

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 1976

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SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT—continued
(Second Period)

TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 1976

Under the provisions of the motion for special adjournment agreed to by the House on 9 December 1975, the House met at 11 a.m.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Amendment Bill;

Succession Duties Acts Amendment Bill;

Poultry Industry Act Amendment Bill;

Traffic Act Amendment Bill (No. 2);

Health Act Amendment Bill;

Companies Act Amendment Bill;

Voting Rights (Public Companies) Regulation Bill;

Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Bill;

Local Government Act Amendment Bill (No. 2);

Main Roads Act Amendment Bill;

Aurukun Associates Agreement Bill;

Building Societies Act Amendment Bill;

Securities Industry Bill;

Liquor Act Amendment Bill (No. 2);

Pay-roll Tax Act Amendment Bill;

Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Bill;

Auctioneers and Agents Act Amendment Bill.

GOVERNOR'S SALARY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

RESERVATION FOR ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. SPEAKER reported receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor intimating that this Bill had been reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF PORT CURTIS

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, on 19 February 1976, I received the resignation of Mr. Martin Hanson as member for the electoral district of Port Curtis in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

SEAT DECLARED VACANT

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Port Curtis hath become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of the said Martin Hanson, Esquire.”

Motion agreed to.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL

JUDGE FOR 1976

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from the Honourable the Chief Justice notifying that the Honourable Mr. Justice J. D. Dunn would be the judge to preside at sittings of the Elections Tribunal for 1976.

PAPERS PRINTED DURING RECESS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that the following papers were ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess:—

Reports—

Co-ordinator-General, Queensland, for the year 1974-75.

Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, for the year 1974-75.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt from the Auditor-General of his report on the books and accounts of the Brisbane City Council for the year 1974-75.

Ordered to be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

RESIGNATION OF MR. HANSON

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that a vacancy exists on the Parliamentary Buildings Committee consequent upon the resignation of Mr. Martin Hanson, former member for the electoral district of Port Curtis.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. E. MARGINSON

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

“That Mr. Evan Marginson, member for the electoral district of Wolston, be appointed a member of the Parliamentary Buildings Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Hanson.”

Motion agreed to.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Reports—

Government Gas Engineer and Chief Gas Examiner, for the year 1974-75.

Queensland Institute of Medical Research, for the year 1974-75.

James Cook University of North Queensland, for the year 1974.

Library Board of Queensland, for the year 1974-75.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

Government Gazette Extraordinary of February 19, 1976, containing—

- (i) A Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor to the effect that Her Majesty the Queen had been pleased, by Order in Council made on January 19, 1976, to declare Her Assent to the Bill intituled “A Bill to Amend the Governor’s Salary Act 1872–1973 in a certain particular”.

- (ii) A Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, notifying and declaring that in respect of a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of Queensland intituled “A Bill to Amend the Queensland Marine Act 1958–1972 in certain particulars” and assented to by His Excellency on October 9, 1975, Her Majesty has signified Her pleasure that the Act may come into operation.

Aurukun Associates Agreement Act 1975.

Acquisition of Land Act 1967–1969 and the State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971–1974.

Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Amendment Act 1975.

State Counter-Disaster Organization Act 1975.

Traffic Act Amendment Act 1974.

Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act 1975.

Grammar Schools Act 1975.

Orders in Council under—

Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1974.

State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971–1974.

Apprenticeship Act 1964–1974.

State Counter-Disaster Organization Act 1975.

Water Act 1926–1975.

Irrigation Act 1922–1973.

Irrigation Act 1922–1973 and the Water Act 1926–1975.

River Improvement Trust Act 1940–1971.

Traffic Act 1949–1975.

Harbours Act 1955–1972.

Land Act 1962–1975.

Health Act 1937–1975.

Pharmacy Act 1917–1972.

Medical Act 1939–1973.

The Physiotherapists Acts, 1964 to 1965.

Explosives Act 1952–1975.

The Grammar Schools Acts, 1860 to 1962.

The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965.

Libraries Act 1943–1974.

Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958–1974.

Fisheries Act 1957–1974.

Fish Supply Management Act 1972.

Regulations under—

Public Service Act 1922–1973.

Apprenticeship Act 1964–1974.

Construction Safety Act 1971–1975.

Fire Brigades Act 1964–1973.

Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1974.
 Inspection of Machinery Act 1951-1974.
 Weights and Measures Act 1951-1972.
 State Counter-Disaster Organization Act 1975.
 Traffic Act 1949-1975.
 Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act 1975.
 Harbours Act 1955-1972.
 Queensland Marine Act 1958-1972.
 Health Act 1937-1975.
 The Grammar Schools Acts, 1860 to 1962.
 Education Act 1964-1974.
 Building Societies Act 1886-1975.
 Professional Engineers Act 1929-1975.
 Aborigines Act 1971-1975.
 Torres Strait Islanders Act 1971-1975.
 Fisheries Act 1957-1974.
 Fish Supply Management Act 1972.

By-laws under—
 Railways Act 1914-1972 (Nos. 1059 to 1068).
 Harbours Act 1955-1972.

Statute under the University of Queensland Act 1965-1973.

Rules of Court under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1975.

Rules under the Ambulance Services Act 1967-1975.

Report of the Dumaesq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission for the year 1974-75.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

NEW POLICY OF CARE FOR INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (11.17 a.m.): New initiatives in the management of the intellectually handicapped in Queensland will ensure a new deal for these people within the community. The new plans, including the development of a new caring profession to specially train the intellectually handicapped have been fully documented in a Health Department paper. The paper outlines the Government programmes, including the development of villas schemes and we have already embarked upon the programme of community supervised hostels. The villas projects envisaged through the State are estimated to total some \$12,000,000.

Honourable members should know that the training of people in the new caring professions is expected to commence within the next few months.

This new policy of care for the intellectually handicapped will mean that many more of these folk will be able to take their place within the community and live together with normal people. This programme will mean

that so many more of these people will be able to make a positive contribution to the community in which they live. I am certain that all Queenslanders will accept and welcome this new programme.

I seek leave to table this health paper and I will ensure that copies are made available to all honourable members.

(Leave granted.)

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the document on the table.

PETITIONS

AURUKUN ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT ACT

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) presented a petition from 325 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend the legislation which allows mining at Aurukun so that negotiation may be entered into with the people of Aurukun through their appointed legal representatives.

Petition read and received.

FACILITIES FOR CYCLISTS

Mr. WARNER (Toowoomba South) presented a petition from 21 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will recognise the major contribution that bicycles can make to traffic, pollution, heart disease and general fitness problems faced in our society.

Petition read and received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

AURUKUN ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT ACT

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (11.22 a.m.): I rise to clarify a developing situation and to correct many misleading, erroneous and incorrect statements being disseminated through the media relating to the Aurukun Associates Agreement Act 1975.

We have today had presented to this House a petition signed by some people of Aurukun indicating three points:

1. No consultation with the Aurukun people.
2. Objection to mining at Aurukun.
3. No agreement with the Minister.

Let me say at the outset that this petition is symbolic of similar documents being circulated throughout Australia by activists and militants operating in many instances under the mantle of the Presbyterian or other church organisations, but designed to promote personal ideologies associated with the so-called "land rights" issue.

It is difficult for anyone to sort the wheat from the chaff in the publicity—emotional and otherwise. I therefore propose to place before this House the facts without emotion, without hypocrisy and without sensationalism. They speak for themselves. They are:

The Tipperary Land Corporation was granted an authority to prospect by the Queensland Mines Department in April 1968. That authority to prospect carried with it rights and privileges as well as responsibilities established under the mining laws of this State.

Included in that authority to prospect were certain areas of Reserve R. 3, an area set aside for the benefit of the Aboriginal inhabitants of this State.

This Aboriginal reserve of Aurukun comprising 7 503 sq km was placed, for management purposes, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of Australia State Assembly of Queensland by an Order in Council of 12 June 1941. This means that the church accepted a responsibility to manage and care for the community of Aboriginal people established near the mouth of the Archer River and generally known as Aurukun Mission. The church delegated management responsibility to the Board of Ecumenical Mission and Relations, Presbyterian Church of Australia, which is known as "BOEMAR".

In terms of the authority to prospect the mining company sought to establish the resources, and early in 1968 moved on to reserve land without prior consultation or authority from either the Aboriginal council or the trustee of the reserve as was required by law. The director refused access and activities ceased forthwith. Following such cessation, consultations proceeded between the director as trustee, the Tipperary Land Corporation representatives (principally with the managing director, Mr. W. B. Neely) and the representatives of the Aurukun Aboriginal Community.

Agreement was reached by an exchange of letters for activities to proceed in terms of the authority granted by the Mines Department. That exchange of letters in the minds of all associated parties became known as the "Neely Agreement" and for ease of communication this expression has endured over the years. It is this exchange of letters and their contents which has been incorporated in, as well as being codified in, the agreement between the consortium which took over the Tipperary Land Corporation mining authority and is included in the Act as the agreement. I will refer to the details later.

During the intervening years, discussions and consultations have proceeded towards the development of a confirming Act of Parliament and so that honourable members will be aware that consultations did in fact proceed, I can state that:

(A) In December 1971 the Premier refused to proceed with draft legislation in this House because of claims by the Presbyterian Church that insufficient time had been allowed for consultation.

(B) In 1972 the department, after consultation and at the request of the Aboriginal residents of Aurukun, informed the company that it was not prepared to agree

to its suggested boundaries for the bauxite lease and this resulted in the lease boundary moving eastward from the Aurukun Mission township site by some 12 km. This was again confirmed in 1975.

I table a map marking out the original proposed boundary and the present boundary which clearly shows the eastward movement.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the map on the table.

(C) Over the years, when opportunity presented, departmental officers have inquired of the community-elected representatives their current feelings. Their views may be summarised as—

(I) There is no objection to the mining going ahead;

(II) They wish to be progressively consulted on this; and

(III) They seek the employment opportunities which will result.

(D) During the past 12 months there have been at least three contacts with the elected representatives of the people over this matter as well as a public meeting I attended, which included more than 150 people at Aurukun, when again it was clear that there is in fact no objection to the mining activity and the people seek resulting work opportunity.

(E) As recently as 24/25 February last, I received the same message from the representatives of the people, that is, that they do not object to mining; they do want work opportunity; but loud and clear is the message that the residential area of Aurukun and the way of life of the people at Aurukun itself is not destroyed, and with this I wholeheartedly agree.

Let us now look at what has happened to the people of Aurukun. Radicals have descended on the community like a plague to such extent that the people through their council have called a halt to such intrusions.

The council have by public notice in the "Cairns Post" said—

"No persons are allowed to visit Aurukun without first obtaining permission from Council and Manager. At least three days notice must be given.

"Signed: F. Yunkaporta, Chairman,
Aurukun Community Council".

Does this sound like a people who are dispossessed, who are not able to control their destiny?

In December some persons appeared at Aurukun, uninvited and unwelcome, and endeavoured to present to Australia a totally untrue picture of the people and their way of life as well as their feelings. They produced, and induced newspapers to publish, posed photographs of armed Aurukun Aborigines claiming that such a group had moved in and taken possession by force of the mining company's camp at Beagle. They disseminated propaganda to such extent that the people of Aurukun protested to a newspaper

denying the accuracy and the truth of the publications. I table a photo copy of that protest.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the paper on the table.

It has by innuendo been suggested that the Government, through its department, is endeavouring to control the people, and I believe the facts should now be publicised.

On 18 November 1975 the people's elected representatives personally requested the department to assume management of the community. This was confirmed in a letter dated 13 November 1975. Such request was acknowledged by the director to the chairman in the following terms:—

"Dear Mr. Peinkinna: I write to acknowledge your letter dated 13th November which you handed to me at the end of our talks on November 18th last regarding the future of Aurukun.

"As you know Aurukun has been sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland for many years in a partnership with the State and you will no doubt recall my general explanations of how this partnership works.

"I understand that the Reverend Coombs and Mr. Edenborough have visited Aurukun and no doubt will be in touch with me again following their meeting with you and your people.

"The matters you raise are very important to everyone and, of course, will need a great deal of consultation and discussion with you, your people and the Presbyterian Church so that you will understand your request cannot be acted upon immediately.

"I hope to visit your place for a short time next week and will explain further to you.

"With kind regards to you all."

Copies of such letters were freely made available to BOEMAR.

Subsequently, under date 13 January 1976, I received direct in my office a petition signed by 200 Aurukun residents (including all of the members of the former and the current elected council) seeking that the department assume management in material matters. The petition reads—

"Dear Sir, We ask that you as Minister of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement request Mr. Killoran and his Department to take over the administration of this Reserve: The Aurukun Aboriginal Reserve.

Yours faithfully,".

BOEMAR, by letter dated 20 January 1976, indicated that this may not reflect a majority wish. I accepted that this may be so.

I have had consultations with the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (Right Reverend P. Wood) and, as a result of those consultations, he, with the General Secretary of

BOEMAR (the Reverend J. Brown), my director and I proceeded to Aurukun and over a period of two days, namely, 24 and 25 February, held joint consultations with the council and, through them, sought an expression of the wishes of the people.

It was made quite clear at those consultations that the people were not happy with the performance of BOEMAR, but suggested a stay of proceedings for a period of 12 months and I agreed. However, I made it quite clear that, in the ultimate, responsibility for the material well-being of the people at Aurukun Community devolves on me, one I am not prepared to avoid or neglect, and therefore it is my intention to continue to have further consultations with the church and with the people. I reserved the right to review the situation in the next three to six months.

Mr. JONES: I rise to a point of order. As I understand it, there is a writ before the courts, and I seek your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on the material being presented by the Minister. Although it has been very interesting to the House, I wonder how the House stands relative to the issue of the writ.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! What is the honourable member's point of order? I call the Minister.

Mr. WHARTON: Let me pay due credit to the Presbyterian Church, which has developed and ministered to the people at Aurukun for almost 70 years, and place on record appreciation of the outstanding work of the dedicated missionaries over the years who have given to the people a way of life and a future in this country of ours. It is our duty and our responsibility to see that the work of those early-day missionaries does not falter or fail, and I intend to see that it does not fail.

I wish now to turn to some of the activities of certain people who are very active throughout Queensland, and indeed Australia, in endeavouring to stir up animosity, apprehension and political lobbying on this matter.

For instance we have in "The Courier-Mail" of 5 January 1976 an article by a reverend gentleman which reiterates many of the inaccuracies disseminated. Had he bothered to check with me he would have learned the facts.

Coming closer to the grass roots living of people—radicals have developed in the minds of the Aurukun people a fear that the mining activity will cause them to be displaced from their present places of abode. Nothing is further from the truth. I invite honourable members to study the map I have tabled. They will see that the nearest boundary of the bauxite lease is distant more than 12 km at its nearest point to the township of Aurukun.

The mining activity over the first 30 years after commencement some time in the 1980s will be no closer than the present

mining camp at Beagle, a distance of more than 50 km from the residential area of Aurukun township.

The new town to accommodate workers, including, if necessary, workers from Aurukun, is proposed to be established at Pera Heads (and this is not final), a distance of some 70 km from Aurukun.

It has been suggested that a dam to be erected on the Archer River will flood the town. Nothing is further from the truth. A possibility exists that a dam will be constructed on the Archer River approximately 180 km upstream from the Aurukun township. This is far removed and will not affect the township or the reserve.

Many members and the public generally have wondered why my department and I have been silent on this so-called Aurukun issue.

The director has been the subject of a writ in his capacity as trustee of the reserve and we have respected protocol in this regard; but others, including the initiators, have not, and I find now that, in the public interest and in the interests of the Aurukun people, Queensland as a State, and Australia as a whole, these facts must be made known.

I turn now to the agreement relating to the reserve area and summarise the principal terms, an explanation of them, and the safeguards incorporated therein:

1. I am satisfied that the interests and welfare of the people have been the major consideration throughout the negotiations of the project.

2. I consider the agreement contains favourable considerations for the Aborigines including:

Employment conditions.

Employment opportunity.

Protection of significant sacred sites.

Protection of relics.

A form of profit participation separate from and over and above mineral royalties and rental payments which are the rights of the Crown.

3. There is no intention—nor would I tolerate any attempt—to remove any of the Aboriginal people from the community at Aurukun or allow their way of life to be interrupted other than of their own choice.

4. The exercise commenced as long ago as 1968, and there have been continuous contacts and discussions ever since—a period of some seven years.

5. Some four years ago the Premier deferred action to proceed with the legislation to allow time to further consider the matter. One could ask how much more time is needed.

6. Mining operations will for ever be far removed from the residential area—probably never closer than 25 km or more—and areas sought by the Aborigines to be excluded from

the lease have been excluded, thus providing an adequate “buffer zone” of their own choosing.

7. No loss of the Aboriginal reserve land will occur. I emphasise there is no excision of land from the reserve, and all land reverts in its rejuvenated and improved state automatically on completion of the mining process.

8. The original authority to prospect area was reduced by approximately one-fifth to leave the Aurukun Community township area undisturbed, and also the south-west corner of the original authority to prospect withdrawn for exclusive use by the community residents.

9. The Tipperary Land Corporation sought access under a mineral prospecting authority, and terms and conditions were ultimately agreed by an exchange of letters, on which appropriate representatives of the Aborigines and Presbyterian Church were kept fully informed, ultimately culminating in the document set out in the third schedule.

10. The Aboriginal people also have use of the areas not being actively mined at any time.

11. With reference to the 3 per cent profit participation mentioned on page 53, I draw attention to the words:

“Net profits of the companies shall be determined in accordance with accepted accounting practices and conventions applicable to mining and beneficiation activities in Australia.”

12. Claims that inter-company financial dealing could negate profitability are ridiculous. Firstly, we are dealing with respectable business organisations; and, secondly, the public can determine profitability of adjoining leases, which can then be used for comparison.

13. Under law the owner of property is not entitled to a share of mineral wealth found on that property other than in the form of compensation. This applies to any landowner—and the same must apply to Aborigines as well. Matters for which compensation is payable are those specified in section 128 (2) of the Mining Act 1968-1974 which reads:

“Subject to the preceding subsection, compensation is payable under this part in respect of—

(a) deprivation of the possession of the surface of the private land or of any part thereof;

(b) damage caused to the surface of the private land or of any part thereof or to any improvements thereon by the carrying on of mining operation thereon or thereunder;

(c) severance of any part of the private land from other parts thereof;

(d) surface rights of way;

(e) all damage that arises as a consequence of any matter referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this subsection."

14. More than 7,000,000 acres have been set aside by the Government in Queensland for use by Aborigines. These lands are held for the use and benefit of Aborigines and Islanders; therefore any reward from this land must be used for the purposes defined in the dedication of trust, namely, the well-being of Aborigines. As has occurred at other places, profits from the venture will be used to the benefit of the local people first; however, in the ultimate they should be available to benefit all Aborigines.

15. All religious and sacred sites will be investigated, recorded by the Aborigines themselves and respected to the exclusion of mining. Wages of recorders will be a charge against the mining consortium.

16. The Aboriginal people of Aurukun have confidence in the department and its concern for their welfare, as is evidenced by the requests I have mentioned earlier.

17. I repeat that there has been consultation with the Aborigines; they accept the mining; they look to me for guidance at a time of confusion, and this is a trust I will not betray. The full facts have been disclosed by me in Parliament previously. I suggest that anyone with a genuine interest in this project should study those facts; they are public information and have been published in full.

QUESTION UPON NOTICE

ALLEGED DEBTS OF MR. H. W. FANCHER

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

(1) Is the Mr. Wiley Fancher who was mentioned in the Premier's ministerial statement of 9 December—the Premier's friend, informant and financial adviser—the same person as the Mr. Henry Wiley Fancher of High Street, Atherton, who has outstanding debts to the extent of \$50,000 owing to Colin and Henry Haymen for a transaction involving Inoruni and Chadshunt Stations, \$22,000 to Bill Harris, formerly station manager, Mt. Mulgrave Station, \$16,000 to Mr. Wallace for contract mustering, and \$6,000 to Clausen Shipping for freight; who is a debtor of sundry others, including Mac-taggart, Dalgetys, Olympic Tyre Company, Mobil Oil, Atherton and Cook Shire Councils, and hire-purchase companies; and who owes other smaller amounts for goods, wages and services?

(2) Has he received any complaint or has he any knowledge of these debts and, if so, what action has been taken to assist with recovery of the debts?

Answers:—

(1) I am unable to say whether or not Mr. Wiley Fancher who was mentioned in the honourable the Premier's ministerial statement on 9 December 1975 has outstanding debts as alleged. In the first place, I believe it would be most improper for me to arrange investigations on such matters without just cause, for if the debts do exist and if they have been incurred by the same Mr. Wiley Fancher there may be in existence arrangements between the parties for the payment of the alleged sums of money. If such is the case, then it is not the duty or the right of any person who is not privy to those arrangements to make inquiries into them. Secondly, as I am uncertain at this point of time whether or not there exists more than one Mr. Wiley Fancher, it would be presumptuous on my part to make any statement along the lines sought without a thorough investigation into this aspect, for one can imagine the irreparable harm that could be done to an innocent party if a mistake as to identity were made. Furthermore, the alleged debts may not yet be due and payable; there may be a set off against the alleged debts; there may be a dispute on the question of quantum or there may be a dispute in relation to other matters which would affect the amount of the claim. In general terms the question contains too many generalities and unknown factors for me to answer with any certainty or authoritative statement. Until action is brought in the courts to prove such debts, there does not exist in this State a recording system to establish the existence of such contingent matters. However, I can say with certainty that there is not recorded with the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs any bill of sale involving a Mr. Wiley Fancher.

(2) I have received no complaint nor do I have any knowledge of these debts (apart from those allegations contained in the first part of the honourable member's question). If they do exist, and because they appear to be of a civil nature, the parties concerned have their remedies at law. I point out that it is not the duty or practice of a Minister to assist in the recovery of what appear to be personal debts, but I would remind the honourable member of the existence of the Legal Assistance Committee of Queensland, which may be able to offer assistance should any of the alleged creditors qualify for such assistance and need advice. Maybe the honourable member could go there, too.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

AURUKUN ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT ACT

Mr. MARGINSON: I ask the Premier: In view of the continuing criticism of his Government's action in allowing mining at Aurukun by overseas financial interests and

the Prime Minister's call upon his Government for explanations of various aspects of this project—

(1) Will his Government reconsider and review the existing arrangements?

(2) Has his attention been drawn to a statement by Liberal Senator Neville Bonner on this matter, in which he is reported as having said, "I have not found the many utterances by Mr. Bjelke-Petersen to be factual"?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: In reply to the last part of the honourable member's question—Senator Bonner's attitude is about the last thing that would interest me, because he does not know the facts and I wish he would take time to study them.

The answer to the remainder of the question is that there is no intention to alter or change the agreement that went through this Parliament, to which honourable members gave their consent. They had the opportunity to debate it to the full. It took seven years to bring about that agreement. It was discussed by Government members, party members and Cabinet over a seven-year period. Honourable members opposite had time to debate the matter in the Chamber. The Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries made a speech in the Chamber indicating the situation clearly. When people ultimately wake up to what is the situation, as I hope the honourable member for Wolston will soon, they and he will know how well and how fairly these people have been treated. The situation is such that the honourable member will be proud of the agreement and the support he gave it when it was debated in Parliament. He will certainly not feel ashamed of it.

RESUMPTION OF SCOTLAND YARD INVESTIGATION

Mr. MELLOY: I ask the Minister for Police: When does he anticipate that the highly expensive inquiries by the Scotland Yard investigators into the Queensland Police Force will resume and when is he likely to receive a report? Will he give an assurance that any delay in the resumption of this probe will not be used as an excuse for further deferment of the promised judicial inquiry?

Mr. HODGES: I would like to advise the honourable member that it is the considered opinion of the Government that any further inquiries into the allegations at this time could prejudice the several serious cases before the courts at the moment—cases which have been initiated by the police themselves. I am not prepared at this stage to waive the essentials of justice in order to satisfy the honourable member for Nudgee or other members of the Australian Labor Party.

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

Mr. GREENWOOD: I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: Does he agree with the statement attributed to Alderman Walsh in this morning's "Courier-Mail", after his closed-session conference, namely, that the Planning Advisory Committee is a community body and presumably sufficiently and satisfactorily representative of the citizens of Brisbane—at least in the Lord Mayor's view?

Mr. HINZE: The very reason why I recommended to Cabinet that the town plan—

Mr. Houston: You were done in your own caucus. That's why you returned it.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HINZE: All that the honourable member knows anything about is the dogs out at the Gabba—greyhounds—nothing else.

An Honourable Member: And they've got fleas!

Mr. HINZE: Yes, and they've got fleas.

I recommended to Cabinet that the town plan be returned to the Brisbane City Council for consideration for the very reason to which the honourable member referred. The Planning Advisory Committee is, as the name implies, an advisory committee to the authority, which is the Brisbane City Council. The plan did not come from the Brisbane City Council; it came to my department after consideration by the Planning Advisory Committee. The main reason why I have returned the plan to the council is to let it, in open council meeting, give further consideration to the Brisbane Town Plan over a period of 60 days and then, in open council, refer the new town plan to me.

LONG-TERM PRISONERS' ATTENDANCE AT CONCERT

Mr. DEAN: I ask the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport: What time did the long-term prisoners Maher and Cassidy leave Brisbane gaol to attend the Neil Diamond concert, and what time did they return to the gaol?

Mr. HERBERT: Obviously I cannot give the honourable member the actual times, but they left in time to go to the performance and were returned to the gaol immediately afterwards.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON AURUKUN

Mr. LINDSAY: I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries: Will he send to Senator Neville Bonner a personal copy of the statement that he made to the House today regarding Aurukun, as the Senator seems to be—deliberately or otherwise—unaware of the facts of the matter?

Mr. WHARTON: In answer to the honourable member: Yes, I will be pleased to do so.

CAMPBELL REPORT ON RADFORD SCHEME

Mr. LINDSAY: I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities: As to education in Queensland—

(a) Does he share my belief that the future of education in this State should be the concern of all democratically elected members of this Parliament?

(b) Has the Minister received and studied a copy of the report by Professor W. J. Campbell entitled "Some Consequences of the Radford Scheme for Schools, Teachers and Students in Queensland"?

(c) Will he be tabling the report in the House and, if so, when?

Mr. BIRD: I am not sure whether the honourable member is a member of my education committee.

An Opposition Member: Don't you know?

Mr. BIRD: Some of them have been seconded.

There is an embargo on the Campbell report. It is a very big report, and I am going through it at the present time. When the embargo is lifted it will certainly be widely distributed. I will be discussing the report with my departmental officers, as I have continued to discuss other education matters with them since I took over the portfolio. I will certainly be discussing that report with members of Parliament on both sides of the House, and not limiting my discussions to members of my education committee. Because of the embargo I am not prepared to discuss the report itself at the present time.

INCREASE IN BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST RATES

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Following yesterday's increase in building society interest rates, does he now agree that one of the main reasons for the rise was the Federal Liberal-National Country Party Government's 10.5 per cent savings bond issue, which was described by the Federal Treasurer as a huge success?

Sir GORDON CHALK: There has never been any doubt in the mind of the public as to where I stood in relation to the 10.5 per cent bond issue by the Federal Government. It is true that there was a need to draw off a certain amount of the liquidity of building societies. Prior to the introduction of that particular Australian bond, some building societies were investing on the short-term money market rather than being able to dispose of that money in home-building. I believe the 10.5 per cent bond was necessary for a period of time and I supported it on that basis. On the other

hand, when the Federal Government raised about \$790,000,000 through that particular bond, I was one who advocated that the issue should cease and that we should return, as it were, to the financial activities that had existed prior to that bond coming into operation. However, in its wisdom, the Federal Government decided on a No. 2 series issue of Australian bonds at 9.5 per cent. It then became evident to me, having seen a considerable amount of money taken away from building societies, a considerable proportion of their liquidity, that possibly there would be a need for an increase in the building society rate in this State. However, because I felt that a period of time should pass to enable us to see exactly what would happen, I did not move at once. The fact is that New South Wales increased its building society rates by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the Federal capital increased its rates by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and, as Queensland was on the basis of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and New South Wales is now on 9 per cent, I indicated to Cabinet—and Cabinet approved—that we should increase the rate in this State to 9 per cent.

SACKING OF WORKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: In directing this question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, I refer to Mr. Fraser's proposed new Commonwealth and State tax sharing, and ask him if he agrees with the Prime Minister that tentative signs of an economic recovery are emerging. If so, what is the rationale behind the recent State Government's sacking of 300 Works Department employees, and is this the first sign of a tentative revival of this State's earlier paranoiac opposition to Canberra?

Sir GORDON CHALK: I think the honourable member is fully aware of the very expert manner in which my Ministerial colleague Mr. Lee handled this matter. A signed undertaking from Mr. Hugh Hamilton having been received, I believe that the matter has been very well settled under my colleague's guidance.

**DEATHS OF MR. W. M. MOORE,
MR. M. HANSON AND MR. E. J. WALSH**

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.25 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"(1) That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late William Matthew Moore, Esquire, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the Crown; Martin Hanson, Esquire, recently serving as member for the electoral district of Port Curtis; and Edward Joseph Walsh, Esquire, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the Crown.

(2) That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widows and families of the deceased gentlemen the above resolution,

together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained."

I am sure that all members were saddened by the passing during the month of February of three former members who were outstanding representatives of the people in their electorates in their day and who made such valuable contributions to this Parliament.

The first was the late William Matthew Moore, whom many of us would remember very well in our earlier days in Parliament. He died on 3 February this year at the age of 78 years. He ended his parliamentary career in 1957 after 17 years of service to his electors and to the people of Queensland.

He began his career on 9 November 1940, when he won Merthyr for Labor in a by-election. Mr. Moore had been a prominent member of Australian Labor Party branches in Southern, Central and Western Queensland, and entered Parliament well known for his services to the council of the State Service Union. He was a school-teacher for 13 years and an inspector of the State Government Insurance Office for a period.

After his by-election victory, he progressed fairly rapidly through Government ranks and in 1948 was appointed Acting Secretary for Labour and Industry. He then defeated the former Labor Government Whip, Mr. Farrell of Maryborough, to win a place in the Ministry after it had been increased from 10 to 11 members. When the portfolio of Lands and Mines was separated, he became Minister for Mines and Immigration. Mr. Moore achieved the Health and Home Affairs portfolio on 11 May 1950, and it was in this capacity that he built a reputation as an energetic administrator and a vigorous champion of the principle of free hospital services in Queensland.

The year 1957 was a fateful year for Labor when that once-strong party split. Mr. Moore, as a faithful Labor supporter dedicated to the principles of his party, supported former Premier Vincent Gair and became one of his strongest supporters, as we all well remember. Unfortunately for Mr. Moore, the election of 3 August 1957 ended his political career when he and two other Cabinet colleagues were defeated. However, his contribution to Queensland's progress, particularly when he was a Minister of the Crown, will be long remembered.

The untimely death on 20 February of Mr. Martin Hanson, the former Australian Labor Party member for the State seat of Port Curtis, came as a shock to all members of the Queensland Legislature. Mr. Hanson was the son-in-law of a former Queensland Premier (the Honourable E. M. Hanlon) and brother-in-law of former Queensland parliamentarian Mr. P. J. Hanlon.

He was a leading citizen of the Gladstone region, which has almost doubled its population as a result of Government policy and

action during the past decade. Mr. Hanson took a deep interest in that advance and was widely respected for his community spirit and his concern for his electors.

He was also well respected for his ability as a businessman who appreciated the difficulties and problems facing commercial interests in Gladstone, and who sought to fairly represent all electors.

Mr. Hanson was born at Charters Towers in 1923, and later attended St. Joseph's College, Nudgee. He served with the Royal Australian Air Force from 1942 to 1945. He was a long-serving member of the Gladstone Harbour Board—from 1945 to 1964—and he served as its chairman from 1949 to 1958. He married his wife, Mary Hanlon, in 1951. They had three sons and three daughters.

