queensland sugar industry during the disastrous period of the 1960s when prices were low and marketing difficulties were being experienced, who was the lender, what was the rate of interest charged and what were the dates of the loans?

(2) What amount of these loans has been repaid to date and what has been the total amount of interest paid to the lender?

*Answers:—*

(1) The total funds made available to the sugar industry because of very low returns in the 1966 and 1967 seasons were \$23,327,590. The lender to the sugar industry was the Queensland Government, which borrowed a like sum from the Commonwealth Government for the purpose. These loans were interest-free until 30 June 1970 and interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum was payable thereafter. The sum of \$19,768,397 was made available for the 1966 season and the sum of \$3,559,192 for the 1967 season.

(2) Principal and interest repaid by the industry to date amount to \$10,248,112 and \$4,857,035 respectively.

#### 26. QUEENSLAND CANE GROWERS' COUNCIL

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

As he continues to say in this House that in matters concerning the sugar industry he will be guided by industry organisations such as the Queensland Cane Growers' Council, why has he not agreed to the recommendation of the last four cane growers' annual conferences that the Cane Growers' Council be increased in number to 30 so that each mill area would have a voice in industry recommendations and decisions?

*Answer:—*

Recommendations of the Queensland Cane Growers' annual conferences are not binding on the Queensland Cane Growers' Council. It has always been the policy of my department that recommendations involving amendments to any statutory organisation constituted under The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1973 should come through the parent body of that organisation—in this case the Queensland Cane Growers' Council—in order that I may be fully advised of the wishes of the organisation as a whole and not only of a particular section of it. To date, I have received no request or recommendation from the council to the effect that the number of delegates be increased.

27. Mr. DICK ANEAR, STATE PRESIDENT  
A.M.I.E.U.

Mr. Ahern for Mr. Lane, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Is the State President of the A.M.I.E.U., Mr. Dick Anear, at present making a State-wide tour of meatworks and abattoirs for the purpose of collecting funds for the Australian Labor Party's Commonwealth election campaign?

(2) Is Mr. Anear also a member of the State committee of the Communist Party of Australia?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The electoral position of the former Prime Minister and his colleagues is so precarious, and their standing and reputation with the people so low, that I would not be surprised if they had enlisted each and every member of the Communist Party in Australia to collect money, to vocally support and to use threats and intimidation in their vain struggle to regain the Commonwealth Treasury benches. Let there be no misunderstanding about it, Mr. Whitlam and his colleagues will have no hesitation whatsoever about using Communist officials and their cohorts in this struggle, without ever realising that, in the long term, it is the Communists and their adherents who are using Mr. Whitlam and the A.L.P.

28. ELECTION CAMPAIGN COSTS OF LEADER  
OF OPPOSITION

Mr. Ahern for Mr. Lane, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Has he seen Press reports which seem to indicate that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Burns, has been making extensive tours of Queensland, including one to Townsville last week, campaigning for the re-election of the Australian Labor Party to Government in Canberra?

(2) Have the air flights of Mr. Burns been paid for by the State Government?

(3) What has been the total cost of Mr. Burns's trips to the Australian taxpayers?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2 and 3) Since July, 1974, the occupant of the position of Leader of the Opposition has been granted unlimited air travel on scheduled commercial flights within the State, provided such flights are necessary for him to attend to parliamentary business. I understand the procedure is that the Clerk of the Parliament subsequently receives accounts from the airline companies for travel undertaken by the Leader of the Opposition. Looking at this question dispassionately, I would say

that the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to claim that these flights he has undertaken within the State are in accordance with the terms of the approval referred to above.

29. DELAYS IN DENTAL TREATMENT,  
TOWNSVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. M. D. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Is he aware that, because of the insufficient number of dentists available at the newly opened dental clinic at the Townsville General Hospital, considerable delay is involved in the provision of dental treatment to patients for other than non-urgent work, to the extent that one patient has complained that she was told at the clinic that, while she needed some dentures filled, she could not get this treatment for at least 18 months?

(2) When will additional dentists be located at the Townsville Hospital in order to reduce the period of waiting for dental treatment to a more reasonable time?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) An additional dentist commenced duties at the Townsville Dental Clinic on 1 December 1975 and it is anticipated a further dentist will be available early in 1976. I am advised that there is no waiting list for dentures at this clinic.

30. DELAYS IN MOTOR VEHICLE  
REGISTRATION, TOWNSVILLE

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

As people in Townsville are still experiencing considerable delay in receiving registration stickers, both in the purchase of new vehicles and in vehicle transfers, when will arrangements be finalised for the processing of registrations through the Main Roads Office in Townsville?

Answer:—

I thank the honourable member for the question and recognise that there is still some delay in the Townsville area. I can assure him that the backlog has been relieved considerably in some parts of the State. I will use every endeavour to have the matter of the decentralisation of that part of the department in the Townsville area effected as quickly as possible.

31. PENSIONER BUS FARE SUBSIDIES

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

In view of the subsidy mentioned in the Budget which will apply to pensioner bus fares, will this subsidy apply to pensioners

living in the Gold Coast and Albert Shire areas and, if so, to which services will it apply?

*Answer:—*

The honourable member will now be aware from the Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Bill, which I introduced in the House only yesterday to guarantee the repayment of monies borrowed for certain purposes by proprietors of urban passenger services and to pay to those proprietors subsidies and for matters incidental thereto, that provision has been made for pensioners to benefit from concessional fares on private urban bus services in the Gold Coast and Albert Shire areas.

32. UNIVERSITY LECTURERS' POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF STUDENTS

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

(1) Is he aware that a lecturer in social work at the Queensland University is advising the students studying to be social workers that, because the National and Liberal Parties will not employ social workers, they should not vote for them?

(2) Is there any way that he can stop unscrupulous lecturers from trying to persuade students to vote one way or the other by telling blatant untruths which cause unnecessary fear in the hearts of the students?

*Answers:—*

(1) The acting vice-chancellor is not aware whether a lecturer in social work at the University of Queensland has advised students in this way. No complaint in this regard has been received from students.

(2) The university places a responsibility on the head of each department to develop an appropriate syllabus for each subject, for approval by the appropriate faculty boards and the Professorial Board. It relies on the professional competence and judgment of lecturers to implement the syllabus. It is expected that an intelligent student will be able to make his own judgment as to the truth of statements and that he will be able to detect any bias in presentation.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PROPOSED VISIT TO SWITZERLAND BY QUEENSLAND AGENT-GENERAL

**Mr. MELLOY**: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Is he aware of a proposed visit to Switzerland by the Agent-General (Mr. Rae) to investigate certain aspects of the Khemlani loans affair? If he is not, will he have inquiries made into the matter?

**Sir GORDON CHALK**: I have some knowledge of a visit outside Britain by the Agent-General. The matter was handled by the Premier and has not been discussed at Cabinet level. Because of that, I have no personal knowledge of the nature of the visit. However, I could not deny that I understand that the visit has taken place.

ALLEGED INTIMIDATION OF PENSIONERS, SOUTH BRISBANE ELECTORATE

**Mr. LAMONT**: I preface my question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General by drawing his attention to the fact that prominent members of the Labor Party, including, to my direct knowledge, Labor aldermen and at least one former M.L.A., are deliberately harassing elderly pensioners in my electorate by conducting personal visits to their homes and attempting to scare them with the false story that pension increases, if not, indeed, pensions themselves, will be lost if Labor does not regain power on 13 December. I ask: As this is a deliberate and conscious lie in the face of personal assurances by Mr. Chipp and Mr. Fraser of twice-yearly pension increases in line with rises in the cost of living, is there any legal means by which such despicable worms can be stopped from crawling into my electorate and unfairly and maliciously intimidating the frail and the weak, many of whom live in isolation and thus become greatly distressed, and may continue to be so until a Liberal victory at the polls proves such lies to be false?

**Mr. KNOX**: I think that all honourable members must be concerned about what the honourable member for South Brisbane has revealed.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Mr. Aikens** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Order!

**Mr. KNOX**: I know the honourable member for Bundaberg has not finished reading the proof of his speech from last night. I ask him to finish reading it and stop worrying us.

The honourable member for South Brisbane seeks to know what can be done about the situation when people threaten others with loss of privileges—or rights, as they are—if they do not vote in a particular way. Section 158 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act provides very severe penalties for people who threaten or offer or suggest any violence or injury or punishment or damage or loss or disadvantage on account of a vote in support of or in opposition to any candidate. So if the honourable member finds people who suffer persuasion of that type by prominent members of the A.L.P., he can inform them that, if they care to lodge their complaints with the returning officer, they will be investigated, and I hope that the people concerned will be charged and punished accordingly.

**DANGER TO PENSIONERS FROM A.L.P. SCARE TACTICS**

**Mr. LAMONT:** On the assumption that dedicated non-Labor voters will utterly reject groundless claims being spread to the effect that pensions are in danger in the event of a Liberal victory at the polls, I direct my attention and that of the Minister for Health to pensioners whose faculties and resolve may have deteriorated over the years, through either age or other infirmity, and who may be living in comparative isolation, and then ask: Is there a real danger that the scare tactics of the Labor Party with respect to the pensions question could in fact cause direct physical or mental harm to pensioners who become unnecessarily distressed by Labor members maliciously resorting to such tactics to squeeze out a few extra votes?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I am unaware of the situation to which the honourable member refers, but no doubt when elderly people are faced with problems such as he has reported, it would cause confusion and distress to them and their relatives. I deplore such procedures if they are in fact occurring. I would suggest to the honourable member that he assure the elderly people in his electorate that there is no need for concern because, as the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General has pointed out, the Government that is elected on 13 December will honour its obligations to provide for those in the community who are disadvantaged. That has been the Liberal-National Party policy at all times, and it shall continue to be.

**BANKRUPTCIES UNDER LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENTS AND LABOR GOVERNMENT**

**Mr. CORY:** I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Has he seen an advertisement by the A.L.P. in today's newspapers headed "The Bankruptcy Court tells its Story", containing a graph and suggesting that more businesses went broke under the Liberal-Country Party Governments than under the A.L.P. Government? Is that correct, or what is the true position?

**Mr. KNOX:** I have in my hand a copy of the advertisement which I believe has appeared throughout the nation today.

**Mr. Houston:** "I just happened to have it in my hand".

**Mr. KNOX:** I happen to read this newspaper every day, and it so happened that I was reading it at the moment the question was asked.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. KNOX:** This happens to concern the people of Queensland. It may not concern the honourable member for Bulimba. He was not here yesterday. A lot of business was conducted in this Chamber yesterday.

**Mr. Houston:** I was here.

**Mr. KNOX:** The honourable member for Rockhampton was not here. He was not here to speak on all the Bills that he said he wanted to speak on.

**Mr. Jensen interjected.**

**Mr. KNOX:** The honourable member for Rockhampton is eternally in the debt of the honourable member for Bundaberg for the manner in which he handled the debate last night.

The advertisement includes a graph supposedly showing the bankruptcies in Australia from 1965 to 1975. I might add that the period in 1974 is to the end of the financial year—the middle of 1974. It will be noticed that in the middle of 1974 the graph was starting to go up. Since that time it has sky-rocketed. The A.L.P. is not prepared to publish the remaining part of the graph. The graph is supposed to represent the period from 1965 to 1975 but it stops in the middle of 1974. It is 18 months out of date. The A.L.P. is claiming that that is the current position; but it has sky-rocketed.

The interesting thing is that events in the Bankruptcy Court relate to private bankruptcies. The Bankruptcy Court does not deal with all the liquidations and all the winding-up cases that are heard in the Supreme Courts in the various States—at the rate of something like two a day in this State, which is an all-time record. All of those proceedings take place in other courts, not the Bankruptcy Court. The A.L.P. is misleading people with false information and out-of-date information. Despite that, it will not be able to convince thousands of people in the community that they are not bankrupt. It is going to try to tell them that they are not bankrupt because the figures are not shown in the graph. It is trying to say to them, "It didn't happen to you. You didn't feel a thing." What about all the employees who lost their jobs? According to the A.L.P. they did not lose their jobs because the firms they worked for went into liquidation or went bankrupt. The A.L.P. is saying to them, "It just didn't happen. You couldn't possibly have felt it." That won't convince any of the thousands of people who have suffered as a result of the A.L.P.'s policies.

TOWNSVILLE BRANCH OF QUEENSLAND  
AMBULANCE TRANSPORT BRIGADE

**Mr. AIKENS:** I ask the Minister for Health: Has his attention been drawn to articles in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" in connection with the affairs of the Townsville Branch of the Q.A.T.B.? If so, can he give the House any information on the matter?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I am aware of the controversy that has arisen in the Townsville area over certain allegations concerning the administration of the Townsville Branch of the Q.A.T.B. This matter was brought to my attention shortly after I became Minister for Health. Members who represent Townsville electorates have also drawn my attention to certain matters.

A number of courses of action are open to me in relation to this matter. One is that under the Act I could disband the committee. However, this would be unrealistic at the present time, because the elections of committees by subscribers will be held in March of next year.

It was as the result of certain administrative problems occurring in the Townsville area, of which I am sure the honourable member is aware, that we amended the Ambulance Services Act early this year to enable us to ensure that these administrative problems can be brought to the notice of the police and other authorities.

I have discussed this matter with other Ministers, and I inform the honourable member that I do not feel that I should take further action at this stage. Rather shall I leave it to the subscribers to deal with the committee in the new year.

AIR FARE CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO LEADER  
OF THE OPPOSITION

**Mr. AIKENS:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Will he tell the House the amount paid at the taxpayers' expense by way of air fares and air fare concessions granted to the Leader of the Opposition since the inception of this concession?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I am quite sure the honourable member realises that it would be impossible for me to quote off the cuff figures of expenditure incurred by any member or of any allowances paid to him. If the honourable member will put the question on notice, I shall provide him with the information he seeks.

BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND WICKET

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I ask the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport: Seeing that the wicket used for the first cricket test in Brisbane of the current series has now successfully passed the test of time, will the Minister act like a true sportsman and congratulate Alderman Clem Jones on his preparation of the wicket and apologise to him for his unwarranted outburst last week against him?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Firstly, we should consider the number of runs that were scored in that test. For a match of that order, they were an all-time low of about 1,000. Many people saw the pitch in colour on TV for the first time. It was baked clay. If we had had a drop of rain during the test, the game would have been ruined completely; there would have been no recovery.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. Casey:** They are lucky they have got a good wicket to play on. The poor fellows out in the bush—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will be run out, too, if he does not watch himself.

**Mr. Casey:** As long as I am not drummed out.

MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL  
INITIATION

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health): 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 Medical Act 1939-1973 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

MEDICAL ACT AND OTHER ACTS  
(ADMINISTRATION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health): 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 Medical Act and other Acts (Administration) Act 1966-1974 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

HOSPITALS ACT AMENDMENT BILL  
INITIATION

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health): 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 Hospitals Act 1936-1971 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST  
A.L.P. POLICIES IN FEDERAL ELECTION  
CAMPAIGN

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.58 a.m.): In this election campaign, which is now

reaching its hot point, one of the strangest things the nation has witnessed is the failure of the A.L.P. to produce a policy speech. It might be recalled that Mr. Whitlam, with a great deal of showmanship, went into all the histrionics and all that is required in the technique of modern communications to try to justify why he should still be the Prime Minister of Australia. Let me say that the people of Australia really do not care how ex-Prime Minister Whitlam was sacked, although they will be arguing about it for another hundred years. All they are grateful for is the opportunity to demonstrate their feelings through the ballot-box. No matter how much effort the A.L.P. directs to persuading the electorate that they should not be facing the people, the electors are grateful.

However, there was no policy speech; so we now have to look at the published documents of the A.L.P. to ascertain its policy. First, of course, is the Hayden Budget. There is nothing in that for the people. Of course, it was not an election Budget in the normal sense of that term. Naturally enough, the A.L.P. is trying to dodge having to face up to an examination of that Budget, which contains the fiscal policies of the A.L.P. for the next 12 months—and, indeed, for some years to come. So it has to stand on that. It is not a very pretty record to look at.

The other area that has been overlooked in the current election campaign is the fate of the 21 Bills that the Governor-General insisted should go before him for consideration of the double dissolution of the Parliament. Those 21 Bills have been rejected twice by the Senate. As an indication of A.L.P. policy on what it would do to this nation if those Bills became law, it would do no harm to remind people what is contained in those pieces of legislation that were rejected by the Senate and also voted against by nearly half of the House of Representatives.

If the A.L.P. won the election on 13 December, in both Houses, there would be a joint sitting of the Parliament at which these 21 Bills would be considered and passed. The people of the nation should understand what the A.L.P. has in store for them should it be successful in the election. It is contained in the 21 Bills that have been rejected and that could be the subject of a joint sitting in the near future.

For the A.L.P. to run this country the way they want to—to socialise it and to establish the socialist republic that they are so keen to have—they have to carry out a number of things. To aim at centralism and to establish the socialist republic, one of the first things they have to do is to start to control communications. While they claim that there should be a public interest in the media—I do not dispute that as a general claim—their interpretation of what is the public interest is that the Government should have a say in what the media do in this country, that the Government should control

what appears on television, what is heard on our radios and what is good and bad for us to read in our newspapers.

In the broadcasting and television Bills, which have been rejected by the Senate, and in the media council proposed by Dr. Cass, there is a move to get a stranglehold on communications in this nation in a manner not dissimilar from that in which Hitler did it through the offices of the media under Dr. Goebbels. They are quite similar in operation. That is what is proposed in these Bills.

Every endeavour has been made by the A.L.P. administratively to strangle private enterprise and private communications in the community by putting in Government-controlled radio stations to interfere with the established radio stations and by having directives made through the Broadcasting Control Board to limit and inhibit the broadcasting and television media. These are the things that are in store for this nation. So control of communications is one of the aims of the A.L.P. as outlined in these Bills.

The second area in which a socialist republic would want to get control of a nation is through the Police Force. One of the Bills rejected by the Senate relates to the setting up of the Australia Police Force. On the face of it very few people could complain that this is naturally desirable, but we must look at the small print to find out what they are attempting to do.

All of the policing operations of all of the departments will come under the Australia Police Force. When there is a problem within the post office—they have new names now, Australian Post and Telecom Australia—a person in civilian clothes investigates the matter at the home or place of business of the person being investigated, whereas under the A.L.P. proposals it will be a policeman who will do it because the policing functions in that particular operation will be transferred to the Australia Police Force.

With a quarantine problem, which may not involve criminal negligence or any action regarded as being criminal, the investigation is done by people in civilian clothes from the quarantine office. They conduct the investigation discreetly and without causing any fuss. In the future, if the A.L.P. have their way, all of these matters will be attended to by policemen.

**Mr. Aikens:** And they won't go short of pimps, either.

**Mr. KNOX:** Well, they have ordered the biggest computer in the world to be installed in Canberra to assist the Australia Police Force. At the moment it happens to be one of the smallest police forces in the world and concerns itself only with the A.C.T. and the Northern Territory and certain Commonwealth Acts. But if the

A.L.P. have their way, and win the polls on 13 December, it will become the biggest police force in Australia, involving many thousands of extra policemen over and above those already employed in the Police Force.

**Mr. Lowes:** Big Brother.

**Mr. KNOX:** Indeed it is another Big Brother operation which the socialists are keen to implement.

Let us look at the Australian insurance corporation which the A.L.P. wants to set up with powers to acquire businesses at the whim of a Minister—another example of the sort of thing which is in store for us if the socialists have their way.

But the greatest strength and the greatest power which they intend to give themselves is through the electoral Bills. There are a number of them, including one which will redistribute electorates, which would strongly favour the A.L.P. and which give power to people in the inner city suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne who do not even have the vote. The proposals are such that they will give these people influence when in fact they are not entitled to cast a vote. I am speaking mainly of the migrants of this nation who are not even citizens but who are considered in the redistribution proposals.

**A Government Member:** As people.

**Mr. KNOX:** As people. As to the proposal to have simultaneous elections of the House of Representatives and the Senate—while in most normal circumstances we accept that it is a very convenient arrangement for the Senate and the House of Representatives to have elections at the same time, making them compulsory on all occasions simply limits the number of opportunities which people have to censure Governments through the ballot-box.

**Mr. Lowes:** Even Mr. Whitlam changed his mind about that one.

**Mr. KNOX:** Well, he had to; but it also makes the political colour of the Senate identical to that of the House of Representatives at any particular time for ever. This, of course, is what happened in the United States in 1964 when the Upper Houses of the 49 states which have two Houses were compelled to have the same areas and the same elections as the Lower House. The result is, of course, that the Upper Houses have become redundant. They reflect the political colour of the area at the same time as the Lower House and cease to be a house of review. Of course, the A.L.P. would like this to happen. They would like to see the Senate become redundant and regarded as a House of the same political colour as the Lower House of the time in order to have the excuse to be able to say to the people, "Well, you don't need a Senate because it is no longer performing its function as a House of review."

(Time expired.)

#### ANSWER TO CRITICISM OF A.L.P. POLICIES

**Mr. WRIGHT** (Rockhampton) (12.8 p.m.): I wish to make a couple of comments seeing that the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General has entered this debate.

I think it is worth recording that, when he mentions the Hayden Budget, this has been accepted by Mr. Fraser and he has stated publicly that there will not be a new Budget.

The second point he raised was about control of the media. On the question of the A.B.C., Mr. Nixon and Senator Withers declared publicly, after the setting-up of the caretaker Government, that they wanted to see a monitor on the A.B.C. As for the Australia Police Force—this proposal was brought up because there have not been enough powers for the Commonwealth police. We have even seen the situation where State police have been given power to act in Commonwealth places. In fact, we have legislation in this State to that effect. It has always been said that there has been a need for a strengthening of its numbers. Moreover, the Australian Government has been trying to do something to improve the study of criminology.

On the question of the Australian insurance corporation, let us accept the fact that there is a need for competition in the insurance industry, just like that given by the S.G.I.O. in this State.

As for his comment about simultaneous elections, let me remind the House that this was advocated by none other than Sir Robert Menzies, and the Minister is wrong when he says that there can be no change-over. What the Australian Government has been saying is that the half-Senate election should be held at the same time as an election for the House of Representatives, so that does mean that it could happen that a political party of a different colour from that controlling the House of Representatives could control the Senate.

I think the Minister has unfortunately been overworked and is not very sure of his facts. But it is part of the campaign that has been waged against the Whitlam Government for three years. It was begun by the Premier and it has been kept up by big business and the Press—I instance in this case the Murdoch Press—and we find that we have had nothing but untruths. In fact, it has been a campaign of untruths and it is about time the people were told the facts.

I have heard so much about how the tax system under the Labor Party has hurt the ordinary people that I decided to take out some figures. In 1970 a single man on \$145 a week was paying \$36.90 in tax. In 1975 he pays \$29.50. That is proof that people have in fact benefited by the tax adjustments made by the Whitlam Government.

If honourable members opposite wish to talk about tax, let them talk about their double-tax system. Let them remember that



Mr. Fraser—and it is in “The Australian” today—was not prepared to discuss that issue in Western Australia because the people of that State are up in arms about it.

The Minister for Justice mentioned earlier that businesses have failed. He forgot to mention firms such as Cambridge Credit and K. D. Morris. Business groups in the community have been calling for investigation of their activities, not because of Government policies but because of their own poor administration.

As the Minister attacked an advertisement that appeared in the Press this morning, let us look at the figures. In 1971-72—the last full financial year under a Liberal-Country Party Government—2,684 businesses went bankrupt. In 1974-75, only 2,061 suffered a similar fate. We have heard a great deal about farmers. Let us see what has happened to them. In 1971-73, 123 farmers went to the wall; in 1974-75, only 67 did.

Let me turn now to the attacks on Labor's housing policies. In 1971-72, housing assistance to the States amounted to a miserable \$4,150,000. In 1974-75, \$329,300,000 was made available.

In 1971-72, grants to Government and non-Government schools—no doubt the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities can back me up on this—amounted to \$56,800,000, whereas last year they amounted to \$443,900,000.

Let us look also at roads, because so much has been said in this Chamber about roads. In 1971-72, \$218,000,000 was made available; in 1974-75, \$368,000,000. Direct assistance to local government amounted to \$1,900,000 in 1971-72 and \$55,200,000 last year.

Let us look at what has been done for the ordinary people—the pensioners. In 1971-72 a single pensioner received \$20 a week. Today a single pensioner receives \$38.75. In 1971-72, under a Liberal-Country Party Government, a married pensioner couple received \$34.50, but today they receive \$64.50. Special assistance has been given to orphans, handicapped children and the single-family.

The Minister for Justice talks about looking at Labor's policies. I think it is time he had a hard look at the Liberal-National Country Party policies. They created instability in the economy before the A.L.P. Government came to power. Inflation had already begun and unemployment was almost 100,000. They have since created instability by knocking dozens of Bills, some of which the Minister has mentioned, and almost brought the nation to economic disaster by their antics in the Senate. But look at their policies, Mr. Speaker! Double tax, Mr. Fraser says! Medibank—they are running away from it now, but Mr. Chipp said in the “Sunday Telegraph”, “Medibank will be dismantled.” Today Mr. Fraser has said—and honourable

members will see it in the newspapers tomorrow—that there will be a means test for entry to hospitals. That won't be welcomed by the ordinary people. They have promised to dissolve the legal aid system. I wonder how many country people will be affected by that. Senator Greenwood has said that it will be done. They are going to repeal the Trade Practices Act and remove consumer protection. They are going to dismantle the Prices Justification Tribunal.

Let us see who they really support. A 40 per cent investment allowance for big business; a free go for multi-nationals to rape the mineral resources; subsidies to wealthy farmers, so that Fraser and his like can receive \$5,000 a year in superphosphate bounty.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is far too much noise in the Chamber. I call upon all honourable members to obey the Standing Orders and Rules.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They intend to cut back expenditure. They said at first that they were going to reduce expenditure by between \$500,000,000 and \$1,000 million. Now they are not saying what they intend to do. In fact, they cannot say how much their programmes will cost.

Regardless of what the honourable member for South Brisbane said earlier, pensions are threatened. One has only to look back at the record of former Liberal Country Party Governments. In 1971-72, pensioners received a rise of 50c a year. That shows what their policies were.

Let me come back to the important issue of what young people had to look forward to—conscription. Under former Liberal Country Party Governments, 496 men were killed and 3,132 were wounded in Vietnam. Thousands of careers and lives were disrupted and ruined. Now honourable members opposite say, “Turn on the lights”. I say to the House that they can never turn on the lights again for men who gave their lives in Vietnam.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** They say, “Turn on the lights.” One cannot turn on the lights if there is no power.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Kurilpa will refrain from persistent interjections.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** It's the same old crew——

**Mr. Gygar** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Stafford, too.

**Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG:** I rise to a point of order. I point out that not every man who died in Vietnam was a conscript.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** I did not say that. I said that a Liberal-National Government would reintroduce conscription. The point is that those men died and a Liberal-National Government wouldn't be turning the lights back on for them. Let us remember that when they say that they are going to reintroduce conscription.

Let us come back to the man who leads the same old team. It is the same old team of 1971-72. He is a man called Fraser, whom John Gorton described as treacherous. Let us not forget that. I remember honourable members opposite getting up in the Chamber and saying what a wonderful man John Gorton was. O.K., if he is a wonderful man he will tell the truth, and we can believe him when he says that Fraser is a very treacherous man.