Mr. Hanson will be remembered for his interests in bowls, squash, fishing and gardening and for his love of horse-racing. He was involved with the Queensland Turf Club, the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club and the Albion Park Trotting Club.

He had represented Port Curtis continuously since 1963, and was well known as a prominent moderate who at one time held shadow-Minister status and who had contested the Labor Party leadership. His passing will be deeply grieved by all who came to respect him.

The late Edward Joseph (Ted) Walsh, who died on 26 February, was greatly admired inside and outside Parliament for his breadth of mind and ability to get to the heart of the most complex of political problems. He was a man I respected and liked. He had been one of Queensland's leading political figures since 1935, when he first entered this House as the member for Mirani.

He was born on 30 June 1894, in very modest circumstances. He was orphaned at five years of age and at 14 was paid 7s. 6d., or 75c, a week to do farm and station work. He was a big man in many ways. He stood 6 ft. tall and weighed 18 stone. Self-educated in the hard rural school of life, he was hard working and practical and he gained much of his knowledge and ability by experience.

On reflection it is ironical that this man, who had difficulty raising \$2,000 to buy his first farm, should become State Treasurer administering a series of Budgets involving many millions of dollars. He was one of those solid rural gentlemen who built the Australian Labor Party in Queensland, and who saw it torn apart in 1957. He built his reputation as a good manager and organiser in farm organisations about Mackay. His victory over the late Sir Arthur Fadden in Mirani was indeed remarkable, and more remarkable was his ability to hold the seat for 12 years. His defeat by the late Ernie Evans was costly as he

also lost the Deputy Premiership, which, in his absence from Parliament, was taken by his close friend Vincent Gair.

However, during that period he had made his mark. He was Acting Minister for Lands from 20 May to 24 September 1940, Lands Minister to 27 April 1944, Minister for Transport to 15 May 1947, and Deputy Leader of the A.L.P. and Deputy Premier from March 1946. In 1950, he successfully won the Bundaberg seat from the late Frank (Bombshell) Barnes, and confounded his associates by refusing the Deputy Premiership. He was Acting Treasurer from 30 August 1951 to 17 January 1952, Treasurer to 12 August 1957, and, following the Labor Party split in 1957, he was elected Deputy Leader of the Queensland Labor Party and also Deputy Premier.

It should be remembered that Ted Walsh's proudest work was his undercover efforts in damning the infiltration of Communists into official union positions, and wresting union control from Communists and putting it into the hands of Labor nominees. Because of the efforts of men like Ted Walsh, this State led Australia in its number of clean unions—indeed, an objective which could very well be simulated today when so many unions have fallen under militant Left-wing leadership. Ted Walsh made no secret of his strong opposition to Communist influence and infiltration. Those were the days when Labor men were Labor men. Indeed, he strongly opposed any outside dictation from the party machine on how the parliamentary party was to make its decisions.

From 1960 to 1969, Ted Walsh represented Bundaberg as an Independent. Whether he stood as an Australian Labor Party, Queensland Labor Party or Independent candidate, he continued to increase his percentage of the vote—an indication of the regard in which Bundaberg electors held Ted Walsh. He was an able and aggressive debater and had not only a deep regard for the traditions and practices of the Parliament but an encyclopaedic knowledge of its deliberations and decisions during his lengthy experience as a member and Minister.

It is with the deepest regret that I extend the sympathy of this House, and my own personal sympathy, to the widows and families of these three former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

Hon. Sir GORDON CHALK (Lockyer—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (12.36 p.m.): I have said on many occasions in this Chamber that it is unfortunate that usually after a recess we have to move a motion or motions of condolence because of the death during the recess of a member or members of this Chamber. I wish to say very sincerely this afternoon that it is with deep regret that we mark the passing of Bill Moore, Ted Walsh and Martin Hanson.

I believe very sincerely that these men, who entered this Assembly through the ranks of the Australian Labor Party, shared one

other sterling personal characteristic: all three were men of purpose. Each possessed a strong sense of political principle and dedication to his particular beliefs. Because of this, as the Premier has indicated, all three were extremely successful and were well respected on both sides of the Chamber in their political and private lives.

I entered this Assembly in 1947 and served 10 years in Opposition. For many years I saw Bill Moore and Ted Walsh administer their portfolios in the then Labor Government. In that administration the ministerial efforts of both men were attended by balance and judgment according to their political philosophy. During the period that I was in Opposition, I regarded them as very tough administrators of their departments; but, quite candidly, in all my experience with them I found them to be honest men pledged to their party's philosophy. For my part, I found both Bill Moore and Ted Walsh friendly, helpful and reliable.

After Ted Walsh's return to this House in 1950, he was elevated to the position of Treasurer of this State. He handled the portfolio with distinction, professionalism and understanding, which still bring commendation from many people in our community. Prior to Ted Walsh's death it was my privilege to be with him at a function and I was somewhat surprised at the number of people who, although holding the same political views as myself, paid great tribute to Ted Walsh on that occasion.

In 1957, the year of the Labor Party split, both Bill Moore and Ted Walsh acted in accordance with their personal principles. Each man undoubtedly would have realised fully the implications of his action. To their credit, both stuck to their beliefs. History records that Bill Moore went out of politics after that happening, but Ted Walsh remained in Opposition as a member of this House until 1969.

As Treasurer of Queensland, I fully acknowledge the contribution to the progress of this State made by both former Ministers.

The recent untimely death of Martin Hanson, a former member for Port Curtis, is quite a loss to Queensland, irrespective of what one might say about his politics. As a contemporary, his passing had a profound effect on all his friends on both sides of the Chamber.

Martin Hanson's contribution to meaningful debate, his positive approach to solving problems, and his personality—I emphasise "his personality"—will be missed in this Chamber. Above all, the tremendous sense of humour that Mr. Hanson possessed will always be remembered and will certainly be missed in many of the debates that take place here in the future. I admired Mr. Hanson for his posture in politics. I will remember him as a personal friend.

On behalf of the Liberal Party, and on my own behalf, I extend sympathy to the families of these three former members of

Parliament who served their State with distinction and their constituents in a way that they sincerely believed was in their best interests. I join with the Premier in the motion of condolence now before the House.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.44 p.m.): I associate the Opposition with the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier, in which the Parliament unites in a sad tribute to three former members of this House.

Bill Moore was unknown to me as a member of Parliament. I was involved in the 1957 election campaign, but I did not know him personally. However, I know that members of the Labor movement were proud of the stand that he took in the early and mid-1950's when, as members of the A.L.P. saw it, the free hospital scheme in Queensland was under attack by the Commonwealth Government of the day and when Commonwealth Government organisations were endeavouring to destroy it. Many of us, although we did not know Bill Moore personally, held him in high esteem because of his work at that stage. Although, as I said earlier, I did not know him personally, on behalf of our organisation I convey my personal best wishes to his wife.

I knew Ted Walsh, who was an organiser for the Australian Labor Party. I am told that Ted originally was a fettler. Whenever I read of the higher education that one needs before one comes into Parliament, I always think of Ted Walsh, a man who rose from a railway fettler to become the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer of this State. He was highly respected as a Treasurer and, with all due respect to the present Treasurer, at that time Ted Walsh was held to be one of Queensland's most successful Treasurers.

I became a State organiser when I first started to work officially for the Labor Party. Wherever one went one was told stories of the work and activity of Ted Walsh, and his grasp of the ordinary man's point of view. When one knew his humble background and the way he battled up from there, one realised why he was such a good politician and how he came to go so far in the political field.

From time to time in parliamentary life Ted used to take me aside and give me words of advice. I didn't accept all of them, but I know now that I should have heeded some. His experience, his knowledge and his work for the community must be respected by each and every one of us. We are grateful for all of the good works he did. The community is the better for having had Ted Walsh and Bill Moore in the Queensland Parliament.

Right now I still cannot imagine that Marty Hanson is not going to be sitting here at the end of the desk. Like his family, I believed all along that Marty's strength and his whole attitude to life would

pull him through, and that sooner or later we would have him back here. It was a surprise to me when, with you, Mr. Speaker, we accepted his resignation not very long ago.

Anyone who went to his funeral in Gladstone would realise that he was Mr. Gladstone. Marty loved Gladstone and Gladstone loved him in return. I have never seen a tribute like the one that Gladstone paid to Marty Hanson. One could never ask for a better tribute on leaving this life. The stores closed; the children lined up outside the schools; staff lined up outside shops; the line of many hundreds of cars stretched right back into the town. The Bishop had to delay the service at the graveside so that all those who wished to attend could do so. Cars were still leaving the town as the cortege reached the cemetery. It was a remarkable tribute. Indeed, Marty had been a marvellous man for the town. When I first went into Gladstone as an organiser and asked how to find Marty Hanson, I was told, "Go to the Grand Hotel on the top of the hill. If you hear someone laughing loudly it will be Marty Hanson." All the time I knew him when I was working as an organiser and an official, and during campaigns, Marty's cheery, happy personality made everything worth while when things got tough. I cannot pay high enough tribute to the work Marty did on the Opposition's behalf over the last 12 months when we were reduced to a very small number. We will dearly miss him. Because of the good spirit that he brought to our caucus and the assistance he gave us all, we will probably miss him nearly as much as his family will. He was indeed a good mate.

Marty had tremendous experience and ability. I suppose more than anything else he loved people. He loved Parliament and he loved politics. He enjoyed every moment of life. Marty had a wonderful family. I have the highest regard and admiration for his children who are going to be a tower of strength to their mother, Mary. They have stood by her so very well during the past few weeks and during all the hard times while Marty was in hospital. To Mary and Marty's family I extend the sympathy of the Labor movement, as I do to the families of the other two members who also worked in politics on behalf of the community. We hope that as time progresses the hurt will become less, but that they will still remember that there are many of us in the community who recall with pride the great sincerity, the friendship, the mateship and the work that all three contributed to our community.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (12.50 p.m.): I, too, would like to associate myself with the condolence motion expressing sympathy to the relatives of the members who have passed away. First of all I should like to express sympathy to the family of Martin Hanson, who was

highly respected by all who knew him. He was one of the first members of the Opposition I met when I entered this Parliament in 1972. His jovial and friendly manner and his sincerity of character appealed to me. He was an extremely kind and generous man, and his representations to me on behalf of his constituents were always well documented and prepared. I expressed my sincere sympathy to his wife and family, for whom he had great admiration, pride and concern. With his death they have lost a good husband and a fine father, the Parliament has lost a good friend and the people of Queensland have lost a hard-working and sincere parliamentarian.

As the present Health Minister I must also pay respect to a former Minister for Health in this State. I refer to the late William Moore, who was Minister for Health from 11 May 1950 until his defeat at the polls in 1957. As a Minister for Health he proved to be an energetic administrator and a vigorous champion of the principle of free hospital service in Queensland. It is interesting to note that he was Minister for Health during the period of development of two of Brisbane's major hospitals, that is, the Princess Alexandra and the Prince Charles Hospitals. These two hospitals were able to take up much of the increasing demand for patient beds in those years.

One of the major pieces of health legislation brought to this place by Mr. Moore was the Health Acts Amendment Act of 1955, which was very important legislation because it prohibited the manufacture, sale or use of paint containing white lead. This was outstanding legislation at that time. He also introduced an Act to allow for corneal grafting, which was in its very infancy in those days. During his Ministry tuberculosis and poliomyelitis were major medical scourges. Both these diseases were controlled during his term. I am informed that the Queensland Radium Institute also was developed during those years.

A number of my officers who served under Mr. Moore's administration are still serving the people of Queensland in the Health Department. On their behalf, and my own, as the present incumbent of the Ministry, I express our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Moore and her family at the loss of this fine Queenslander and servant of the people of this State.

Hon. N. T. E. HEWITT (Auburn—Minister for Water Resources) (12.53 p.m.): As the Treasurer has said, so often we come back here after a break during which we learnt of the passing of one or more of our friends. I am one of only five members of this House who served with the three members mentioned in this motion of condolence.

To the family of Bill Moore, I express my very sincere sympathy. Although I did not have a lot to do with him in Parliament I had the opportunity later, because of his interest in horse racing, of being associated with him on many occasions.

I always found Ted Walsh to be a very fair man. I came into this Parliament as a reasonably young man with very little experience. I found that if I put a good case to Ted Walsh, I always received justice. I think we owe to his family our deepest gratitude for what he did for Queensland.

In speaking of Martin Hanson I talk in a completely different vein because Martin was a personal friend of mine before entering this House. I have been honoured to be associated with the Hanson family in their home and on many other occasions. We became very close. As someone said, Martin had a wonderful family. Those of us who had the honour of attending his funeral in Gladstone on that very sad day realised how closely knit the Hanson family was. As has been said, no-one could be paid a finer tribute than that paid by the citizens of Gladstone and surrounding districts to Martin Hanson. The town was there practically to a man. I saw there people who travelled hundreds of miles to pay him their last tribute.

Martin Hanson was a very generous man. He was one who did not think of political life as many of us do; he thought of people. Charity was one of the areas in which he was always to the fore. If anything was needed and it was within Martin's capacity to assist, one could be sure that he would do so.

Not very many months ago I had the honour of leading through Asia a delegation of which Martin was a member. As someone said earlier, it was that happy nature of his that did so much to make the trip more enjoyable for each and every one of us.

Finally, I say to Mary and her family that, although they have lost a very loving husband and a man who has done a tremendous amount for this State and its people, they can rest assured that Queenslanders will always remember him and that we will continue to remember them and help them in any way we can. I join in the sentiments of the other speakers to this motion.

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (12.56 p.m.): I join with the Premier, the Treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister for Water Resources in supporting this motion of condolence to our three late members. My association with Ted Walsh extended over some 41 years. I knew him well. For many years he was a member of the A.L.P. branch of which I was secretary. He played a very prominent part in the affairs of the Australian Labor Party for many years.

At one stage in his life there was a divergence of views, which many people regret. He was a strong man, and was considered by many people to be a ruthless man, but he carried out his duties as a Minister and as a parliamentarian in a manner that satisfied the people who put him into Parliament. In Ted Walsh the Labor Party had a member who carried out its work for many years. He made his mark

in the history of Queensland as a Treasurer, and, in passing this motion of condolence, we are paying tribute to him. I hope that his family will recover from this loss in as short a time as possible.

I was associated with the late Bill Moore in many ways, particularly when he was Minister for Health and Home Affairs, as it was then known. I know him for the tremendous work he did in that area as a Minister. He guided this State's health services for several years when the free hospital system was under threat from the Commonwealth Government, and, as a result of the attitude he took, preserved it for the people of Queensland. For that alone they owe a lot to Bill Moore.

As to the late Martin Hanson—I sat next to Marty in this House during this Parliament. We became closely associated. He was one of the bright sparks of the House. He won and held the esteem and affection of all members, on both sides of the Parliament. Nobody had a hard word to say about Marty. Even when attacking the Government he always smiled during his speeches and at their conclusion, leaving all with the feeling that, although he might have been hard on the Government, at least he was being reasonable. He could speak without the rancour that enters the speeches of so many members on both sides of the House.

As I said earlier, he held the affection of all members and we will miss him very much. My leader Tom Burns referred to Marty's hearty laugh. Wherever he was in the House, Marty's laugh could be heard echoing through the hallways. Marty's personality was such that he could infect people with his good nature and his cheerfulness. For that and his many other attributes, we will miss Marty very much from this Chamber.

I join with the Premier, the Treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister for Water Resources in registering my deep regret at the loss of Marty Hanson.

Mr. HARTWIG (Callide) (1 p.m.): I wish to join with the Premier and the Deputy Premier in this motion of condolence to the three deceased honourable gentlemen.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the funeral of the late Martin Hanson. I regret that very much. Our electorates were adjacent and, prior to my election, I had come to know Martin Hanson as a great man and a great friend. I am sure that I am only echoing the sentiments of many honourable members—because unfortunately we will not all have time to pay tribute to him—when I say that Martin Hanson was very highly respected and very well thought of.

He was a great family man and a great community man. He was a great member of Parliament. He was always ready to serve and assist his fellow man. Therefore his name will long be remembered in the halls of this Parliament and within his own electorate of Port Curtis.

I was very much saddened to hear of his passing. It was only the week-end before he became seriously ill that he and I spent an evening together at the theatre. Perhaps that was the last time that Marty attended the theatre. I refer to him as Marty, as most of us did, as a term of endearment. I was very shocked indeed on hearing the sad news. I was in Suva when I learned of his passing.

On behalf of the hundreds of people throughout the electorate of Callide, who are unable to pay their tribute personally, I record that Martin Hanson had a tremendous personal following and a tremendous personal knowledge not only of his electorate but of the Central Queensland region. He had a tremendous knowledge of people and families. He was very highly respected. I join in the motion of condolence and extend my sincere sympathy to the widows and families of the deceased members.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (1.2 p.m.): I desire to associate myself with the motion of condolence moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier and to which the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers of the Crown and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have spoken.

I knew the three honourable gentlemen. On behalf of the people of Bundaberg and myself, I extend sympathy to the families of the three former members.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I succeeded Ted Walsh as the member for Bundaberg. As the Premier said, Mr. Walsh represented Bundaberg from 1950 to 1969. In that time, he did much for the progress of that city. Especially as Treasurer of Queensland, he was able to do a lot and Bundaberg progressed while he was Treasurer and the member for Bundaberg. He is still well respected in many quarters of Bundaberg. For that reason I am standing here now, on behalf of his friends in Bundaberg, to extend sympathy to Mrs. Walsh and family.

Mr. Hanson represented Port Curtis, but he was very well known in Bundaberg as well. On behalf of all of his friends there I extend sympathy to his widow and family.

Mr. Moore came to Bundaberg fairly often. I remember campaigning with him one time in the Childers area. Like Ted Walsh, he used to stay at his brother's hotel whenever he was in Bundaberg. Mr. Moore still has many friends and relatives, and on their behalf I extend sympathy to his family.

Martin Hanson was a personal friend. Because so much has already been said about him today, I do not want to go into any further detail concerning his passing. However, I extend that sympathy personally.

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Minister for Tourism and Marine Services) (1.5 p.m.): I support the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier and supported by other honourable members. I knew the three former honourable members, although I did not know Mr. Moore personally. However, I knew him as a

politician in those days, and there is no doubt that the work that he did then has preserved his name and memory to the present time. He was a great politician.

I knew Marty Hanson, of course, as a close personal friend for many years, especially during the last 11 years while I have been a member of this Parliament. I regarded him always as a close personal friend.

I rise today especially on behalf of the Walsh family. I suppose I knew Ted Walsh longer than any other member of this House. I met him when I was only four years old, and my late mother and father were very close to him and his late first wife. Mr. Walsh worked on a neighbouring farm in the very early days. The farm that was mentioned by the Premier today was my father's. I can remember my father and Ted Walsh going to Sarina on a line pumper; there was no other transport there in those days. The farm that Ted Walsh bought was mentioned to him by my father on that day. He said to Ted, "How would you like to buy a farm?" Ted said, "I don't know what I would buy a farm with." They left for Sarina at 10 o'clock in the morning and arrived back in the evening with Ted Walsh having obtained his first farm, the finance for it having been arranged by the butcher. That is where Ted stayed for many, many years, rearing his family just the same as my father did.

He took a very active part in the sugar industry. He became chairman of the Plane Creek Mill Suppliers' Committee and, while in that position, a member of the Mackay District Cane Growers' Executive. I clearly remember the day he became the member for Mirani, a seat he held for 12 years. I know of the wonderful work he did for the electorate over that period. He endeared himself to the people and prior to that time, of course, he had become very well known throughout the district.

I knew Ted Walsh as a very fine gentleman. My family is very close to his, and on behalf of my family and the people of Mirani I should like to express very sincere sympathy to the Walsh family.

I also express similar sympathy to the families of Marty Hanson and Bill Moore.

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (1.8 p.m.): I wish to make my contribution to the motion before the House. I met Mr. Bill Moore only once, whilst I was still a lad at school.

I find it very sad to come to the House today and realise that Marty Hanson is no longer here. It is also sad to know that during this session Ted Walsh will no longer call. My association with Ted Walsh, like that of the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services, goes back through my family to my grandparents. One of the earliest photographs I ever saw of Ted

Walsh was of a strong, strapping young man with a big moustache when he was best man at my granduncle's wedding.

As has already been pointed out, Ted Walsh came from humble beginnings. I believe that he became one of the most capable men ever to pass through this House, not only in his debating ability but also in his extraordinary memory for details of various happenings concerning the politics and destiny of this State. It was absolutely amazing to hear him speak of minor matters of some 30 or even 40 years ago. In this ability of his was a lesson for all of us here.

Ted made his mistake, and he was always the first to admit it. But which of us do not make mistakes at various times? However, one important thing that can be said about Ted Walsh is that, despite political differences and various things that happened to him in politics over the years, he always retained his personal friendships. I think that this is one lesson that all of us in this Chamber today can learn from the men whom we remember in this motion. I join with those others who wish to express sympathy to Mrs. Walsh and other members of Ted Walsh's family on his passing.

Marty Hanson and I had a close personal friendship that went back many years before either of us entered this House. In fact, our association goes back even further through his family, my family and his wife's family. From the time we first met, Marty and I always hit it off very well. I think this was possibly because we came from similar backgrounds and had similar ideals and philosophies.

I join with those who have already mentioned that perhaps one of Marty's greatest attributes was his marvellous sense of humour no matter what was happening. One of the funniest incidents in my life and one which I will always remember occurred one night many years ago when Marty and I were in Townsville for a conference. When we called at a hostelry that was serving liquor after hours fairly late at night we were mistaken for two out-of-town detectives and the incidents that occurred on that occasion were very, very funny and exciting and will be remembered always. Marty and I quite often laughed about those incidents many years later.

As other speakers have said, Marty was an open-hearted and very generous man. He was also a man who had a deep faith in God. I think his life was summed up very well in this regard by Bishop Wallace in his panegyric on the day of Marty's funeral. Marty possessed many great attributes, but in my humble opinion his finest attribute was that he was a wonderful family man. This was reflected in the way his family acted on the occasion of his funeral. They followed the fine example that was set for them by a great husband and father. Families of members of Parliament, particularly those

of members from rural or provincial city electorates, as Marty's was, give so much. They do not have the constant companionship of their father in the home. Such members spend much of their time in this Chamber, away from home.

The funeral was a family affair, and because of this family aspect it was a "lovely" funeral, if I might use that term. All those who attended would understand what I am saying. The "family" consisted not only of Marty's own family but also of the people of Gladstone and the whole of the electorate of Port Curtis. Their presence showed that he was the head of that family, too.

One other point I would make is that his kindness and helpfulness to all would, I feel, be mirrored in the attitudes of the staff of this House to him. If I may be so bold as to speak on their behalf today, I would simply say that Marty was a great friend to all members of the staff of this House and in his passing they have lost a great friend. They, too, will remember him with deep affection.

One does not ever really lose the value of a friendship with a man like Marty Hanson, because each of us will always retain the memory of the man and what he meant to each of us. We will not forget those incidents that he shared with us.

It is not our task to judge our fellow man, but I am certain that when Marty heard the call from his God he also heard the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (1.14 p.m.): Bill Moore and Ted Walsh were members of this Parliament when I arrived and they both remained in this Parliament for very many years after, so I was able to get a very good idea of their worth not only as men but as politicians. I will not recapitulate what the Minister for Health said about Bill Moore but I very clearly remember the occasion when he, as Minister for Health in this Parliament, put his ministerial position on the line in order to retain for Queensland the free health service. He was a quiet man, a man who took some knowing; but, once one knew Bill Moore, one knew a man who had, shall we say, the milk of human kindness running very strongly within him.

Ted Walsh, of course, was an entirely different character. I was in this Chamber only a couple of weeks when he and I had a bloody fist fight in the Speaker's lobby. Naturally, as a result of that, people would expect that there was not very much love lost between Ted Walsh and me; nor was there. But later, when he was Minister for Transport, I put to him something that the Australian Railways Union had put to me and which I, as an official of that union, had known as a fact.

At that time, Government medical officers were tyrants in their own domain. They had to examine everyone who wanted to be employed in, for example, the Railway Department. In those days, when the Railway Department wanted to get rid of a man and it could not get rid of him by the usual processes because he would not commit any breach of the by-laws or regulations, it would send him to the Government Medical Officer. Before he went to the G.M.O., an officer of the Railway Department would visit the G.M.O. with the file—the dossier—on that railwayman and read it out to him. In would go the man, who would be as hale and hearty as I am now—perhaps more so. However, he would be in there only a few minutes before the G.M.O. would fail him on the grounds of hypertension. What the medical profession would do without "hypertension" I do not know.

I put up several cases to Ted Walsh not long after we had the fight, and I told him that, as a working-class Minister for Transport, he had a duty to do something about the situation. He did. He appointed a group in Brisbane—I think it was composed of three doctors—and anyone who was turned down by the Government Medical Officer could come to Brisbane at the department's expense and be examined by three men of stature, men of standing, in the medical profession. That, of course, as we say, put the stymie on Government Medical Officers throughout the State who allowed themselves to be used to work off all sorts of grudges on unfortunate railwaymen.

As the Premier said, Ted Walsh was a violent and dedicated anti-Communist. He never veered from that particular line. He lived with it; he died with it. There were many other things for which he could be commended, but mention has been made of them and I do not intend to reiterate them.

Martin Hanson was, of course, in a class all of his own. I did not know him until after he became a member of this Assembly, when he learnt that I lived in Townsville and that I knew some friends and relatives of his up there. One of them was an old aunt; "Babe", he used to call her. She had been a famous good-looker in her day and a very prominent business woman, but she had reached what is called the sear and yellow and she was beginning to fail. She lived in a broken-down house near St. Margaret Mary's Church and Convent, and the sisters in the convent used to look after her, as did the priest in charge, Monsignor Vandeleur. I clearly remember one Melbourne Cup Day; when everybody else was interested in the Melbourne Cup, Father Vandeleur and I rolled our trousers up to our knees and did a Herculean job. It was like cleaning out the Augean stables. We got to work with bucket, mop, hose and what-have-you and gave old Jo's house the cleaning of its life-time—not that it stayed clean for very long!

Martin Hanson wrote to me—it was the first letter I received from him—and said, “Tom, go round and have a look at old Babe now and then, will you? Find out if she needs anything. No matter what it is—money no object—get it for her and send the bill to me.” So I used to get what Jo wanted. But we did not send the bill to Marty, because I happened to know that Jo had more money than she could handle. When I got into Jo’s house—and I think that Father Vandeleur and I were about the only two men allowed in it—we found nothing but packets of cigarettes and uncashed pension cheques lying all over the place, like fallen leaves in Vallombrosa. I would bring the bank manager up with me and we would take a handful of those cheques and get Jo to sign them. We would then take them down and put them in her bank account. When she died, I think she had almost as much money as Martin Hanson.

He was a very warm-hearted man, a very generous man, a man with a wonderful sense of humour. I think that Martin Hanson’s nature and character can be summed up by that remark he often made to me, “Tom, get old Babe anything she needs and send the bill to me.”

I am not going to digress into a theological argument, but I sometimes wonder why it is that an omnipotent, loving, benevolent, tender God should put his hand on the shoulder of a man like Martin Hanson and say, “Come on, Martin, it’s time.”, when one has only to walk down the street to see thousands who would make this world a lot better place if they shuffled off this mortal coil or if someone shuffled them off this mortal coil. I know that a lot of people say, “God’s will be done.” Perhaps I do not know so much about it that I should argue, but it is always a mystery to me, and I feel sure it will be a mystery to everyone who gives it some thought, why men like Martin Hanson should have to end their useful life and break away from their friends and relatives they love and who love them while down the street we see all sorts of human riff-raff and dregs of humanity. Of course, some of the dregs of humanity are well dressed. Many of them have a lot of money and hold good positions. A person does not have to be an outcast or dressed in rags to be a dreg of humanity. However, I will let it go at that.

I was not at Martin Hanson’s funeral. I do not like going to funerals. I do not like to see the sorrow and misery that is portrayed on the faces of all those who loved or liked the deceased person. I know that a lot of people like to go to funerals because they feel that they should pay their last respects. I do not blame them for it. However, I remember the words of Robert Green Ingersoll. If Martin had known him he would not have liked him, although Robert Green Ingersoll was a famous barrister and one of the most prominent men that the United States has ever produced. He was a

famous agnostic and used to participate in a lot of bitter debates on the agnostic side. He wrote something that I think would apply to Martin Hanson, and I am going to quote it. He said that if everyone for whom he had done some kind or loving service were to bring but one blossom to his grave, he would sleep beneath a wilderness of sweet flowers. From the words of the honourable member for Mackay I believe that Martin Hanson, after he was lowered into the grave did sleep beneath a wilderness of sweet flowers. He deserved it, because they were tributes of love, affection and friendship from all who knew him. I regret his passing very much indeed. I am sorry that I could not have prevented it, but I suppose that was arranged by hands more powerful than mine. So I join with all those who have expressed their sympathy and say my few words of condolence to the families of the three good men, Bill Moore, Ted Walsh and, above all, Martin Hanson.

Mr. BYRNE (Belmont) (1.23 p.m.): I desire not to be presumptuous in speaking to this motion. Youth in years and youth in this Parliament prevent my having known Mr. Bill Moore or Mr. Ted Walsh. However, I do convey to their families my sympathy and an understanding of the grief that death brings.

Although many members here have expressed their feelings about Martin Hanson, and many people here have spoken of the man Martin Hanson, I should like to add a small tribute. Martin Hanson should be remembered not only by the people of his electorate and the people of Queensland but certainly by the people of this Parliament. I hope that he will be remembered. He possessed qualities which I saw when I first met him. Indeed, he was the first member of the Opposition in this Parliament that I met. I spoke with him at length on that occasion and on many occasions since then. I was very graced and very fortunate to be able to go overseas with him on a trip last year, during which time I spent many hours in discussion with him, discussing not just day-to-day things but some things that dealt with the essence of a man’s spirit. I came to see in him many things that I respected, so much so that I believe that, of all the people in this Parliament, he was perhaps the man most deserving of everyone’s respect. It became obvious to me and to other members of that delegation that Martin was a person who did not share in any base animosity towards anyone. Perhaps I could best express what I mean by using the terms of another person, whose last words were, “I never met a man I did not like.” I think it could be very truly said of Martin Hanson that he, perhaps, never met a man he did not like, or at least never found a man towards whom he could hold or express constant animosity. As he was so generous a man in that light, he endeared himself to people.

In an endeavour to come to a clear understanding of the man I have read many

of the speeches he delivered in this Parliament. Like a great many speeches here, many of them were parochial, dealing with the day-to-day events of the electorate, but certain things and phrases stood out. I think a recollection of certain phrases and words may help us to understand and remember the man that Martin Hanson was.

In his first Address-in-Reply speech he established the principles upon which he would operate in the Parliament and his strong association with the party for which he had such a great affection, that is, the Australian Labor Party. At that time, he said—

“I have a love for the Labor Party. I believe in its sentiments; I believe in its humanity; and I believe in its principles. I trust that in the years ahead, if I am to remain a member of this Assembly, I will at all times uphold its principles and that the electors will find that I am, in a humble way, trying to do my job and further its policies.”

In a somewhat ironic manner, at that time Martin Hanson summed up the essence of what would appear to me to have been his Parliamentary career, that is, his sincere dedication to his party. On many occasions when, no doubt, he found himself in sharp conflict with that party, he still maintained his absolute loyalty and faith—something which I believe he should indeed be remembered for.

It was said earlier that Martin also had great faith in God. Indeed, Martin's faith in God, from what I saw of it, was the guide by which he steered the course of his whole life. It was something that he endeavoured to give his family and something that he wished to see not only in his own family and colleagues and the people around him but also in the youth and people of Queensland.

In concluding his maiden speech to Parliament he referred to a statement made by Lady Cilento in the Press at that time, which he described in his own words as follows:—

“The statement was to the effect that the intelligentsia in this country seem to have in their minds the rejection of the idea of a personal God.”