On 13 December the motto for voters should be "Lest we forget"—lest we forget what happened in 1971-72 under the Liberals; lest we forget the pitiful allowances given to pensioners; lest we forget the way money was given to massive investors, multi-nationals and mineral groups that got more in Government subsidies than they paid in tax.

I make one final point on what is part of the total campaign. We look at the Gallup Polls that are suddenly hitting the scene. I suggest that most of them are phoney.

It is all right for Government members to laugh; but how many of them have ever met anyone who has answered a questionnaire for the Morgan Gallup Poll? I never have, and I'm sure most of them never have, either. We know what is going on.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is far too much noise and too many interjections. I ask honourable members to refrain from persistent interjections.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** It is obvious that they do not like it.

It has been part of the campaign. It has happened in the Press and it is happening at this very moment. They are determined to try to condition voters into thinking that the Labor Party is finished. The Labor Party is not finished. We don't care about their Gallup Polls. The people will decide what will happen to this nation and the democracy of this nation on 13 December.

#### A.L.P. THREAT TO INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE FREEDOMS

**Hon. V. J. BIRD** (Burdekin—Minister for Education and Cultural Activities) (12.17 p.m.): We have just heard the rantings and ravings of yet another desperate A.L.P. supporter. I believe that as I progress with my speech honourable members will hear about the type of person with which he can be collectively gathered.

Never in the history of this nation have our individual and collective freedoms been so threatened as they are at this point in time. Ironically, the threat is greater from within our own shores than from outside, though there can be little doubt that the grand plan is orchestrated by world Communism and that the tried, tested and proven Communist blueprint for the breakdown of the family structure, the elimination of religious freedom and the encouragement of pornography and immorality as a means of undermining the loyalties, self-respect and moral fibre of our peoples—our youth in particular—is being followed letter by letter, step by step.

Every member of this House is well aware of the repetitious cry of "Fascist!" from the Labor benches when any other member protests against a Labor policy. This cry is directly from the Communist book of directions. "Everyone who is not with us", it says, "must be smeared as a Fascist".

But the threat I speak of comes not only from those Labor-socialist-Communist sources (call them by whatever label you wish; they are all tarred with the same brush), or from these hard-liners who deliberately seek to mislead the people. We heard one of them just a while ago. The threat would appear to come from those also whom they succeed in misleading—the people who laugh at the suggestion of the Communist plan, who say, "Oh, yes, it happened in other places, but it couldn't happen to Australia." But it could happen to Australia. The Labor maladministration in Canberra, recently sacked after nearly three years of laying the groundwork for the implementation of Communist policies and ideologies, can boast no greater success than its success in hoodwinking the more apathetic and the more naive voter.

How cunning they are at inciting strikes, hate and violence in the streets on the one hand, and, on the other, disclaiming responsibility. How cunning they are at protesting against a biased Press, on the one hand, while their activities, on the other, are such that one of Australia's most senior and respected commentators reacts by writing—

"There is great concern in the newspaper, television and radio boardrooms of Australia about the performance of some of their representatives in the Canberra Press Gallery. . . . To say that reports were loaded the Labor (ex) Government's way would be the understatement of the year. But worse, in the view of newspaper management, is the blind acceptance of newsmen of phony reports from Mr. Whitlam's dirty tricks team, the exchange of misinformation among newspaper offices, and the general lack (with some exceptions) of objective reporting. Some of the Press gallery men have jobs dangled before them, others the promise of grants."

Surely no aware, non-Labor person is able to stomach even a few items of some media

news coverage without vomiting in disgust at the blatant Labor bias so consistently illustrated.

Yet there are still so many voters who fail to see the threat to their liberty—their freedom of speech and movement, the threat to their savings, their plans for a dignified retirement in their old age.

I doubt whether I could put it better than it is put in an article in the "Bulletin" of 31 May this year, in which of the then Labor Government it is written—

"The Orwell Nightmare gets nearer daily. Down in Canberra that gang of hillbilly Hitlers masquerading as a Labor Party are stripping our freedom, instituting appalling penalties for trivial matters, trying to order our lives, to control our habits, to subjugate us to miserable mediocrity and life under the bureaucratic jackboot.

"Watch out for identity cards, part and parcel of a police State. Beware the Postal Bill, now before Parliament, which allows the opening of people's mail. Watch out for laws which give new and unnecessary powers of entry into homes.

"Read the Racial Discrimination Bill—stripping from you your liberty to make an observation about someone of another race or persuasion. It is a bill which, as one member said, will 'encourage a race of pimps and provocateurs.' (Again, part and parcel of a police State.)

"If you declined to let a spare room in your home because you didn't fancy the person seeking to rent it, you could be hauled up before a commission. It could even be illegal to criticise a former war enemy or a potential future enemy.

"What I've mentioned are only a few of the things which are happening to us, legislation aimed at killing freedom and putting us in a police State straitjacket."

Mr. Marcus Cohn, an American media lawyer, referring to the recent Labor Government's creation—the Department of the Media—said the very concept was "mind boggling", that "the Soviet Union has a Ministry of the Media but no democratic country apart from Australia has one". He said he felt bound to point out the great potential for abuse of power. How right he was! There can be little doubt about the future of this propaganda department when sanity can be re-established in Canberra.

My point concerning the Department of the Media is further highlighted by a most interesting letter published in the "Financial Review" of 30 April. The letter referred to an inquiry made of the Attorney-General concerning misleading advertising by Medibank. (There has, of course, been so much blatantly misleading advertising both in the media and in the brochures published by the Department of the Media and paid for by all of us to the tune of some million dollars). The writer wanted to know what the Attorney-General would do about Medibank advertising

in the light of the same Government's Trade Practices Act, by which that Government would have had us believe it was protecting the consumer. The reply received from the then Attorney-General was that "the Trade Practices Act 1974 did not apply to the Australian Labor Government departments and instrumentalities." What a lovely admission that is!

How right, then, is Mr. Cohn when he makes the point that the Department of the Media has great potential for the abuse of power. But of course, Labor was ever less than careful with the truth. The tragedy for Australia is that a Department of the Media (Propaganda), a non-distinction we were made to share with the Soviet Union, proved to be that kind of brain-washing weapon which goes hand in hand with a "special" Police Force, another innovation we are threatened with by an "Australian" Labor Government, and which the Soviet Union also possesses.

I suggest it is very much in the public interest that due note be taken of the warning given by Cardinal James Freeman when he wrote about "Communism—Our Blind Spot".

He said—

"Nowadays, the person who mentions the Communist danger can almost assuredly expect to be accused of political naivete, of trying to revive a dead issue or of speaking thus for some ulterior motive. That he might be speaking sincerely and, more importantly, that his observations might be accurate are generally not seriously considered. Whether this blind spot (as regards Communism) is due to skilful propaganda, to very clever strategy or simply to public apathy is not clear. But it must be a source of great satisfaction to the Communists. To give them their due, the Communists have not hesitated to state their intentions or their objectives; but even they must be intrigued when so many fail to take them seriously.

They have stressed the importance—

- \* of indoctrinating the young—an area in which they are being more successful than many realise;
- \* of rejecting the notion that education is neutral; and
- \* of presenting students with a critique of capitalism and the need for and possibility of social revolution.

"They have indicated as a first duty the need to work out, constantly develop and consistently strive to implement a revolutionary strategy in Australia, and of the need to change trade unions as an essential part of developing the revolutionary movement. Many workers are aware of this and they resent it. Nor have Communists ever disguised their attitude to religion or religious belief.

"By skilful strategy, by careful placements and, when necessary, by intimidation, Communists, even when in minority,

have amply demonstrated that they can control an unorganised majority. If it be objected that a world takeover by Communism has not succeeded—at least, not yet—the picture looks different if the aim is to outflank the alliance in the West, to destroy the influence of the West among developing nations and to reduce the morale of its people. None of this is new; but for some reasons it has become unfashionable to mention it.

“Meantime, however, we might well take stock in our own country and be eternally vigilant for the dangers that beset us at home if we do not remain firm in our dedication to the ideals of freedom, justice and charity. If we fail to promote these ideals for all men, we will create a vacuum into which Communists will readily enter.”

(Time expired.)

#### WHITLAM AND A.L.P. THREAT TO AUSTRALIAN MORALITY

**Mr. PORTER** (Toowong) (12.27 p.m.): The Attorney-General did the House a very valuable service this morning by drawing attention to the 21 A.L.P. Bills blocked by the Senate which, if the poll on 13 December makes it possible—and God forbid that that should happen—will be rushed through a joint sitting of the House of Representatives and the Senate by the Labor Party. As the Attorney-General pointed out, these Bills are all designed to socialise, communise and paralyse Australia, to turn the country into a vast A.L.P.—Australian Labor Prison. They are designed to control our working life, our private life, what we buy, how we trade, what we read and what we may see and hear on radio and TV; their only clear purpose is to set Australia firmly on the road to a one-party dictatorship.

One thing is absolutely certain and, as we come up the straight to the election, people have got to recognise this. If we want to see the full extent of the evil that the socialist-minded A.L.P. plans for us, it is important to look not only at what the A.L.P. has done to date—and it has done a lot—but also at what it proposes: these Bills blocked by the Senate, together with a new Criminal Code drafted for the Australian Capital Territory and the various test cases which are now jamming the High Court of Australia. If re-elected, Whitlam will see that as a mandate to go the whole hog. And we will get all of it and a lot more to boot!

I wonder how many people recognise the significance of the A.C.T. Criminal Code draft changes? It has been said, of course, that Labor is not going ahead with it—that was purely because of electoral reaction. But if it should get back into power, we will see what happens. It should be remembered that, immediately after the 1972 poll, Mr. Whitlam said that his Government would regard Canberra as a laboratory for

social experiments for the whole of Australia; what is planned for Canberra today will become the pattern for the whole of Australia tomorrow.

These are sickening proposals which have to be read in conjunction with what has already been done in the Family Law Act, the Human Rights Bill, the Superior Courts Bill—all of them proposals by the then Senator Murphy, who is now Mr. Justice Murphy, a judge on the High Court, who will help to make decisions on these matters that he set running.

Under the new Criminal Code for the A.C.T. a spouse will be defined in these terms—

“A person (whether male or female) living in voluntary sexual cohabitation with another person (whether male or female) regardless of legal status of that relationship.”

In plain terms, that means that a spouse no longer means (as it has done throughout all the centuries of our civilisation) a husband or a wife, in either a social or a legal sense. It can be either of two persons living in a temporary de facto relationship; it can be either of two men living in a homosexual relationship; it can be either of two women living in a lesbian relationship. The whole fabric of legal relationship which supports the man-and-wife concept goes by the board with this proposition. The Christian notion—the Christian ethic—that marriage is a contract between a man and a woman for the begetting of children, which has been the corner-stone of every civilisation down through history, will be contemptuously swept aside.

In the Criminal Code of the Labor Party, homosexuality is a criminal offence only if practised by those under 18, and incest becomes legal if practised between persons 18 years and over. That, too, runs counter to the whole tradition of civilisation in history; indeed, it runs counter to the practices of most primitive societies. Bestiality, which currently in the Code is regarded as an abominable crime, no longer appears in it; the draft contains no punishment for bestiality.

Abortion becomes an offence only if it can be shown that the abortionist acted recklessly and that the foetus was more than seven months old—seven months! Of course, it will be a defence if the abortionist can be proven to have acted in good faith in an attempt to preserve the mother's life.

All research—and all other countries take this procedure—shows that the foetus at 20 weeks has reached a stage beyond which an abortion is not permissible, because that child is medically capable then of being born alive. Many people believe, of course, that it has that viability much earlier. Currently the Royal Australian College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians regards any birth after 20 weeks as being neo-natal, and the death of any child after that period requires a death

certificate, as for any child or adult. I wonder what the situation will be if this law comes into force.

I have given only a brief review so that honourable members might have some idea of how Labor thinks about matters that are very dear, very sacred and very important to all of us. This is the new morality—or the new immorality—that has been planned for us. If anybody thinks that Labor would not go that far and would not do these things he should heed what the Attorney-General has said: all the Bills planned to control how we think, how we read, what we do, how we spend our leisure time or whether we will trade abroad are in the pipeline, ready to be turned into law the moment Whitlam wins an election.

There is even in the pipeline, of course, the home tax plan—a proposal to tax the potential rental of homes privately owned.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Mr. PORTER:** That has been denied by the Labor Party, and an honourable gentleman opposite comes out with a very vociferous comment. Let me remind him that, in a Federal journal published last month, this was still advanced as a proposition. So it is still a goer and, in the unlikely event of Labor's being returned, people owning their homes will find their income tax augmented by an assessed rental for the home, even though it is their own home and they are living in it. The whole idea, of course, is to turn people into utterly dependent appendages of the State.

The road ahead if the socialists are allowed back is horrifying indeed. It is worse when we remember that we are not starting from scratch. We are already a long way along the road to catastrophe. All of us remember how the A.L.P. wanted to bypass the Loans Council to swindle the States by securing a \$4,000 million (or was it \$8,000 million?) loan for so-called temporary purposes. We all are aware of inflation on an unprecedented scale and unemployment at its worst level since the depression. Let me remind the House that we have never had these two influences together before. We have had an unremitting war on the private sector of the economy, an enormous growth of a bloated bureaucracy and an unrelenting hostility shown to farmers on all levels. We have witnessed extravagance, nepotism, venality and inefficiency on a gargantuan scale. We have seen the Federal system assailed. There have been six attempts to change it by referendum—all, fortunately, rejected; there has been a widespread use of tied grants and there has been the use of the external affairs power to justify domestic changes. Any prospective legal rat-hole that Mr. Whitlam can see—he bolts up it like any other sewer rat.

**Mr. Melloy:** You dirty mug.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. PORTER:** In case it might be thought that my comments and strictures are too harsh, let me say that today there was published by the most experienced, longest-standing and most reliable political journalist in Australia a story that Mr. Whitlam lied—lied to his Parliament and lied to the public about his connection with the loans affair.

**Mr. Turner:** That's not news, is it?

**Mr. PORTER:** No, it is not news, but it is wonderful to see it being verified by a man whose background is impeccable who has never yet been found to have made an error of fact. I venture to say that nobody will find that he has made one in this case.

So once again Mr. Whitlam has been unearthed as somebody who is prepared to sacrifice his dearest, closest and longest-standing colleagues and friends to protect himself. The Labor intention, the Labor capacity and the Labor morality are now embodied in this one man, this Whitlam. "We want Gough" dutifully chant the faithful. He is Labor's Galahad, its guru and its deity. Certainly he alone is the architect of his party's agony at the present time, which will culminate in its crucifixion on 13 December.

This is a man who has lied, cheated and, as I said, sacrificed his colleagues and friends in an insensate drive for personal power; an insatiable lust for mob acclaim. The story published today in "The Bulletin" is one more indication of a man who apparently sees political action in an amoral sense and who, I think, is past the pathological, rational point of no return. I ask the House: what manner of political monster has the A.L.P. spawned in this man?

**Mr. Turner:** There was a man like him years ago.

**Mr. PORTER:** Indeed there was.

I wonder if the A.L.P. has not entrusted its destiny, and thereby guaranteed its own downfall, to someone who is well past the rational point of no return, because it is going to pay very dearly for it. All of us have to see the election of 13 December as having enormous consequences for Australia not only now but for the next 50 years.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

**Mrs. KYBURZ** (Salisbury) (12.37 p.m.): I believe that it is quite fitting at the close of International Women's Year for a woman to make a contribution to this debate, particularly in respect of International Women's Year and, more personally, because there is an election next week in which I believe that the women's vote will be the major, decisive vote in all electorates. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to bury some of the bad information, some of the lies and some of the total untruths that the Labor Government has been propounding about its theories for International Women's Year.

First of all, I look at what precisely International Women's Year has done not only on a national but on an international scale. It has raised the status of the whole issue of women's rights from the risqué movement espoused by plain women who had a grudge against bra manufacturers, etc., to an issue that is the subject of much talk and discussion. Fortunately it is an issue to which every intelligent party has taken an attitude.

The emphasis on "international" has shown that women in many other countries of the world are still underprivileged and are lacking many of the cultural achievements that have been attained here. As examples I cite Japan, the Arab nations and the ethic of machismo in South America where the women are still vastly underprivileged and female suffering still abounds.

If this year has done anything at all, it has helped to change attitudes—attitudes of women towards themselves, towards politics and towards their nation. It has also helped to change the attitude of some men. Of course, this is a long, slow process, and complete change will take generations. In retrospect this year will be seen as one of profound social change. Men are now more aware of women, as is demonstrated by the fact that political parties are at last realising that the women's vote will determine the outcome of this election. There is also the realisation that Margaret Whitlam's statement that women have to vote for the Labor Government to save democracy is a whole lot of twaddle. Obviously she needs an English lesson on the meaning of the word "democracy" and its precise use. I cite, for example, the fact that the Women and Politics Conference, which was a vastly overrated and extraordinarily expensive exercise, was even used to propound the platform of socialism and did little other than bring women together to learn exactly what is going on in that hotbed which we call Canberra.

And not only that. There has been a widespread outcry against foul-mouthed, pseudo-intellectual, socialistic women who have been imported into Australia entirely for propaganda purposes and who have, of course, set the cause of feminism back 10 years. Margaret Whitlam said, "Australian women were not ready for them." I answer her here and now by saying that Australian women will never be ready for them. We have in fact learnt to use our personalities, ambitions and emotions in a gentler, better way.

The abolition by the National-Liberal Parties in Queensland of death duties between spouses has been the greatest single achievement in this year. I do not say that simply because it happened here. I firmly believe that it is a major social change which will be copied next year in every State in which there is a humane Government. Of course, the ones which have inhumane, so-called men at the helm are the ones which will

be the last to make that change. Politicians in general can no longer ignore the needs of women, no matter how hard they try to do so. There are still some—honourable members know the ones I mean—who will continue to bury their heads in the sand and say that the female vote will not matter because most women will vote how their husbands vote. To that I say, "Twaddle! Codswallop!" Women will think about this election, and they will use their votes in the right direction. They will perhaps consider their votes far more than will many men—certainly far more than many trade unionists.

In fact, I now openly accuse the majority of trade unions of rank discrimination against females; of blatant, open discrimination against them. What they have not realised is that 65 per cent of all Australian women are in the work-force and that 35 per cent of those women are married and are carrying on two jobs. The disadvantages of those women have not been taken into account within the trade unions and I therefore accuse them of blatant disregard of the women in their ranks. We have seen little change in the duality of roles between housewife and outside worker. More women are rightly demanding not only that their husbands help them with the housework but that employers and other employees take that into consideration when considering their role in the work-force and at home. In fact, the double standard which has been so prevalent in Australian and other societies is dying out, as is, fortunately, the ethnic of mateship and the pub subculture. Of course, trade unions have done a lot to foster that subculture over the years by insisting that many women were not fit to listen to opinions put forward by their husbands. Their husbands therefore had to go down to the pub to express those opinions.

This year we have seen a greater interest by women in many things. We have seen a dire necessity for sex education and the widespread availability of contraceptive devices, and most women are availing themselves of these services which are now available. We have seen the occasional polarisation of women's groups this year—not so much "occasional" in Queensland because there has been outright confrontation on many issues. But this year has provided a platform for some women who have needed a power base for themselves. I do not need to develop that theme.

Fortunately, we have seen many women's groups which have been a stabilising influence this year and those groups have provided a backdrop for women like myself who are certainly middle-ground type people. In fact, in this year we have seen some women cashing in by writing books, etc. I cite one ghastly book which is a disgusting piece of work. It is titled "The Total Woman" and it sets the cause of women back 50 years. It says we should be sickly little lolly pieces of slobbering femininity who do nothing

else but go out, catch men and keep them in servility for the rest of our lives. I decry that sort of literature. In fact, this year we have seen that women are realising that they are no longer to be used as sex objects on television, and so on. The advertising industry is still playing down to women. In the next week, Mr. Speaker, we will see the advertising industry playing up to women in political advertisements because it is realising that it is to the women that it has to try to make its greatest appeal.

Women are interested in many issues; more importantly, they are interested in the quality-of-life issues, such as environment, health and social welfare. Of course, women realise that only under a Liberal-National Country Party Government will they ever achieve the equality that they not only deserve but also are more and more demanding. Women are, of course, very conscious of the need for child care, and Mr. Fraser has promised a far more widespread child-care programme throughout the country. He has also promised that he will work hard towards anti-discrimination laws in all the States. I am not propagating a national anti-discrimination law, but this is a fitting year for Mr. Fraser to make that statement. In fact, I insinuate that his first task when he comes to office—as he will on 13 December—will be to assure women that they will play an equal role, and have equal status with other people in Australia.

I hereby charge women in this State to use their vote in an intelligent way and do the right thing.

#### POLITICS IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

**Mrs. KIPPIN** (Mourilyan) (12.47 p.m.): As has already been said, International Women's Year is nearing its end, so it is only fitting that both women in this Parliament should take part in this debate. The fact that it is International Women's Year has been overshadowed by the Press publicity being given to the Federal elections. Although that is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, on that note I think I could well look at the politics of International Women's Year.

In Queensland, the International Women's Year Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Laurel MacIntosh, has done a marvellous job in keeping politics out of International Women's Year. The committee has organised functions to suit women of all political colours and all interests, and I look forward to reading Dr. MacIntosh's report at the end of the year.

On the Australian scene, International Women's Year has been far different. The most important function was the Women and Politics Conference in Canberra. When I heard that women from all over Australia were being encouraged and assisted to travel to Canberra for the conference, I thought, "Good! At last country women are going to have the same opportunity as their city

sisters." But when I reached Canberra, I found that the whole stunt was nothing but a ploy to help the supporters of the Labor Government indoctrinate women in the socialist cause. This idea was peddled very softly on the first day. We were told that only women could help women. However, by the end of the day it was impressed upon us that only the socialists would listen to women. That is quite ridiculous. Look at this State House. In it there are two women members of Parliament, neither of whom belongs to the socialist Labor Party. What happened to the socialist women in Queensland?

Now, back to the Women and Politics Conference. Women were imported into Australia at great expense as guest speakers. Their language was vile.

**An Honourable Member** interjected.

**Mrs. KIPPIN:** I have been asked whether I met them. No, I did not bother to meet them. There were many more Australian women leaders in their own field who had valuable contributions to make. Had they been given the opportunity, they would have lifted the tone of the conference considerably. They would not have been involved in political wrangling to indoctrinate women.

After the conference, there was such an outcry that Mrs. Whitlam had to defend the invitation to these women to come to Australia. Her answer was that Australian women were not ready for the gutter-type language that we heard and the behaviour that we saw in Canberra. I hope we are never ready for it. Australian women are respected throughout this country and throughout the world for the attitudes they hold. I should hate to see that lost. Of course, the sort of thing we experienced in Canberra was exactly the opposite to the sentiments behind International Women's Year.

This week we have seen Mrs. Whitlam bleating for sympathy from women. She has asked women not to think on narrow party-political lines but to consider her case over the broader democratic issues. I ask Australian women to judge Mrs. Whitlam on her record and to judge the Australian Labor Party on her record. Not long after Mrs. Whitlam moved into the Lodge in Canberra, she called for the legalisation of marijuana.

**A Government Member:** Shame!

**Mrs. KIPPIN:** Yes, shame! What mother or grandmother would want to see drugs made easier to obtain for her children or grandchildren! She may have said it in ignorance because a few years ago we did not think as harshly of drugs as we do today. But any woman who speaks in public should be very careful of her facts.

The other main contribution of Mrs. Whitlam to the women's scene were her articles in "Woman's Day". Because women did not want to read that sort of bleating, they did not continue for very long.

I appeal to women, particularly Queensland women, to think of the issues in this election. I ask them to look at the women who have represented the Labor Party in Australia—mainly Elizabeth Reid and Mrs. Whitlam. Not many of us would agree that they are typical of Australian womanhood today.

#### HARASSMENT OF PENSIONERS BY A.L.P.

**Mr. LAMONT** (South Brisbane) (12.52 p.m.): I rise to refer to a matter I have already raised earlier today with the Minister for Health and the Minister for Justice, namely, the harassment of pensioners throughout Queensland by the Labor Party. Not satisfied with threatening violence to the general community if it does not vote Labor, as Senator Wheeldon did last Friday, not satisfied with scaring the weak and poor in health that Liberals would do away with Medibank, in spite of assurances to the contrary by Mr. Chipp, the Minister for Health, not satisfied with perpetrating the big lie to the community at large that the Liberals propose to introduce double taxation, contrary to the utter denial of such propaganda by the Treasurer of this State (Sir Gordon Chalk), and not satisfied with raising the spectre of conscription in a context which has been completely ruled out by Mr. Jim Killen, the Minister for Defence, the A.L.P. has now stooped to the most degrading tactic of all. It has attacked the peace of mind of those who have earned their right to peace of mind in their old age. It has deliberately thrown a scare into the pensioners that their pensions are at stake if the Liberals win.

Let us assume that staunch Liberal voters among the pensioners will always vote Liberal and will reject those allegations out of hand, and throw people who suggest such things off their property; let us also assume that those who have retained in their senior years strong and lively reasoning faculties, allied with an informed knowledge of current events, would also know how invalid those claims are.

Who then will be the victims of these moral desperadoes? That is what they are—desperate men who shed all moral responsibility in the frantic search for a few more votes in the face of damaging Gallup Poll results. The victims will be the frail and the weak—many of them staunch Labor supporters themselves—who either believe what they are told or are left in a complete quandary when faced with the conflicting claims of Labor Party supporters in the electorate and statements by Mr. Chipp and Mr. Fraser, who have given guarantees that pensions will be increased biannually at a rate in step with the rising cost of living.

These despicable creatures who go from door to door distributing distress to the frail members of our community think they are merely scaring up a few extra votes. Do they ever give serious thought to what effect their baseless allegations might have on their

victims? Many pensioners live alone, some in virtual isolation. Many of them do harbour secret fears, often out of proportion to reality. They have no-one they can turn to for comfort or reassurance. What happens to them when some clever tool of the A.L.P. cause marches up to their door and pours forth the venomous lie that their only source of livelihood will be cut off if a Labor Government is not elected?

How do these Labor agents know that they are not so convincing as to leave some of their victims in a state of severe distress? How do they know that they do not cause many infirm and elderly people to resort to tears of fear for their future? How do they know that they do not cause great distress to these elderly people, many of whom are crippled and unable to move about in the community to find reassurance with their neighbours and friends? How do they know that they are not so convincing in their misrepresentations as to cause many decent human beings whose only crime is that their faculty for clear thoughts has declined, or that they have lost their loved ones or contact with their friends who could otherwise reassure them, to lie awake at night unable to reach peace of mind, because of the worry over the lies they have been venomously fed through Labor propagandists? How do these Labor propagandists know that they have not been so effective as to cause many aged people to fret to a point of serious illness?

Can they guarantee that no-one will take them so seriously as to be reduced to a serious nervous condition as Gallup Poll after Gallup Poll brings in evidence of a strong swing away from the Labor Party?

On the night of 13 December will these Labor propagandists go back to each house they have visited and hold the hands of those who have genuinely been distressed and reassure them that it was only an election gimmick after all? Of course not! While these poor victims will be fretting in their homes watching the polling figures go up for the Liberal and National Parties and a Fraser Government, these Labor propagandists who have peddled their lies door to door will be busily drinking themselves into a drunken stupor at some election-night party—not caring a whit about the trouble they have caused and distress they have spread.

I ask honourable members to excuse me if I have belaboured this point, but I assure them that they would understand if they could visit my electorate and accompany me into some of the flats and homes of elderly people who have called me in the last few days to visit them and give them reassurance on this matter.