He later said that it was necessary for the youth and children of Queensland, if they were to become worthy and able to fulfil responsibilities, to indeed come closer to their clergyman, come closer to their minister and come closer to their priest, realising that these men were not people to be disdained or shuffled off but people with whom they should form a warm friendship. Martin showed in those words that he believed that to be the case. He also had an appreciation of his family and his responsibilities. On another occasion he said—

“I am an ordinary run-of-the-mill fellow, but as the father of five, a man deeply conscious of my family responsibilities, I echo the sentiments of people who believe that the world should strive for better morals.”

At all times, Martin appeared to me to have his own strict, personal discipline, one that he endeavoured to see others take on but one that he himself would maintain despite the cost.

On a lighter side—in fact this came out on our overseas trip—when we met various dignitaries and heads of State, he would describe himself as the only member of the workers party on the delegation, and we would chime in that he was the wealthiest man amongst us. He had an appreciation of what that meant. On another occasion in the Chamber he said—

“I want to tell honourable members that I was a wealthy man long before I came into Parliament, not because of any skulduggery but because I was very fortunate in life and had a father who left me a considerable sum of money. I went into the family business. When I stood as a candidate for endorsement by the workers party, the Australian Labor Party, in a by-election, I stood in a town in which there were hundreds and hundreds of unionists, many of whom were very militant. When the day for pre-selection arrived, every single one of them knew that I had a ‘quid’, but they lined up in the street in hundreds to vote for me. They did not vote for me because I had a ‘quid’; they voted for me because I was ‘fair dinkum’. That is how I want to be. I do not want to cringe and crawl and look for favouritism.”

However, there is a slightly broader story in relation to Martin's growth and background at that time—one which he shared with me on one occasion. When Martin first left college, he went to university to study dentistry. It had been his lifelong ambition to follow that pursuit. The war intervened and, as was mentioned, he went away with the Air Force and played his part in our war-time endeavours. It was his desire on his return from the war to continue with his studies, but unfortunately his father's health was not good. Realising the responsibilities that rested on him at that time, he assisted his father in the work associated with the family business.

At a later date, just after his marriage, it was his desire again to continue his studies; but, following his father's death, he once again found himself faced with a responsibility and chose the course of action which he believed devolved upon him. It was one that was different from that which he had originally intended to pursue.

At a later date in another place he said—and this was a couple of years later—

“I am the father of six children. I make the very proud boast that, although I look old, I have a daughter who celebrated her fourth birthday a few days ago. All parents like to see their children become good citizens with a love of their Maker and a dedication to the service of this wonderful country in which we live.”

At all times it was obvious that Martin was indeed a man dedicated to his family and a man dedicated to his God. He had an appreciation of true values. In another place he said—

“It should be the prime concern to see that our children are brought up to appreciate the great advantages that have been given to us—the wonderful gifts of nature and the benefits we enjoy by virtue of our insular position in the world—that make Australia the envy of surrounding countries.”

He was a man who had a great deal of respect, a great deal of loyalty and a great deal of patriotism for his country—a man who believed that, whatever occurred, he had a part to play and would accept his responsibility.

Finally, to quote from what Martin said at the time of the motion of condolence for the late Johnno Mann—he said at one point, and I believe that in a sense it refers also to Martin—

“In the true spirit of omnes omnia (all things to all men), he displayed a wonderful spirit of friendship and comradeship towards those whom he regarded as being in his circle of friends. He had very few enemies, and the world is a poorer place for his passing.”

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the world is a poorer place for his passing.

Unfortunately, death which comes in the prime of a man's maturity is a harder death to understand and a harder death to appreciate and a harder death for a family to carry than a death which comes in a man's later years. John Dryden once said—

“He was exhaled; his Creator drew
“His spirit, as the sun the morning dew.”

Indeed, of Martin, with a prolonged illness of some three months from the time he first had his attack, there was a feeling by me and other members of Parliament—a feeling of hope and expectation and a strong belief that Martin Hanson possessed the strength to overcome whatever physical adversity there was for him to face. Unfortunately, that was not to be, and today we in this Parliament see the vacant seat where once he sat. We again recall to our minds the memories we have of him. We can appreciate that, with death, there is a passing of life. There is the absence of that being's presence. There is then imposed upon us a void—a void which is indeed very hard not only for a family to accept but for a family to understand. So I say to Mrs. Hanson and to her family that, although it is difficult for any person, for any human, to comprehend what death is, there is indeed still a Providence in the fall of a sparrow; there still is indeed reason for us to have hope in the future and there is indeed, in Martin Hanson, for her family and herself to see, the greatness of the man which could only carry over into a better and greater life.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to, honourable members standing in silence.

[*Sitting suspended from 1.36 to 2.45 p.m.*]

ABORIGINAL RELICS PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(Mr. Gunn, Somerset, in the chair)

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (2.45 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1967—1975 in certain particulars.”

The Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act became law in 1967, and since that time a great deal has happened within this important field of Aboriginal affairs.

I would like to remind honourable members why this Chamber voted unanimously for the Bill when it was introduced by the late Jack Pizzey and to tell them something of the progress that has been made.

A major factor underlying the introduction of the Bill was very much a social one. It was felt very strongly that the history of this State did not commence with the foundation of Queensland as a State but from the time that the original inhabitants of the area we now proudly call Queensland first came here.

For tens of thousands of years Aboriginal people made their lives in this country and left behind many proofs of this. It was therefore the intention of the Bill to emphasise this by protecting the cave paintings, rock engravings, carved trees, bora grounds and all the other material evidences of a very old culture. In the past a number of people have not regarded these Aboriginal relics as being part of the total heritage of Queensland and have failed to understand and appreciate the unique culture that they represent.

In 1976 many thousands of the descendants of the first inhabitants are fellow citizens of Queensland and it was felt important in 1967 that the State should recognise the work of their forebears and try to incorporate it within what may be described as our common cultural heritage. All honourable members will be aware of the truth of this, for people of mixed Aboriginal and white blood are increasing as individuals marry and produce their families.

As I have said, every member of this House thought that it was important that we should attempt to speed up a recognition of the value of traditional Aboriginal culture and it was because of this that the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act became law with the support of every member. The object of the Act is to preserve this cultural heritage for future generations and to this end all relics as defined by the Act became the property of the Crown at the time of proclamation.

The Act also exempted contemporary objects that have been made specifically for sale.

I do, however, wish to make it clear that those people who for years before had carefully collected and preserved examples of Aboriginal culture in their private collections were allowed to retain possession of them. This, of course, relates to the collections made prior to the Act becoming law in 1967.

In 1971 the first Curator of Archaeology was appointed to the Archaeological Division of my Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. Since this date we have seen a steady and rapid progress in the work. Three archaeologists are now in full-time employment together with administrative and clerical back-up staff. Most importantly, a total of five Aboriginal rangers have been appointed and are currently operating in Cairns, Rockhampton, Injune and Mt. Isa.

In addition to this, officers of my department have inspired great enthusiasm among citizens of this State who have had an interest in our history and so far well over 200 honorary personnel have been made wardens under the provisions of the Act. When I refer to honorary personnel, I would not like members to feel that these people exist in our records by name only, for this is not true.

Very early in the administration it was decided that it was important to involve people in the working of the Act as this would be very important in bringing about the situation that we were aiming for and which I have just described. For this reason I have appointed only those who have been able to demonstrate not only a real interest but also that they have the time to be able to devote a great deal of energy to this project and to undertake the training courses that are conducted by my department.

The archaeologists, rangers and wardens are involved in a survey of Queensland which has revealed a great many Aboriginal sites. Honourable members will be aware that it is not much use having legislation to protect sites and relics if we do not know where they are situated and what they look like. For this reason, the first objective of my department was to commence a programme on a State-wide basis that would locate and record them, and it is this programme that the rangers and the wardens are undertaking.

Needless to say, this is a huge job involving, as it does, thousands of square kilometres of remote country. Consequently it has required the help of citizens and it has been necessary to provide adequate training for them. Officers of my department have conducted training programmes throughout Queensland and I am delighted to be able to inform honourable members that citizens who have been appointed as wardens have attended these programmes without fail even though it has meant giving up long week-ends and the expenditure of a great deal of effort. It can be said without any doubt that the

objectives that first brought the legislation about are rapidly being accomplished by this close co-operation between professional archaeologists and members of the public.

The Aboriginal rangers are closely involved in working with honorary wardens and in assisting at the training programmes. Apart from this they carry out a very important public relations role. Many visitors to the Carnarvon area will have had the benefit of explanations and advice from this wholly Aboriginal service.

Rangers have also spoken to school-children at State and private schools throughout the State, telling people something of Aboriginal culture and of the work that is being undertaken to bring about mutual respect and understanding. This also I regard as being vital to the work of my department and vital to the accomplishment of its objectives.

Honourable members will be interested to learn—and in fact they are probably aware—that Queensland was the first State to introduce legislation of this type. Furthermore, the efforts made by the Queensland Government to expand and develop this programme are considerably in excess of those provided by any other State. I would remind honourable members that this has been accomplished with an absolute minimum of Commonwealth Government support and is generally recognised as being the most effective archaeological division within this country.

It will be interesting for honourable members to be informed that the statement that I have just made has been endorsed by at least one international scholar who has paid tribute in a recently published book. I refer to "Archaeology and Legislation" by J. R. McKinlay. It deals with legislation in the Southern Hemisphere and regards Queensland as being the leader in the field. It was published originally in New Zealand in 1975.

The amendments that are now required within the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act are comparatively minor and have been made necessary as a result of administrative practice in the years since 1967. Minor anomalies of this type always crop up and in fact surprisingly little amendment is required to allow this legislation to maintain its present relevance and impetus. In some areas misinterpretation has been possible and of course the inflationary spiral commenced by the previous Commonwealth Government has required that fines should be increased.

I also wish to delegate some powers that are currently attached directly to the Minister, because they have been found to be cumbersome in administration and inconvenient to tourists who legally require my direct permission before entering declared Aboriginal sites.

In section 7 of the Act the powers of inspectors under the Act are increased, and I would point out to honourable members that inspectors are, in all cases, senior and

responsible officers of the Queensland State Service and that it is not proposed to extend such appointments beyond this group.

I also propose that the wardens and inspectors can make a search for any relic that they reasonably suspect has been illegally gained but only upon a justice being satisfied that the complaint is reasonable and the consequent issue of a warrant. This authority is common to other Acts of Parliament.

Honourable members will also note that, where permission is given to be on an Aboriginal site, it is important for the Minister to be able to make definite conditions and see that these are observed. The amendment of section 19 clarifies this matter.

It is also proposed to amend section 20 to tighten up this section which relates to the way in which relics may be damaged and the right to insist upon restoration. It must be made clear that it is essential to prove the damage caused has been wilful and has not come about as a result of ignorance. Upon occasions it may be difficult to recognise a relic and the law takes full cognisance of this.

Section 21 has also been amended and places the Minister in a position to be able to authorise archaeological work anywhere within the State. In the original Act this was not possible.

I have assured honourable members of the progressive administration and development that has stemmed from their unanimous agreement to the original Bill and there is no doubt that the amendments now required will continue this progress.

I commend the Bill to the Committee.

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (2.55 p.m.): I regret to say that I did not quite catch most of the Minister's remarks. I do not know whether the cause was the public address system or the Minister's late lunch! It was, however, very difficult to hear him and I did not quite catch what he said about all the provisions of the Bill. However, he emphasised social factors and, as was the case when the late Jack Pizzey introduced the original Bill in 1967, the theme throughout seemed to be an apology for the neglect of Aboriginal history and heritage and the preservation of relics over a long period of time in Australia. In essence the Minister reiterated some of the sentiments expressed by the Minister who introduced the legislation in 1967.

I am pleased to know that five rangers have been appointed in accordance with the provisions of the legislation. I trust that of the 200 honorary rangers quite a number are Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Locating the sites would be, I suppose, the prime responsibility of the rangers and wardens, and I hope that the training programmes that they have undertaken will have equipped them to know exactly what they are looking for.

I did not quite catch whether the Minister said that there was to be an extension of the penalties provided or whether he mentioned an amount to which the maximum fine would be raised. It was stated in a report in "The Courier-Mail" of 21 November 1975, which was about the time the Bill was to be introduced originally, that the fine was to be increased from \$200 to \$500. I suppose that that account would have been pretty accurate. If that is so, I submit that the proposed penalties seem to be only a token gesture.

At first sight, I suppose it is to be expected that the penalties would be increased, and I am sure that they would be a deterrent if known to would-be offenders. However, what I want to stress is that any such action would be purely a punitive measure. The best administration of the Act would take into account that prevention is better than the application of punitive measures. Once again prevention is better than cure.

This Parliament should be concerned about strengthening the administration, the policing, the caretaking and the inspection of sites, particularly those that have been promulgated, and also the preservation and protection of archaeological relics. The use of penalties and prosecutions is a case of being wise after the event. In many cases the damage has been done and it is too late to reconstruct items of so delicate a nature. I wish to quote from the concluding paragraph in an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 21 November 1975. It reads—

"Mr. Wharton said he understood a well-preserved bark burial container was worth \$7,000 overseas."

So if anybody does steal one or destroy one and is caught and fined \$500 he has made not a bad sort of a profit—\$6,500 on the transaction! I think we should be looking at this sort of situation.

I am aware, too, that there has been a greater public awareness of this problem, no doubt resulting from the introduction of the Act in 1967 and subsequent amendments to it. I must also pay tribute to the Federal Government for its concern and work—

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You mean the previous Federal Government?

Mr. JONES: I will qualify that—the Federal Labor Government. I believe that but for its efforts places such as the Heritage Gallery in Cairns would not have come into existence. I realise that I am departing from the essence of the Bill but at least places such as that look after this type of art, which is a form of preservation. They serve a good purpose. I know they do not preserve relics but at least they preserve the art and history of a culture which is rapidly dying.

I know we cannot preserve middens in such places. For those honourable members who do not know what a midden is, it is a hidden site characterised by an accumulation of shell or charcoal—possibly of bone,

ochre, etc.—and, until it is disturbed by a bulldozer or by erosion, the location of such a site is very difficult to determine. This difficulty also applies to the location of native wells, camping sites and settlement areas, container shells, canoe trees—trees from which bark was cut to make canoes—paintings, engravings and bora grounds. I can recall in my early youth—I am not so old that I cannot remember—the bora grounds that new settlers found around Vine Creek near Ravenshoe. My uncle was one of those settlers. I recall going onto bora grounds and finding Aboriginal implements. I remember quite well a big broadaxe which was twice as long as I was in those days. It would probably have been 6 ft. or 7 ft. long, a great carved hardwood implement. The last time I saw it was when it was thrown under the farm-house. It has probably been lost to posterity.

Ceremonial and burial grounds are very important to the Aboriginal people. One would need a great deal of knowledge to be able to find some of them today because most of the older members of the tribes have passed on. There are not many tribes in Queensland today inhabiting the same area as they did years ago. The sites have been forgotten. I wish the rangers and wardens well but I know that, unless they have some local knowledge, they will have no chance of finding many of these burial grounds and sacred places or even simple things like the quarries where the Aborigines obtained the raw stone for their implements, the quartz for their knives and scrapers and the material for their axes. Such places would be very difficult to find today. However, stone arrangements, fish traps and portable relics still remain with these tribal people.

I am in sympathy with the work that is being done; I understand the need for it, and I hope that the Minister will be able to encourage the people who are engaged in it to continue.

The navigators of earlier days and the chroniclers of the first fleet at Port Jackson called the Australian Aborigines Indians, Negroes or simply black men. In the main they described them as degraded, wretched people and did not pay them much more regard than they paid the animals of the new world. That impression was perpetuated and strengthened in subsequent years, and I suppose it was assisted by the way in which the Aborigines defended against the new settlers the ground that they thought was rightfully theirs.

It must be remembered that the Aborigines were dispossessed of their hunting grounds, fishing grounds, ceremonial grounds and sacred grounds in all parts of the continent. As history shows, many tribes of Aborigines were exterminated. There is no other word to describe what happened. Complete tribes were wiped out because of a tragic misunderstanding of their culture. In the community today one still sees evidence of that misunderstanding and the intolerance that

led to a tribal nation being ground under foot. An effort is now being made to preserve some of their history, but I wonder how much of that history has already gone into oblivion.

Historians say that in those early days the Aboriginal population was probably about 250,000. Now about 45,000 full bloods and 30,000 of mixed blood survive. If the Government provides finance and makes strenuous efforts to preserve some of the history of these people, perhaps something worth while will be achieved.

I think the Minister said, when introducing the Bill in 1967—and that was only 10 years ago—that it was thought that the history of the Aborigines went back about 18,000 years. Today acknowledged experts estimate that the Aborigines wandered the Australian landscape 35,000 to 45,000 years ago. These people are unique. As Australoids, they are one of the four basic races of mankind, the other great human families being the Negroid, Caucasoid and Mongoloid races. In spite of the investigations that I have mentioned by archaeologists and anthropologists, the origin of the Aborigines is still rather uncertain. Let me refer honourable members to some of the major findings in the last 12 months. If one takes Professor MacIntosh's findings as representing the ancestral face of present mankind, one could say that a skeleton discovered beside Lake Mungo in New South Wales has an attributed life of about 30,000 years. Professor MacIntosh and his colleagues assert that the Aborigines may have come to Australia much earlier than was previously believed. If we can find relics of these people, I am sure that will prove to be a rich archaeological discovery.

While on this subject, we should consider sacred sites from the point of view of land rights. That applies no less to the Torres Strait Islanders. Section 41 of the first report of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission of July 1973 states—

“The members of a clan retain that membership throughout their lives and, indeed, thereafter. The link between an Aborigine's spirit and his land is regarded as being timeless. The land-owning clan is merely a group of people who share the same links with the same land.”

That is important. Section 42 commences—

“Thus these clans have close spiritual associations with particular tracts of land.”

Section 518 of the second report of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission of April 1974, under the heading of “Sacred Sites”, states—

“Land generally has spiritual significance for Aborigines but, because of the form and content of the myths relating to it, some land is more important than other land. Certain places are particularly important, usually because of their mythological significance, but sometimes because of their use as a burial ground or important meeting place for ceremonies.”

I have not sufficient time left during this debate to refer to further sections.

We know that there has been speculation about unique relics on Fraser Island. We know the problems that confronted this Parliament over the Aurukun Associates Agreement Act. I wonder whether the shifting of the border by 12 km is not just a sort of sop to those people. I have been to Aurukun and most of the other Aboriginal and Islander communities. In introducing the original legislation in 1967, the then Minister said that we no longer had any people who led the nomadic type of life that the Aborigines lived when the white man first came to Australia. That is probably a blight on us as Europeans, Caucasians or Occidentals—whatever term might be applied to us.

The Aurukun people are probably the most primitive of the tribes, and because of their isolation they have been structured on a community basis of their own evolution—if I might put it that way. They are the people who are more closely aligned with their own land than any other Aboriginal or Islander people in Queensland. The Minister should be looking at it in this light. Land rights are very important to the people up there. We should be looking at the reports of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission to see what the experts have found. If we do that, I think we will be a little reluctant to cause any disturbance of the situation.

The Bill is designed to protect Aboriginal relics and sites. It provides the method by which certain sites can be declared to be protected, and it provides penalties for vandalism and theft of Aboriginal relics. While the Government purports to care for Aboriginal people by preserving and protecting their relics and sacred sites—which is admirable and desirable—it supports a policy of desecration of huge tracts of Aboriginal lands.

(Time expired.)

Mr. ROW (Hinchinbrook) (3.16 p.m.): I support the remarks made by the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries in introducing this legislation. The honourable member for Cairns said that the suggested penalties were punitive only. He then said that he thought they should be increased to the stage where they represented something like the anticipated value of some of the Aboriginal relics that could be commercialised by unscrupulous people. I do not think that remark enhanced the honourable member's contribution to the debate. Irrespective of the penalty to be imposed, I believe it could only be punitive or negative in this context. It is true that we must have penalties to discourage certain people but we would hope that they are in the minority.

The honourable member for Cairns contradicted his own statement somewhat when he said later that the public interest which would arise as a result of the implementation

of this Bill was the most important factor. I agree with him there, and I believe that he covered the real essence of the Bill in the remarks that he made subsequently. Appreciation of the value and interest of the Aboriginal relics that remain in our State will grow as a result of the enactment of legislation such as that proposed by the Minister today.

To some extent I agree with the comments of the honourable member for Cairns about the more recent evidence of responsibility towards Aboriginal culture. As could be anticipated, he referred to the efforts of the former Federal Labor Government, which he claimed were designed to bring public awareness to bear on this point. To that extent I am afraid that I disagree with him because I sincerely believe that the over-indulgent methods of the former Federal Government and the impractical standards that it suddenly imposed on Aboriginal people created a situation that brought more embarrassment than benefit to them.

The honourable member for Cairns spoke of the uniqueness of the Australian Aboriginal race. I quite agree with him but I am really upset because I realise that he must have been speaking with tongue in cheek. He must surely acknowledge that Aborigines have been a unique political football for the former Federal Labor Government. I have enunciated my resentment of that on many occasions.

Without doubt one of the major factors in the growth of tourism is the public interest in Aboriginal relics. More and more tourists are coming to Queensland, and a study of the tourist industry reveals that a substantial proportion of the thousands of people who visit Queensland yearly are attracted by the State's Aboriginal relics. The growing public patronage of tours into areas containing aboriginal relics is ample evidence of that.

It is good to hear that, apart from any penalties or other deterrents, this Government has taken an enlightened approach to the matter—which is rather contrary to the view expressed by the honourable member for Cairns—by appointing, among others, an Aboriginal public servant as a member of the Aboriginal ranger service in the Carnarvon area, where rock art is an outstanding feature. The job performed by him and his colleagues is, in my opinion, very worth while. He is able to explain to tourists the meaning behind the rock art. By being an officer of Aboriginal descent, and recognisable as such, he adds considerably to the thrust of the legislation. As a result, many tourists from the South who have had little or no contact with Aboriginal citizens are impressed by an Aboriginal person being in a responsible position, asking them to abide by the law and endeavouring by education to engender an appreciation of Aboriginal art.

Aboriginal rangers appointed by the Queensland department are now stationed

in Mt. Isa, Injune, Cairns and Rockhampton, as the Minister has said. However, honourable members may not be aware that those officers are responsible for considerable areas outside those bases. Because of the nature of the country, the rich art sites and the other relics round Mt. Isa, two rangers have been appointed there.

Some praise ought to be given for the training undertaken by those men. Initially they spend a period of three months in Brisbane, during which they are taught surveying, recognition and all the other techniques demanded by their job. I understand that some of the men have not had a very sound basic education; but there is no doubt that their enthusiasm and application have overcome any obstacles in their path and that their contribution to the traditions of Queensland and the Aboriginal people have been considerable, and will certainly greatly enhance the reputation of the Aboriginal people and their relationship with the people who, through lack of contact and ignorance, need to be enlightened about the true aspects of Aboriginal relics and, indeed, the Aboriginal race.

I have been told that one ranger has progressed so well in his calling, as shown by results he has produced in such a short time, that he proposes enrolling as an external student at the university next year. It is likely that he will be the first professional and fully qualified Aboriginal archaeologist in Australia. Once again, Queensland will come to the forefront in Aboriginal affairs. Ours was the first State to have an Aboriginal senator, we have a highly esteemed Aboriginal member of this Chamber and we will have qualified Aboriginal people in positions where they will be doing a very practical service not only for the Aboriginal people but also for this State in general. I think that these achievements are to be highly commended. It seems to me that Queensland has recorded a great many firsts since the introduction of the original Act and I firmly believe that this pre-eminence on the part of Queensland in Aboriginal affairs will be continued.

It would seem from the Minister's comments that section 20 of the principal Act is to be amended in such a way that if a person is convicted of damaging an Aboriginal site the court may ask the offender to restore it. Surely this implies a little more than purely punitive measures as suggested by the Opposition spokesman. I realise that it is very difficult to place a monetary value upon a relic, although I am aware, as has been said in this Chamber today, that sales overseas could return a considerable amount of money. It has already been said that a bark burial relic could be sold to institutions away from Australia for a very considerable sum of money. I believe that the people of this State, through the inspiration in the new provisions of this Act, will see that very little of this sort of thing takes place.

At this stage I am more concerned about the damage that could be done to major

sites, for once they have been partially destroyed, money would not be adequate compensation to the people of this State. The Minister proposes that any person found guilty of this offence will be obliged to attempt restoration of the damage he has done. Any funds levied by the court for this purpose should be made available to the Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and the work of restoration should be supervised by qualified staff members of his department. While I hope that no money will be levied in this manner (because it would be a direct result of something we do not wish to happen), I feel that this provision will negate the merely punitive aspect of convictions. We will be able to ensure that a site is restored as closely as possible to its original state. This would be a really adequate deterrent and would deny the offender the simple solution of paying a fine and going on his way without any consideration of conscience. Of course, it would do something to preserve what the State possesses and protects as our cultural heritage.

It does seem to me, however, that it is important that in some areas at least sites should be marked in a way that makes the new provisions clear, particularly in areas where there is a possibility of damage occurring. I believe that the department has already placed signs in many areas throughout Queensland requesting the co-operation of the public. None the less it is important that any signs erected in future should make clear the proposed responsibilities. The Government is to be congratulated on the work that has already been done in this area.

I have noticed also that the Minister proposes to provide ministerial authority for the direction of archaeological work in any area of the State. The original Act gave the Minister this authority only upon declared Aboriginal sites, which meant he was limited in his ability to direct work that needed to be undertaken. This work will not now be limited to such declared areas, and I think that that is a very considerable step forward. There will undoubtedly be new discoveries, particularly by the trained, responsible and interested Aboriginal rangers who will make it their business to find new sites of interest.

I understand that a few miles outside Bundaberg in the bed of the Burnett River there were three acres of sandstone boulders on which for centuries the Aborigines of the area had engraved designs. Over many centuries thousands of drawings were cut into those sandstone faces. Archaeologists regarded the drawings as unique and able to contribute a great deal of our knowledge of humanity in the continent of Australia.

It was fortunate that the boulders were in the middle of the Burnett River, otherwise the Minister would not have been able to direct work to be done on them. By the beginning of 1971 it had become obvious that the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission barrage lower down the river would

create a water level that would completely submerge these rocks for the greater part of each year. The Minister was able to direct their salvage and what followed is now recognised as the largest archaeological salvage job ever undertaken within the Commonwealth. I think this is another first for Queensland in Aboriginal affairs and we should be very proud of it. It would not have been possible had the site been elsewhere than in a river bed and therefore subject to the Minister's jurisdiction.

Over an initial period of six months the staff of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement carefully traced every drawing and recorded it for posterity. When we pause to consider this work we realise what a very highly involved and precise operation it must have been, and I should like to offer my congratulations to those who were involved in it. In addition, each boulder was photographed in such a way that the thousands of photographs could be fitted together to show a complete plan of the area. The contribution of another Government agency ensured that the area was stereoscopically photographed from a height of 200 ft.

And that was not all. Late the following year the staff of the department, assisted by workmen from the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, removed from the river without damage every engraved boulder and transported it to safe keeping. I think all honourable members will agree that this has been a remarkable effort and one that has been in keeping with the forward thinking and planning undertaken by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement in Queensland.

To give some idea of the magnitude of the work completed, I should like to inform honourable members that in all over 3,000 engravings were meticulously recorded and 92 boulders were removed. These ranged in weight from 25 tonnes to a few cwt. and all were removed without breakage. That in itself is noteworthy. It was necessary for them to be carefully drilled and in some cases blasted from the bedrock of the river. All members will agree that the department has done a fine job and that the passage of amendments that will make it easier for this work to continue should proceed. I have the greatest pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (3.35 p.m.): As the Minister was introducing the Bill I thought of the many trips that I have made throughout Queensland since the Act was introduced in 1967. I fail to see that the Act has been of any great benefit in preserving many Aboriginal relics. The Minister said that the Bill contained comparatively minor amendments but that the Act would be strengthened. I hope that it will not only be strengthened but also enforced. That is the important point. Wherever one goes in

Queensland one sees the results of acts of vandalism against these wonderful Aboriginal relics.

I could be corrected on this, but I have never heard of a prosecution being launched against people desecrating Aboriginal relics, and we do know that some very bad acts of vandalism occur. What is the point of passing an Act and then making amendments to it, whether minor or otherwise, if we are not going to enforce the Act and make sure that people do respect these relics and, most important of all, make sure that these great pieces of art are preserved for posterity.

The Minister also mentioned that the Act does not apply to collections made before 1967, but I think there should be some responsibility shown in that direction. I think some indication should be given to people that they should return these relics, most of which they collected illegally, whether or not the Act was in operation. They should be returned to some museum in some part of the State where they can be properly preserved. They will not be preserved in private homes. They may be valued and cherished by the individuals who collected them, but, when those people pass on, members of their families will not show such appreciation or have the good sense to pass the relics on to some museum where they can be preserved.

I think a call should go out to all people with any sense of responsibility or respect for the Aboriginal race to return these relics even though they were collected before it became illegal to interfere with them. In fact, I go further than that and say that we should declare a moratorium and ask people to return these relics which they have illegally collected. We should then begin to enforce the Act properly.

I do not think that the penalties laid down in the original Bill were heavy enough. I think there should be very heavy penalties, especially now that the legislation is on the Statute Book. Such penalties should be provided for people interfering with Aboriginal relics. I believe this should be so in other States, too, although of course they are outside our jurisdiction. One only has to go to Ayer's Rock to see the shocking desecration that is taking place there daily by so-called tourists. I do not think the genuine tourist does such things. He has a real respect for the Aboriginal race and for the great art treasures that we see in areas such as Ayer's Rock.

In his introductory remarks the Minister said that he will make definite conditions and see that they are observed, and will carry out investigation to ascertain if the damage was wilful or the result of ignorance. Why is a let-out like that put in the Bill? It encourages vandals because they can plead ignorance. They have only to get a smart legal man to back them up in court—if they get that far—and say, "I was ignorant of the fact that it was an Aboriginal relic or

that it had any intrinsic value", although they knew it was. I do not think the Minister should allow these loop-holes in the legislation. There are enough loop-holes in other pieces of legislation passed by this Parliament. I suppose it is impossible to pass a perfect piece of legislation, but I do not think the Minister should deliberately introduce loop-holes such as the one I mentioned. Why let offenders off because of ignorance? I have been told over the years that ignorance of the law is no excuse. I do not think it should be an excuse if people carry out wilful acts of destruction of Aboriginal relics.

Another thing which disgusts me is the imitation of Aboriginal relics. These imitations are inflicted upon tourists, especially overseas visitors to Queensland. Copies of boomerangs and other Aboriginal implements are being made. The Aboriginal race is being commercialised but this commercialisation is not to the advantage of the Aboriginal race. I think the Minister should look into this subject and that in fact this imitation should be forbidden. Such sales should be forbidden, or products should be branded clearly as being only imitations. They should not be foisted on to unsuspecting visitors to this country, and they certainly should not have such a high commercial value.

Moreton Island now comes within the Greater Brisbane Area. I suppose most honourable members have been to Moreton Island and seen the evidence there of past Aboriginal civilisations and large concentrations of members of the Aboriginal race. On many of my trips to the island I remember seeing the desecration of the heaps of eugarie shells created by the Aborigines when they held feasts and celebrations. These big mounds had been torn apart by people who threw the shells in all directions, and I suppose very few of them are left today. Things such as these should be preserved.

At one time Bribie Island also had a concentration of Aboriginal relics that displayed the rich history of the race, and in the Sandgate electorate there is still evidence of the Aboriginal people. Unfortunately, it is now rather slight because of the destruction—in some cases wilful destruction—that has taken place.

There was also evidence of Aboriginal civilisation in the Burnett River area. I spoke to my friend and colleague from Bundaberg about rock carvings there. He refreshed my memory and said that rock carvings were supposed to have been removed when the Monduran Dam was constructed, but they were not. So further evidence of the past of the Aborigines has been destroyed.

Rangers were mentioned in connection with the by-laws under the Act, and I hope that sufficient rangers will be employed. In the parklands in the Brisbane area very few rangers are employed, and I sincerely hope that where displays of Aboriginal art still

exist, many rangers are appointed with power and authority to police this very important Act. It is to be hoped that it is not yet too late to preserve these relics for posterity and rangers should be given full authority to make an example of people who attempt to destroy them. I do not think it would be necessary to make an example of many people before members of the public sat up and took notice and respected the provisions of the legislation.

Mr. DEERAL (Cook) (3.43 p.m.): I have listened with interest to the comments of the Minister concerning the activities of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement in the field of the preservation of relics. I hope that all honourable members will agree that, as stated by those who have already spoken, we are dealing with something that must be preserved. As the Minister and others have said, once these things are lost they cannot be found again. The record of the department shows what it has achieved already in this area.

A few years ago a very good friend of mine wrote a letter to me and said, "Could I have a bone with human hair wrapped round it?" She meant a pointing bone. When I read the letter I felt awful about it because that lady was going to sell the bone for a very big sum. A lot of that sort of thing is happening now. I know that we have lost a few things in the Cooktown area because of neglect and vandalism on the part of people who I thought were responsible people. I know of a burial container which was carried in the 1930s from the Cape Melville area into Cooktown and then as far down as Bloomfield. That bark container was placed near Hopevale. We knew about it for years. I do not want to mention the man's name but someone got hold of it and buried it. At the time we did not know that he did that. In addition, he painted some of the carvings with white paint. A few years ago when we were putting up a fence he said, "Did you know of a grave there? There is a little grave there and I think it is the grave of a little teenage girl." It was a teenage girl, all right. It was the last container that was carried by the tribal people who migrated from Cape Melville into Cooktown in the early 1930s.

I hear of Mr. Trezise in the Quinkan area coming out with statements in the newspaper about his finding a new cave and new paintings. Most of our people have known about these paintings for years but have kept quiet about them. Some of the books that Mr. Trezise and his colleagues are printing contain stories that I heard when I was a teenager.

Our people now are realising that they want to identify themselves. That is being realised by people who did not want to identify themselves years ago and lived just like any other Australian. Over the last two, three or four years they have identified themselves as Aborigines. Those people who

now want to identify themselves look at the Aurukun people as the last of our tribal people. I agree somewhat with what the honourable member for Cairns said about that. For the last five years the people of Aurukun and Edward River have come forward. When we talk about the present Aboriginal people, we are talking about human beings who want to know what is over the hill. That is only human nature. As I said, we want to identify ourselves, so we must take a very close look at this when we consider the Aurukun situation.

I do not want to depart from the Bill but I believe that I must say a little about what is in the minds of Aboriginal people. When I went up there on 11 December last year some of the old men stood up and said, "We don't want another Weipa." One of the terms in the Bill provides that the country will revert to the people. They do not want pine trees growing there or any foreign trees to be planted. They only want the whole area to be natural again. That is one of the things we must consider when we are talking about developing Aboriginal reserves in Queensland. I say that because I believe it is important when we are talking about the preservation of relics and the other matters that are referred to in this legislation. It is important that we preserve them, and I am happy to say that the Queensland Government has done that. I am sure that the Government today, while looking at the situation at Aurukun or any other place involving Aboriginal people, will look at these things and not lose sight of the need to preserve an almost lost culture.

I have seen some of the rocks which I think were taken from the Burnett River lying in the streets of Cherbourg. I was very much hurt when I saw them. Some of the older men said to me, "You know, those rocks should never have been taken out of there. They should have been left under water." That is just the opinion of some people. If the Cherbourg people can get those rocks and put them together where they can be kept, I am sure that in years to come they will be very proud of them.

It is important to preserve these sites. A visit to some caves containing Aboriginal relics—especially those in Queensland—reveals that white ants and wasps are damaging paintings and other rock arts. It is good that the Government is aware of this and that it is trying to preserve them from their natural enemies.

Honourable members are aware of the statements made by the Minister about the recent commission of inquiry into Aboriginal art, and I know that they will give their full support to what the Minister outlined.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (3.54 p.m.): In introducing the measure the Minister stressed that the major factor underlying it was very much a social one. He went on to say that it is important to attempt to

speed up recognition of the value of traditional Aboriginal culture. All members would agree with him. Since 1967, at least this State has endeavoured to do something about preserving the Aboriginal culture by giving legal endorsement to the protection of cave paintings, rock engravings, carved trees, bora grounds and other material evidence, as quoted by the member for Cairns and also the Minister.

There is no questioning that all members agree that this Act is important. It is important that we have it on our Statute Book and it is also important that we update it to ensure that the fines are appropriate and that the authority given to wardens can in fact be exercised.

It is vital that we give due recognition to the peculiar and particular culture and histories of the Aboriginal people who inhabited this land. It is a huge task, but I do not believe that it is a task for Government alone. It should be a community task, and as a community we lack a true appreciation of the Aboriginal culture. I have had the opportunity of perusing some of the social studies books in our schools, and the coverage given to the Aborigine and the Aboriginal culture in our history is totally inadequate. In fact, the coverage is superficial, lacks depth and is sometimes totally incorrect.

If I might pursue that point—many of today's social problems relating to the Aboriginal people stem from that lack of understanding, lack of knowledge and lack of recognition. I am concerned at the white community's lack of understanding of Aboriginal people. It is something that we all should start to recognise. It is something that I have recognised just in the last three or four months as people have approached me and put forward some of their own religious views. I was not aware of the extent of the spiritualism that exists among the Aboriginal people.

I thought I had read fairly widely in social studies and histories of Australia, but I did not fully appreciate the significance of the attitudes of Aboriginal people. I kept thinking that their wanting their lands was more of a capitalistic endeavour. I did not fully comprehend that they attached special significance to lakes, trees, mountains and so on. Just as I was at fault in this way, I am sure that hundreds and hundreds of people in the community similarly lack that knowledge.

It is time we realised that it is not just the fault of the Aborigine that we have a problem in our society. I am not saying it is purely the fault of the whites. But we are experiencing a growing white backlash against the Aboriginal people.

Mr. Moore: It is the hand-out that is causing that.

Mr. WRIGHT: I am glad the honourable member for Windsor has raised that. The first and foremost excuse given for the problem is that the hand-out has caused it. Although I agree in part, I believe that there is an innate bias amongst the white community against even the work capacity of the Aborigine. As the member for Cairns said, we have an ingrained prejudice against his ability to live in our own culture. That stems from a lack of understanding and a lack of appreciation of the Aboriginal people.

A growing racial tension exists in our community and is becoming a very real part of the scene of the '70s. I suggest that by the 1980s it will be something that we will have to contend with. If we do not start to take some action, the problem must get out of hand. I do not want to see situations such as exist in Rhodesia and South Africa arising here.

Mr. Byrne: What sort of action would you suggest?

Mr. WRIGHT: I will come to that point because I think it is the crux of the whole argument.

Racial tension will become greater in the future. The black-power movement, though it be small at the moment, will escalate in such a way that there will be a similar and parallel white-power movement to the point that conflict will break out.

The assimilation programme that has been carried out by this Government, by previous Governments and by the Whitlam Labor Government has failed. It has not achieved its original aims. There is a belief that too much has been given. I must admit that I was concerned about the story I heard of an Aboriginal woman being given \$25,000 to buy a taxi-cab in this city. However, we forget how much these people have lost. We have acted like the father who is so often away from home that he cannot carry out his family responsibilities. What does he do? He gives a huge present, hoping that it will compensate. The substitute that we have offered has not been satisfactory. In fact, it has not worked. Therefore we have to come back to rethinking the importance of these people and why they are living on the river-banks or, in the city that I represent, in drain-pipes, old sports sheds on unused ovals and similar places. Why is it that when an Aboriginal family is put into white suburbia conflict very quickly arises? As has been explained to me, Aborigines have the extended family concept. There is not simply mother, father and children; to them, cousins are like brothers. I am learning and the community needs to do likewise.

We must come down to a very definite appreciation—and I mean appreciation—of the role that they have played. We must accept that they have been westernised for fewer than six generations. For 35,000 to 40,000 years they roamed this land and

suddenly, six generations or 200 years ago, their whole life-style was brought to an abrupt end. We do not appreciate this; we simply expect them to fit in. We do not give real recognition to their desires and their wants.

We need to learn more about the Aboriginal history. Aborigines need to have more pride in themselves, but we have to understand the reason for that pride. I do not think they can be blamed for doubting us. For political reasons, for monetary reasons and for other reasons we fall down on these very good purposes. I cite the Aurukun issue, which the honourable member for Cook raised. How can we honestly stand in this Chamber and say, "We intend to preserve the relics and the special areas of these people", when, for the sake of mining, we say, "Listen. Just a moment. Mining is involved so the rule does not apply." When at Weipa mining is involved, so again the rule does not apply. We cannot have it both ways.

If a true recognition is to be given, it has to be ongoing and consistent, not something that suits us sometimes but certainly does not suit us at other times. This has been described as hypocrisy and that is what it really is. It is totally wrong for Governments, whatever their political colour, to simply change the rules to suit the economic circumstances.

We say that Aborigines have certain rights but the ownership of these reserves always rests with the Crown. While we say we will preserve Aboriginal relics and special areas, the Aboriginal people have very little say in selecting these areas. Of the new, proposed seven-man committee, I am told that only two blacks will have membership. I do not cast aspersions on the other five members; they are people like the curator of the museum and professors of sociology; but we are dealing with a very special group of people and they should have a far greater say.

After all, what mechanism is there for liaison between this committee and the people when these areas are being selected? How many times did the committee actually sit down and ask, "What do you want?" Or is the criticism I have heard true, that these relics have been selected by outsiders.

I raise one main point—the inconsistency of this Parliament and Governments both past and present. We need to start recognising the rights of these people. Above all we need to come to an understanding of them. If the Minister wants to prove that inconsistency does not exist, let him tell us how many prosecutions have been launched for the destruction of Aboriginal relics. This point was well made by the honourable member for Sandgate. Actually where are these sites? Who actually selected them? Did the local people in the area have a say?

There is more to this than meets the eye and I hope that, as we consider this Bill in detail in the second-reading and Committee stages, the Minister will come up

with a philosophy on what this Government stands for when he refers to "preserving Aboriginal relics". I hope too that he will start bringing about some consistency in his administration of this very important area.

Mr. LINDSAY (Everton) (4.5 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the Minister's proposed amendments to the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act of 1967 on two basic points.

In the first place, I wish to support the proposed measure, with which no member has disagreed and, in the second place, I wish to use the time available to me, as this is the introductory stage, to comment on the Aboriginal people in our society generally. I must say that I was particularly interested in the remarks of the honourable member for Rockhampton, and I congratulate him on his presentation of the argument from his point of view. If I might digress for a moment and refer to the late Martyr Hanson, I should like to say that one thing that he taught me was that we are all here first as people, second as parliamentarians and third as members of political parties. The people of Queensland can be justly proud of themselves in that they have in this Assembly, as a democratically elected member, the honourable member for Cook (Mr. Eric Deeral), and that they have, in a democratically held election, elected an Aboriginal senator, Senator Neville Bonner.

Mr. Aikens: You don't find them in the ranks of the A.L.P. There are no A.L.P. Aboriginal members.

Mr. LINDSAY: I think that that remark is worthy of note.

Mr. Aikens: They only talk in the A.L.P.—only natter natter.

Mr. LINDSAY: That remark also is probably true. But let us keep discussion on a friendly basis, and let us try to keep party politics out of it. I feel that that is part of the Aboriginal problem.

It should be borne in mind that there is an increasing overseas market for the sale of Aboriginal relics. I think it was confirmed in the Chamber earlier this afternoon that a bark burial container can be sold overseas for approximately \$7,000. At the moment every tourist entering an Aboriginal site is required by law to have the direct permission of the Minister. That is obviously cumbersome, and it will certainly hamper the development of tourism. The proposed amendments will, amongst other things, enable the Minister to delegate his power, and consequently access to these areas will become more convenient. This is important because if we are to develop sensitivity to, and understanding of, the Aborigine and his society, I feel that it is vital that men and women and boys and girls throughout Queensland should have the opportunity to visit these sites and become familiar with relics and the traditions and way of life behind them.

I also understand that the amendments will provide the opportunity to increase, in keeping with inflationary trends, the penalties originally imposed. Obviously punishments are not worth much if they are to be eroded totally by the inflation that is presently eroding Australia.

The second point that I raise (the honourable member for Cook has already done so) concerns the Aurukun Associates Agreement Bill on which I spoke in this place on 4 December. I should like to repeat that before I made that speech members of the Presbyterian Church, after apparently first approaching the honourable member for Rockhampton, had discussions in the offices of this Parliament with a number of members of my party. We certainly listened to them. On that day all that they wanted to do was to stop the legislation going through, on the basis, they claimed, that the Aborigines at Aurukun had never had the matter discussed with them and were unhappy with the proposal.

The point was that no alternative suggestion was ever made to us from the Aborigines. There was no alternative proposal and no indication of what was wrong with the proposal under discussion. I certainly was—and still am—one of those Liberals who strongly support the Aurukun Associates Agreement Bill. I am a little concerned over some of the statements that have been made in this matter. I refer to "The Courier-Mail" of 26 February 1976. The headline reads—

"Aurukun blast by Senator".

The article reads—

"Senator Bonner (Lib., Qld.) again criticised the Queensland Government last night for its treatment of Aborigines on the Aurukun Reserve.

"In the Senate, he appealed to the Federal Government to do something to help.

"It has been one of the worst things that has ever happened and been perpetrated against a group of people in Australia by any State Government," he said.

"They are harsh words, and I mean them to be. The treatment of people in the Aurukun has been harsh."

According to this Press report he went on to say—

"The Aboriginal people and the Presbyterian Church asked the Government to hold the Bill until there had been proper consultation and consideration."

I would point out that it is not the Government but the Parliament of Queensland which approved the Bill. Lord knows, one has only to look through "Hansard" in the life

of this Parliament to see that there are those of us who have crossed the floor innumerable times on occasions when we believed the other point of view to be right. More recently in "The Sunday Mail" of 7 March, this headline appeared—

"Repeal 'hasty' Aurukun Act, Bonner urges State Government."

Senator Bonner claimed that the Act was rushed through Parliament "like a cyclone". The article reads—

"He said members of State Parliament did not have time to study the legislation before it was passed.

"They just believed everything the Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) and the Aboriginal and Island Affairs Minister (Mr. Wharton), told them about the agreement," he said."

I for one totally reject that; I resent it and I regard it as an innuendo against my personal integrity. I will take this opportunity of using this forum—just as the senator took the opportunity of using his forum in Canberra—to point out that on 4 December 1975 I spoke at some length on this subject. Anybody who thinks that we did not do any research should read that speech. As well, I would point out that at no time has the senator had the courtesy to seek me out, as somebody from his own party who supported the Bill, to voice his objections. On the contrary, all that he has said to me man to man was a short sentence, "They have never been consulted."

Perhaps the senator is badly advised—I suppose this must be the case—because the facts of the matter, which will only be read about or listened to by those who want to understand the facts, are that the Tipperary Land Corporation was granted an authority to prospect by the Queensland Mines Department in April 1968. The authority to prospect carried with it rights and privileges as well as responsibilities established under the mining laws of this State. The Aboriginal reserve of Aurukun comprising 7,503 sq km was placed for management purposes under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of Australia State Assembly of Queensland by an Order in Council of 12 June 1941. In terms of the authority to prospect the mining company sought to establish the resources, and early in 1968—

Mr. MELLOY: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member's remarks have no relation whatever to the Bill. The honourable member is canvassing the rights or otherwise of the Aurukun mining proposition and not this Bill.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! As this is the introductory stage of the Bill, I believe a fair amount of latitude is allowable in the debate. I do not think there is any point of order.

Mr. LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Row. I repeat: In terms of the authority to prospect—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I would remind the honourable member, however, that the Bill is concerned with the preservation of Aboriginal relics.

Mr. LINDSAY: Agreed, Mr. Row, and I will certainly be getting to that in one minute, if you will bear with me.

In terms of the authority to prospect the mining company sought to establish the resources, and early in 1968 it moved onto the reserve land without prior consultation or authority from either the Aboriginal Council or the trustee of the reserve, as required by law. It is interesting to note that at that stage the director refused access and activity ceased forthwith.

According to those who would have it another way, there was no discussion. As a result of that action, there was a series of discussions and they have continued ever since—in fact, over seven years. In the intervening period, consultations and discussions have proceeded towards the development of a confirming Act of Parliament. I state that so that honourable members will be aware of what took place.

In December 1971 the Premier refused to proceed with draft legislation in this Chamber because of claims by the Presbyterian Church that insufficient time was being allowed for consultation. It is now 1976. Although I would be one of the first to strongly support the retention of relics so that future generations of Australians may be given an understanding of Aboriginal culture, and thus be better able to support and assist and intermingle with the Aboriginal people, I do not believe that the Aboriginal race can be left in a state of suspended animation at Aurukun. They cannot be left there to carry on as though it were dreamtime.

I am one of those who believe that if we are to educate the Aboriginal people—and I believe it is only right and proper for us to do so—we must educate them for something. We must provide them with jobs—not jobs of the type that one sees here in what can only be described as the ghettos in the close-in built-up areas of Brisbane, but decent constructive jobs in the areas from which Aborigines come.

In this regard, it is terribly important for each and every member of this Parliament to realise the total monetary value of the bauxite deposits in the Weipa-Aurukun area. These deposits are not found only at two little dots on the map, Weipa and Aurukun. They extend over almost the total length of the western side of Cape York Peninsula. On 1974 bauxite prices they were worth about \$11,325 million. Not only that, but aluminium is the metal of the 21st century. It is the space-age metal, and it is essential for the future development of

western civilisation and the space programme. There is an enormous quantity of bauxite up there.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! I think the honourable member is straying a little bit far from the implications of the Bill. I ask him to please come back to the Bill.

Mr. LINDSAY: Yes, Mr. Row. Perhaps I could conclude by saying that I certainly believe that all honourable members should support the retention and preservation of Aboriginal relics and that tourists and all Australians and Queenslanders should be able to visit the areas in which they are found, provided they behave in a responsible way, and admire them and remember the past. We are moving into the 21st century, and we are educating the Aboriginal people. I am proud to say that we already have a remarkable example of the success of that education programme in the democratically elected Aboriginal member for Cook.

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (4.20 p.m.): I rise to support the introduction of this amending Bill by the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries.

I must agree with the comment of the honourable member for Rockhampton about a lack of concern and understanding of the Aboriginal culture that exists in Australia. It is only right that we should cast our minds back a little to try to understand some of the culture and some of the relics that we are trying to preserve for all mankind.

It is true that only recently anthropologists have discovered the full implication of Aboriginal culture. I suppose the most striking graphic evidence of that culture is to be found in the rock paintings. Some observers may be tempted to dismiss rock paintings as being unsophisticated and child-like. Others, no doubt, would extol them for their honesty and primitive imagery, while some of us would probably say that they have great beauty. Whatever judgment is passed on them, they remain the most enduring form of visual expression of Aboriginal mythology. Fundamental to Aboriginal art is the concept of dreaming.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! The level of audible conversation in the Chamber is becoming too high.

Mr. BERTONI: Dreaming is the basis and concept of Aboriginal thinking. Dreaming is the basis of all Aboriginal thought and motivation, and is recognised as part of Aboriginal thinking. Aboriginal art is an expression of the Aborigines' relationship with the real world of nature of their experiences, and it is interwoven with the myth of the dreams themselves. Dreaming itself is an age which exists in the mind of the Aborigine. It was a long time ago, and yet for him it remains ever present as a continuing and timeless experience. It has

been mentioned this afternoon that time in his sacred grounds is there with the Aborigine for ever.

To an Aborigine, dreaming is the creation of all mountains and rivers, the sun and the sky, the earth and the rain and all creatures which inhabit the earth. It is no wonder that the paintings exhibit animal creatures, the rivers and the sky in some form or another.

The principal colours found in the rock paintings vary throughout Australia—yellow, red, black and white. In some areas blue is used. It is also known that Aborigines travelled vast distances to obtain pigments for their paintings. Charcoal, oxides, fungus and dust from inside ants' nests are known to have been used to assist them in their paintings. Usually the material was applied with fingers, feathers or chewed sticks.

Hand stencils represent another important part of Aboriginal culture. Probably they represent the most widely distributed art technique in Australia. The Aborigines have provided us with very little information about them. Usually they were made by placing a hand on a wetted rock and then blowing powdered pigment between the fingers. It is thought that the hand stencil artists made their mark as a record of their identity in the hope that there would possibly be some spiritual benefit from it. Many Aborigines believe that they represent prints left by spiritual ancestors. Often rock paintings seem to bear a relationship to hunting and fishing. To them it is a simple record of sacred grounds. I have tried to give some detail of the cultural background of Aborigines so that we might be able to understand it.

Turning to the provisions of the Bill, I commend the Minister on its introduction. Our area of North Queensland has proved to be very rich in Aboriginal relics and culture. We have rangers named Bob Chong and Merv Gibson, as well as honorary rangers, and they are all doing an outstanding job. They have been remarkably successful in reducing vandalism. On occasions people have used spray-paint packs on rock markings that have been there for years. The rangers, in carrying out their duties, have prevented this vandalism and, when it has occurred, have brought it to the notice of those in official places so that action may be taken.

Mr. Wright: How many prosecutions have there been?

Mr. BERTONI: I am not quite sure of the number.

These men are doing a good job. They visit the schools to have discussions and educate the children. They attend various clubs and inform people of the significance and importance of the historical relics in our district. All Australians could well look at the co-operation that takes place in our area between Aborigines and the rest of

the community. We all co-operate to preserve these relics. At the same time, I commend the common-sense approach to Aboriginal paintings. Recently in our area we had a problem with a relic that had been discovered and was to be covered with the building of the Julius Dam. After discussion with the rangers the problem was evaluated and it was decided that we would landmark the area and allow progress to continue. It was duly landmarked and documented for future record. I cite this instance as an example of common-sense approach by the rangers which, no doubt, could be achieved in the Aurukun situation that has been referred to this afternoon.

We should be thankful to the Aborigines for being mindful of the elements when choosing sites for their paintings, thus minimising the damage that could subsequently occur. I sincerely hope that this Bill helps to prevent damage to Aboriginal relics and ensures their preservation for posterity for thousands of years to come, so people may understand the beauty expressed by the Aborigines themselves.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (4.28 p.m.): Over the years I have heard more hog-wash and sentimental slop about the Aborigines, their relics, their culture, their habits and so on than I have about anything else. Today, we heard the honourable member for Rockhampton talk about Aborigines, their culture, their habits and so on, but I doubt whether he has ever seen an Aborigine in his native state. He would not know a didgeridoo from a wallaroo. As soon as the word "Aboriginal" or "Aborigine" is mentioned, in rush a host of people, perhaps with the best intentions in the world. I am not doubting the intentions of the honourable member for Rockhampton, or for that matter of any other honourable member, but the cold fact of the matter is that he does not know what he is talking about because he does not know what a real Aborigine is.

As I have said on other occasions, I was reared amongst the Aborigines. I will go back a little to a time when many hon-ourable members were not even a twinkle in their father's eye. When I was a boy in Charters Towers—it was a big town then with 25,000 to 30,000 people—no Aborigine was allowed in town after dark. In fact, no Aborigine was allowed in any North Queensland town after dark. Aborigines could come into town in the morning, but they had to be out by dusk. They would come in with their womenfolk—the lubras as we called them—their piccaninnies all bare-footed and their hordes of dogs. They would bring in some clothes props on their shoulders and the men would go round from house to house cutting wood and selling clothes props. They would be handed out a bit of tucker and sometimes a bit of baccy, as we called it, but they would have

to be out by dark. They were regarded and treated as an inferior race, little better than animals.

That is in my lifetime. Look at them today! In a short space of time the great majority of Aborigines have been emancipated and many of them have been assimilated. It is to their credit, and to our credit, that that has happened. Unfortunately in the Aboriginal race there are no-hopers just as we have no-hopers in the white race; but if someone lays a hand on an Aboriginal no-hoper or says one word of condemnation about an Aboriginal no-hoper he is branded as a racist. But if he utters words of condemnation about or lays his hands on a white no-hoper, nothing is said about it.

Only last Wednesday a white no-hoper came in through my front gate, in through the battened gate, underneath my house and into my office. He not only looked like a no-hoper; he also stank like a no-hoper and talked like a no-hoper. I put up with him as long as I could and then I ordered him out. He wouldn't go, so I grabbed him by the arm and the scruff of the neck and I bundled him out. I threw him over the low fence in front of my home, and away he went. Nobody said anything; everybody knew he deserved it. But woe betide me if he had been a coloured man! I would have the Trades and Labor Council, all the A.L.P., the do-gooders from the university and the W.E.L. round at my home screaming their heads off that I was a racist. That is something that has to be faced up to. We have come a long way and the Aborigines have come a long way. They are a credit to themselves and a credit to us. We would have about 7,000 Aborigines in Townsville now, and I doubt whether more than 500 or 600 would be in the no-hoper class.

I throw out a challenge to Senator Bonner, who is alleged to be a Queensland Senator. I have yet to hear Senator Bonner say anything that could not be truthfully construed as a speech on behalf of Black Power. In Townsville the other day I was taken by some women and shown a home—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! I remind the honourable member that the Bill deals with Aboriginal relics.

Mr. AIKENS: I am going to get on to the matter of relics in a moment. You know very well, Mr. Row, how sedulously and punctiliously I keep within the bounds of debate.

I saw there a very filthy home, in a cluster of good homes. I took representatives of Channel 7, the television station, with me. They took film of it. I made a speech that appeared on both Channel 9 and Channel 7. Then the other day the Townsville City Council convened a meeting attended by people who were interested in the Aborigines, Aboriginal relics and in preserving the Aboriginal culture. Unfortunately one or two of them did what most people do when

coming in contact with Aborigines. They did not deal with the Aborigine; they walked around him. They decided that, instead of cleaning up the house, they would spend quite a lot of Commonwealth money to build a new house for the old fellow or reconstruct the house he was in. Unfortunately, however, he died. But that is the whole sum and substance of it.

I know what Aboriginal relics are, and I know what the Aboriginal culture is. As a boy, with Aboriginal lads, I walked countless miles in the bush armed with an old single-shot Martini-Henry rifle. The Aboriginal boys were in their element and I was out of mine. I learned a lot from them, because they were in surroundings in which they were born and bred and in which they had their livelihood—in the bush. Sometimes, later on, when they began to drift into the towns they would come into Cloncurry and meet me and my mates. There the position was reversed. I was in my element and they were out of theirs. We must realise that they have been like that not merely for two or three decades or generations but for hundreds of years. When we consider that, we realise how far they have come.

I know how most of the Aboriginal relics came into existence. There is a very simple explanation. They came about during the long wet seasons in the North. We have one at the moment and have not finished with it yet. Naturally, in the wet season, the Aborigines could not go far out and hunt so they did the best they possibly could as close to their caves or wurleys. They spent their time in their caves and various other places doing rock carving and wood carving and making woomeras, nulla-nullas, boomerangs and spears. That is where the relics came from. They made them just as the teamsters in the West did all of their fine saddle and leather work in the wet season. If by this Bill we can preserve those relics and customs—if we can do one single thing that will further assist in the emancipation and assimilation of the Aborigine—it is very much worth while.

Getting back to when I was a boy and later a young man—how many men in this Chamber have seen hundreds of Aborigines all together on walkabout? I have seen them at Dobbyn. I suppose there would have been no fewer than 500 of them. They stripped off and were getting ready to go down the Leichhardt River on walkabout. They had come from stations miles and miles apart following some unknown sort of message that had been sent to them. Later on, when they had finished their walkabout, they would drift back to the stations that employed them. How many people in this Chamber really know anything first hand about Aboriginal culture and habits?

Mr. Wright: That was my whole point—that people did not understand and know.

Mr. AIKENS: Well, they should be told. But they should not be told the viewpoint that the honourable member for Rockhampton is so happy and eager to enunciate. They should not be told the viewpoint of the drunken no-hoper who frequents suburban hotels. That is the viewpoint that Opposition members always give. They go along and listen to a drunken no-hoper Abo. just as they listen to a drunken no-hoper white man. That is the only viewpoint they have. Some of those drunken no-hoper Abos. who hang around the towns and cities and frequent hotels would starve to death if they were a mile away from the city boundary in a place where they could not rob or hum a feed. I am not interested in them, except in the long run. I am interested in the great majority of decent, reputable, responsible Aborigines who have made the grade and are making the grade.

At Aikenvale—where my name appears on many buildings because I have been honoured by invitations to open them—is the big Halliday complex, which is run by the Seventh Day Adventists. Anybody who goes there will see the marvellous job that can be done with Aborigines and what the Seventh Day Adventists have done with that particular undertaking. He could even see some of the things they make, the schools where they learn, and where they teach the white people some of their culture and how to make some of those articles.

The big problem with the Aborigine who is being transformed or making the grade from his wild state to the civilised state is diet and personal domestic hygiene. We must never forget that many of their artefacts and relics have been made since the white man came. When the white man came into the Aboriginal areas in the back country, particularly of Queensland and the Northern Territory—just as when the white man went into the Pacific area and decided to emancipate the coloured people of the Pacific and to civilise them with the Bible, rum and syphilis—he civilised the Aborigines all right—with hard work, rum and syphilis. We have to eradicate that sort of thing, because they realise what a raw deal they got from the white man. For instance, take the white man's diseases that were introduced. Whooping cough, measles, influenza—diseases that we shake off as part and parcel of life—decimated the Aborigines. They killed them in scores and hundreds. Those are things that the old Aborigines will remember and they blame the white man for them.

There are many problems in Townsville and one that I have is in Hubert Street. The Mayor of Townsville knows of it. I challenge Senator Bonner to put his feet where his mouth is and come to South Townsville with me so that I can show him some of the things in which he should really be interested instead of blowing out his bags like the Black Power men and horning into Aurukun and similar places. Let him come

up and deal with some problems that need to be solved and can be solved as long as we apply ourselves properly to them.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! Would the honourable member ask him to bring some relics with him to justify his remarks?

Mr. AIKENS: I would say that as long as Bonner brought himself he would be bringing up the prime relic of all. Let him just come up himself and we will have probably the best Aboriginal relic. I am not saying this to denigrate him or to be derisory, but he himself is only half Aboriginal, as honourable members know. But that does not make him any worse or any better. With his half-Indian blood, he could still be the man that he is today or he could be the man that I expect him to be.

The honourable member for Rockhampton said that there was an inherent or ingrained antipathy by the white man to the Aborigine. I have never come across it. Sometimes one strikes a white no-hoper who talks of boongs and boories but no-one pays any attention to him. The whole fact of the matter is that we have to discount all those people and get together to take the rest of the Aboriginal race as far as 70 per cent, I would say, have already gone. When it was decided to buy large, nice homes in Townsville for Aborigines, there was a fair amount of antipathy to that decision because it must be admitted that the Aborigines did not have the education, diet and standards of personal and domestic hygiene that are necessary. But they are getting round to it.

I remember when the Whitlam Government was first elected to office a no-hoper named Bryant was the Minister in charge of Aboriginal matters. I heard him blowing out his bags at Eagle Farm one day before the television cameras about what he was going to do for Aborigines. One of the men from the television stations said to me, "Would you like to say something about them, Tom?" I said, "Yes. If Bryant really wants to do a good job for Aborigines, let him train Aboriginal men and women—because they don't trust the white man—in various things. Let him have these people go out among the Aboriginal people and teach them the things that they have to learn and are happy to learn if they get the opportunity, so that they can take their place in society."

The whole concept of society has changed. The days of making relics have gone; all that we can do is preserve those that we have. We are living in an entirely different world, with the motor-car, the aeroplane, television, electricity and gas and all the things that were not in society when Aborigines were coming into the towns in the morning and leaving at night. Those things were not in Charters Towers when I was a boy. Consequently we have to bring the Aborigine along with us to our modern society. The Aborigines are happy and eager to come, and they have the intelligence and wit to come if we will only train them properly.