I have been met with people shaking, with people who were not sure that they could speak to me in case Labor people would come back and harass them; I have been met with people in tears and with people who lie awake at night worrying



about the venomous lies that have been spread. The very real fear that some of them live with daily is heart-rending to witness. In fact it infuriates me.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. LAMONT:** The member for Bulimba is laughing at this. This sort of propaganda is distressing even Labor supporters—people who have voted Labor all their lives. The heartlessness of Labor members appals me. For members and former members of Parliament to indulge in it is totally unacceptable. It compounds their error.

If among the people who have come to me and asked for reassurance I can find some who would not be distressed by going to the electoral officer and laying charges against certain former Labor M.L.A.'s, aldermen and their supporters in my electorate, I will take them to the electoral officer and prosecute charges against these people under section 158 of the Electoral Act, as recommended by the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. If I can nail these people, they will be brought to court. They have indulged in the most cowardly intimidation that I have seen.

I am not concerned that Labor tactics could affect a couple of votes, because I am confident that the Liberal member for Griffith, Don Cameron, will be returned by the people in his area. They will support him. I am concerned for the victims, the minority—the few—who will be eaten away by these lies and will lie awake at night and fret.

I would like to conclude by saying that these Labor propagandists have never really considered the possible consequences upon those they visit. I find it hard to believe that anyone would pursue such tactics knowing the very real distress that they can cause. But I am aware that former Labor M.L.A.s and aldermen have had sufficient contact with the public to know very well the distress they cause, and that appals me. Therefore I call upon the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Burns, to prevail upon the more zealous and reckless members of his party to desist from these tactics immediately, in the name of common decency.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. LAMONT:** Just pure common decency, Mr. Houston. Surely you respect that.

[*Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.*]

#### REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (2.15 p.m.): I move—

“(1) That this House agrees that the proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration as State forests under the Forestry Act of:—

(a) All that piece or part of State Forest 451, parishes of Cooloola and

Womalah, described as Area ‘A’ as shown on plan FTY. 721 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 14 860 hectares;

(b) All that piece or part of State Forest 1004, parishes of Como, Cooloola, Goomboorian, Tagigan, Toolara, Ulirrah and Womalah, described as Area ‘B’ as shown on plan FTY. 720 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 6 924 hectares—be carried out.

(2) That Mr. Speaker convey a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service for submission to His Excellency the Governor in Council.”

Honourable members who have examined the map and read the brief explanation which I had tabled with the formal proposal will realise that the revocations proposed are a necessary preliminary step towards declaration of the Cooloola National Park.

From Press reports, debates and answers to questions in this Chamber, I feel sure, most if not all honourable members will be quite well informed on the Cooloola issue and for this reason I propose to give only a brief resume of the history of the national park proposal at this time.

The Government has been considering the question of a national park in the Cooloola area since as far back as 1964, when representations were made by a number of conservation bodies to have a substantial part of the Cooloola sand mass (State Forest 451) declared a national park.

The main features of the area sought for permanent preservation were stated to be—

1. The complex vegetational mosaic with rain forests, eucalypt forests, heathlands, dune vegetation and wildflowers.
2. The probable complex fauna then largely unstudied corresponding to the variety of vegetational types.
3. The geologically unique strand dune complexes.
4. The very high recreation potential of this wilderness type of area.
5. The immense water storage capacity of the dunes.
6. The protective nature of the dune complex for the immediate hinterland.
7. The tourist value of the coloured sands.

Following a detailed evaluation of the potential of the State forest for commercial forestry and national park purposes, a recommendation was submitted by the Conservator of Forests in 1966 that a major section of State Forest 451 be set aside as a national park whilst retaining a central area of State forest important to the timber industry of the district.

A copy of the map prepared by the conservator was tabled in this House on 11 October 1967 as part of the answer to a question directed to the Minister for Local Government and Conservation by Mr. D. J. Sherrington, the member for Salisbury. No immediate action could be taken to proclaim the park as the area was subject to active prospecting for mineral sands. The Mines Department, true to its responsibilities to the State, desired to assess the mineral potential of the area before indicating its attitude to the national park proposal. The vast quantities of mineral sands subsequently proved by prospecting on the area resulted in a virtual stalemate as far as the national park was concerned. This stalemate was resolved by a Government decision in 1970 that no sand-mining whatsoever would be permitted in the Cooloola sand mass. This decision evoked strong protests from mining interests. Legal proceedings initiated by the companies involved were pursued as far as the Privy Council and have only recently been resolved.

Honourable members will be aware that there are other important land-use conflicts in regard to the future use of the Cooloola sand mass and adjoining lands of the Noosa basin to the west. In an attempt to resolve these, my predecessor, the Honourable W. A. R. Rae, called a meeting to be held in the Cooloola area, with final discussions at Gympie in January 1974. To this meeting he invited Dr. A. G. Harrold, president of the Cooloola committee, to put the case for the conservationists. He also invited representatives of the timber industry, Widgee Shire Council and Gympie City Council. The Honourable A. M. Hodges, the member for Gympie, attended. Senior representatives of the Department of Forestry and the Department of Lands were present to assist the Minister. There was a thorough exchange of ideas for the future management of the area. Further assurances were given by Mr. Rae that it was Government policy that there be no mining (except below high-water mark) on the Cooloola sand mass. It was reiterated that there would be no forestry operations on the proposed national park during the waiting period pending the handing down of the Privy Council decision. Future management of the residual State forest on the Cooloola sand mass (area 10 610 hectares) would be, as in the past, on a conservative basis. There would be no clear felling and no introduction of exotic tree species. There would be little impact on wildlife habitat values. The area would be able to provide for pursuits of a type unacceptable on national parks, such as horseback and trail-bike riding, study of the effect of minor human impacts on the ecology of the forest, and wild flower collection. This management would have no adverse effect on the adjoining national park, save for provision of limited lines of access across the national park.

Forestry plantation development on the Como scarp area could be managed to eliminate effects on water quality in the Noosa River and water table levels on the Noosa plain. Provision would be made for the preservation of samples of the Womalah landscape in State forest management.

During the discussions in Gympie, a map was prepared showing the boundaries of a proposed national park far larger than that shown on the 1967 map tabled in this House.

A number of important additions were made to the proposed national park, including a large tract of land west of the Noosa River and Teewah Creek, extending north for some 25 kilometres from Kin Kin Creek. This additional area to the west is currently part of State Forest 1004 and totals about 7 000 hectares. It embraces most of the treeless, wetland area known as the Noosa plain. It provides, together with similar areas to the east of the Noosa, an important wetland habitat for some animal and plant species not well provided for in the existing national park system of the nation.

Another significant addition was a solid block of rain forest in Seary's Scrub on State Forest 451 with a south-eastern extension along the tourist road down Freshwater Creek. The inclusion of this area of 760 hectares in the proposed national park was considered necessary to secure adequate representation of rain forest, developed on sand-hills, in this national park. Its inclusion involves a significant reduction in the sustained yield of timber which will be available to industry from the Cooloola area.

I mention here that, while the Department of Forestry and the timber industry are concerned at the reduction in sustained yield of native timbers from an area that has been a source of supply for nearly a century, they have accepted the principle that all important forest types must be represented in this significant national park on the Cooloola sand mass and the adjoining Noosa plain.

Crown land totalling 1 840 hectares south of Fauna Park Reserve 1093 was also included in the proposed national park. This land lying between Lake Cootharaba and the sea is not part of the State forest revocation action the subject of this resolution of the House. However, it is an important addition to the proposed park.

For practical purposes the fauna reserve may be considered part of the national park complex, as each is under the control of the newly formed National Parks and Wildlife Service. This is one of a number of issues which will be resolved when the national parks and wildlife legislation is reviewed and consolidated.

A further addition to the national park area shown on this 1974 map was the inclusion of the neck of land joining Double Island Point to the State forest. This

land was under Commonwealth control when the 1967 map was prepared but has now reverted to the State and is available for inclusion in the national park. This map, drawn up during the 1974 discussions, allocated a much larger area to the proposed national park than had the 1967 map. It depicted the compromises hammered out at the January 1974 discussions. I think it is fair to say that those present were in general agreement that it represented a great step forward in land-use planning for the area. Action for revocation of the relevant parts of the State forests and their subsequent dedication as national park was still impossible at that time because the Privy Council decision had not then been given.

Honourable members will be aware that, since the agreement reached in January 1974, there have been strong representations by conservation interests seeking that a further substantial area of land within the Noosa basin to the west be added to the national park proposal. This additional area comprises about 20 000 hectares and is listed for plantation establishment by the Department of Forestry. The representations on this are still under consideration but clearly the loss of this 20 000 hectares from production must permanently and seriously affect the future development of the Widgee Shire and the city of Gympie.

In the meantime the Government had commissioned the consultants Messrs. Gutteridge, Haskin and Davey to make a management survey of the coastal lands and the adjoining marine environment from the New South Wales border to the Noosa River. Their report is not yet available but it is known that they have included a study of the Noosa River catchment area in their brief. Their findings will be an important further input into land-use planning for this area and will receive the earnest consideration of this Government.

The Privy Council decision has now been handed down and this has completely vindicated the stand of the Government in 1970 which rejected sand-mining on the Cooloola sand mass. The way is clear for the dedication of the Cooloola National Park. The Government has a record of steadily increasing the area of dedicated national park in this State. In 1957 the area of national parks in this State was 320 000 hectares. By 1966 this had increased to 934 000 hectares. At 30 June 1975 it was 1 128 000 hectares. A further area of well over 1 000 000 hectares is under close examination for national park dedication.

As I mentioned during the Estimates debate last week, areas totalling about 800 000 hectares are being looked at for national park dedication in Cape York Peninsula. Areas approximating 400 000 hectares in toto have been chosen as potential national park areas in the more populous areas to the south. Much time has been spent ensuring that the most suitable areas have been selected. When it is established that the best use of the

lands in question is for national parks, action for dedication will be taken, as quickly as statutory requirements allow, within the limits of finance available.

I am proud to be the Minister to steer this important resolution through this House—a resolution for the sole purpose of creating the Cooloola National Park of 23 030 hectares. This national park, together with the national park of 33 640 hectares on Fraser Island (and this will soon be increased to more than 45 000 hectares), provides magnificent samples of the ecosystems on these sand masses. The Cooloola National Park, together with Fauna Park Reserve 1093 and the residual State Forest 451, will make up a compact area of 38 000 hectares, managed with conservation of nature as a primary objective. This is a delightful area with extensive frontages on the lakes, the Noosa River and the Pacific Ocean. It contains many miles of spectacular high dunes of coloured sands. Within 160 road kilometres of Brisbane at its nearest point, it will become an increasingly important venue for those people who value recreation in natural surroundings. Important tourist developments can be expected in the periphery of the area.

I commend the motion to the House.

**Mr. JENSEN** (Bundaberg) (2.29 p.m.): The Opposition has no wish to prevent the declaration of any national parks. The motion today is a feather in the cap of the previous honourable member for Salisbury (Mr. Sherrington). The fight for the declaration of this national park has been going on since 1964. In 1967, in answer to a question asked by Doug Sherrington, the Minister produced a map in this House. As the Minister would know and as you, Mr. Speaker, would know, Doug Sherrington pleaded in this House on many occasions for the declaration of this area as a national park. The sand-mining interests appeared to have a monopoly say; they seemed to be able to control the Government at that time.

Doug Sherrington fought this issue time and time again in this House and said that these coloured sands should not be disturbed by mining, even though the companies were not going to mine the coloured sands. As they said, they were going to mine below the high-water mark and in other areas. But today the Minister has put fairly concisely what has happened since 1964 and what occurred in 1967. This matter even went to the Privy Council. It was a fight by the conservationists, not the Government. It is no good the Minister saying that his Government did all this. His Government did its damndest to stop it.

**Mr. Houston:** The Government capitulated to the mining companies.

**Mr. JENSEN:** I know. I have been a member of this House since 1969. I have watched this fight going on. I know that the Minister for Mines and Energy was off-side with the former Minister, Wally Rae,

and the other Ministers who wanted something done about national parks and conservation, and this has been proved today.

**Mr. Katter:** If we did not want to do it, we would not have done it.

**Mr. JENSEN:** I know you wouldn't have done it; you are dictators, but you will do something when the people of Queensland rise up. When the people rose up over this issue, the Government had to take notice. When they rose up over the issue of Great Sandy Island, the Government had to take some notice. The Minister said here today—

"In 1957 the area of national parks in this State was 320 000 hectares. By 1966 this had increased to 934 000 hectares."

He is taking full credit for this, but most of the national parks have been fought for by the people of the State. There have been lone voices at times like Doug Sherrington's, but feeling grew and the people forced this Government to take action. The Minister said further—

". . . A resolution for the sole purpose of creating the Cooloola National Park of 23 030 hectares. This national park together with the national park of 33 640 hectares on Fraser Island . . ."

What a fight it has been on Fraser Island with the Government, the mining interests and other interests there.

**Mr. Katter:** And I am proud to say the National Party has led the fight from both sides.

**Mr. JENSEN:** The National Party has stayed in the middle to see which way the vote went. The Liberal Party member for Maryborough rose in this place and fought his damndest for sand-mining and forestry. The honourable member for Isis also spoke on this matter. He stood up for the National Party with the conservationists. He said, "This should be a national park; no mining, no forestry." At least he made one point; he got half the island into the Burrum Shire. The other half is still in the Shire of Maryborough. As I said last night, this was a disgraceful decision by a weak Minister. It should all have been in the Burrum Shire.

**Mr. Katter:** Where do you stand?

**Mr. JENSEN:** I just said where I stand. I said it should all be in the Burrum Shire. I said that last night and I say it again today. I said last night that the Minister did not have the guts to stand up to this. It is all right for the National Party members to say they are on a certain side.