Someone mentioned, I think when the honourable member for Rockhampton was speaking, that we have to knock off giving them hand-outs. So we have. We have to knock off giving white people hand-outs, too. We have to make everybody at least feel appreciative of what is being given to him and at least do something in return for what has been given. Most Aborigines do that.

On one occasion I delivered a speech in this House that was listened to by, I suppose, 20 or 30 Maoris. Copies of "Hansard" containing that speech have been sent all over the world. People—anthropologists and academics—send for them. The last batch was requested from, I think, McGill University in Canada.

Mr. Wright: Tell us about it now.

Mr. AIKENS: I shall not tell the honourable member now. I know that I would offend some of his finer, tender susceptibilities if I told him how the Aborigines used to live and what they used to do, in particular what young Aboriginal women did to protect their virginity. They gave the white women a very good lead in that regard. I have never seen a white woman do it yet, but I have seen Aboriginal women do it.

On that particular occasion Mr. Tucker and Mr. Wallis-Smith got up and walked out of the House in absolute disgust because I told them what the Aborigines did in their own society and how in many respects their society, their culture, their mode of living and their morals were much higher than the morals of the white people.

Because we have two very fine women in the Chamber, I will not deal with it now. I do not, shall I say, prune my speeches to suit them, but nevertheless it is there in "Hansard" if they want to read it, and I feel sure that when I resume my seat they will run out and get a copy of "Hansard" and read it.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): I am grateful the honourable member does not intend to embarrass the Chair.

Mr. AIKENS: I would not embarrass you, Mr. Row. That would be the last thing I would do. You are a fine, upstanding northern gentleman.

Let us stop talking all this bunk and baoney about Aboriginal cultures and ethics, Aboriginal relics and all this sort of thing. Let us deal with the Aborigines as they are, the decent Aborigines who are making the grade and are prepared to make the grade. I would say that 70 per cent of them have already made the grade. We have some wonderful Aboriginal families and communities in Townsville. As I said, we have the Halliday community out at Aitkenvale. We even have the bishop—what is his name—who has them up at the A.W.U. hall—

An Honourable Member: Neelson.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes. As I said to the Anglican bishop and the Roman Catholic bishop in Townsville not long ago, "You want to watch yourselves 'because when he puts on his robes as a bishop he makes you two fellows look like rag-pickers." He is dressed in all the panoply of his office, but at least those who follow his rather peculiar creed are decent, hard-working, respectable citizens. How much they sling him I do not know; nevertheless they are the citizens we knew they could be and the citizens we want them to be.

So let us stop talking all this hog-wash and bosh about Aborigines. Go out and find what they are like. Mix with them, talk with them. Go into their homes as I do. Don't go round the pubs and pick up a couple of drunken no-hopers who squeal, "Oh, police brutality; racism; give us back our land rights; give us this."

I knew the Aborigines when they marched from one water-hole to another. Of course, the bucks, as we called them, would march in front. They were the lords of creation. They would carry their spears and nullanullas, boomerangs and woomeras. The lubras would come behind with the string bags on their foreheads. The little piccaninies would come behind them. Two of the lubras were detailed every time to carry the great big firestick, and woe betide them if they let it go out. They would carry the firestick from one water-hole to the next. I have known them to walk eight, 10 and 15 miles in a day. They would get to the next water-hole and even though in the middle of winter it was dark and cold the women would go into the water-hole looking for lily bulbs and roots and everything else just to keep them going for the afternoon meal if the bucks had not killed anything on the walk.

(Time expired.)

Mr. TENNI (Barron River) (4.49 p.m.): Firstly, let me congratulate the Minister on introducing this Bill. The question of Aborigines has always been a problem. I have always thought along the lines of equality, but when one thinks about preservation one wonders whether we should have equality in this case, especially when we look at the preservation of the old Bellevue. I would hate to think that this Bill would bring about the preservation of a relic like that, if one can call it a relic. It is a clapped-out heap that should have been pulled down years ago. Let us hope that this amendment to the Act will not bring about a situation like that. We want to be sensible. Firstly, I am glad that the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries—

Mr. Aikens interjected.

Mr. TENNI: Later in my speech I will comment on some of the points made by the honourable member for Townsville South.

I am glad that the Minister has seen fit to praise the activities of the honorary wardens who are appointed under the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act. I understand that there are now over 200 honorary wardens operating throughout the State and that a number of training programmes have been organised by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement for their instruction. Certainly Queensland is a huge area to cover, and all honourable members will realise what a colossal task it must be to endeavour accurately to locate, say, the site of a bora ring or a carved tree so that in the future it will always be possible to find it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr. TENNI: It is for this reason that I feel certain that the training programmes that wardens attend are so important. Not many people would have sufficient knowledge of surveying to take on a job such as that. I have been surprised by the attendance at these programmes, and I am reliably informed that men and their wives, some with their children, will travel considerable distances to a central point, camp in the bush over a week-end and then settle down for a course of lectures and practical work that goes on each day and each evening. The attendance is quite remarkable. I have been reliably informed that 90 per cent of the wardens in any particular region will attend. To date, these programmes have been held on a number of occasions at Mt. Isa, in areas in the Charleville district—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Flinders should know that he must not move between the member speaking and the Chair.

Mr. TENNI: Also in Brisbane, and at Gatton, Nambour and Injune.

In his comments, the Minister said that the intention of the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act was to encourage all citizens, both Aboriginal and white, to gain a knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal culture and to understand that Queensland culture is itself a mixture of many cultures and that the Aboriginal contribution must receive the same respect as is paid to any other.

If Queensland society is to become one in which mutual understanding and tolerance is a matter of everyday practice, then the work of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement is certainly helping to bring this about. In many respects it is certain that what is happening is giving the majority of Aboriginal citizens a feeling that the work of their forebears is something of importance to all, and this alone must be to their advantage. However, I point out to the Minister through you, Mr. Hewitt, that it is important to protect what might be called the relics of the white man. Today one sees in the streets of some Queensland towns

deliberate destruction of gardens, parks and amenities that the white man has built for the convenience of both white and black people. These are virtually the relics of our forebears.

An Honourable Member: Something like the Bellevue.

Mr. TENNI: No; they are a little bit better than the Bellevue. It is way out. It is a relic that should have been pensioned off many years ago.

I hope that the Minister is taking note of what I am saying because I think this is a matter of great concern. Although I fight for equality at all times, I do not believe that what one sees happening in the main streets of some Queensland towns at the moment is evidence of equality. If we wish to preserve relics of both black and white men, we must provide law enforcement for both.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is too much conversation in the Chamber.

Mr. TENNI: Thank you, Mr. Hewitt. I point out to the Minister that it is very necessary for his department to do something to bring about equality between black and white citizens. I say through you, Mr. Hewitt, that I hope the Minister has got the message very clearly, because it is a matter that concerns me and my constituents.

Let me turn now to the problems associated with Aborigines coming from outside areas into the towns. I agree that they must come into the towns; I agree that they must be given privileges so that equality can be brought about. However, they should also incur the same penalties as are incurred by white men. If my next-door neighbour on the right is a white person and he plays up, I call the police and some action is taken. If my next-door neighbour on the left is black and he plays up, it is no good calling the police because there is not much they can do about him. In those circumstances the black person seems to get away with anything. That has to be stopped. Let us bring about equality: equality in relics, equality in people and equality all round. I ask that the Minister look at that very carefully. It is a very worrying point.

The honourable member for Rockhampton made some good points but I did not go along with what he said about racial discrimination. There was only racial discrimination while the socialists were in power in Canberra. That is the only time that we have had racial discrimination. That is when the dark man was getting more than the whiteman. Thank goodness we got rid of the socialists in Canberra, and about 14 months ago we got rid of most of them here. Therefore that problem does not exist any longer. What we have to do now is bring about this equality. Let us look after our relics. The Minister has done a good job with his amendments to the Act. Let us look after

the relics and let us look after people both black and white. But for goodness sake let the Minister bring about some control in housing and in respect of street brawls and park problems. That must be done throughout the State to bring about the equality that is required.

I agree with the Minister that, by and large, the proposed amendments are very minor ones. I also listened carefully to the honourable member for Townsville South. He made some very good points. Some of the suggestions that he put forward were a little hard, but I suppose that if we are going to sort out a problem such as we presently have in the community, we must be a little bit hard.

I think that the Minister is handling his portfolio excellently, but he is not being hard enough on some of his departmental heads. I ask him to make a note in his notebook to get a little bit tougher with some of his departmental heads so that we can bring about the equality I have been talking about. We need to control the housing problem, the street problem and the park problem. I mention the latter again because it is one of the biggest problems in my electorate in Mossman, Mareeba, Kuranda and Cairns. I think the honourable member for Cairns will agree with me there.

Mr. Moore: South Brisbane.

Mr. TENNI: I do not know about South Brisbane.

Mr. Frawley interjected.

Mr. TENNI: The local council controls them? The honourable member would be joking.

Mr. Frawley interjected.

Mr. TENNI: The honourable member says that he does not get any trouble. Doesn't he have a Labor-controlled council?

Mr. Frawley: No.

Mr. TENNI: He's lucky. That's how they can be controlled.

It is important that wardens and inspectors should have more power to carry out the duties that they have certainly demonstrated they are willing to accept. It is essential, however, that these powers should be subject to the issue of a warrant by a justice, who, of course, must be satisfied that any suspicions are reasonable before he will proceed any further in the matter.

Undoubtedly, as Aboriginal relics increase in value, attempts will be made to export them for sale. The Government must therefore ensure that the deterrent provisions of the Act are such that people will think twice before they engage in such an unfortunate trade.

I have another point I should like to make. Although what I intend to speak about is not a relic, it may become one in the future. I refer to the new bus that

was given to the Aboriginal people in Mareeba by the then socialist regime in Canberra. I am frightened that it could become a relic full of deaths. At all times it is terribly overloaded. It carries twice the number of school-children that it should. If it carried white children, its services would be policed very carefully. I get back to that one big question: equality. If we are going to police the number of people on buses, let us police the number of people on all buses—black and white people—for the safety of the people of today and tomorrow.

I thank honourable members for their attention. There is little doubt that the Parliament of this State was completely justified in its unanimous endorsement of the original Act.

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (5 p.m.): I rise to support the Minister's introduction of this measure. However, it seems to me that whenever a matter concerning Aborigines is brought to our notice some honourable members think that it is a band wagon on which they should jump so that they can make many noises, possibly attract some Press coverage and then go on for their own benefit.

In the discussion of the amendments under review I hope the Committee realises that we have a serious matter before us and that the preservation of relics of the Aboriginal race in Australia, and Queensland in particular—our first consideration—is something with which the State should be most concerned. We should take great care to ensure that bounty and souvenir hunters throughout the country are unable to plunder Aboriginal relics and sites in our State.

I was impressed by the Minister's outline of the amendment to section 7 of the Act, whereby the powers of inspectors are to be increased. It is a matter of concern to me, to many other honourable members and to many other people in Queensland, that the powers of inspectors and other public servants are being increased continually to such an extent that, in some cases, ministerial power is less than that of bureaucratic power. I sincerely hope that in this instance that will not be the case. I am greatly concerned that, in many instances, ministerial power is being whittled away, that Ministers are handing over too easily the responsibilities that the people of Queensland have given them, whereby a bureaucrat, by the stroke of a pen, can either allow or disallow something. As I understand it, the amendment to section 7 of the Act is to the effect that the ministerial power to allow people to go onto Aboriginal reserves is to be changed to give inspectors that power. Administratively that may be expedient; administratively it is probably much easier for a tourist or some other person to apply to a Government department or official to receive approval to go onto a reserve. I agree that that change is desirable to streamline the procedures,

but I sincerely hope that a right of appeal to the Minister will not be denied. I visualise the possibility of a visitor to the State—perhaps a scholar—wanting to visit a reserve to study some form of Aboriginal relic. He could well apply to a departmental officer to visit the reserve concerned but, because he is not the type that the public servant believes should go onto the reserve, he may be denied that right. That person should have a right of appeal to the Minister against the decision made arbitrarily by the departmental officer. In our democracy we have members of Parliament to represent people, and Ministers, elected by the people, should be dealing with the people. The administrative procedure of passing ministerial responsibility on to bureaucrats or public servants is not to be commended in any way. If this change in the Act means that some of the Minister's powers are to be denied him, I shall be strongly opposed to it. Knowing the Minister concerned, I am sure that he will be looking carefully at the legislation. I know that he is very concerned about controls placed on people, and I hope I have wrongly interpreted his introductory remarks. I hope that he will be able to reassure us in his reply or in his introductory remarks at the second-reading stage.

Some mention was made earlier of the situation at Aurukun. I endorse the remarks of the honourable member for Everton on that issue. They were very much to the point and I agree with everything he said. The trouble is that many people do not want to come to grips with the problems that minority groups in our community face, whether they are Aborigines or some other race. It is very important that we as Queenslanders recognise all residents of our State as Queenslanders. It is very important, too, that the homes of Aborigines should be as sacred to them as ours are to us; that the homes of Aborigines be as sacred to other people as we would expect our homes would be to them. It is important that we recognise what the Aborigines want for themselves, just as we recognise what other people in our electorates want for themselves. There should be no discrimination. There should be no attitude of pandering to one particular group or another. I sincerely hope that in this legislation, as with other legislation administered by the Minister responsible, the people of Queensland recognise that our Government, as it has done in the past, will continue in the future to legislate on the basis of what is best for the people—in this instance, what is best for the Aborigines.

As I said before, I know the Minister personally. I know that his attitude is one of concern for individuals—not for expediency, but for individuals. By bringing forward these small amendments, he is allowing members to discuss the matter of Aborigines fairly fully. He is giving us the opportunity to express our hopes and our ambitions on the subject.

I congratulate the Minister for the work that he has done in his portfolio thus far. He has shown an understanding. He has shown that he is willing to come to grips with problems and to talk to people in their own environment. The problem that we recently had over Aurukun resulted from people not understanding the Aborigine in his own environment. The Aborigine who lives in my electorate is a vastly different person from the Aborigine at Aurukun, Weipa and other places, as the member for Cook knows so well. It ill behoves people to condemn the Minister and the Government for the action taken on behalf of Aborigines, when those who criticise do not themselves know the Aborigine in his own environment and have not bothered to take a look.

I took umbrage at one remark made by the honourable member for Rockhampton, and I am glad that he is in the Chamber to hear me say so. He stated that the social studies syllabus in Queensland schools does not adequately cater for a study of Aboriginal history. I think he said that some of the subject matter was incorrect. With the new social studies syllabus that was implemented in our schools in about 1971, the teacher, as the professional person, decides on the content of any topic relating to Aborigines. In most cases the teacher thoroughly researches the subject. It is quite refreshing to see the amount of work being done in our primary schools and, to a lesser degree, in our secondary schools to teach the rest of the community what the Aborigines were like when they first came to Australia, how long they have been here and the sort of life that they led.

It is quite obvious that this sort of information would not be available if, as late as 1967, we had not brought forward legislation to protect the relics of Aborigines. As any scholar knows, the only way to find out about a race of people is to dig back into their history, quite literally. If we allow every Tom, Dick and Harry to start defacing caves and digging and then hoard their finds in their own little museums, it is obvious that that history will eventually be lost. If we, as a Government, go about it in an orderly, sensible fashion, as I believe this Government has done, it is quite obvious that the relics of the race will be preserved.

In recent times—during the centenary of education celebrations last year, for example, and during other centenary celebrations—many time capsules have been buried so that in 100 years' time they can be dug up and people then will have some appreciation of what life today was like. Hopefully it will not be like this in 100 years' time.

By being able to dig into history, to find the relics, to judge the age of the relics and to preserve the relics, scholars will be able to tell us something of the life of the Aborigine in his original state and how it has changed between that time and today. In time, historians will be able to judge the attitudes of people, the way they have taught

and the way they have treated the Aborigines, and the way they will treat the Aborigines in enlightened times.

The Minister, in his wisdom, has brought down some very interesting proposals. The only reservation I have is the one that I mentioned earlier in my speech. I thank him for the work that he has done for Aborigines in this State and I support the proposals.

Mr. MOORE (Windsor) (5.12 p.m.): I rise to make a few remarks on the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act Amendment Bill. I suppose it would be true to say that the Bill is timely, but in 1788 when Captain Arthur Phillip and his settlers came to this country, something like 500,000 Aborigines were roaming free throughout Australia. Since then, the capital cities have been established; the hinterland has been put under agriculture; mining has taken place and small towns have grown up. This has taken place in areas where the Aborigines used to roam en masse. Now the only territory left for them is a certain section in North Queensland, the Northern Territory, Central Australia and Western Australia.

It is true that some Aboriginal relics and rock carvings exist in areas where the populace is at large, particularly along some of the rock faces very close to the cities in New South Wales. But generally speaking, in the densely populated areas of Queensland, virtually no Aboriginal relics are left. The idea of the Minister and of the department is that the Aboriginal relics and cave paintings that are now in existence in Queensland be preserved.

The Aborigines have certain feelings about the land and about their country. They are not the only people who have feelings about their country. I was born here and I have the same feelings about the country as they have. I do not believe that their burial grounds are any more precious to them than our cemeteries are to us. If we want to build a dam, we have no qualms about flooding our cemeteries, and we do not give two hoots about it. In Singapore, hotels have been built on top of Chinese cemeteries. The cemeteries have been laid flat and the hotels built and to hell with the cemeteries and everything that goes with them.

Whilst I am completely in accord with the preservation of the relics and with doing all that is necessary, the matter must be kept in proportion. In the north of Queensland, particularly at Weipa and Aurukun, are vast quantities of bauxite which has to be mined. If by chance some Aboriginal cemeteries are in the area, we could dodge around them. If in so doing some Aboriginal relics are disturbed, so far as I am concerned that is just hard luck and no reason for abandoning the whole scheme. If the bauxite can be mined in such a way that other things are left as they are, by all means let that be done. But under no circumstances should we leave untouched what is virtually a pot of gold extending

from one end of Cape York to the other, with the bauxite lying ready to be simply shovelled up. No Act should prevent the mining of a mineral that is of use to Queensland, Australia and the world.

It is true that Aboriginal implements such as stone axes and boomerangs should be preserved because Aborigines today are not grinding more stone axes. When I was a young fellow roaming round the Murgon area, there were virtually as many stone axes as pebbles. They were to be found everywhere. It was close to Cherbourg and that is where they could have come from. The original boomerangs were not like the ones now run out with a bandsaw and finished with a belt sander. The original boomerangs did not look like those at all. Each one varied according to the skill of the maker.

Mr. Frawley: They won't come back.

Mr. MOORE: They never did come back if they hit the prey. They were hunting weapons and the "come back" business is merely something by the way. The Aborigine should be given some credit for making the boomerang because its aerodynamics are superb. We think Aborigines are a lot of mugs, but they must have known something because their knowledge of aerodynamics was very sound. Whilst in some ways they were a primitive race, they made something that was as good aerodynamically as a Boeing 707.

We might well consider also the woomera, the use of which applies the principle of the lever. In the throwing of the spear with a woomera, which is in effect an extension of the arm, there is the advantage of leverage. How many other races have made use of the principles behind the boomerang and the woomera?

Mr. Casey: The Chinese had a good idea in using chopsticks.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Mackay will cease being frivolous.

Mr. MOORE: If the honourable member for Mackay slipped while he was using chopsticks, he would look like a walrus.

The principles that apply in the use of relics such as boomerangs and woomeras are as valid today as they were when they were made. There are virtually no more Aboriginal weapons and implements—dillybags, for instance—being made. Aborigines are not now using the sap of the bloodwood tree or the grass tree as a glue to hold the handle of the axe onto the head. Virtually the only relics that remain are those that were made 100 or 200 years ago. As a matter of fact, the Aborigines in Arthur Phillip's day were hunters and foragers. They did not grow anything. With a population of only 500,000, they could have lived in this country for ever. Far from the environment being damaged, no-one would know that they

had been here. They blended so well into the environment that they were part and parcel of the nation.

But those days are gone, and today Aborigines cannot expect any special rights. There should be no privileged class, black or white, in this country. They might have baked beans for breakfast just as I do, and we all have to work for a living. But that does not mean that any tribal grounds which still exist should be permitted to be desecrated if it is at all possible to preserve them. It is true that Ayer's Rock will be there for a long time and is of great significance to the Aborigines in the area; but, of course, that is not Queensland. When considering the location of cave paintings we must remember that with four-wheel-drive vehicles and so forth not much energy is required to reach them. People need only the strength to push their foot on the accelerator. They do not ride horses any more, and with trail bikes or four-wheel-drive vehicles it is not very difficult to reach these sites. In such a vehicle a vandal can easily reach these caves and damage the paintings forever in some way. Once the damage is done there is just no recovery, so I am fully on the Minister's side when he is doing all that is possible to preserve relics of this type.

Whilst to some extent we considered the Aboriginal race to be courageous, we must remember that in some ways they were not too keen on the dark. Before they went to bed they cleaned up around the camp. They brushed it and did not leave a blade of grass. The area was dusted clean so that if a snake or goanna went across the camp during the night they knew where it had headed and despatched it in the morning. They were a little bit afraid of the dark.

When talking about Aboriginal relics of various kinds we refer to middens, which are really only rubbish dumps. But if we sort through them we find little pieces of flint, and if we look closely at them we find that they are virtually all the same shape. When the parent piece of rock was struck at the right point, it was split by the impact and one of the pieces of rock became a flint for a spear or stone knife. When we see this we realise that, whilst the Aborigines were primitive, they certainly possessed a certain amount of engineering ability. These items should be preserved, because through them we see the Aborigines in the correct light.

One of the problems in relation to Aborigines was that they did not have a written language. By means of various paintings and so forth they might have indicated something, but virtually nothing was placed in writing to enable them to preserve their history and pass it down from generation to generation. All their history was passed down by spoken word. If Aborigines are anything like my friends around the place, a story is told and by the time it has been repeated by half a dozen mouths it loses nothing in

its telling through exaggeration upon exaggeration. I could not see the Aborigines being any different. Whilst there might be some attempt to preserve the truth, somewhere along the way there is a fellow with a good imagination.

I was talking to some Aborigines around Beaudesert before the war and one of them was telling me a story. I am sure that what he was talking about was one of the sailing ships that voyaged up and down the coast, probably in the 1890's. But on hearing him talk one would have thought the story related to something that had happened a thousand years before.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Back in the dream-time.

Mr. MOORE: The honourable member is still in it. As the honourable member for Brisbane interjected, there are things such as the Aswan High Dam in Egypt. The people needed water and so they built the dam, and all sorts of temples—

Mr. Muller: Tombs.

Mr. MOORE: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: Pyramids.

Mr. MOORE: Thank you very much. They are trying to preserve some by taking them out rock by rock, stone by stone, and rebuilding them somewhere else. However, a building is never the same once it has been demolished and built somewhere else. In the interests of progress in the Middle East, people have had to give way. Roman roads and baths have been preserved in Great Britain, but little preservation has been undertaken in countries such as Norway. I commend the Minister for what he is doing, and I am pleased to see that it is being done with a reasonable sense of proportion.

Mr. KATTER (Flinders) (5.26 p.m.): The proposed Bill goes a long way in the direction that I think we ought to be travelling. However, on a very practical and specific level, I should like to see all the sites in Queensland documented. I mean not only the big, spectacular sites but also the little stone quarries. Any honourable member who visited them would see only some freshly broken rock—rock broken in the last thousand years. However, a close inspection would show that it is broken in a certain pattern and one would see flint chips that were used as knives in conjunction with the use of spinifex wax.

When put together on a map, these sites can tell one a great deal about the history of the Aboriginal people, and it is a very sad reflection on Governments at every level in Australia that they have not been documented. Here let me pay a great tribute to William Wentworth, who did the only really worth-while work ever done in Australia to try to document the way the Aborigines lived and so to create a story. Quite frankly,

I have not seen in any university in Australia, any other learning institution or any Government department any effort made to really find out the way Aborigines lived.

I am not interested so much here about the way the Aborigines lived for the sake of the Aborigines. I am very interested in what it could tell us about our own species—*homo sapiens*—because in looking at the Aborigines of Australia a century ago we are looking at ourselves about 10,000 years ago. Therefore, I plead with the Minister to consider having a full documentation of every quarry site, every burial site and every other site that is discovered. Perhaps it is being done to some degree in Queensland at present, but I know that there is no documentation of the sites in North-west Queensland.

Let me add that the more important and more spectacular sites should certainly be fenced off, and I support very strongly the words of the honourable member for Mt. Isa earlier in this debate. A site outside Mt. Isa has some of the most spectacular paintings that I have seen in Queensland. These paintings were over-painted in Dulux gloss, and some of the valuable etchings that were done up to 10,000 years ago were gone over with a .22 rifle. That is the sort of thing that is happening on sites such as that. The simple solution to the problem would be to fence the area off and have a lock and key put on the gate. People do hesitate to cut fences, and in the extremely hot regions in which many of these sites are found they will not get out of the car and walk 300 or 400 yards to the site when the temperature is 170 degrees on the ground. I put that forward as a second concrete proposal.

I move on then to the other value of preserving artefacts, that is, creating a past for the Aborigines of today. At the moment, to all intents and purposes all the people of Aboriginal descent in Australia have no idea where they came from; they have no idea of their past, and they have no pride in the fact that they are Aborigines. This is another aspect that I would like to tackle.

To get some idea of the need for this particular work by the Government, one has to look at the situation that has arisen with the Aborigines. In my own home town of Cloncurry, where I lived until very recently, we did not have serious discrimination. True, we have racists and a few people on each side of the fence and on each side of the colour barrier who do discriminate; but basically there is no discrimination in that town. We must all remember that deep in our past we have a very ugly, dark history that involved the mass slaughter of Aborigines by men with rifles. It included the poisoning of water-holes and the distribution of flour containing poison. Aborigines were killed off wholesale.

Mr. Lane: You're living in the past.

Mr. KATTER: I might be living in the past, but it is necessary to understand the past to make sound decisions about the present and the future. Those things happened as recently as 100 years ago, and they should not be forgotten. A lot of stupid rat-bags at the university and other educational institutions that seem to be cut off from reality have the concept that we dispossessed the Aborigines. Let me say very clearly that I can go to 100,000 documents to prove that this dispossession simply did not occur in the north-western regions of Queensland. I do not know whether it occurred in other areas but I can say with a great deal of conviction that it did not occur there. Why it did not occur was that a person would be flattering himself if he thought he could go into that region and eliminate all the Aborigines. That area has thousands of water-holes that the white man could not find and could never get access to. In those days he was not particularly interested anyway. If he put cattle out there, he would never find them again. So the area was left effectively possessed by the Aborigines. What happened in that north-western region? The first white man who ever set foot in it was a man called Ernest Henry. He started a mine and a station in conjunction with it on the banks of the Cloncurry River. He was not interested in dispossessing any Aborigines. That was the thought furthest from his mind. What he needed was help at the mine. He was prepared to give the Aborigines free food from his husbanded cattle around the mine site, and free flour, if they helped him out at the mine. Needless to say, all the Aborigines within a radius of up to 100 miles left the area that was supposedly theirs to come in and get free food. Who wouldn't swap? This is the important point that must be made to those people who go off about Aboriginal land rights. They made a swap. They sacrificed their land for food and for a far better life style—at least what they considered to be a far better life style.

Mr. Wright: Do you honestly think they fully understood what they were doing?

Mr. KATTER: If people make a decision to move from lands that have been hereditarily theirs, lands which they have held from the dawn of time, to come into a town or a small establishment voluntarily to work there, yes. It was impossible for Ernest Henry to convince them by guile that they should come in. He couldn't speak the language.

Mr. Wright: You would take it from them for a few steel axe-heads.

Mr. KATTER: What the honourable member is saying is the very thinking that I disagree with. Yes, they made an exchange. For a few steel axe-heads they came in and worked at the mine. But that is the decision they made voluntarily. If the honourable member for Rockhampton went up to the people of Aurukun and said to them, "We will give you nothing from our society

but you have the land as you want it. We will give you no food—no free rations.", what does he think they would say?

Mr. Wright: Some of them I have spoken to would say, "Yes, —"

Mr. KATTER: They would choose to stay and chase kangaroos around the flat? If the honourable member genuinely believes that they would be prepared to go back to hunting kangaroos with spears, all I can say is that I disagree with him.

Mr. Wright: I didn't say that.

Mr. KATTER: I think that is what the honourable member is saying. If he thinks about it, he will agree with me.

So there is this concept of dispossession which never occurred. I do not want to make political points here, but so constantly is my political party criticised for its anti-Aborigine stand that I thought I should have something to say on the point. In the Cloncurry region Aborigines were never dispossessed. They came into town voluntarily. The area where they set their camps up beside the Condamine River was roped off as a camping reserve and it has been there ever since. It was there until 1972. What happened then? The council that was dominated by the A.L.P.—I could name the people involved; some of them are friends of mine although I disagreed violently with their attitude towards Aborigines—decided that the camp was an eyesore, that all the houses would be bulldozed down, and all the Aborigines pushed out and dispossessed. No dispossession occurred in North-west Queensland until 1972, when the local council—

Mr. Wright: Oh, come on!

Mr. KATTER: This is factual.

Mr. Wright: What about Sandy Creek?

Mr. KATTER: I am talking about North-west Queensland. I would not describe Sandy Creek as North-west Queensland. I will not debate another area I do not know about. I am quite sure that the honourable member doesn't know about it either, but he is quite prepared to shoot his mouth off without documenting the facts or reading the history of the place.

In 1972 only three people stood up to this proposal. They were the vice president of the National Party, one of the committee members of the National Party and me. Those three people stood up to the council and stopped that dispossession in 1972. When we are talking about who looks after the Aboriginal people, how many Aborigines has the A.L.P. as representatives throughout the Parliaments of Australia? Not one. The A.L.P. is prepared to do everything but give them what is really needed, that is, real, genuine power, an opportunity to be in a room where decisions are made. That is what they want. I remember speaking to one of my friends out West who is very active in Aboriginal affairs. I said to him, "What

is Eric Deeral like?" He said, "Bob, I don't care what he's like. I don't care if he is an Uncle Tom or what he is like. The principle is that we now have an Aborigine in the Parliament of Queensland. That is the important thing. All I can say is that I thank your party for having done it." And they thanked us again at the polls. That is the concept of dispossession that never really occurred in North Queensland. I suspect that if we examine the books probably we will find that it did not occur in other areas, but I am not prepared to argue that point as I do not know the facts.

The reason these people have been left behind and we have this Aboriginal problem today is that the people who lived in Europe had horses and ships. They were able to travel here and there and meet other people. They had access to all the information and technological breakthroughs that were taking place in a population of about 50,000,000 people throughout Europe and probably another 50,000,000 people in Asia. I am speaking of instances like Marco Polo going to China and coming back with gunpowder. Because people travelled, and there was a cross-fertilisation of cultures, all of Europe got gunpowder. But the Aborigines did not. They were cut off. After they travelled over here, the land shrank behind them and they could not get back or have access to Asia and Europe. That is why there was such a vast gulf facing the Aborigines.

The concepts about different I.Q.s.—that Aborigines are not able to work, that they are stupid and not as good as Europeans—are simply incorrect. If they are correct, in my opinion and in the opinion of the large body of intellectuals, they fall in comparison with the most important determining factor, that is, lack of aggression. If a person has what we call aggression—I make no secret that in this context I am quoting Konrad Lorenz the Nobel prize-winner of two years ago—he can make up for a lack of intelligence, for example. The concept that Aborigines are an inferior race is simply wrong and cannot stand up to any close inspection.

The question is what are we to do about it. This is where a Bill like this becomes vital. What do we do about the Aborigines with such a vast gulf to cross? The gulf that they have to cross arises when someone bigger than they are punches them. They do not know how to get legal redress. When they want to buy a house they do not know how to go about it. They are shy and few of them have mixed with people in other levels of society. They find it very difficult. What they lack is knowledge. They do not have the knowledge that we have had since our early childhood days. They have to approach people. For many years my grandfather was everything to them in so far as they could get legal knowledge from him and

they could get protection from administrative excesses. They could get everything else that they were after from such people.

We have the concept of assimilation. Assimilation, unfortunately, has fallen down. Again I refer to works of people like Konrad Lorenz. The female tends to mate with the alpha male. Regrettably, most Aboriginal women seem to consider the white man an alpha. Consequently, they have been marrying and intermarrying with him. The idea that the Europeans came in and killed off all the Aborigines is simply wrong. The blackness, if I could put it that way, has been bred out of them. If honourable members would like to go back through the history books, the journals, the diaries and the letters, as I have—I have gone through thousands of pages of them—they will constantly see the concept of a lone Aboriginal man living in the hills. The reason was that all the dark women were down in the towns, married to white men. In Cloncurry I think in only two out of 100 or 200 marriages has a darker man married a whiter woman. That proves what I am saying.

Naturally, the black men will get drunk. They have no women. Because the Aboriginal woman constantly wants to mate with the white man, the Aboriginal male has no possibility of establishing a family life. The only way to dodge that problem is to create an Aboriginal society. I am not talking now about assimilation. I am talking about a different concept entirely: re-creating an Aboriginal society. It is in an area such as that that a Bill of this nature becomes vital.

Between those two lines of thought—assimilation and anti-assimilation, if I could put it that way; re-creating the Aboriginal society—lies a certain Christian viewpoint. In Cloncurry over a period of years people such as Dr. Harvey Sutton, the Methodist minister (Alan Lanham) and the Catholic priest (Father Carroll) for years have put forward the concept that there is no difference, that we can live together and maybe the black woman does not have to keep marrying the alpha male all the time. I feel that it has succeeded in Cloncurry. What has succeeded in a small town I am quite certain can succeed in the rest of Australia.

Mr. BYRNE (Belmont) (5.42 p.m.): Too much of history and past culture has been lost through the apathy of man, through greed, through vandalism, through ignorance and through lack of appreciation of the importance of historical artefacts. Because of that lack of appreciation and because of that apathy, difficulties have occurred not only in Australia in relation to the Aborigine but also in many other countries—amongst the Egyptians, the Greeks and also the Romans. What happened in history should provide us with a lesson today. The concept of the Bill before us is one that ensures that the history and the cultural significance of races are not lost.

Many problems occur in modern societies when races of differing backgrounds and cultures and from different countries come together and endeavour to live in one accord. However, the situation in Australia is very different from that in, say, the United States. The Australian Aborigine was here. He was not brought here under a slave system, but was here in the first stead. The cultural problems and differences that arise in the United States must essentially be different from those experienced here.

I must take the honourable member for Rockhampton to task. He mentioned a growing racial tension, more particularly because of Government action. I disagree with him. Racial tension in any country can and does exist only because of basic human prejudices. By interjection I asked of him what sort of action was required to try to remedy the situation today in order to avoid this growing racial tension. He said that he would inform us. But unfortunately, as I would have expected, there was no answer forthcoming, and indeed I do not think that there can be an answer forthcoming in that area.

An understanding of the historical situation of the Australian Aborigine must essentially be tied in with an understanding of our cultural differences. The problem of the human prejudice that exists in Australia today in relation to the Australian Aborigine is that people confuse the issues and draw the conclusion that the Aborigine is intellectually different from the white Caucasian. While in fact, historically and culturally, there are vast differences, intellectually the same thing can be achieved by both the Aborigine and the white Caucasian.

Emotional actions and reactions may differ; values may differ; ethics may differ. In those differing ethics the concept of ownership may differ; and in the concept of ownership we can find problems relating to the possession of land and the possession of property. Traditional habits and customs may also differ. People take these things that exist—these cultural differences; these differences in the traditional nature of the man—to be basic differences in the intellectual capacity of the man. An Aborigine, given the same sort of privileges, given the same sort of circumstances, and being brought up in the same sort of environment and surroundings as any white Caucasian, can be as intellectually successful and can provide fruits to the society similar to those provided by anyone else. But, of course, that situation is not one which has been enabled historically to come about.

There is a feeling among the Aboriginal people of a cultural inferiority, one which is placed upon them by the prejudices of a much larger mass of people. There is the feeling (and it is impressed upon them) that the type of society that we have—this western society which is held up as being the society that possesses the greatest benefits, the greatest goods and the greatest ideals for which

they should strive—tends to denigrate the cultural significance and values of the Aboriginal culture itself.

Indeed, the people should be presented with two choices and they should have those two choices just as any person in modern society has two choices. They can decide either to move with the social mores, the modern times of the society, or to opt out of the European society that exists. But that choice is a difficult one.

The situation is one where Governments must not be the hand-outers but must be the people who, without prejudice to white Caucasian or to Aborigine, are able to say, "The benefits we provide to the people of Australia generally are there in order to create an equitable situation across the whole spectrum of people so that all people can move towards achieving similar, equal bases upon which to develop."

I refer to the following statement I made in a speech during the Address-in-Reply debate last year—

"A depressed environment is self-perpetuating; a depressed society is self-destructive. People for whom the material side of life has been fraught with misfortune often cannot rise from their misfortune to change their society. There are those who try and succeed; there are those who try and do not succeed; there are those who do not try; and there are those who cannot try. Towards this latter group the Government owes its greatest responsibility, not to give them hand-outs but to create the climate and the environment for human endeavour."

That in essence is the responsibility of Governments to all sections of the community, whether they be divided on economic bases or by differences of race, education, foundations and growth. Governments must operate on those same principles in order to see that an equitable situation for development is created.

The cultural differences that exist in Australia between the Aborigine and the white Caucasian are ones which, by education, we and the children of this society must come to realise are only cultural and not essentially intellectual. There are white people, just as there are Aboriginal people, who can be found lying in the gutter either because of their own profligacy, weakness or illness. People from both sides of the racial spectrum can fall as low as each other. People on each side can become as depraved as those on the other. Similarly people on both sides have within themselves, at least basically, the capacity to raise themselves to an equal level of human dignity. On that basis there is indeed an importance in the preservation of historical elements of the past. It is important to see that those historical elements hold a place of dignity as part of the growth of that race.

The honourable member for Flinders said that the cultural interchange between European countries was of great benefit to them.

Indeed, in the concept of cultural dialectic, when a country that has developed one thing and another country that has developed another thing come together and are able to interchange and exchange ideas, they are able to move together towards a greater and more advanced concept. That indeed was lacking for the Australian Aborigine. But the cultural significance of the Aborigine and the Aboriginal race was that they did not come to Australia in an endeavour to conquer it. The European came to Australia and his challenge was to conquer the environment in order that his new society could rise within it. The Aborigine, on the other hand, accepted the environment he found and lived within it.

These points are most significant, but they lose their significance if they are not disseminated through the processes of education and the avenues of communication in order to break down some of the barriers of prejudice based on ignorance, apathy and a whole series of things that should not be a premise for judgment.

I support the Bill because of its historical concept and its concept of preservation of the Aboriginal culture and also because it brings before the public eye the historical and cultural importance of the Australian Aborigine. These things are things of the past, and the Aborigine should, with the assistance of Governments—not over-assistance—be able to move forward in equality in the latter part of the 20th Century.

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (5.55 p.m.), in reply: I should like to thank all members on both sides of the Chamber for their contributions to the debate. It has been a most interesting debate. When I introduced the Bill, I did not think that it would produce such a wide discussion. I must qualify that statement by saying that some speakers have not dealt entirely with Aboriginal relics and the sacred sites, but it has been a most interesting debate in the sense that it has conveyed to me the fact that every speaker has some intimate knowledge of Aborigines and their interests, relics and sacred sites. I wish to thank the honourable member for Cairns and all honourable members for their contributions to the debate.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: Apparently the microphone was not working too well earlier, but I hope that all honourable members can hear me clearly now.

In view of the time, I would prefer to give a full reply to all honourable members at the second-reading stage. All speakers have made a real contribution to the debate today, but rather than pay tribute to any particular member at this stage I will leave my comments until the debate on the second reading.

Motion (Mr. Wharton) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Wharton, read a first time.

[*Sitting suspended from 5.58 to 7.15 p.m.*]

MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (7.16 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Medical Act 1939-1973 in certain particulars.”

The main purpose of the Medical Act is to assure that those desiring to practise as medical practitioners are adequately qualified. The Act provides for a board whose duty it is to determine whether or not those applying to be registered as medical practitioners hold qualifications which have been prescribed. In addition to registration as a general practitioner, the Act provides for registration as a specialist.

There are provisions setting out procedures to be followed when registered medical practitioners have not acted in accordance with the Act.

In order to study medicine it is necessary first to acquire a knowledge of the physical aspects of the human body. This knowledge is acquired in a school of anatomy. It is necessary that the conduct of such schools be governed by legislation.

The present Bill proposes to amend some of the legislation dealing with these matters.

The first medical board was established in this State shortly after Queensland became a separate colony. At that time most of the medical practitioners in the new colony had graduated from medical schools in the British Isles. There was a smattering of graduates from European universities. With the advent of Australian medical schools, many applicants for registration had received all their training in this country. The first medical graduates from the University of Queensland appeared at the end of 1940. Our own graduates are regarded as having a training at least the equivalent of graduates of other Australian universities and many Queensland graduates are held in very high esteem by their colleagues throughout the Western world.

It is essential that graduates from outside Queensland should not be registered unless their standard is at least the equivalent of that in Queensland. The standard of medical practice must not be lowered but the opportunity must be given to other than Queensland graduates to be registered here. Three methods are used in granting registration to applicants from outside the State. Firstly, registration is automatically given to all graduates coming from medical schools whose standards can safely be judged to be at least the equivalent of those of our

own medical school. Secondly, a method of assessing graduates from other foreign medical schools is provided. Whilst there may be some risk in allowing all graduates from these latter medical schools to be registered, there may be some of their best students who have reached a high standard and for whom registration would be acceptable.

As the medical boards in the various Australian colonies were established separately, their methods for dealing with applicants for registration from foreign medical graduates varied from one board to another. A lack of uniformity developed, which still exists today. Foreign graduates from one country may be eligible for registration in one State and not in another.

Recent national meetings of the various State Medical Boards have endeavoured to reach uniformity on this matter. At the June 1975 meeting it was agreed that the boards should recommend to their Governments a common list of medical schools from which graduates would be automatically registered. The boards also agreed on a common method for assessing graduates from schools which would not receive automatic recognition. The method will commence with a screening examination in the applicant's own country. Applicants who do not pass this screening examination cannot proceed further with an application for registration. This screening examination will contain a method of assessing the applicant's knowledge of the English language. It is essential that all who are allowed registration have an adequate command of our language. Further procedures in this method will include another multiple-choice examination geared to the Australian medical field as well as clinical examinations if considered necessary.

In 1973 the Act was amended to permit registration of a holder of a post-graduate degree recognised by the board even though the applicant did not hold a primary degree which was automatically registered in this State. The amendment contained a proviso that in addition the applicant have knowledge, skill and ability which would enable him to practise medicine efficiently in Queensland. Whilst there have been a number of applicants under this new method the board has registered only four applicants as the others did not meet the proviso. The board believes that a modification of this method of registration will allow more applicants to be registered without lowering the standard.

The proposed amendments deal with all three methods of registration and would be a first step to uniformity throughout Australia whilst still maintaining the high standard of medical practice in this State.

Education of medical students and graduates is furthered by the examination of the human body in anatomy schools or at post-mortem examinations. Until recent years medical students carried out complete dissections in the early years of their course.

Modern methods of teaching anatomy include the previous dissection of a part of the body by experts and the particular part is used for demonstration purposes. An amendment is necessary to allow this dissected part to be kept in the anatomy school for an indefinite period.

At an autopsy parts of the body are removed for further histological examination and teaching purposes. No provision has adequately covered these acceptable procedures, and this will now be corrected.

At times it comes to the notice of the Medical Board that a medical practitioner suffering from some illness—it may be due to old age—is really no longer capable of carrying on practice, and yet no method exists for assessing the situation. It is proposed that the Act should include a procedure for dealing with such cases.

During the practice of medicine there are actions which it is the responsibility of the doctor to perform. For instance, he would be shirking his responsibility if he did not act correctly when confronted with an emergency. Occasionally he is confronted with a difficulty when his patient needs a certain operation which is necessary to prolong or save life, but due to some condition is incapable of giving consent. The Bill provides a method of overcoming this difficulty.

During recent years new activities to cope with out-of-hours medical calls have appeared. Services are now provided by doctors operating what is called a medical call service. Both the Medical Board and the Australian Medical Association have been concerned with some undesirable features of such services. The Bill gives power to the board to make necessary by-laws to control such services.

Queensland has led the rest of Australia in the registration of medical specialists. The various registration boards in all States have now agreed on a uniform list of qualifications necessary for recognition as a specialist. It is proposed that these qualifications, as well as primary qualifications, be published in schedules. At present they are included in a list held by the Registrar of the Medical Board.

Other amendments relate to the age of members of the board, procedures for dealing with disciplinary matters, the publication of lists of registered medical practitioners and the updating of penalties. The amendments are all considered desirable.

I commend the motion to the Committee.

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (7.25 p.m.): The Opposition acknowledges the need for the provisions of the Bill because throughout Australia there has been a lack of uniformity in the registration of doctors from overseas. As the Minister has pointed out, in some instances a doctor could be eligible for registration in New South Wales and Victoria but not in Queensland, and vice versa. Dr. Patrick went overseas seeking to recruit

medical officers. If we are going to recruit medical men from overseas it is essential that they meet the requirements of the State. I think that the Bill will help to ensure that the standard achieved by the medical course in Queensland will not be lowered in any way by the introduction of doctors from overseas. I am quite sure that Dr. Patrick would not take any risks with the qualifications of doctors whom he might recruit overseas. But many doctors come to this country seeking registration, from places other than Great Britain. At times the qualifications of European doctors seeking registration are not of the standard required in Queensland. In some instances they may be able to go to southern States and obtain registration. Having gained registration they could come to Queensland and on their registration in southern States probably secure registration here. Under those circumstances we must be protected and that is where the uniform registration requirements are very important.

The Minister said that there would be three methods of ensuring adequate qualification of applicants for registration in Queensland. One of them related to a screening examination in the applicant's country of origin. I do not know how practicable that would be or how the Minister will screen any doctor in his own country. The Minister may enlarge on that in his second-reading speech and indicate exactly what he means by that provision.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. MELLOY: That is so. In many European countries a medical registration can be bought. The screening of applicants in their own country might involve bribery to overcome the screening if it is carried out by local officials. The Minister might well deal with that aspect in his second-reading speech.

The Minister told us that provision is being made for the preservation for future use of parts removed during dissection. That is desirable. I do not think there is an over-supply of organs for the use of students in this country. The longer that organs can be preserved the more essential it is that they be preserved under proper conditions. Many years ago when the Anatomy School was behind the old Dental Hospital in George Street, I was working at the Dental Hospital and it was quite in order for any of us there to go to the Anatomy School at any time to look at the preserved or pickled specimens. Only very loose supervision was maintained. We could virtually open jars and take out the specimens if we wanted to. I am quite sure nothing like that happens today.

The Minister referred in his introductory remarks to out-of-hours services by medical men in Queensland. This is a very important matter for the general public. Indeed, it has caused more heartburn than any other aspect of medical services in Queensland. I suppose

at some time or other every honourable member has received a phone call from a constituent complaining that he has tried without success for hours and hours over a week-end or late at night to get a doctor. According to information I have received the attitude of some doctors who have been called has been absolutely inhuman. They have treated with contempt the efforts of patients in dire straits to obtain their services. When my wife was very sick and could not be moved the doctor told me to bring her to the surgery. We just could not do that and had to wait about three hours before we could get a doctor to attend to her. The action to be taken by the Minister in this regard is timely and desirable. I do not know exactly what undesirable features the Minister has in mind in this context. Although in various suburbs there are clinics operated by four or five doctors, no provision seems to be made to have one of the four or five doctors on duty at any particular time. In most cases all the caller gets is a pre-recorded message about who is the doctor on call and a phone number. Often the number given is a service number, and the person in charge of the service endeavours to get in touch with the doctor.

The situation is most unsatisfactory. Lives could be lost. It is most improper that the medical profession should tolerate such a situation, knowing full well the demands that can be placed on a doctor at week-ends. The medical profession is not a five-day-week calling. Even during the week the time spent in some waiting rooms extends into hours. During the week there has to be a service that is capable of coping with the demands and exigencies. There is no question about anybody deliberately waiting till the week-end to call the doctor. Anybody who goes chasing a doctor at the week-end is really sick and needs attention. So I hope that the provisions outlined by the Minister will correct the problems of a lack of medical attention available to the public at night and at week-ends.

I will not touch on the rest of the Bill. Several matters in it can be dealt with during the Committee stage.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (7.32 p.m.): I support the Bill. First, I notice that the Minister referred to the qualifications of medical practitioners. Evidently over a period of years considerable thought has been given to the qualifications of people practising in this country. It should be put on record that our medical administrators have been very careful in their screening over a period of years. When Australian doctors travel overseas, they are asked, "Where do you come from?" if people don't recognise our accent. When the reply is, "From Australia," they say, "You're all right." There does not seem to be any difficulty for an Australian graduate seeking to be registered in another country.

The Minister referred to certain places—he did not name them—where the standard of medical teaching may not be adequate. I notice that the Bill encompasses the brighter students of those groups. I gathered that, if they apply for registration in this country, they will be subjected to a screening examination, somewhat similar to that which we undergo if we apply for registration in America.

That has considerable merit in it. It allows us to draw from other countries in the world graduates who are obviously dedicated and wish to practise medicine in the way they desire. That is an essential point. If a doctor is to give his best, he has to practise medicine in the way in which he wishes to practise it. The great proportion of doctors are not money-grabbers, as Mr. Hayden was inclined to have people believe. They are people who genuinely wish to act for the good of their fellow man; people who have an innate or inborn pleasure in caring for others. The proposal of the Minister to give screening examinations is commendable. It will ensure that, if graduates do not come forward in sufficiently large numbers, we will be able to fill the requirements extremely well by using overseas graduates.

The Minister mentioned language tests. I gather that there will be a screening in languages as well. Unfortunately, Australians look upon the average overseas graduate as being equivalent to them in ability to speak languages. Most overseas university graduates speak three or four languages. It is we Australians who are the backward ones when it comes to speaking other languages. Most Asiatic graduates speak two or three languages.

The basic qualifications in this country have a very sound foundation. We started originally with some very fine old English and Scottish graduates who created the schools of anatomy and the schools of medicine. Unfortunately, Queensland did not start its schools until about 1940. Since then Queensland has gone ahead in leaps and bounds because the individuals who settled in these hospitals, the consultants, the honoraries, the professors of anatomy and the professors of surgery, were men of quality. It is most essential in filling any of these positions to have men who can teach and look after and administer the major health problems in the community. They do not necessarily need higher degrees or magnificent diplomas or strings of letters after their names, or necessarily have to know the Chief Justice, the Prime Minister or the Minister for Health to get the position. But they must have quality. This is very essential.

It brings to mind the Man of Straw who went to the Wizard of Oz for a brain. The wizard said that he could not give him a brain but could give him a diploma. Many people believe that a diploma is the same

as a brain. They are not the same. Luckily, in Queensland, this has been assessed, with the result that in the short period of 35 or 36 years, a first-class medical school and a magnificent medical service have been established in this State. The quality of the medical practitioner in Queensland is equal to that of a practitioner in any other part of the world, and I have been to all parts of the world studying and have seen the best. Queensland has nothing to be ashamed of in the quality of its medical schools. I gather that the Bill will further strengthen the position.

When I first came to this State, autopsies were difficult to have conducted. The superintendent of a hospital could not perform an autopsy on a patient; he reported it to the coroner and then the Government Medical Officer would conduct the autopsy. If the Government Medical Officer was not interested, the autopsy was not performed.

This has all been changed. Constant thought has been given to the Medical Acts in this State. The Acts contain multiple amendments, every one of which is worth while. Those amendments have been introduced from time to time—going back to the days when the medical superintendent or doctor was genuinely worried about what killed a patient, but could not find out because he could not perform an autopsy and the Government Medical Officer had to do it, and before we had a medical school.

We have started a medical school and people have licences to dissect and to maintain parts of the body. At one stage it was not possible to maintain an anatomical specimen for more than two years. It had to be buried with due regard and ceremony. I gather from the Bill that Queensland will enter the era that Sydney University did. Sydney University probably has the most magnificent anatomical library in the world. It contains the most beautiful dissections of the human body.

A Government Member interjected.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: If the honourable member is a good man with a knife, he could probably cut the week-end joint in the same way.

These men were masters. A master dissector might not be a master surgeon. The colleges in New Zealand and in England contain specimens that were dissected by John Hunter. Sydney University has perfected a magnificent method of retaining colour so that the specimens are of natural colour and the various shades of red and yellow and the glistening white of tendons can be seen. This is essential.

When Sydney University ran into a sudden affluent society and insufficient corpses were coming from the old folks' homes—the bodies of people with no relatives—and very few other people were leaving their bodies to the university for dissection, the teaching

had to be done with dissected specimens. I gather that the University of Queensland is running into the same problem, with the result that the Act will be very wisely altered by this Bill so that specimens may be kept and the two-year provision, I gather, will be removed.

Mr. Casey: "Body Snatchers Incorporated"!

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Body-snatchers have gone out of business. There is no money now in body-snatching. Of course, it had its uses. Nothing will suppress the search for knowledge. Even the Soviet Union will not suppress the intelligence of the people; they will eventually seek and find some way of gaining knowledge of the outside world and the things that they want to know. Nothing can suppress the desire for knowledge. When body-snatching was prevalent, these people used to sit down in the middle of the night and dissect bodies. It was most probably much easier in England because the weather is not as hot as it is here and there are no flies. One's next-door neighbour would not be able to body-snatch these days!

I turn now to a consideration of foreign students. Under various schemes that started as dominion studentships, many foreign students come to this country—under the Colombo Plan and other Asian plans. They assume our way of life and become completely foreign to their own. In the result, many of them remain in this country. This creates a problem not for this country but for their own. This is a situation that will have to be considered very carefully by the Department of Health. There will always be a great influx of Asian students and students from other countries who wish to stay here because it is such a good place, especially Queensland.

Most degrees and graduate qualifications will, I gather, come under scrutiny. This is most essential, because the Man of Straw and the Wizard of Oz are two people to remember. Diplomas do not make specialists. When I went to London I worked with a man named Sir Russell Brock, now Lord Brock. He had a very brilliant brain. When I obtained my fellowship he said to me, "Sonny, this is not a licence to practice as a specialist surgeon. It is only a certification that you have reached a certain degree of education and have displayed a certain degree of intelligence and that, if you continue this application, in 10 years' time you could be a consulting surgeon." That was the attitude that was drummed into us at the English college.

Unfortunately our Australian college and other colleges of specialist training give students the impression that as soon as they get a higher degree they are God Almighty on a tin horse. I warn all people not to let those fellows puddle around inside their tummies because some of them, because of their inexperience, can make very grievous errors. I am pleased to see that most graduate

degrees are coming under scrutiny. Associated with post-graduate degrees will then come, I hope, the checking of registrarships and residencies and the amount of work done before registration as a specialist.

There are one or two things that I did not quite follow. I gather that the Minister will expand on them at the second reading. One matter concerns, I think, medical practitioners who are old or ill and who are to be taken by the ear by the Medical Board—it may be by the Medical Assessment Tribunal—and told, "You cannot practice medicine any more." I think that this is essential as long as there are certain safeguards for the individual. Many years ago there was a very famous thoracic surgeon—indeed, he was one of the pioneers of thoracic surgery—named, I think, Sauerbruch. He reached the stage of insanity where he even wanted to take out a person's lung on the kitchen table. The German Government politely but firmly said, "No more" and took his knife off him.

The Minister mentioned only illness. The age of retirement rather intrigues me. I have gone through the Act and I find that full-time employees in the Department of Health retire at age 65. Part-time people have been notified recently that they have to retire at 60. Members of the board and of the tribunal and members of the medical board and hospital boards retire at 70, yet when we look at regulation 11 of the Hospital Act we find that the retirement age is 65. I suggest that the Minister get his officers to tidy up a few age groups because it is very confusing. It is extremely confusing to some of the consultants in the hospitals at the moment. Some of them are very fit men. They have seen these variations in the retiring age and this is causing them quite a lot of confusion. It would be very good if this was tidied up.

The Minister referred to emergency operations and I heartily agree with his statement. It is good to see that this procedure will now be written into the law. It has always been an unwritten ethical procedure that, if Joe Blow is dying and there is no-one there to give the doctor permission, he proceeds. If this is written into the law it will safeguard certain doctors, particularly if they are practising in a one-man hospital where the superintendent or general practitioner associated with the hospital has to make his own decision and cannot refer to a man with a higher degree or a man of senior consultant standard. It gives them considerable protection and, if I remember correctly, this protection was previously introduced into the Ambulance Services Act where a doctor could proceed to do certain things and would not be liable to have legal action taken against him if anything went wrong.

The after-hours call system intrigues me. This was commenced years ago in Sydney. In the post-war period a lot of general practitioners who had carried the burden of

looking after four or five practices were cracking up with coronary occlusions, age and creaking joints. They started a call-practice system where they had young residents from various hospitals carrying out these calls. I gather that this has got out of hand. I understand that there are people taking these calls and acting as a sort of focal point. They are not medically trained and they then have to scratch around and get someone to attend the patient. If this is so it is not a very good idea and should not continue. I think it is a very wise move to tighten up on what could be, as the previous speaker said, the basis of a calamity. If a person cannot get a doctor, something serious might happen. I commend this Bill to the Committee and congratulate the Minister on its introduction.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (7.48 p.m.): At the outset I wish to acknowledge the success of the Medical Act, which we are debating here, and specifically the Medical Board as a protector of the community in that it has maintained desirable standards within the profession. I think it is important to maintain these standards, and no doubt this will be foremost in the Minister's mind when he brings about the modifications he mentioned in his introductory remarks.

It will be interesting to hear further details of how the Minister intends to remove the undesirable features of the medical call services that are operated by many doctors. The Minister mentioned in his brief speech that it would be done through by-laws. It is important that people have 24-hour access to medical care. It is difficult to try to draw any analogy with the medical-care problem because one cannot put it aside like a legal problem till 10 o'clock the next morning. It simply cannot be said that the painful physical problem can be designated to come within the five-day week and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., so it is important that we do have this 24-hour service.

Having had a fair amount to do with doctors through illness in my own family, I wonder if the criticism is over-played. Although we hear of cases of people waiting three or four hours in State hospitals and also private hospitals after having been sent there by a doctor, I think that when we consider the numerous occasions when doctors have been called out at 2 and 3 in the morning we realise that they are performing a very, very worth-while service to the community.

There are a couple of aspects that I wish to raise, with your agreement, Mr. Hewitt, and they concern the over-all medical problems within the State. The first one—no doubt this could be raised by other honourable members—is the lack of doctors and modern medical services in many near-provincial and country areas.

It seems common for graduates to come out of the medical schools, spend the required amount of time within the State hospital system and then endeavour to move into private practice, usually, and unfortunately, in the provincial cities or in the metropolitan area. It is an age-old problem and I do not see how it can be overcome in the short term, but something must be done. Obviously the Minister is a specialist in that he is a doctor, and no doubt he will know the drives and incentives that appeal to doctors. Surely we need to look at better incentives to encourage doctors to set up practices in country areas. Perhaps we need to look at some type of State Government relief force to allow doctors in these areas some type of leave and allow them to attend lectures. It was put to me by a country doctor that the thing he misses most is professional communication, the opportunity to go to Brisbane or Townsville, or even to Rockhampton, when a specialist is visiting, and sit in on a lecture. He simply cannot leave his post in the country town. As I said, it may be necessary to consider the provision of some type of relief force. It is important that doctors in these areas keep abreast of changes and advances; it is important that they have an opportunity to obtain professional communication.

I do not know the salary range at the moment, but some criticism has been levelled at the salaries paid to doctors when they come into the State system. Perhaps we need to up the ante, as it were, to encourage them to venture forth into country areas.

I realise, too, that doctors are over-worked, so perhaps consideration ought to be given—and this comes within the ambit of the Bill, because we are talking about medical schools—to graduating more doctors. I would not for one moment say that there are not enough people in the community who could reach the heights that a doctor is required to attain in intellectual ability. But it seems there are serious restrictions on the number of graduates. Again, this is because it is said that only a limited number of graduates can be catered for at the medical schools each year, and that is why there is such a huge dropout and failure rate in the first year. Surely if a very important service has to be provided, money must be spent and facilities made available for training. Therefore, greater expenditure will be required. I would hope that, with the increased financial commitment that has been made by the Australian Government, which will be ongoing under the new Federal Government, money will be available to increase the number of doctors graduating.

I realise, too, that doctors have been greatly helped by the newly established community service centres. There is one in Rockhampton and I applaud the activities of its personnel. However, it must be understood that such centres are not available to everybody. They are within easy reach of

people who live within commuting distance of Rockhampton, Townsville and Ipswich, but it is extremely difficult for a person who lives at Clermont to avail himself of such services. It comes back to the front runner, the man in the vanguard—the doctor—in country areas.

While speaking of doctors in State hospitals, I would mention that I personally see a need for a public relations programme to upgrade the image of the State-employed doctor. As I said, I have had personal experience of them and I hold them in the highest esteem. One can go to the Princess Alexandra Hospital, speak to the doctors and gain knowledge of the experience that they have had and the work the men and women have done. But there seems to be a mental attitude, or something of that sort, in the community that the State doctor is not as good as the private practitioner. I have no statistics, but I am told that something like 50 or 60 per cent of doctors work within the State system. I remember figures of that order being quoted when the Medibank debate was on.

In my opinion, many people hold the wrong opinion of doctors in State hospitals. They are just as highly trained as private practitioners. They have to meet the same rigorous requirements for registration. They are very capable and equal to doctors who practise privately. However, for some reason they are held in somewhat lower regard by some people in the community. Therefore, I ask the Minister to give some consideration to this problem. It may not be as great as I think it is, but I have heard many people say, "I don't want to go up there. He is only a young fellow. I would rather go to my own doctor." I am not sure that age is much of a criterion in such a case, but I believe that it is necessary to promote the State system and the excellent services of which people may avail themselves within that hospital system.

The final point I wish to make concerns the problem which arises because some doctors haphazardly prescribe all types of drugs. I am thinking mainly of the barbiturate and analgesic problem that exists in the community. Often I hear someone say, "We have a marijuana problem here", or "We have kids tripping it out on LSD."

I asked some questions on this subject of the previous Minister for Health. I was somewhat surprised at the statistics he gave of the analgesic and barbiturate abuse problem in this State. A local chemist put it to me that there needs to be some type of checking system. He referred to at least five aged persons who live in aged homes in the area and who go from doctor to doctor obtaining various pills and liquid medicines. From them they develop a concoction which they consume, and as a result they are "out" for two or three days. That might be a slight exaggeration, but that is how it was put to me by the matron of one of the establishments.

The problem in this instance was that these fellows had easy access to doctors for prescriptions. I do not know what the answer is and I do not know how wide is the problem in the community. Some chemists are aware of it. Some are even starting their own checking system by keeping a list of prescriptions that they give out. I know a couple of chemists who have contacted doctors and asked them whether they were aware that a certain fellow brought in a similar prescription from Dr. A or Dr. B only two days before. It seems to me that we need to look at this problem, which concerns the middle-aged and aged person more than the young person. Admittedly it is a self-inflicted problem, but I think it has been accentuated through easy access to drugs prescribed by the medical profession.

I think the honourable member for Townsville hit on an important matter in his Speech, but he did not go too far with it. It is a pity that so many doctors are coming from the undeveloped or Third World countries to our nation. I welcome the services they give, but I think it is vitally important that they stay within their own country. We know of the huge costs involved in producing a doctor. We know that doctors are extremely costly to replace, yet we have doctors coming from India, the Philippines and other Asian countries. What a tremendous loss that represents to their own nations. It is not that I want to debar them, but I feel the answer is to produce our own doctors. When it comes to providing doctors I should hope that the last thing we do is to encourage them to come from poorly developed countries which we refer to today as Third World countries.