**Mr. Powell:** It is the Town Council of Hervey Bay, not the Burrum Shire.

**Mr. JENSEN:** I am sorry, the Town Council of Hervey Bay, yes. But the Burrum Shire has fought along these lines right through. It is the Burrum Shire that has been fighting the issue and it has been fighting the

Maryborough City Council. We on this side of the House have always supported the concept of national parks, and this is on record. Doug Sherrington's was a lone voice fighting for this issue when I entered this House in 1969. He fought the Government all the way and it had to take notice of public opinion. At last it did something about it. Then the mining companies took the Government on and the big-business interests in the Government gave in. It was principally the big-business interests in the Liberal Party that wanted mining to take place. The matter finished up in the Privy Council, which shows how serious the fight was.

**Mr. Katter:** Where do you stand on the issue of mining on Fraser Island?

**Mr. JENSEN:** I am standing right here, discussing what my friend Doug Sherrington did to bring about this legislation. It is thanks to men like him that the area will now be a national park and the coloured sands will be preserved.

The Government had a dollar each way. There were National Party and Liberal Party fighting groups. The National Party Minister was on the side of the big mining interests. Other good National Party Ministers were on side with the conservationist. We heard all about the fight in the caucus room and how the conservationists tried to beat the mining interests. Fights are still going on in the caucus room. Last night we heard about the Minister for Health being made to withdraw the legislation covering pest exterminators. That legislation should be passed.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will come back to the motion.

**Mr. JENSEN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will speak on that when the matter comes up in March. The legislation should have been introduced now, but it was knocked out in caucus.

As I said, Ministers were defeated in caucus over Cooloola. Doug Sherrington fought the matter every day in this House, till at last some of the Government members who were conservationists supported him. I think that honourable member for Landsborough backed Doug Sherrington on that issue. I am not quite sure, but I do not think the honourable member was having two bob each way. I think he realised that it should have been a national park, and he supported the proposal, against the Minister for Mines, who was on the side of the big mining interests.

As I said earlier, the Australian Labor Party has never held back and failed to support legislation that is for the good of the State. Although the Opposition supports legislation of this type, it says here and now that careful consideration should be given to the other areas that the Minister said he hopes will be included later. He will be fought all the way if he attempts to exclude them in the near future.

I know it is a bit difficult to take areas out of forests if production is to be lost. However, there are many other areas that can be used as forest land. Although it may be necessary to take out of a forest so many hectares—perhaps 20 000 or 50 000 hectares—for a national park, many other areas of wattle land can be used to replace them.

I reiterate that the Opposition supports legislation of this type. Once again, I congratulate Doug Sherrington for the work he did in earlier years. It has at last culminated in the introduction of the resolution now before the House.

**Mr. AHERN** (Landsborough) (2.39 p.m.): As one who was closely associated with the Cooloola debate, I feel that I must rise this afternoon and support the proposal that the Minister has finally brought before Parliament.

It is an historic occasion, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister said, the battle began back in 1964, when the Forestry Department, which was then under the stewardship of Harold Richter, began to talk about and study the possibility of establishing a national park in this area. In fact, it was on the basis of the Forestry Department's recommendations that the great argument ensued in 1970. It was because the Forestry Department had developed a plan for a national park in this area in 1970 that the proposal succeeded by vote of the joint Government parties at that time.

That was an historic occasion because it was the first time in the history of the State—and I have very great doubts whether such a programme will ever be repeated—that the joint Government parties took a decision that bound the hands of the Government relative to an authority to prospect and what would eventually happen about mining leases in the area. If anybody doubts the bona fides of this Government in the conservation decisions it takes, he has only to look to this area and realise that underneath the national park there is something like \$200,000,000 worth of minerals. The Fraser Island National Park has the biggest deposit of white silica sand in the world, plus a lot of other minerals. This Government can rightly say that it is striking a reasonable balance, and is fair dinkum in its conservation campaign and the preservation of meaningful areas.

I do not think it would be very useful to go back over the details of the historic events that took place in 1970. The situation clearly is that today we have developed in that area a national park that was expanded beyond the basic Richter proposal by the previous Minister for Lands (Mr. Wally Rae) in consultation with the various interests and following inspections. It has resulted in a very great national park that combines some of the unique wetlands in the coastal lowlands along the eastern coast of Queensland, some unique high-lake systems and

some rain forest established on high sand-dunal country that is unique in many ways and which ought to be preserved for many generations to come. The plainlands that are preserved within the very beautiful Noosa River system are worthy of protection for all time. It is worth saying that that area, large as it is, has a very fragile environment, and it is not going to be able to withstand a very heavy pressure of people on it. It is going to be a hard task for the Minister's department to ensure that the national park is so managed that it can be preserved in perpetuity. I hope that the Minister recognises this as a special case so that that environment can be preserved for the nation. If that environment is to survive so that hundreds of thousands of people a year can enjoy it, it will have to be managed on a very tight basis.

I welcome the dedication of this very large national park. There are those who believe it should be bigger. I ask the Minister and his department to view things from the point of view of future generations and try to add to that park. If that can be done without greatly inconveniencing anyone, it should be done.

As the Minister said, several studies are under way at the moment. The Minister made particular reference to one into the Noosa River and its system. Scientists of high repute, whose expertise is totally beyond question, say that gross interference with the water table and nutritional status of the waters in that area would change the system substantially. I should hate to see that day when the Noosa River system, which winds its way through a total sand system, was disrupted to such an extent that its present beauty was placed in serious jeopardy. The Minister has held his hand, and the hand of the Government, in forestry and national park development pending the outcome of that study. I think all honourable members should be given an opportunity to examine the various scientific opinions expressed instead of precipitate action being taken one way or another. My one disappointment with the proposal before us at the moment is that the western boundary is too close to the fragile Noosa River bank system. If it could be moved substantially to the west, that would be prudent. But we will await the presentation of the report before making a final determination on it.

I turn now to the Forestry Department's proposal to establish a pulp mill in this area. The argument seems to have changed from one of conflict with mining interests to one of conflict between national park and forestry interests. I want to put forward certain suggestions for the consideration of the Minister's department.

In my electorate a pulp mill is in the process of development. The Government has contracted with Australian Paper Mills to provide large quantities of wood from which pulp can be processed. A.P.M. is developing an area of something like 110,000

or 120,000 acres, and at the present time owns approximately 86,000 acres in fee simple.

**Mr. Jensen:** They have special leases, too.

**Mr. AHERN:** Yes, it holds some special leases, on Bribe Island.

The Government, through the Forestry Department, is assisting the company to develop a pulp mill in my area. Such a vast enterprise will impose tremendous strains on the environment. It will exert pressure on existing resources, on towns, on roads and so on. It will require large numbers of workers. It will also impose tremendous demands on our water resources. A.P.M. is carrying out studies to determine where in south-eastern Queensland it will obtain a sufficient water supply for its pulp mill.

Recently I asked representatives of the company, "Where do you think you will get your water supply from?" They replied that they were looking as far as the Mary River and the Caboolture River for their supply. Vast quantities of water will be required for this pulp mill, and I honestly do not believe that south-eastern Queensland has such limitless supplies of water as to enable two vast, thirsty industries such as this to operate.

**Mr. Hodges:** The new process doesn't require much water.

**Mr. AHERN:** The executives of A.P.M. have called such a statement into question. They are saying that insufficient research has been carried out to determine whether or not the process will require large volumes of water, and they have a lifetime of experience in this industry.

Before the Government decides to plant huge areas which people say should be included within national parks, it should plant the less-important areas. The larger proposal should be canvassed fully—and that will take time. If, on our present knowledge, we decide to plan for a second pulp mill in that region and we find that it will require an expansion of planted areas by the Forestry Department, we should not immediately plant the Noosa plain. Instead we should plant other areas. Time should be given to all those associated with the proposal to investigate all its aspects and to carry out the necessary pilot studies. I hope that the Minister's department will not say, "If we decide later to plant the Noosa plain, we will be in trouble with the conservationists, so let us plant it now and get it out of our hair." I hope the department will adopt a much more responsible attitude than that. I am sure it will. As I say, lots of questions need to be asked about the establishment of a pulp mill in the Tuan-Toolara region.

My final comment is that I do not believe a Government can talk about national parks simply in terms of, "We have so many hectares of national parks today whereas we only had so many acres previously." In my

opinion the quality of the acreage to be set apart is much more important than its size. It is far more important that ecologically significant areas—and areas which are significant from the point of view of being closer to large population centres that have no national parks handy to them—be set aside than to state blandly that a certain percentage of our land is tied up in national parks in accordance with an index agreed to throughout the Western World. It is much more important to concentrate on significant areas of value than to go for quantity.

I know that the Minister is anxious to build up the State's national parks and to improve their management. In doing so, I ask him to look for quality rather than mere quantity. I urge him to look for key, or unique situations, rather than broad acres. I have no reason to think that that is not the policy, but too many of us respond to arguments about national parks with thoughts of so many acres. Mere large areas of national park are far less important than what we are doing today, that is, dedicating a unique area of Queensland's coastal lowlands. It is important for our generation, and many generations to come, that we should dedicate this area as a national park.

**Mr. SIMPSON (Cooroora) (2.53 p.m.):** It gives me great pleasure to support the Minister in his move to have forestry land revoked so that it may be declared as the Cooloola National Park. I am dismayed when I hear Labor members say how this or that area of land should be used. Obviously they have no knowledge of land use, or anything to do with the land.

**Mr. Jensen:** You wouldn't know. You've only been in the House for 10 months.

**Mr. SIMPSON:** Unfortunately the honourable member for Bundaberg has no idea of what is the best land usage.

The only conflict in the history of the declaration of this area as the Cooloola National Park has been over whether or not minerals should be taken out of the land. Now that the decision has been made, we have to determine which areas are best suited for national park purposes. As before, certain areas will be set aside for forestry use, and some forestry areas will become a national park.

Cooloola encompasses an area extending from 20 to 60 miles north of Noosa, and 20 miles inland from the coastline. It is composed of high sand dunes and coloured sand masses on the coast, and it falls away to the basin of the Noosa River. Land types in great variety are to be found in the area. Basically the unique coastal wetlands are to be preserved. It is essential that a study be made of the best use of this area in the future. We must be very careful about the management of our national parks. Each park should have its own management plan

to ensure that it maintains its individuality. It will then be necessary to determine just where people will be allowed within the park and to establish better roads and parking areas to cope with a concentration of visitors so that the park itself is not interfered with and its natural beauty is preserved.

I wish to deal now with the uses to which a park might be put. There are those in the community who like to see a park unaltered, in its natural pristine state. There are others who like their appreciation of nature handed to them on a platter, so that they may remain in their motor-cars and look at a view. I admit that that goes from one extreme to the other. However, when setting aside any park, its potential to satisfy the needs of the whole community must be the main consideration. At Cooloola we should set out the areas of beauty, vantage points and areas suitable to be serviced by roads so that the largest number of people, whether from Brisbane, other parts of the State or interstate, might drive comfortably on good roads to parking areas from where they can enjoy the park's beauty.

Other uses to which parks are put are bush-walking and similar activities enjoyed by those who like to return to nature once a year. Inherent in many of us is the desire to get out and enjoy nature in its raw state. I believe that Cooloola should be so managed as to cater for people in that category.

The third matter to be considered in a park's management is the setting aside of an area for those with the academic, scientific approach who wish to observe an area in which there has been no interference whatsoever with its natural flora and fauna—the inner sanctum of the park, if I might call it that. Most parks with an area such as we propose for Cooloola should have such a datum area set aside and kept for monitoring purposes and scientific studies.

In Cooloola there is a fauna park reserve, although it is not in the area that we are discussing. I hope that it will form part of an area that people will not be encouraged to enter, and that it will be kept in a completely pristine state. I believe the best way of achieving that aim would be to keep the area free of walking tracks. In that way, people would be discouraged from entering the area, which would be better than keeping them out by fences. This fauna park reserve covers an area of 10 680 acres. The western part of it is a very wet area, and then it rises into high sand-hills. It has within it a large number of different types of land formation, vegetation and flora and fauna.

When we are considering the control and management of national parks in Queensland, I believe we must study what has been done in other parts of Australia and overseas. We need to think of each park as a separate entity and look at the type of use to which it should be put. In some we might allow horse-riding; in others we might not. In some we might allow grazing as a

measure of fire control; in others we might use burn-offs to lessen the fire risk. All those matters need to be considered.

Some of the problems that will be easier to deal with relate to the use of firearms. No shooting or hunting should be allowed in a park. Damage to its flora will not be allowed. In some parks, permission will be given to camp. Others are either too small for camping or the sheer pressure of a large population nearby precludes it. However, I think each area should be looked at individually so that its own flavour is retained. In that way people will be able to say that Cooloola has certain characteristics of its own. Other parks would have their own particular flavour. In this way we will find the best use to which we can put our parks.

Many national parks are in areas that do not lend themselves to other land usages such as agriculture, grazing or even timbering. Experimental plots of pine trees were established on the coastal plains at Cooloola and the pine trees have done so poorly that it is obvious that timbering is not its best land use. We have to determine the best land use before declaring additional areas in the Noosa River catchment to add to this park area.

We need money to manage national parks, especially those in delicate areas such as the Cooloola National Park which is mostly sand mass. We have to consider how to get people through the area without ruining it. The Cooloola area can take very little vehicular traffic, even pedestrian traffic, so we must study how we can best provide access to the area. It could be that we will have to spend more than usual to get people into this area.

In some parks in New South Wales and Victoria, trail bikes, motor-cycles and vehicles are completely barred because they were tearing the countryside to pieces. This happened particularly where people tried to reach almost impossible places by riding or driving up sand dunes or steep pinches in the hope that the vehicle would finally get to the top. They did irreparable damage.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** They should be kept out.