Dr. Scott-Young: They come here to further their education.

Mr. WRIGHT: The honourable member made the point, and I think it was a good one. They come here for education; but then they stay here, and that is a great pity. We have to accept the fact that they stay here. They are a great asset to the community but they could be a far greater asset to their own country and community.

I would ask the Minister to consider the points I have raised. I should like to hear his plans for overcoming the medical vacuum, as it were, in country areas. I should like to hear his views as to whether he believes we need to upgrade the image of the State hospital doctor. Finally I should like to hear whether he has any answers at all to the problem of the abuse of analgesics and barbiturates by the aged and middle-aged.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (7.59 p.m.): First of all I address myself to the problem of after-hours medical services in Brisbane. I think the doctors of Brisbane have the solution in their own hands in that if they wish to protect their practices, they should look to the services given in their name out of hours. More than once I have

been contacted in Toowoomba by friends and relatives in Brisbane who were desperate because they could not get a medical service. Within 10 to 15 minutes on the telephone, I have been able to establish a line of treatment for them and arrange an evacuation to a hospital. If that is the best Brisbane can do, it had better think again. The problems of medical call services are many. They are using doctors who, for the most part, are very young and perhaps only second-year doctors who have just joined full registration. These doctors provide a very long and arduous service over week-ends. They might be on call for most of the time for two or two and a half days.

This raises the problem of doctor fatigue. The Brisbane general practitioner who is subject to fatigue should very seriously consider how competent the locum is to drive around the city in very dense traffic. We have heard that in the suburbs of Sydney it is an unusual year when a locum doctor does not die on the road while travelling to or from one of his calls. Doctors suffer fatigue from working long hours and become a danger on the road just the same as truck drivers. When a doctor is fatigued he is a danger on the road, but how much more dangerous is he when he rises to the subtle bait of a suggested symptom such as, "I have a little indigestion." All the time he should be thinking that it might be far worse and be a coronary and that without proper care the patient could be dead within a couple of hours. The doctors of Brisbane have the remedy in their own hands. They must see that they themselves, rather than the law, establish a proper service, properly run by people who can interpret symptoms and establish priorities. It must always be a matter of attending to the worst first. The doctors have a duty to themselves, their patients and their practice to see that the practice is well run in their absence.

Doctors cannot tolerate any staff who give stupid or frivolous advice on the telephone. In this context, anyone at the point of first contact should have minimal training as a receptionist, if not from a general practitioner, then as a nursing sister well versed in paramedical services. One doctor to attend to a six to eight-mile radius surrounding South-east Brisbane is not enough. We have had this problem discussed in Toowoomba several times. The general practitioners there have decided at round-table conferences that having fewer than four or five doctors to cater for the private patients in Toowoomba is not giving the patient a fair go and it is not giving the doctors on call a fair go.

Reference has been made to the delay before a doctor comes to see a patient. It is well known that a doctor can see three times as many patients, giving the same skill, care and dedication in the surgery as he can on calls. There is the matter of the time lag getting in and out of his car and I believe that at week-ends most of the cases a doctor sees are more important. The general public

should be alert to the possibility of getting a quicker and better service at a doctor's surgery. Certainly a doctor on a house call finding that someone needs several sutures cannot be expected to produce miracles out of his black bag. Most doctors' surgeries are equipped to handle minor tendon repairs and gashes in limbs caused by things people do after 12 o'clock on Saturday when they start mowing the lawn, falling off swings and so on. Many doctors' surgeries in Toowoomba and other provincial cities are capable, with the services of two doctors, of setting minor fractures without reference to a hospital. They do this in the surgery with the resources at their fingertips. But in a home all that they can do in the main is see a patient, examine him and write a prescription. That is not good enough for the minor surgical problems.

I think these services are here to stay but they would be better if they were centered on a well-equipped doctor's surgery with a relief doctor as a back-up for cases where two doctors can do a much better job than one. At the same time there has to be a back-up in the way of having a trained sister available when a scrubbed assistant is necessary in the repair of wounds. I once had occasion to see at my surgery someone who had walked out of the general hospital. It was not the hospital's fault. The man had been drinking and he freely admitted it. He resented people looking at him. They stared because he was bleeding all over the floor and was very drunk. He presented himself at my surgery. I had a rather harrowing time on my own repairing a deep gash in his forearm which went into the muscles. A good back-up emergency service should have a second person available. The system would be soundly based if it were run from a surgery with a trained nurse or a nurse in training who was capable of assisting in times of these minor emergencies, backing up the doctor by fetching other instruments while the doctor maintained the sterile techniques necessary to repair the wounds.

We in this country are very well protected with registration. People coming to Australia have to produce credentials from one of a long list of universities. If they can satisfy our board that they are in fact worthy of registration, they will be registered. However, it is worth noting that a report appearing in the last week or so related to doctors who had completed the prescribed course and migrated to England and applied for registration. The profession in England is concerned about the language problem. It felt that some of the migrating doctors could not adequately diagnose because they could not speak and interpret the English language—that is, the Queen's English, without going into all the dialects. Seventy per cent of the applicants with overseas qualifications failed in England. I believe that the medical association in Britain is looking into the very high failure rate to see whether anything can be done about it and whether the standards of its tests are too high.

Following various conflicts overseas, we have had a number of doctors migrate to Australia. One of my neighbouring doctors in a western New South Wales town was from Algiers. He was allowed to practise clinical medicine only. The New South Wales registration board would not allow him to practise any form of surgery whatsoever. He was not allowed to give anaesthetics. He was not allowed to do anything more than the trivial lancing of a boil, so to speak. That placed the people in that small New South Wales town at a great disadvantage. Nevertheless, he went through his paces. He served his time there and then went to a major hospital for further study, which was perhaps doing it back to front. He came to Queensland in the end and went to a major Queensland provincial city, where he undertook further study. I believe he finally became fully registered in this State.

The number of medical students at Queensland universities has often been referred to. I am sure that persons such as Professor Saint are fully aware of the problems. Professor Saint delivered a very enlightening lecture in Toowoomba recently. As the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland, he is constantly looking at not only the quality of education but also the suitability of the education, ensuring that it fits graduates as doctors who will be capable of practising in our society for the next 30 to 40 years.

Female students have often been criticised on the grounds that they do not render a good and worth-while service to the community; but female graduates devote 70 to 80 per cent of their available time after graduation serving medicine. They are quite good value and should be encouraged in medicine. I do not mean that they should dominate the art and craft of medicine but they ought to be encouraged. They do give many ladies a lot of confidence and they apply in increasing numbers for many salaried jobs which are available in medicine.

Criticism has been levelled at us over the number of overseas undergraduates in medicine who come here and, for that six-year period, would seem to keep a Queensland-born youth out of a medical school. It is true that a great many of them come here; for the most part they have had an English type of education, and a great many of them marry Australian-born girls and are fully entitled to stay here. This leaves their country of origin in a dreadful, double plight. The students were selected to come here and the countries were putting forward their best brains and, in the end, no-one returns. The day will come when universities, such as the University of Queensland, can repay this brain drain by sending small teams to establish in overseas countries basic medical science in small medical training schools where a large number of people can be trained as local paramedics and perhaps from them a few could be selected for training as doctors. It would

behave the country that is sending them here to see that it is sending true nationals who have the interests and welfare of their own people at heart and are keen to return to practise for the benefit of their own people.

Some people have spoken on matters of registration and when doctors are capable of practising. This has always been managed to a large extent with the help and guidance of local doctors. Perhaps a doctor no longer satisfies, for the reason that he is ill; he might have suffered a stroke, or he could have a temporary mental condition; it has not been unknown for some doctors to be addicted to hard drugs. A great many of these doctors are rehabilitated privately away from the public gaze and can return to the profession that they probably thoroughly enjoyed and were perfectly respected in before they fell from grace. To my knowledge, a lot of this has happened without any publicity at all and it is to the credit of men such as the Director-General that such things have been able to take place without any scandals or sensations in the newspapers.

At present, there is some lagging behind in reality on matters concerning salaries for some full-time specialists in Government employment. We have seen quite a few resignations, particularly in the field of psychiatric services. This is a difficult one. The Government will have to grasp this nettle and come up with a solution. There are certainly not enough of these doctors in the employ of the Government. The Government has guaranteed to provide a great deal of psychiatric services in outpatient departments and special hospitals.

In Toowoomba, for one reason and another, there has been dissatisfaction among specialist psychiatrists and they have left. For the most part these men have given long service and I am sure their resignations have been carefully thought out and have been tendered with great regret on their part. One psychiatrist who has done this is still practising in Toowoomba. He is held in extremely high esteem by all practitioners in Toowoomba, including the other psychiatrists. Another doctor has gone to practise in a large town in New South Wales. He, too, was well received by the town in medical and social services as well as in other fields of community service.

The conditions of employment of these men, their salaries and matters such as study leave and recreational leave will have to be gone into very fully so that a satisfactory programme can be worked out either to recapture them or to train others in their stead.

There is a great opportunity for a doctor who is young, is studying hard and is ambitious to proceed to a specialty, to take a term in a country hospital as a part-time superintendent. If it is a small country town he might well be able to devote an extra three, four or five hours a day to his final studies before proceeding to his examinations

or to overseas study in his specialty. Perhaps swinging rosters for registrars through country hospitals could be of great benefit to these men. They would see practice of a type that they would not see in the city and their time in the country would not be lost. They could spend it well in getting to know people and the total practice of medicine.

The honourable member for Rockhampton raised the matter of people procuring multiple prescriptions. This is done under the National Health scheme and I suggest that it is only done when National Health prescriptions are free. One lady was reputed to have obtained about 35 prescriptions for her favourite barbiturate under the National Health scheme because she heard a rumour that they were to be withdrawn. I am quite sure that if she had been required to pay even a small percentage of the realistic value of the drugs she would not have obtained 35 prescriptions.

It is true that there are barbiturate addicts and addicts to diazepam. I shall not mention its popular name because that would perhaps be unfair to the manufacturing company. There are, however, diazepam addicts and addicts for all analgesics, and these people need help. I think perhaps the best way of helping them would be to make such drugs very expensive, and to issue only very small quantities of them on National Health or private prescriptions.

The proposed amendments in relation to autopsies have been carefully considered and are well and truly needed to protect doctors who perform autopsies. The amendments proposed relating to the dissection of bodies donated to universities are also long overdue because with due care a body, or portions of it, can be kept for a great many years. The relevant dissections that have been done by experts in the field and preparations that display relevant anatomical points can be kept for many years with the care offered to specimens today.

There is no need for any person who is considering donating his body to a university to have any fear that his body will in any way suffer any indignity. All the doctors in this Chamber have been through universities and have seen the care with which bodies are handled and the respect paid to them, and they should all know that when dissections have been completed on the body and it is of no further use for study of anatomy, the remains are decently interred with the full respect due to the private wishes and religion of the person concerned.

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (8.19 p.m.): After hearing two of the medicos in the Chamber speaking most strongly on certain aspects of the proposed amendments, I am getting a little concerned lest there might be in this Assembly a secret little conclave of Body Snatchers Incorporated!

However, concerning myself more with the problems of the living rather than those of the dead, I should like to bring to the notice of the Committee a couple of points.

One is an extension of the comments of the honourable member for Rockhampton about the registration of medical practitioners and the practice of medicine generally in the State of Queensland. One thing that very much concerns people in rural and provincial areas is the availability of specialist treatment. This has been mentioned briefly during the debate. It is, of course, nowhere near the problem of medical attention in country areas, on which the honourable member for Flinders has spoken in this Chamber and in which he is well versed. None the less, in many country areas of Queensland people do have a lot of difficulty in obtaining proper specialist medical treatment. It is just not available.

More than ever before, specialists these days are tending to congregate in group practices in the major metropolitan areas where they have the benefits of all the diverse types of cases which come to their notice. People living in some country areas have specialist treatment available to them in certain cases, but even those are limited and they find that with serious problems they have to come to the major hospital system here in Brisbane and to the major groups of specialists in the capital city to obtain treatment.

I appreciate the way in which our Health Department makes this treatment in Brisbane available to everyone in Queensland and it is only rarely these days that we find someone with a medical complaint who has to go interstate to find somebody better than those we have available to us in Queensland. I compliment the department on the way in which it has encouraged the growth of our own specialists and the development in the training of persons in specialist medicine, but none the less country people have a severe problem in that in most cases they have to pay out of their own pockets to come to Brisbane.

I know this is an old problem. It has been mentioned quite often in the Chamber before. Most people who have to come to Brisbane for perhaps one visit or a series of visits to receive specialist treatment have to pay their own air fares. A person has to be a pauper to qualify for departmental support and assistance under the present means test, and then all he gets is a second-class sitter on the railways, and not many people travel that way these days.

What about the case of someone with a recurring illness, particularly a child? I had an example brought to my notice the other day of a man in Mackay with four young children. Over the next four to five years it will cost him and his family a minimum of \$10,000 in air fares for his wife and the child to travel backwards and forwards from Mackay to receive specialist treatment in Brisbane.

We have no sort of rotating system under which specialists could go into country areas. Perhaps in the long term that might be a lot cheaper. I do not know whether the

department has looked seriously at this. It might be a lot cheaper, but, even if it is not, the department should look further at this test that it applies before it assists people who have this problem of recurring visits to receive medical attention. In the case I am quoting the man has a small business. His only alternative is to sell up his business and come to Brisbane to live. He not only has to lose his whole way of life through his business but also has to shift his whole family down here. I do not think this imposition should be placed on people in Queensland if we can find some way of getting over it. Through the Medical Act I think some further specialist treatment in country areas might be made available.

Another aspect is that these expenses are not even a tax deduction. I know this is not a matter which arises under this Bill, Mr. Hewitt. It is certainly the problem of another House, but through you Mr. Hewitt, I would counsel the Minister to bring further weight to bear on our Commonwealth counterparts to consider this matter further because these days, particularly with Medibank, the burden of health costs is fairly limited for most people. There is no great burden of health costs on most people and I think that some form of tax concession for those who have to pay air fares could be most helpful.

One other thing that does concern me about the Medical Act has been brought home to me by a recent case. I think that somehow, perhaps through an amendment to the Medical Act, we have to get some sort of access by responsible persons to medical records which doctors hold. I know that this would happen only on certain occasions, but if I may I shall quote an example to show honourable members what has happened in recent times. A constituent of mine had a small opal mine west of Winton. He was out there working this mine when he was caught by floodwaters and trapped. There was no problem with food. He had made allowances for this because he had been there before. But he developed serious pains in the area of his kidneys. Having been afflicted some months earlier with a serious kidney complaint for which he received medical treatment from his own doctor in Mackay, he and the person with him became very concerned when he began passing blood with his urine. Naturally, the combination of the pain and the serious discomfort was of great concern to them.

They were completely isolated by floodwaters and, even from Longreach, it was impossible to get to where they were or for the sick person to get out. His companion swam a flooded river and walked 10 miles through flooded country, with water at times up to his waist, in order to get to the nearest property that had a pedal wireless through

which he could send a message to the Longreach police, asking whether they could get an aircraft to come to the airstrip at the station and drop some supplies or get a helicopter to go to the area where the sick person was and lift him out for medical treatment. Quite rightly, the police in Longreach insisted on some information about the man's previous medical history and his particular problem.

As honourable members know, people differ in their assessment of pain. I know of a man who chopped his right big toe off when he was three miles out in the bush cutting wood and who walked back to get medical treatment. Another person might cut his finger or knock a finger-nail off and sit on his backside and wait till someone came to get him because he was in severe pain. Doctors in the Chamber would know more than I do about experiences of that type.

As I said, the police in Longreach insisted on having some information about his complaint. Unfortunately for the man concerned, his medical practitioner was having a week-end off and was away for the week-end. Although he had a single practice, he did combine with another doctor in a single practice in Mackay to allow his calls at the week-end to be taken by the other doctor. Unfortunately, the other doctor did not have any knowledge of the medical history of the man concerned, particularly of his kidney complaint, and he did not know what type of drugs might assist him if they were dropped to him. A stalemate occurred. The police could not find the medical practitioner anywhere, although they searched for him, and it was a very serious and worrying time for the family of the man concerned and for the police in Mackay and Longreach.

If there had been some way in which the police in Mackay could have authorised access by the other doctor to the medical records of the doctor who had treated the patient, it would have been quite simple for him to get to the source of the trouble and inform the Longreach police of the case history of the man. They could then have taken suitable action to send in a helicopter and bring the man out.

In this case, everything ended well. Men went out from the cattle station to try to bring the man across the flooded country, and during the journey he passed several stones from his kidney. Nature took its own course. However, there could have been a serious problem, and one can see that, within the scope of the Medical Act, on occasions there may be a need for responsible persons to have access of that type to medical records. Therefore, I ask the Minister through you, Mr. Hewitt, to consider the matter and try to ensure that problems similar to that do not occur in the future.

Mr. LOWES (Brisbane) (8.29 p.m.): I commend the Minister for introducing this

legislation, which will bring about regulation of the registration of medical practitioners.

It seems to me that for a long time there have been very serious omissions from the legislation in this State relative to the registration of practitioners coming from other States and other countries. In fact, it would be reasonable to say that it is much more difficult for a jockey to come from Sydney and get a ride in Queensland than it would be for a medical practitioner to come from, perhaps, some other State to Queensland and obtain registration. Possibly it would be easier for him if he had been in some State other than New South Wales or in some other country before his arrival here. Therefore, it is highly desirable, I submit, that the legislation should propose closer scrutiny of the qualifications of doctors presenting themselves in Queensland for registration.

It is desirable also that there should be uniformity between the States in the registration of doctors and in the requirements that the boards in the separate States impose upon applicants for registration.

It is somewhat ironic, I think, that such legislation should be introduced now. However, perhaps now, in 1976, is better than in 1986. But it is ironic that we should be introducing it in the 1970s. The Minister said in his opening remarks that we first saw foreign doctors coming into Australia in the 1940s. We remember the sort of reception those doctors were given. It is quite ironic that we are now welcoming doctors from foreign countries, sometimes without sufficient scrutiny, whereas in the early 1940s, when doctors came from countries where medical science was even probably more advanced than it was in Australia at that time, they had the greatest difficulty in obtaining registration. Many had qualifications in excess of the qualifications of our own medical practitioners. We remember the days of the so-called refugee doctors arriving in Australia. I can remember one or two of them in particular. But now in the 1970s we are seeing something which, by comparison, could be referred to as a flood of doctors arriving from Third World countries. In addition, doctors are qualifying here under the Colombo Plan and wishing to remain here.

I refer to the refugee doctors who arrived in the 1940s. They came directly from, say, Czechoslovakia, Austria or Germany, but now we have doctors arriving here who have gone through a number of countries. Their country of original registration is somewhat obscure and the experience and practice they have had between the time of original qualification and their presentation in Queensland for registration is also obscure. Therefore it is quite proper that we should now introduce legislation which will enable us to give close scrutiny to the qualifications of any person presenting himself for registration

in Queensland. This will tend to improve the standard of medical services in Queensland, which is something which the Government and the community should always seek. We should always be looking to see just how we can improve medical services.

That brings me to the other section of the proposed legislation, which I feel does quite the contrary. I refer to the after-hours medical service. I think at best this can only be regarded as a second-grade medical service. Let me take the progression that has led to the existence of the out-of-hours medical service. It is not as if we are introducing something that does not exist. We do in fact have out-of-hours medical services existing in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. Let us look at the progression from the G.P. family doctor to the present out-of-hours medical services. The family G.P. had not only a personal knowledge of a patient and his family but also records for the whole of the family. When he was required to render a medical service he had more than his own skill, because he had behind him a wealth of personal knowledge of a particular patient. If his recollection was insufficient to assist him he had his records. When the G.P., overworked as he was, found it necessary to take leave he introduced a locum into his practice. Although the locum did not have the benefit of a personal knowledge of a patient, he did have the experience that the G.P. would pass onto him before leaving of those cases that the G.P. would expect might arise during his absence, and he had the full benefit of the records maintained by the G.P. It meant that the locum had a fair knowledge of the medical history of a patient. Over the last 15 to 20 years we have seen the circumstances arise under which the G.P., even assisted by a locum, has been unable to get sufficient rest.

I do not suggest for one moment that a G.P. should be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Far from it! If a doctor does that he renders a second-class medical service. To overcome this problem clinics were established. We all know the opposition among patients to the introduction of clinics. We have all heard people say, "I went to see my family doctor today but he was not there. His partner was there, but I had not seen him before." However, that partner, like the former G.P.'s locum, has access to the patient's records. The patient-doctor relationship which has been established over a period is maintained. I believe that, in this context, a good medical service was rendered and the people of Queensland did not suffer. Perhaps we all resist change as far as possible, but so long as a high-class service is rendered there can be no reasonable objection to it.

We are now coming upon a new form of medical service, and it is questionable just how much is medical. I refer to the out-of-hours medical service. The honourable member for Nudgee voiced his fear that lives

could be lost through such a medical service. I have been informed that lives have been lost in instances where such a medical service has been used. That does not mean that lives were lost because the medical service was used. Whilst on one hand I have that account, I have other accounts of a medical service doctor attending within a remarkably short time of the family's telephone call in circumstances when the family doctor was absent. We have the pluses and the minuses, but over all I consider that we are providing for a second-rate medical service.

I believe that what is involved in the after-hours medical service is not generally known. As I understand it, if a general practitioner wishes to absent himself from his practice overnight, at the week-end or for a longer period, he can engage an after-hours medical service. At this stage—again so far as I know—there is no requirement that the after-hours medical service shall be provided by a doctor or a person with any medical qualifications whatever; nor is it necessary for that after-hours medical service to provide premises that are normally acceptable as a doctor's surgery. There is no need for that, as the patient does not attend. The patient telephones his family doctor, who might be referred to as the subscribing doctor because he subscribes to the after-hours medical service, but instead of getting his doctor he gets an after-hours medical telephonist who, in turn, after taking the particulars, relays a call to a medical attendant who on occasions is touring the suburbs in a motor vehicle fitted with a two-way radio. I understand this is common practice. This is desirable, no doubt, because it provides a proper service.

A Government Member: After 2½ hours.

Mr. LOWES: That might be the alternative to perhaps a longer waiting period when there is no such medical service.

The doctor who attends the patient has no records with him. Unlike the old family G.P., who had both the knowledge of the family and his records, unlike the G.P.'s locum and unlike the clinic, the medical attendant who attends a patient as a result of a call to an after-hours medical service goes with no medical history charts whatsoever. Consequently, he must get from the patient, who must be expected to be in a stressful situation, a clear case history. There could be no worse time, surely, for a doctor to obtain a case history from a patient. So the doctor who attends the patient is at a grave disadvantage. Firstly, he has no records; secondly, he is obtaining a case history from a critically ill patient.

Just what is the relationship between the patient and the doctor who attends? Just what is the professional responsibility between the doctor and the patient he attends? This seems to be very much in confusion. Is the doctor who attends a patient the patient's doctor? Is the attending doctor the agent of the subscribing doctor? Is he the servant

of the subscribing doctor? Is he the agent or the servant of the after-hours medical service?

As far as I know, there is nothing to stop the after-hours medical service from being nothing more than half a dozen people who might get together and become incorporated as Out-of-hours Medical Services Pty. Ltd. The problem of after-hours medical services has already been alluded to and considered by the A.M.A. I refer to its news bulletin of April last, in which recommendations of the A.M.A. are itemised.

It is interesting to note that one of the first recommendations it makes is that the out-of-hours medical attendant be distinguished from the locum. For that purpose, it proposes that the by-laws of the A.M.A. be amended. The A.M.A. has gone to some lengths to consider its legal position—and well it might. The legal position is full of problems. It has received an opinion which says that the legal advisers of the A.M.A. consider that locums employed by out-of-hours medical services would be acting as independent contractors as distinct from other locum tenens employed by principals for a specific period.

Again, there is a mixture of terms—"employed by principals". We are getting principal and agent, master and servant and independent contractor hopelessly mixed. It would seem that the A.M.A. is rather doubtful about its position. It would also seem to me that the legal advisers who gave that opinion were probably not given the information that they needed or were not given the information which the A.M.A. considered to be relevant, because one of the recommendations of the A.M.A.—recommendation 17—is that the billing of patients should be done by subscribing doctors, with certain exceptions. If the billing of patients is to be done by the subscribing doctor, surely the A.M.A. recognises that the relationship between patient and doctor is between the subscribing doctor and the patient, not the doctor who attends as a result of a radio call when he is out patrolling the suburbs.

Because of the shortage of time, I will touch on two of the abuses which I believe are operating. I refer to fee splitting and the breaching of service contracts. There is no doubt whatsoever that fee splitting occurs and that the fee which is charged, whether by the subscribing doctor or the doctor who attends, is being split three ways, and quite often with a person who is not medically qualified. I refer to the out-of-hours medical telephonist or the service.

The other abuse I refer to is this: I am informed—reliably informed; otherwise I would not raise it here—that the attending doctors are in some cases working under service contracts with hospitals. I do not know which they are, but I am sure that the services of our Health Department could well locate them and run them down.

I did have some doubts about the after-hours service, but those doubts have now

disappeared. They are no longer doubts! I was quite concerned when I heard the Minister say that he proposes to legislate for this particular service by way of regulation. That is something that I will not submit to.

I suggest that before proceeding further with this legislation the Minister be more certain of the wisdom and ramifications of introducing this service. He should certainly be more certain than the A.M.A.

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (8.46 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to speak to this Bill, especially as it affords an opportunity to bring to the notice of the members of this Parliament some of the services of the Health Department. Particularly in my electorate, probably the most important proposal deals with the after-hours medical service. I listened most carefully to what the honourable member for Brisbane had to say, and I noticed that the Minister did also. The honourable member's allegations were indeed most serious. However, we have to come to grips with this problem. It is no good saying that we are going to introduce something or that we are going to legislate to cover something that is already there.

The problem is vast and it is particularly vast in the southern end of my electorate—Woodridge and Kingston—where after-hours medical services are indeed lacking. I know that the Minister for Health is well aware of that. In fact, I get many phone calls late at night usually from desperate mothers wanting me to organise a doctor for them. Woodridge is a long way from any hospital. The Princess Alexandra Hospital is a good half-hour to three-quarters of an hour's drive and when a mother is panicking over a child with a high temperature, she does not think of getting into her car and driving unless she has her wits about her.

Unless something is done about after-hour medical services, we will find our outpatient departments in hospitals absolutely crammed over the week-ends. All of us have heard classic stories of half-day and three-quarter day waits by people who were quite seriously ill and had, for example, extreme migraine. They sat there vomiting their hearts out for half a day until they could actually get in, when a needle could have put them to sleep or made them feel better in five minutes.

I am particularly concerned at some of the allegations made by the honourable member for Brisbane. They should be discussed further, although we cannot do that until we read the Bill. If his allegations are true, we have to look very carefully at them because they are indeed frightening. We have to be constructive in our criticism. In fact, we must always be constructive.

We in this Parliament do not have the power to dictate to doctors when, where or how they shall work. We would be the first ones to scream if a member of the public said, "I rang you on Sunday morning and your phone did not answer. Where were you?" Doctors are entitled to their time off,

too. Therefore we have to accommodate them and their problems as well as we expect people to accommodate us.

Some people—and this has happened in Woodridge—are too sick to get to hospital. There are often extenuating circumstances. It is an area with a high percentage of deserted wives and pensioners. Sometimes those people do not have their own transport and do not have a way of getting to the hospital. It presents a grave problem for them.

The so-called problems with foreign doctors have been touched upon. I listened with great care and I made a note of the proposals outlined by the Minister. I am a little concerned that one reads like a closed shop amendment setting up what I would consider to be something that may well prove to be too powerful. It says that medical boards will have the power to impose limitations on registrations as to the place of practice and the branch of medicine in which the practice is to be carried out. I realise, of course, that qualification standards have to be set. I have been through this problem myself in other countries. Quite stringent tests have to be passed in every country, and the majority of people expect that.

However, in the past, the Immigration Department has been lax to the point of criminal neglect. I in fact met a woman two years ago here in Brisbane. She was an Argentine, and I had arrived from Argentina not long before I met her. She was a doctor. I met her in a fruit shop and I recognised her accent. She was absolutely delighted to meet me because she was attending a course in English as a second language and she was going through a severe emotional hassle. She wanted to practise medicine and wanted desperately to learn English quickly and, of course, she wanted to become registered. I felt sorry for her. She seemed to be most capable. She had not been told that, unless her English became proficient enough to pass an examination, she would not be allowed to practise. Mind you, she spoke four languages and was very efficient in other areas as well. Perhaps when the Bill is printed I will be able to pass further comment on that matter. For the present I reserve my decision. Sometimes I feel that the A.M.A. is a happy little union of very well-heeled men and women who close their ranks and guard each other. Of course, the Teachers' Union does the same thing and so do other unions. People are loath to comment about doctors because we respect them and need them. Of course, from a political point of view it has often been considered foolhardy to make any comments at all; but I do not have to worry about that.

I mentioned that I would like to point out the varied operations of the Health Department. They are in fact wonderfully innovative and I have mentioned to the Minister that I do not think that the public hears enough of the various departments that are,

as it were, under the one umbrella. I particularly wish to say that this booklet that I have with me, which is a health paper on the care of the intellectually handicapped, should be in schools, electoral offices, perhaps even in post offices and other public places where people could read what the Health Department is doing and of the services available for them.

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mrs. KYBURZ: I would hope that all honourable members would put on their glasses and try to reduce their myopia by reading the booklet.

Mr. Frawley: He can't read.

Mrs. KYBURZ: Look to yourself, son.

There is, of course, another booklet published by the Geriatric Division which is equally good. That department deserves special mention. So, too, does the community health programme. I am particularly grateful for my community health centre in Woodridge. Without it, I do not know what the people there would do. It consists of a social worker, a nurse and a community home care counsellor. They are men, and they are doing a wonderful job; but, of course, their time is limited. I should like to make a suggestion to the Minister, although I do not know how it could be implemented. These men work the normal day roster, and what is needed is for that centre to operate at some time when working people can go to it. I have in mind particularly Saturday mornings—I know nobody wants to work on Saturday mornings these days—and after 5 o'clock, perhaps till 7 o'clock in the evenings. Perhaps it could start at 11 a.m. and finish at 7 p.m. People must be able to attend the centre. There is a high percentage of working wives in Woodridge and how are they to attend with their children? For senior citizens, of course, there is no problem.

I feel that the time has arrived to mention nursing homes. Once again I must thank the Geriatric Division. Too often we sweep the problems of elderly citizens under the carpet. We dump our elderly people in the sense that we do not provide adequately for them and I sincerely hope that in the future—in fact in the life of this Parliament—we will see leaps and bounds in the provision of care for the aged and the building of nursing homes. I will go so far as to say that I feel that the priorities for public spending in this Government are wrong. It sorely grieves me to see so little money spent on the building of nursing homes. I think they are so important that we should be giving up the building of bridges and all the paraphernalia, the cosmetic surgery, that goes on in politics, and putting the money not where the political decisions count but where the people count, where the people are suffering, where they are not being visited by their families—in fact, where society is dumping them. I beg the Minister to thump his way round the Cabinet room if necessary to

make his colleagues give up a few things because nursing homes are far more important.

I would like to comment now upon a matter raised by the honourable member for Rockhampton in his very capable speech, namely, the prescription of drugs. Perhaps some drugs are prescribed through a lack of understanding, particularly a lack of understanding of female problems. I would like to pose a question to the Minister: is a study of women's sexual responses included in the course at the Queensland medical school? I ask that simply because I know from my own personal experience that more understanding of female sexuality is necessary in the treatment of female problems, not necessarily those of a sexual nature. I think that a lot of doctors are at fault. Let me modify that by saying "some". I know that one can ask any woman and she will say that if she goes to a doctor with a problem which might be something simple or might be even as complicated as loss of libido he will treat her for simple depression and pop her with valium and say, "Don't worry about yourself, dear. Get a good night's sleep. Take up a hobby. You'll be O.K.," when in actual fact we know in our hearts what it is that we have and the problems that we face.