**Mr. SIMPSON:** Yes, they should be kept out.

On a recent inspection in New South Wales and Victoria we learned that if proper parking areas and camping facilities are provided the people will use them and confine themselves to those areas. At the Ferntree Gully National Park in Victoria, 75 per cent of the visitors did not go more than 200 yards from their cars. This might result in a new outlook on national parks in the future. Each park could have a zoned use. Recreational facilities could be provided in and around the car park and, as I said, the park itself could have areas zoned, for instance, for bush-walking only. We found this in New South Wales and Victoria.

As the hiker walks through the park, he comes upon small posts at the side of the track bearing numbers corresponding to those on his sheet of information on what can be seen at that point. Information is provided in this way at Binna-Burra and it certainly adds to the enjoyment of the people who use the parks. Starting off some of the new parks and providing for their use by visitors will be expensive, but by careful planning we will be able to build up the best national parks in the world.

In New South Wales and Victoria the charge is as much as \$1.40 for each vehicle entering the parks. This matter has two sides. Some people think that entry should be free. However, we must approach the matter in a democratic way. What will provide the best use of the park for the majority of people without offending too many? Obviously if entry is free, people will use the park more readily, but it has been found in other areas that there is greater abuse of the park because of this. By charging, the authorities are able to make contact with the people entering the park individually and park rangers can make use of public relations to get the message across to the public to look after the park. Having paid something, they feel that they have a stake in the park and look after it. In this way the Government would be able to defray the cost of running the park. People could be provided with literature explaining what is available in the park.

This raises the question of an annual membership which would allow people to enter every national park in Queensland. Perhaps there could be another annual membership which would allow people to enter every national park in Australia. If this were done, we could build up the number of people interested in national parks and in the national environment. If this were available to people who like to travel interstate as well as within the State, we could develop a new tourist traffic with people anxious to do the rounds of national parks. Here again I feel Queensland will have more to offer in the number and variety of parks than any other State.

When we set up a park, it would be worth while appointing rangers to manage it. They could wear uniforms so that they would be identifiable and enabled to carry out their duties more easily and gain people's respect. It would also add to the tone of the service. We should carefully select rangers on their attitude to the public and on their public relations work. The public relations side is very important because the manner in which people are greeted on their arrival at a park can sway them in favour of what we are trying to do there.

I feel that, as a start in the management of areas like Cooloola, we need a research arm of the National Parks and Wildlife Service through which we can monitor the

datum areas so there is no over-use of particular areas or particular parks. Scientific information could be gathered from other areas and this information could be used as a basis for environmental studies for other departments. This would be an important adjunct to the National Park and Wildlife Service. It is important that we manage the parks in a way that will allow the public to use them. One of the outstanding impressions I gained from my recent trip to New South Wales and Victoria was of the eagerness of the public to use the educational aspects of parks and the environment. They were eager to learn more and more about what is going on around them. I think this is an important aspect of the use of national parks that should be pursued further. We think that school-children would naturally be interested, but older people in the community are just as keen to learn more and more about their environment. The Cooloola National Park is unique with its beautiful lake system—which is one means of entry to the park, the other being a road—the beautiful coloured sands and the rain forest set between high sand dunes.

There are a couple of aspects of the establishment of the Cooloola National Park which concern me. I think we as a Government should be mindful that the declaration of national park areas such as Cooloola can cause revenue problems for the shires—in this case, principally the Widgee Shire.

In the future, dormitory areas and towns adjacent to national parks will be needed to accommodate people who make use of the parks. As a Government, we must be mindful of the need to assist local authorities in such areas to survive and to enable them to provide services that people visiting the area will expect.

I believe that Queensland will have a very proud record in the field of national parks. The State has such wide variety and such great potential—in fact, during the Estimates debate the Minister read out a list of names and indicated that over 2,000,000 acres of land is to be considered for national parks—that it will be renowned throughout the world for its national parks. Naturally enough, National-Liberal Governments will go down in history as the ones that understood the full variety of land use and appreciated the need for national parks.

It gives me very great pleasure to support the motion before the House.

**Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (3.12 p.m.):** I wish to speak only briefly because I think that the honourable member for Landsborough has very ably put the case for those back-bench members of Parliament who are still a little bit concerned about the size of the Cooloola National Park. We appreciate very much what the Government is doing, but we realise also that this beautiful area could well be destroyed if the Government is not prepared to listen to the suggestions made by scientists as to the size of that park.



These scientists are of world standing, and I believe that we must be prepared to listen to them now as we have listened over the past few years. Therefore, I support very strongly the case put forward by the honourable member for Landsborough.

I also support the Cooloola committee, which says that it would like to see included in the park an inner forestry area and the western catchment of the Noosa River. In my opinion, these areas must be included in the national park.

I appreciate that today honourable members are ensuring that the Cooloola National Park is preserved. In addition, the Minister has indicated to me he is prepared to consider any suggestions that might be forthcoming. I know that he has already received suggestions from the Cooloola committee, and back-bench members will certainly be supporting those suggestions in the hope that the park can be enlarged to the size that the committee wishes it to be.

We must look to the experts. Members of Parliament cannot possibly expect to know everything about every aspect of matters that come before this Assembly. Therefore, we must look to the people on the Cooloola committee, the National Parks Association of Queensland and the Noosa Parks Association—the people who have fought for so long to ensure that Cooloola park became a reality.

I think we should pause for a moment to pay tribute to the dedicated people who, in the face of adversity, persisted in their efforts to ensure that the park became a reality, because for many years a number of back-bench members were disillusioned about the results that we could see coming back to us from Cabinet. We are very happy indeed now that this motion has been brought forward, because we had grave doubts whether all the work that we put into having this area declared a national park would bear fruit.

Although I pay tribute to all the associations that have worked so hard for the Cooloola National Park, I wish to pay tribute particularly to the late David Low, the former member for Cooroora, who worked very hard in this Chamber towards this end, to Dr. Harold of the Noosa Parks Association, to Mr. and Mrs. Huxley, and to many others, all of whom kept members informed about what was going on.

**Mr. Murray:** Dedicated people.

**Mr. MILLER:** Yes. I also pay tribute to the people who came down and addressed members of Parliament in the former Legislative Council Chamber, after the Speaker then in office gave his reluctant permission. We were criticised because one speaker was a member of the Communist Party. At that time I couldn't care less whether he belonged to the Communist Party or any other party. We were there to consider information provided by those experts as to whether Cooloola

should be declared a national park. While we are rejoicing today and saying that we should enlarge the park, I wanted to stand up and say, "Thank you" to those dedicated people who gave us the information and support we needed to see that this came about.

**Mr. POWELL (Isis) (3.15 p.m.):** It gives me very great pleasure to support the Minister this afternoon in the declaration of the Cooloola National Park, a national park that has been very much needed in this State for many years. The Government is to be congratulated on its resolve in this matter.

There always seem to be many people who get uptight whenever the words "conservation" and "national parks" are mentioned. Those people have been in high places in this State and, indeed, in the nation. But their power is diminishing as they realise that, because we are elected to represent the people of the electorates, they are the ones we should be listening to. As I have said a number of times in this House, the people are changing in their attitudes. National parks are needed close to areas of population. At the end of his introductory speech, the Minister made the very telling point that the park was for those people who value recreation in natural surroundings, and that important tourist developments can be expected in the periphery of the area. I agree whole-heartedly. The Cooloola National Park and others close to Brisbane are extremely important for Brisbane and for the recreation of those who live in this vast metropolis.

It is important that Queensland increase its national parks along the coastline and into the western parts of the State. It is important, too, that we maintain large areas of virgin forest and virgin scrub in all sorts of environment. The Cooloola sand mass and the areas on Fraser Island that are already national parks are typical of the environment that we should preserve in the sandy coastal areas. The already proclaimed national parks on Fraser Island and in the Woodgate area give visitors an idea of what coastal wetlands are like. The sand dunes on Fraser Island and the coloured sands at Cooloola should be preserved for all time. That is the important consideration: preservation for all time. A national park preserves for all time the type of environment that has existed since creation.

The antagonists of national parks—those who believe, because of a possibility of areas being used in the future for another purpose that national parks should not be declared—claim that natural forces do more damage than human forces. That is all poppycock and people who know those areas realise that it is. Some say that a cyclone could do more damage to the Great Barrier Reef than oil-drilling. They just don't know what they are talking about! Just because a sand blow could erode Fraser Island as the result of a cyclone, those people would say that

that does more damage than the present operations on Fraser Island. That is just plain wrong.

A previous speaker referred to scientists who had advised that certain areas should be declared as national parks. I agree wholeheartedly with what the honourable member said. I for one am always very wary of academics, but I point out to the Minister and honourable members that these scientists who have investigated Fraser Island and the Cooloola area are not what might be termed plain academics. They are practical men who have seen areas devastated by over-use. They know that unless we save these areas now, they will never appear the same in the future.

Fraser Island, which I know particularly well, has many areas that should be declared national parks. One such area is about to be declared, and the Government is to be congratulated on that. When the 45 000 hectares are so declared, 28.26 per cent of the island will be national park. The island has many beauty spots set aside in what might be termed mini-national parks within the forestry area. They really and truly are beauty spots, and we should carefully watch them to ensure that they cannot be over-used.

We should take heed of the warning given by the honourable member for Cooroora against over-use of certain areas. There is a tendency to over-use a small beauty spot within a forestry area such as that on Fraser Island. Everyone wants to visit it. When such a beauty spot is in an isolated area, it is very easy for it to become over-used. It is important that we take notice of the scientists who have studied this subject. I repeat that they are practical men, not men with their heads in the clouds. They know what is going on.

The Labor spokesman on this issue—I understand only one member of the Opposition has spoken on it—said that the Government cannot make up its mind. He is, of course, entirely wrong and fails to understand that the National and Liberal Parties, unlike the Labor Party, listen to the people and do as they ask us. Labor ignores the people's wishes. We try to follow the dictates of the people and to look after our constituents. We are doing this very thing by creating the Cooloola National Park.

Finally, I look forward to working with the Minister, who obviously has his heart in the right place and is doing an excellent job in the interests of national parks in Queensland.

**Mr. GREENWOOD** (Ashgrove) (3.23 p.m.): This is indeed an historic occasion. No history of our State would be complete without at least some mention of the efforts of the many Queenslanders who laboured to see the Cooloola National Park become a reality.

I have listened with interest to previous speakers, particularly my colleague the honourable member for Ithaca. Of his speech I would say only this: I agree with every syllable.

One name that I would add to those of the many people who worked for years and made great sacrifices to see the Cooloola National Park become a reality is that of a colleague of mine at the bar, Mr. Lew Wyvill. He has done as much as anybody in sacrificing his free time and working hard to put the case for Cooloola.

I congratulate the Minister and the officers of his department on bringing to fruition this great project for our State.

**Mrs. KYBURZ** (Salisbury) (3.24 p.m.): I rise to support some of the previous speakers, particularly the honourable member for Ithaca. I agree entirely with his comments. He was most succinct and to the point, particularly in encouraging those people who have worked so hard in the interests of conservation in our State. He did not mention one member of the conservation body—and that body is very well known to some of us—namely, John Sinclair. He has worked tirelessly in the defence of Fraser Island. Despite the fact that some honourable members would do anything to degrade him and his position, some of us believe fervently in the issues he is concerned with—and they relate only to Fraser Island.

At last the Government is realising that, because so much will be lost in the process, development cannot proceed at all costs. I sound a note of warning: people are demanding better things of government; Governments therefore must use more foresight, particularly in land use. More than ever people are concerned about environmental issues and, as I said this morning, they are concerned particularly about issues affecting quality of life.

We now know that land can never be the same after sand-mining and the like. Irrespective of what anybody says, revegetation in a total way is not possible. I defy any of the sand-mining companies to show me where land, after it has been rehabilitated, is the same as it was before. It may be rehabilitated in a way that the miners consider is better than it was originally, but they are wrong. Commercial interests are at the backbone of their desires and therefore they are as biased as a Communist trade-unionist.

I am very concerned about the management of national parks and I know that the Minister, as shown by his speech, is equally concerned. The management of this park will have to be watched very closely.

The honourable member for Cooroora was so right in many of the points he made. Trail bike riders should not be allowed in the park. They are destructive, egotistical, self-interested persons using the environment on a Sunday afternoon, and making a big noise to boot. They

should be kept out. No shooters should be allowed in the park. I will never know why they must have the opportunity to get in there. We should certainly charge an entrance fee. That is done in all countries of the world. In this way a park is protected against vandals and those who go there not to enjoy it, but to use it and destroy it. In fact, they nullify the very reasons for bringing a park into existence.

A very good system of park rangers will be required. Perhaps we may have to fence the entire area and make certain entrances available. Implementation of this suggestion might be very expensive, but this concept is practised in New South Wales and in some of the larger parks in Victoria.

I congratulate the Minister on bringing this proposal to fruition. I have been in Parliament only one year but I believe that this year the whole conservation issue has improved by leaps and bounds. Now that a special department has been set up, at least there is hope for the environment of Queensland.

**Mr. BYRNE** (Belmont) (3.28 p.m.): In speaking briefly to the Minister's proposal, I point out that it is obviously welcomed by members of Parliament and certainly by the majority of the people in the community. As we improve our understanding of the part we play in environmental structures, and the part we play in life itself, it is important to realise that nature itself is a work of art, that there are parts of our State and country which should be preserved just as many art treasures are preserved. If someone were to take the "Mona Lisa" or some other work of art and tamper with it, or use it for a different purpose—for instance, if the "Mona Lisa" were used for a time as a coffee tray—after that use its condition would be somewhat different. In other words, there is always a certain element of destruction in any such change.

Because nature possesses a quality of being its own natural work of art, it is unfortunate that people do not appreciate fully that it must surely receive the human appreciation it deserves. It must also be managed; it must also be cared for and it must also be protected.

As previous members have mentioned, the introduction of trail bikes into many of the areas is destructive. However, I cannot let that comment pass without pointing out, as has been said on so many other occasions in this House when dealing with other legislation, that it is all very well and good to state that trail bikes should not be here, should not be there, should be excluded from national parks and should not be in suburban areas because they disturb the people. However, that all points to the fact that specific areas must be set aside for the use of recreation vehicles. Until the Government appreciates that and has the foresight to take action in recognition of it,

it is failing. It fails because it does not provide an alternative area for the enjoyment of this recreation.

National parks, whether they cover beaches, sand dunes or forests, are subject to abuse by people, regardless of their differing recreational purposes. Some merely wish to be able to see the beauty that exists naturally; others have the desire to walk through it and yet others seek the use of the open spaces in a national park for the use of recreation vehicles such as trail bikes.

If this Government now appreciates that beauty is there to be preserved, it should fully appreciate the important role that rests with it in its management and control of national parks. It must not only set aside areas free from abuse by trail bikes and the like but also exercise the responsibility to see that areas are set aside for trail bikes.

As previous members have said, it is most historic that the Government has taken this stand on national parks and the preservation of certain parts of our national heritage for the purpose of recreation now and in the future. For that purpose it is important that we realise that national parks must be set aside not only in the non-urban areas but also in those areas closer to the cities. If people were planning a city today, they would not do so in the way in which cities in Australia have been planned in the past. There would certainly be a far greater cry by people for areas to be set aside for recreational and park purposes.

Therefore, in supporting this far-sighted motion, I suggest that it raises two points. Firstly, it highlights the continued need for Government supervision of the land so that further areas can be set aside for national parks. Secondly, recreational purposes that are destructive, such as the use of trail bikes, cannot be eradicated, and areas must be provided for their use also.

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (3.34 p.m.), in reply: I thank all honourable members for the way in which they have supported what has become known as the Cooloola proposal. I have listened with great interest to all that has been said. Many different aspects have been covered by those who spoke. I will comment upon one or two, but it is pleasing to know that generally speaking the proposal has been well accepted. As honourable members know, this is revocation only. The effect is that after today the area will be vacant Crown land. It then has to be redeclared in accordance with the map that has been circulated to all honourable members.

The honourable member for Bundaberg praised Doug Sherrington for the work he did. I support his remarks. I would add that Mr. Sherrington has a worthy successor in the present member for Salisbury and

I think she will take just as much interest in the subject. I was very pleased to see that she joined in the debate. I look forward to support from her.

**Mr. Hinze:** She's much more pleasant to look at.

**Mr. TOMKINS:** That is quite right. Mrs. Kyburz is on my committee and I look forward to her support.

As everybody knows, the Government was faced with considerable problems in Cooloola. Extensive mining leases were current. As I indicated earlier, the matter was held up while appeals were taken as far as the Privy Council.

I inform the honourable member for Bundaberg and other people who have doubts about the intention of the Government in regard to land use that land must be studied from all points of view. It is no good being a rabid conservationist, a rabid sand miner or a rabid forester. There must be a little balance and I like to think that, even if these matters take some time, at least the Government ensures that balance and that what it is doing is in the national interest.

The honourable member for Landsborough covered some very good points. I shall reply to some of the comments he made on acquiring national parks. The other day I indicated that something like 2,000,000 acres of national park will be declared in Cape York Peninsula. I detailed the areas and do not intend to do so again. This land is being obtained partly by negotiation with lessees and partly from the Lands Department as it is Crown land.

However, tremendous cost is involved if the Government acquires some of the smaller areas down here. On the basis of income earning, an area could be of almost no consequence, yet a fantastic amount of money is required to buy it simply because it has some natural beauty. At this time in our new department the allocation will nowhere near cover some of the costs involved. I have great sympathy in this regard because areas of the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast are being built out rapidly and, unless we preserve some areas now, there will be no natural beauty spots left for people to visit there. Because of cost, it is difficult to acquire some of the little areas that we are looking for. I would be very pleased if there were some way of obtaining them at a reasonable cost.

Under the previous Federal Government we were supposed to get funds in the way of nature conservation grants. Unfortunately we did not receive any. I am hopeful that after 13 December the new Government will adopt a more realistic approach to the problems of the environment and that we will be granted money to handle some of these projects. I repeat that any projects

we handle cost a lot of money. Elandia Plains involved an expenditure of \$450,000. The previous Federal Government bought it and kept it. That indicates the amount of money required to get on with this job. In the short term we must try to acquire some of the areas by negotiation and then enlarge them.

I agree with the honourable member for Landsborough that the 5 per cent does not really mean anything. I understand that the suggestion that came from the United Nations was that 5 per cent of all lands should be national parks. It is not really quantity as much as quality that we want. I think that was his point.

Generally speaking, most honourable members supported the motion. Another comment referred to the Como escarpment. At the moment the Griffith University and the C.S.I.R.O. are studying the ecology and hydrology of the area. I understand it will take four to five years to complete the study. The Forestry Department is unlikely to do anything in this area until the investigation is completed. It is a little sad that we have to wait so long, because it is a long time to wait.

In my opinion the only way that we will build up our timber supplies in Queensland, which are needed urgently because we are a net importer of timber, is to build up our plantations. Not a lot of country is suitable for timber production, but this area is. Nevertheless, I give the assurance that nothing will be done until the report is available.

The honourable member for Cooroora referred to management problems. I was pleased to hear him mention them because we have to treat this subject on its merits. Every national park requires different management. I like the idea we discovered in some of the other States which have local committees who are vitally interested in national parks and accept management of them under the guidance of the department. Whilst no such management is in existence in Queensland, there are some areas in which it would be ideal. I hope that we can work along these lines.

I thank the honourable members for Ashgrove, Ithaca and Isis and other honourable members for what they had to say. Every honourable member supported the motion and submitted ideas that have been recorded.

One matter that appealed to me on our southern trip was that most of the national park staff wear uniforms. They had a national parks and wildlife sign on their shoulder. This made them look official and it did look fairly good. I will leave it at that. I commend the motion to the House and thank honourable members for their support.

Motion (Mr. Tomkins) agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

SECOND READING

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.41 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

My resume of the provisions of the Bill, at the introductory stage, covered the issue involved fairly comprehensively and I do not think there is any need for me to recapitulate to any great extent. I thank the honourable members for their contribution to the debate. It is fairly clear from their comments that there is general agreement on the provisions of the Bill.

However, in reply to the honourable member for Bundaberg, I would dispute the suggestion that this Bill would serve to extend government by regulation. The honourable member can be assured that this certainly is not the case. The Bill merely facilitates decision-making on the question of local authority boundary alterations.

I believe I have made clear before my view that a wholesale reshaping of local authority boundaries is not the answer to developmental and other problems confronting either adjoining local authorities or local authorities in general. Local authorities themselves are in the best position to appreciate what they need and want in this respect and, where councils come to me in general agreement with a request for boundary changes, I certainly will act. But I do not consider that a general reshuffle of boundaries, through a suggested boundaries tribunal, is necessary or warranted at this stage.

It is clear from the remarks of other honourable members that there is agreement on the provisions requiring greater contributions by developers towards the development of parks and recreation areas. The honourable members for Townsville West, Flinders, Landsborough and Wolston very clearly recognised, I believe, the point that this should assist local authorities in providing more areas for active (or passive) recreation. I think there is a growing community recognition that we must have adequate areas in our cities and towns where we can “get away from it all” to some extent, when we feel the need for it.

The honourable member for Landsborough raised the question of possible amendments to enable a shire to set a minimum general rate for each of its financial divisions.

As I mentioned at the close of the introductory debate on this Bill, I will have this possibility investigated as early as possible. I commend the Bill to the House.

**Mr. MARGINSON** (Wolston) (3.43 p.m.): As I said yesterday, we concur with the contents of the Bill. We do again express our belief that a tribunal should have been appointed to deal with the boundaries of local authorities. One of my colleagues suggested to me this morning that we should have one similar to the tribunal which deals with electoral distribution but, of course, we would not want that type of tribunal. We have had enough of those.

**Mr. Frawley:** You wouldn't have been here if it hadn't been for the last one.

**Mr. MARGINSON:** That will be the day. What I would have liked to see is a tribunal to deal with the boundaries of local authorities. It is years since these boundaries have been looked at. As I pointed out yesterday, there are many anomalies with respect to the boundaries but, unfortunately, the only way the boundaries can be changed is through a mutual agreement between the two local authorities concerned. Apart from those comments, we agree with the Bill.

**Mr. POWELL** (Isis) (3.44 p.m.): I rise to support this Bill. The section which interests me most is that which deals with objections. I understand that at present, when objections are made after the 90-day period, the department looks at these objections and considers them. If there is to be a change—and, in the case of the local authority areas with which I am most familiar, change was made—in that case the department has either to advertise again and go through another 90-day period or go back to the original proposal. It makes a mockery of the democratic idea of receiving objections and leaving the proposals open for 90 days so that people can study them and put their ideas to the department.

The whole idea of having the form is excellent, and obviously the change proposed in the Bill will be a change for the better because it will allow people who object to have a greater voice. In my opinion, that should be done. The honourable member for Bundaberg said that there will be an increase in government by regulation. I suggest that, in telling the House that, he showed his ignorance, because the proposed amendment will not do that. As I said, it will give the people who object a greater voice. I know that the Minister, with his experience in local government and the experience that he has gained in his department in the past 12 months, has introduced the amendment because it will add a little more to the democratic process.

The provision of parks in certain areas is an excellent idea. Certainly those who are involved in town planning and subdivisional development should be aware of the need to have adequate parkland on which children can play in the immediate vicinity

of the areas in which they live. Land is now cut up into fairly small blocks—in most cases in the 24-32 perch range (I do not know what that is in square metres)—and by the time a house is built on them, very little area is left on which children can play. Therefore, it is essential that parkland be provided. Some guide-lines must be made available, because many local authorities in the State do not adhere to the solid, forward town planning that is absolutely essential for good subdivisional development.

I support the Bill completely. It is a step in the right direction, and it will assist to upgrade a little further the local government laws in this State.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.47 p.m.). in reply: I thank the honourable members for Wolston and Isis for their contributions to the debate indicating their acceptance of the Bill, and I also thank other honourable members who spoke.

The honourable member for Isis is right in the centre of one of the areas in which boundaries are being changed. It is very simple for people to tell the Local Government Department what it should do and how it should change boundaries. However, boundaries are like a jig-saw puzzle. Once one is tampered with, it becomes necessary to alter the others. After a first attempt, one quickly realises how many problems arise. Frankly, I inherited the problem of the alteration of boundaries in the area represented by the honourable member for Isis, and I have had a very clear indication of what transpires in such circumstances. Politics comes into it. There are pressures from various local organisations. Surveyors and others who think they know where the boundaries should be have their say and try to exert pressure. The Local Government Department certainly has had a little bit of experience this year in changing local authority boundaries in this State.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) 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.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hinze, by leave, read a third time.

## MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### SECOND READING

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.50 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

I cannot stress too much the importance of controlling overloaded vehicles on the road, particularly in view of the amount of damage that can be done. For example, an overload of 10 per cent has a damage potential approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times that of the legal load; a 20 per cent overload presents a damage potential twice the legal load; a 30 per cent overload, approximately three times the legal load; a 40 per cent overload, four times the damage potential; a 50 per cent overload, five times the damage potential of the legal load; and an 80 per cent overload, ten times the damage potential of the legal load. These figures have been accepted as a reasonable assessment by experts working in this field.

Following a study of the economics of road vehicle limits carried out by the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities (of which the Queensland Main Roads Department is a member), recommendations by the study team will be considered by various authorities and Ministers in each State, and at the Australian Transport Advisory Council. One of the recommendations is that the scale of fines for breaches for weight regulations be directly related to the amount of overload. Another recommendation is that the appropriate authorities co-ordinate the enforcement activities associated with all facets of commercial vehicle operation.

The conferences, which will start next Monday, initially will involve officers of the Queensland Main Roads Department and members of the study team and officers from other States. Eventually they will involve legal officers as well, with a view to obtaining uniformity not only in the legal limits but also in the method of enforcement and in all the enforcement activities. The amendments proposed in this Bill were intended to make the maximum fines consistent with those in other States.

Some honourable members have mentioned the lack of obvious enforcement in Brisbane. I would stress that the Main Roads Act and regulations apply only to declared main roads, not to shire roads in the country or roads within the Brisbane City Council area, which are not under the control of the department. However, members can be assured there is no discrimination between the rural and the city areas. I also would like to assure members that the general enforcement practice at present is to give two warnings, when overload breaches are

noted before prosecution action is taken. As mentioned by several members, any special circumstances will be taken into consideration.

The amendments contained in this Bill not only would update fines in line with escalation in costs since 1959, but also would improve the control of overloading and would provide for practices in Queensland which are consistent with practices in other States. This would enable the interstate operators to know where they stand, and to avoid confusion in their interstate movements.

As late as today, I have been assured by the Department of Northern Australia that Northern Territory authorities are very conscious of the problems caused by overloading of vehicles, and the need to control and discourage the practice. On the recommendation of the Northern Development Advisers' Council, the Minister for Northern Australia will be raising at the next meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council (ATAC) the question of co-operation with adjoining States in matters such as this.

This is advice which I welcome as Minister for Main Roads in Queensland, and I am hopeful that more positive co-operative action against overload offenders will emerge as a result.

I commend the Bill to the House.

**Mr. MARGINSON** (Wolston) (3.54 p.m.): I thank the Minister for his detailed introductory remarks yesterday and again this afternoon.

There are only three clauses in the Bill. It is a machinery measure, and we agree with it.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.55 p.m.), in reply: I again thank the honourable member for Wolston for his co-operation. While I have held the portfolio I have always tried to convey to the Opposition what I believe I would be entitled to if I were sitting in Opposition. It gives the Opposition a chance to recognise and study the matters that the Government wishes to bring before the Assembly.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 3, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hinze, by leave, read a third time.

The House adjourned at 3.56 p.m.