I feel so sorry for so many women, particularly those in the middle-aged group who are going through menopause or perhaps have passed through that stage and are undergoing a renewed sexual response. They need to be urged to get out into the world and to discover their own bodies anew. Of course, we do not have enough training in this field. There are so many women who know nothing about their own bodies. I think doctors should be doing a lot more in this field. I would now like to mention "Aderba", a refuge which has been set up and was opened last week by the Minister. It is particularly important in this field of female medical care. It is basically a refuge for middle-aged or senior women who have no friends, little family and might not in fact know where to turn. These women might not be physically ill; they are just lonely and shut in. I think the correct term is agoraphobia. A doctor may see a woman in her home but she is afraid to leave her home, to dress up, put on her make-up and go out and visit people. She is in fact fearful. I learnt at the opening of "Aderba" on Thursday that there are in fact women who have been shut up inside their house for a year and a half. This is a terrible thing and I want to bring to the notice of the Committee the "Aderba" refuge, which is an adult day centre in Yeronga. It is in fact a counselling centre and I think it will provide a wonderful service for women. I think perhaps that after ranting for so long I will wait until the second reading of the Bill before I make further comments except once again to urge the Minister to make public some of the wonderful services which the Health Department provides.

People criticise the Health Department as being a gigantic so-called bureaucratic organisation. In fact, one regularly meets people who work in the department, perhaps in very minor positions, and who say, "We do little" or, "We do nothing" and simply criticise. They wonder what point there is in being there. But I earnestly pass on a sincere "Thank you" to the department for the services that it is at last beginning to provide, which are, as I said earlier, modern, innovative and very necessary.

Mr. KATTER (Flinders) (9.1 p.m.): I am inclined to become rather heated when this subject is raised, because my electorate probably creates most problems for the Health Department.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. KATTER: There seems to be some dispute about that, Mr. Hewitt. However, in my electorate, the small town of Julia Creek and the surrounding district has a population of about 1,800 people, and Julia Creek is about 100 miles from the nearest town. Until recently, that 100 miles of road was all dirt; now, thank God, it is partly bitumen. For almost 18 months of the last three years it has not been possible to get a doctor to reside in Julia Creek.

The problem is that there is a shortage of doctors. As the Health Department has told me on many occasions, "We simply cannot put a gun at their heads and force someone to go out there." Therefore, that situation has existed and continues to exist.

People may say, "Julia Creek hasn't got a doctor. So what?" I can answer that by referring to two accidents. One gentleman who owned a station property was very seriously injured recently. By the grace of God, although there was no doctor resident in Julia Creek, the doctor from Richmond happened to be in Julia Creek on his monthly visit. It is only because he was there that the person concerned is alive today, to quote the doctor himself.

The second accident occurred during the 18 months when Julia Creek had a resident doctor. A policeman in the area was involved in an accident and the matron could not stem the flow of blood. The policeman certainly would have been dead but for the timely arrival of a doctor. Those two people in Julia Creek are alive today only because a doctor happened to be in the town. If those two accidents had occurred when no doctor was available, there would have been two deaths in the area.

That is why I become rather heated when I begin talking about not being able to get doctors to go to small towns such as Julia Creek. For the benefit of those honourable members who are not familiar with the figures, I point out that there are 3,322 registered general practitioners in this State, which has a population of 2,000,000. That means that there is one doctor for every

700 people in Queensland, yet towns such as Julia Creek, with a population of almost three times that number, cannot obtain the services of a resident doctor. Something is going wrong.

If one goes back 20-odd years, towns nearby—Cloncurry, for example—had not one but three doctors and there was no difficulty in getting a doctor to go to Julia Creek. What has happened in the last 20 years? Let us look at the demographic figures and see how many people have graduated in medicine from the university. Possibly the number of people going through the university is not increasing.

The increase in population in Queensland over the last 10 years has been 22.58 per cent; the increase in the number of doctors graduating from the university has been 41 per cent. So the answer does not lie there. There has been an increase of about 40 per cent in the number of doctors; there has been an increase of only about 20 per cent in the population.

The answer lies—and regrettably I cannot give the Committee the exact figures—in the increased number of people doing specialist work. There is a staggering increase in the number of specialists practising in the State. The second part of the answer lies in the fact that doctors are conglomerating in the big centres of population and simply refusing to go west or to go to smaller centres.

The situation is not critical only for small western towns. Any honourable member who discusses the question with the Health Department will soon realise that there is an acute shortage of doctors in Brisbane, too. In fact, waiting times in some of the hospitals in Brisbane are close to the times that people in Julia Creek have to wait for a doctor to come from Richmond or Cloncurry. It is not only a rural problem.

For people who live under a free enterprise system the answer to the problem is to be found in the principle of supply and demand. We should be able to increase the supply of doctors. I plead with the Minister to put whatever pressure is humanly possible on the universities to get them to produce more doctors. There is no doubt that we are getting to the stage where there will be an over-supply of doctors in Brisbane—an over-supply of G.P.s and an over-supply of specialists—and those professional men will have to turn to other fields to make money. I would hope that those fields would include general practice in small western towns.

There are a number of ancillary problems. In third-year medicine 40 per cent of the students are women. I must disagree with my learned colleague from Toowoomba about women doctors in practice. I know five female doctors who simply are not practising medicine. I seriously doubt whether 70 per cent of women effectively practise after graduation. Non-practising

females have precluded a lot of very hard-working men, who would have been prepared to spend the rest of their days in that profession, from becoming doctors.

Mrs. Kyburz interjected.

Mr. KATTER: I must stick to my guns on this issue. The fact is that many female graduates are not practising medicine. I would very much like to agree with my colleague, who is long on women's rights, but the fact is that many men are being deprived of the right to practise medicine in this State by a lot of females who will not practise medicine after they graduate. We cannot ask them to agree to practise later on. Obviously we cannot prevent women from getting medical degrees, so we must live with the problem. The trouble is that in three years' time, instead of producing 156 doctors a year, as we are at the moment, we will be producing only about 100 effective doctors—that is excluding the women from the figure.

Mrs. Kyburz: Females are ineffective! Thank you very much!

Mr. KATTER: The honourable member is misconstruing what I say. I am pointing out that statistically speaking they do not practise afterwards. The statistics are there and the honourable member can look at them herself. All I am interested in is that we are not going to have enough doctors.

The problem is also a result of the increased income of doctors. They have moved up to the top of the income scale. The top incomes in the Australian community are earned by doctors. The accountants come second. Doctors have moved right up on the income scale and consequently they no longer have to go out to country centres to make a quid. They can make a very big income at places like Surfers Paradise and Brisbane.

Mr. Melloy: They are getting more than the Minister.

Mr. KATTER: That is very true. The registration of interns and that sort of thing is very relevant to the Bill. I went to the four country towns in my electorate and asked each of the doctors if they could list for me in order of priority the most important factors that influenced doctors to go back to the cities. In order of priority the first and foremost thing they asserted is that they worked or were on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every week of the year. That is true for country doctors. I must highly compliment the Minister because within about two months of taking over his portfolio he had introduced the relief doctor system into Queensland. That was the first and most crucial thing that was needed to retain doctors in country areas.

The second factor they listed—and this is very important—related to harsh living conditions in the West such as heat, dust, flies, the small number of people, and so on. It

is regrettable but true that, although we are desperately seeking doctors in most of these small towns, in many cases the housing provided for them is nothing less than appalling, and probably below that of everyone else in the town. In most of the western towns in my area it would certainly be the worst accommodation provided for businessmen and the more highly paid professionals. I plead with the Minister to make very forceful representations to the powers that be to secure air-conditioning for these people. I have made this point before. We get the case of a young doctor married to a girl—typically from Brisbane—whom he has met at university and who comes from a high socio income bracket. They come to a place like Julia Creek, with a ground temperature of 170 degrees, and are expected to live in a house with no fly-screening. All she wants to do is run back to mother in Brisbane. He has a hell of a problem on his hands. All he can do is stall her off for six months and then leave the town. That is exactly what happened with the last three doctors at Julia Creek. The installation of air-conditioning is a very simple procedure. It provides some sort of moisture in the air and keeps dust, flies and other things out of the house. It gives cool, livable conditions, conditions probably a little better than the same people would enjoy in Brisbane. I plead with the Health Department to provide air-conditioning in these houses.

The third matter mentioned is a very pertinent factor which conflicts with statements made by some of my colleagues who are in the medical profession. Each of the doctors I spoke to agreed that by taking western service they put themselves back in the promotion scale.

Dr. Edwards interjected.

Mr. KATTER: The Minister disagrees with me, but that is what the doctors told me. The Minister is probably right but they believe that they are being put down the ladder if they are sent to the West. If the Minister, through the Health Department, could get the message through to them that that is not the case, it would be very helpful.

In that context they raised a further point. They say that if they go back to the city they will do so as G.P.'s wanting to specialise. They say that as specialists, they will eventually be on about \$75,000. But at the stage when they return to the city they are far behind. I do not want to embarrass the medical practitioners in the Chamber, but typically they move eventually to that income. If doctors spend three years in the western area, that puts them three years behind the time that they would reach this high income bracket; they are three years behind in establishing a house in Brisbane and they are three years behind in whatever programme they have mapped out for themselves, whether in the field of specialisation, promotion in the service, or income for G.P.s.

The last point that each of them raised was that ever since the Phoenicians invented money it has been one sure way of convincing people to do something. Proof of this can be found in Dr. Harvey Sutton's medical practice which was set up in Cloncurry and surrounding areas. It is now being extended to Charters Towers. I thank him on behalf of my electorate. He was able to secure 65 applications for eight vacancies for his fine medical service. These people were to be stationed at places like Normanton, Mary Kathleen and Cloncurry. It was amazing that he could do that, but he offered terms and conditions that were far better and far more lucrative than those being offered by the Health Department, which at the time was making similar appeals in England. Although it has been said that doctors cannot be recruited for country areas, ever since the Phoenicians invented money there has been one sure way of enticing people to the country. The fact that Dr. Harvey Sutton has received 65 applications for his service is evidence of what can be achieved if the right inducement is offered.

The last point I make is rather a drastic sort of solution to the problem, but we are fast reaching the stage where drastic solutions are needed. Following an accident I have waited at the Royal Brisbane Hospital for nearly an hour before someone came to attend to people I was with. In towns such as Julia Creek, where they are without a doctor for nearly six months of the year, a serious situation exists. It will take a lot of people a lot of guts to find answers to the problems. A solution that I put up has been suggested by a very senior person in the department. I impress upon honourable members that it costs \$100,000 of the taxpayers' money to produce one doctor—a person who when he goes out into society will be the apex of society for the rest of his days and will have everything society has to offer in terms of money, prestige and low working hours. He has just about everything society has to offer.

Dr. Lockwood: Nonsense.

Mr. KATTER: I am quoting the tax man when I speak about the income. I most certainly do not think anyone here would question that doctors enjoy extremely high prestige in the community. I do not think anyone would question that for a moment.

Dr. Scott-Young: So does a politician.

Mr. KATTER: I will ignore the last interjection.

It has been suggested to me that, whereas we bind them now for their internship (the last year of their training, so to speak), they should be bound for 18 months and that a year at the start of their medical course be chopped out. I am told by people in the department that that year consists mainly of subjects not related to the practice of medicine. They are highly technical matters in the field of chemistry and various other areas which are irrelevant to the medical

course. I have heard that from lecturers in the medical department at the university. I have heard it so constantly over a period of 15 years that I cannot doubt that there is definite credence in what they are saying. The suggestion of chopping out the first year and replacing it by an additional six months' internship is one that should be seriously considered by the Health Department if the present shortage continues.

Dr. Edwards: They are not bound for the final year. They can do it anywhere in Australia.

Mr. KATTER: As far as I can see, the Minister has the use of all those people. Why can't he have the use of them for an extra six months? That is a radical suggestion, but I think that the present situation calls for radical measures.

Finally, I mention two aspects. I strongly support the very intelligent proposals put forward by the member for Mackay. We hear the matter of equality being spoken about. There are so many things that the small country doctor or hospital cannot do. People have to be flown away for medical attention. We help them to fly out, but there is a means test. A porter in the railway—the lowest possible classification—could not meet the means test. In those circumstances I think it is reasonable to presume that very few people could meet the means test. For those people there is no free medical service. Before they can benefit from much of the medical service they have to be flown to a capital city. That is something that the Health Department must consider carefully. It is a very serious situation. The person mentioned was up for \$300. Three months prior to that he was called on to make the same trip. With all his expenses, that was nearly \$1,000 out of his pocket. That is a lot of money for a working man, and it is extremely difficult for him to find it. Nor is the cost covered by Medibank.

The other matter refers to the idea that Medibank covers everything. There are large, yawning gaps in Medibank and the service covered by medical benefit funds and various other health insurance funds. Recently a Charters Towers man went to a specialist in Townsville. He was charged \$150 over the scheduled fee. Medibank would not meet that amount. He was a member of a health insurance fund. He went to get his health insurance and was told, "We are sorry. It was an operation. We can give you only \$5." I do not know whether it was an operation or what it was, but he could only get \$5. So there is a huge shortfall in certain areas; there is a huge area that is not covered; and this particular person, who was a janitor at a school and had no money, thought he was covered but he had to find an extra \$150.

(Time expired.)

Mr. GLASSON (Gregory) (9.21 p.m.): I should like to make a few comments on the Bill to amend the Medical Act 1930–1973 in certain particulars. We see this as a direct

and positive move on the part of the Minister and the department to try to introduce into the medical field in Queensland or into the department itself serving officers who might otherwise have been held out or, to put it another way, to make the registration simpler but without any reduction in the standard of the medical profession. Anything that will induce or entice more doctors to Queensland is certainly welcome.

As we heard from the honourable member for Flinders, certain areas of Queensland are drastically short of medical services. I would have to challenge his claim that he is in the most isolated area in regard to doctors, because in my one-third of Queensland we have the services of only three resident doctors to cater for 7,000 people. In recent years the department has made positive attempts to try to overcome this situation. I compliment the Minister on what he has introduced into the Health Department to alleviate in some way the problem of the scarcity of doctors in Western Queensland.

I cannot help referring to the first comment of the honourable member for Flinders, that is, the appointment of relief doctors in those areas of isolation. It was a fact that the overwork and stress on the doctors who were serving in those areas resulted from their being on call to the public basically 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while they were in the area; that is, except when they were on leave. And we talk about overstrain and stress! Nothing better than the provision of relief doctors has been introduced to make the doctors in that area happier and more contented.

The method of change-over could need pruning at different centres. I should like to be more specific on this matter. The aircraft from Longreach could visit, for example, Winton to attend to a middy case and the actual delivery of the child. The complete writing up of the ticket pertaining to the child in the two specific cases brought to my notice left much to be desired. Be that as it may, let us not take any credit from what has been done.

Let us look at the other method of making doctors more contented in western areas, which is the improvement of conditions under which they live. Let us make it quite clear that the Minister, in a sincere effort a very short time ago—as a matter of fact I think it was three Cabinet meetings ago—proposed that every doctor's residence west of the Great Dividing Range be air-conditioned, at the very meagre cost of \$100,000. One would have to question the decision of Cabinet not to approve the proposal. The only reason would have to be the thought of a flow-on to other public servants.

Let us be specific about the need to keep the most important people—the medical officers—in the western areas. People in those areas are not contented if they are without a medical service of some kind or other. They want this service, and preferably their own in their own town.

I bring to the notice of the Committee one specific example of the work of the Flying Surgeon based at Longreach who services a vast area extending from Cloncurry in a semi-circle to Clermont down as far as Roma and Charleville. On one day the week before last the surgeon spent all day in the theatre carrying out brain surgery on a railway employee who had been hit whilst on his trolley. As I said, he operated all day. The aircraft then took off and headed for Clermont. At some ungodly hour the aircraft returned after the surgeon had operated in Clermont and departed early the following morning for Charleville. The people are, after all, our main concern, and their well-being is the responsibility of the doctor in the area. While the doctor is in his bed surely it is only reasonable that he can expect to have a night free from torment by insects, especially at this time of the year, and a cool bed in which to sleep. I think that that is the least that we can offer anybody if we expect him to service such areas of the State.

I pay the highest tribute to the Flying Surgeons who have operated in the western areas since the introduction of this service. Without any shadow of doubt this is the greatest acquisition to the health services of Western Queensland in the last quarter of a century. The lives that have been saved by the Flying Surgeon are too numerous to mention.

At Quilpie, at the southern end of my electorate, the medical officer resigned before his contract expired. There were no fewer than 16 maternity cases pending over the two months of the coming wet season and I requested that the deepest consideration be given to providing a medical superintendent for the area. I was informed by the department that the medical care of the people of Quilpie was in the hands of the doctors at Cunnamulla and Charleville on alternate visits.

Let me make it perfectly clear that it was completely impossible, because of the state of a dirt road, even if the Bulloo and Paroo Rivers had been crossable, to get to Quilpie during the wet season. Even with the services of a Queenair aircraft and an I.F.R. pilot available in Charleville, it is still impossible to find Quilpie because it has no navigational aids. This is well known to the honourable member for Archerfield who was circling, also with an I.F.R. pilot, in an endeavour to find Quilpie one day when we got out and he was coming in. It is simply impossible to find. I know of three occasions on which the Flying Doctor has had to circle in an absolutely soupy sky without any chance of finding Quilpie, eventually having to return to Charleville.

These are matters that I should like to bring to the notice of the Committee because, no matter how good the pilot is, it is impossible without navigational aids to find the place where the doctor has to be taken.

In such conditions there is no possible chance of getting patients out by road. The only other course of action is to take pregnant women out two weeks before delivery. I think all will appreciate that many women have no earthly chance of meeting the cost of accommodation in Charleville for two months before delivery of the baby. Secondly, they cannot afford to have someone else look after the family during the time that they are away. Those are some of the things that I hope the department will give deep consideration to.

Mention has been made of the supply of doctors. We have been told specifically that the number of doctors coming through the medical schools is limited because of the training facilities which exist. In addition the shortage of doctors available to give lectures, quite apart from the university staff, has limited the output from the medical schools. We know that there have been increases in training facilities over the past years in centres such as Toowoomba, Ipswich and Brisbane. We were led to believe that, when free education was introduced, the supply of bonded doctors would diminish drastically. Certainly the number has diminished from the early days, but in recent years although the department has offered medical scholarships, even the scholarship-holders found even the living costs beyond their means. An increase in the number of these scholarships would be another way to make medical care available to isolated areas. In fact, these students are working under a contract scholarship offered by the department.

I believe that the contentment of young doctors in western Queensland would be greatly enhanced if, as mentioned by the honourable member for Rockhampton, they felt that they could return to Brisbane for three months every year for lectures, and in doing so feel that they were not falling behind the latest concepts in both practical and theoretical sides of medicine. I agree with the honourable member for Toowoomba North that in these smaller and more isolated areas the doctor does not have enough work to keep him occupied and that if a doctor were allowed to attend these lectures he could then return and find that, with time on his hands, he could in fact study for a post-graduate degree. We are told that there will eventually be an adequate supply of doctors. I cannot see this in the foreseeable future, but at least there has been an honest attempt by the department to improve medical services for those in the more isolated areas.

One would have to compliment the Minister on the fact that he is in the process of compiling a plan to give improved health services to the people of Western Queensland. I instance the proposed rural health scheme. I know he has taken a very realistic view on the introduction of such a scheme and he has invited suggestions from doctors. It is intended to have discussions with doctors, local authorities and other people concerned before the scheme is eventually brought into being.

I would say from his short term as Minister that there has never been a more sincere effort to improve the health facilities of the people of Western Queensland or at least maintain them. I cannot help but commend this Bill and express to the Minister my full appreciation.

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (9.35 p.m.): I rise to make a few comments on the contributions made by honourable members—some who knew what they were talking about and some who obviously did not. I have had some small dealings with doctors in my time. I come from an electorate where there are very few complaints about doctors. It may be fortunate, but that is the fact.

Over the years, Mr. Hewitt, one has heard many criticisms of doctors for not doing this and not doing that. Most of the people who criticise doctors for not working every hour of the day and night are people who will not work even 40 hours a week themselves. I have found that the greatest critics of doctors, those who expect doctors to work 100 hours a week, are people who will not work even 40 hours a week. It should be understood by everyone that doctors must have adequate time off.

The debate has certainly been wide-ranging, so I do not think it would be inappropriate for me to mention community health centres, which are an important part of the activities of the Department of Health.

In my electorate of Murrumba, about 25 kilometres from Redcliffe is the very important town of Caboolture. Redcliffe has a very fine hospital, and Caboolture has a very good medical service. There are doctors there whose names I do not intend to mention for fear of embarrassing them and who give good service. I can honestly say that I hear nothing but good of the doctors in Caboolture and the doctor in Woodford. Incidentally, Woodford had problems in obtaining a doctor, but one was finally obtained with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce.

In my opinion, a community health centre plays a very important role in any community because it provides services and facilities that doctors have no time to provide. Many old people take advantage of the associated services provided in addition to medical services at community health centres. Therefore, on behalf of the Caboolture Shire Council, I recently made an application to the Minister for such a centre. The Council has very generously offered to donate one of the best blocks of land in Caboolture—it is in the main part of the town—and it is also prepared to provide off-street parking for the centre.

Unfortunately, its attitude is in direct contrast with that of the Redcliffe City Council. On 11 February, the Speaker (Honourable J. E. H. Houghton) and I introduced a deputation from the Redcliffe City Council to the Minister for Health. The Redcliffe

City Council is the local authority controlling the area in which the Department of Health proposes to build a community health centre that will eventually have a staff of about 60. Under the Redcliffe City Council's town plan for commercial buildings, it has imposed the ridiculous condition of 157 car-parking spaces for a three-storey building at which there will be a staff of only 60 at the most, and that will not be for a few years yet. One would think that the Health Department was endeavouring to erect a building in Redcliffe that would only be detrimental to the area. There are not even 157 car-parking spaces in the main street of Redcliffe.

As I said, the Speaker and I brought that deputation to see the Minister. I must admit that I was against it right from the beginning. I thought it was the most ridiculous deputation I had ever been on. Over the past six years the Redcliffe City Council has had the same old group on deputations. In fact, they are known as the born losers; they have never won a deputation. Alderman Wallace, who is the secretary of the Queensland State Service Union and also an alderman of the Redcliffe City Council, criticised the Minister and said that he had tried to stand over them. One of the aldermen on the deputation weighed about 19 stone and was 6 feet 4 ins. in height. Can honourable members imagine the Minister, with his height and weight, trying to stand over a man that size? I was on that deputation, and I believe that some of the aldermen of the Redcliffe City Council tried to stand over the Minister. They thought that, because he was a new Minister and had held the portfolio for only about 12 months, he was a fairly easy mark. However, he proved to be too damned tough for them and showed those qualities that one expects to find in a Minister. At least he had enough backbone to stand up and say that if the community health centre is going to be in Redcliffe—and it is going to be there—there will be only 14 car-parking spaces, which is all that is needed there.

Mr. Casey: Why don't you practise on them with your javelin?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I certainly would like to. I think that on the 27th of next month the people of Redcliffe might get rid of some of the aldermen of the Redcliffe City Council.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. FRAWLEY: As far as I am concerned, the community health centre is going to be built in Redcliffe. One of the aldermen said by innuendo at a council meeting that the Minister and I had threatened that if the council was not satisfied with the 14 off-street car parking spaces to be provided by the Health Department, the community health centre would be transferred to Caboolture. The council tried to put me

in the gun. It tried to make out that I had said that if it did not agree the community health centre would be transferred to Caboolture. That is a damned lie, because only the day before I had made representations to the Minister to build a community health centre at Caboolture. I still want one in Redcliffe, and it is going to be built in Redcliffe.

I do not think that by speaking about the community health centre in the electorate of Redcliffe I am treading on the toes of our revered Speaker, a man whom we all love and cherish. As honourable members know, the Speaker does not have much opportunity to speak about these matters, and I believe that it is quite reasonable for me to carry the banner on behalf of the citizens of Redcliffe. We want a community health centre in Redcliffe, but we want one at Caboolture also.

Mr. Jensen: A little town like Caboolture?

Mr. FRAWLEY: All the small towns in my electorate—Caboolture, Wamuran, Mt. Mee, Delaney's Creek, Dayboro—are just as important to me as any of the big towns. That explains why I got a majority of 4,760 votes at the last election.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have been distracted by the honourable member for Bundaberg. He does that every time I get up to speak. He always tries—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will come back to the Bill. He has been far away from it for the whole of his speech.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Mr. Hewitt, I honestly believed that you were allowing members a lot of latitude. You have been very generous in allowing a lot of latitude.

The CHAIRMAN: I have been, but even my generosity runs out.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I congratulate the Minister on introducing the Bill. Of course, it is not before time. Opposition members attempt to denigrate the Health Department at every opportunity. This is one occasion on which they have failed miserably. Again I congratulate the Minister on introducing the Bill, and I hope to have more to say about it at the second-reading stage.

Mr. LAMOND (Wynnum) (9.42 p.m.): When we are debating medical Bills we enter a somewhat emotional field. This type of legislation does concern us greatly, because many people throughout the community, owing to their own state of health, frequently call on us to improve the conditions under which they can receive the treatment and service they urgently require.

The comments made by the Minister about the Bill were many and varied, and I do not propose to go into any great detail about them. However, the Minister did refer to the

control of after-hours medical call services. He indicated that no by-laws are provided to prescribe the standards under which those people who staff such centres should operate. Most of us have had the experience of calling on one of these after-hours services. It is very easy for the patient or the person calling on behalf of the patient to become emotionally disturbed and turn to the person in charge for professional advice. In the late hours of the night or the early hours of the morning the person calling one of these centres does not concern himself with the fact that the person spoken to is not a doctor, specialist or person trained to answer medical questions. Frequently questions are asked to which no satisfactory answers can be given by the person called. That is pertinent to the Minister's comment that he is going to legislate to have some control over the requirements for these centres.

We have heard from other speakers about great problems associated with medical treatment. We must look at areas of dense population such as my own electorate of Wynnum. Although it has a population of some 14,000, the electorate is so located that it becomes the service centre for about 60,000 people. Our private practitioners, representing a figure something in excess of 20, would service that number of people. They are doing a very fine job, and their after-hours call service is working very well. Unfortunately too many people do not familiarise themselves with the details of this after-hours service. I have heard comments by people in my electorate who, have rung the prescribed number in the early hours of the morning and found that it is removed from the Wynnum district. They have been greatly disturbed and have not realised that after making the phone call a doctor would be contacted quite quickly by radio. In those circumstances they have panicked and immediately placed the patient in their own vehicle or rung for an ambulance to rush the patient to the outpatient section at one of the two major hospitals in Brisbane. If doctors are to use this after-hours service, the people must be made much more familiar with it so that they may know exactly what is happening when they make a phone call late at night. Although this facility is rendering a service to meet medical requirements, I feel that it is only a stop-gap. Whilst the medical profession is doing an excellent job in trying to meet all patients' requirements, in many instances patients ultimately go to hospital. As other honourable members have said, Medibank and various other aids for people seeking medical treatment are not the immediate answer to the problems.

Those who have travelled by ambulance from any of the outlying areas know the difficulties. I place Wynnum in that category. Although it is only 12 miles from Brisbane, in heavy traffic it takes from 25 to 35 minutes to get to one of the outpatient

sections in Brisbane. At virtually any hour of the day the patient is then confronted with too few doctors trying to handle too many patients. In the meantime, the patient has travelled some considerable distance and is well and truly disturbed.

Today, local government, Governments and the Health Department are looking to decentralisation to take staff to the people. I am pleased to note that in the past 12 months the Minister opened a centre at Wynnum which is covering several centres very successfully. Last year the Minister referred to the concept of peripheral hospitals. This was a further step in decentralisation whereby the hospital came to the people. Instead of the people going to the major hospitals in the city, cottage hospitals came to the people.

Those who attended the Moreton Regional Study heard that probably the greatest growth in the region will take place in the south-eastern area of Brisbane. That area already contains a population of about 60,000. If the study group is correct in its assessment, 20 years from now that number will more than double. I ask the Minister to pursue his line of thought on peripheral hospitals which I referred to earlier and in this way decentralise hospitals in outlying areas so that people may receive treatment and be hospitalised quickly, because delays will certainly be more extensive on our main arterial roads with the great increase in traffic flow. As I said, it now takes from 25 to 35 minutes to travel from Wynnum to the outpatient sections in Brisbane.

Dr. Edwards interjected.

Mr. LAMOND: I misunderstood the Minister. I thought he had approved of cottage-type hospitals.

Dr. Edwards: I wrote to you about that.

Mr. LAMOND: The Minister said that he does not support the idea; however, I still support the concept of taking hospitals to the people so that they can avoid the heavy traffic problems experienced in getting to the two main hospitals in Brisbane.

The Minister has written to me about the Mt. Gravatt Hospital. For people in my electorate that is no great improvement. We are well removed from that area. If the Minister is not supporting the idea of a peripheral hospital maybe he is supporting the idea of major hospitals. If that idea is to be pursued in the south-east region of the Brisbane area, I would be more than delighted to see a major hospital in our area. I ask the Minister to consider points such as that. There is no doubt that land will become more difficult to obtain; nor is there any doubt in my mind that a hospital will be needed in my area. I do intend to continue to pursue this matter.

I rose to speak mainly in support of the comments made by the Minister in introducing the Bill. However, I have laid particular stress on the control of after-hours medical call services and the other sections which I trust will in many ways make the situation slightly easier for those people in a highly emotional period of their lives by enabling them to receive treatment a little sooner.

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (9.52 p.m.): I rise to speak briefly on the legislation before the Committee. I congratulate the Minister on his presentation of the Bill. Much has been said about the moves to tidy up the call services of doctors, the registration of doctors and the retention of parts of the anatomy for longer periods.

However, I rose mainly to speak briefly on the subject raised by my colleagues the honourable member for Flinders and the honourable member for Gregory, that is, the shortage of doctors in western areas. I think they covered the matter fairly adequately. There is a definite need for more doctors in our areas. As they stated also, there is a need for the air-conditioning of doctors' homes. Anyone in this Chamber would agree with that. Accommodation is a problem in some areas; the residences for doctors are not up to a very high standard at all. I would like to see the Health Department provide better accommodation for doctors in western areas.

Another matter—and this was not touched on by the other western members—relates to the air-conditioning of ambulances. I believe ambulances in western areas should be air-conditioned. Anyone with any experience of western areas would realise the need for air-conditioning with the heat and the dust we experience.

The honourable member for Salisbury spoke about geriatric accommodation in city areas. There is a definite need for geriatric units in Charleville, Cunnamulla and many other areas, too. People in those areas in the later years of their lives do not wish to be shifted to accommodation down in the cities, where they would be away from their relatives and friends. They wish to remain in the areas where they have lived all their lives. I ask the Health Department to consider building geriatric units out in western areas so that old people are not taken away from that part of the country where they have spent most of their lives.

There is a bigger shortage of dentists in western areas than there is of doctors. I would like to see the department take some action in that direction, too.

One problem that I have encountered in my area—and it may be unique to that area—is associated with spastic children. I think the Health Department should look into it. I have been given several instances of parents of spastic children from the West having to send their children down to the spastic centre in Brisbane for teaching and tuition. The parents experience a problem in relation to travelling. They have to travel down with their children, who are allowed out over holiday periods. At the beginning of the year the parents have to travel down with the child, return home, then travel down again to pick him up for holidays, take him home and then return him to Brisbane. Many of these people are not wealthy and this is a tremendous expense for them to meet. I have written to the Minister for Health about it and I am hopeful that something can be done to assist the parents of spastic children who live in western areas and have to meet the tremendous expense of travelling back and forth to Brisbane.

I do not wish to speak at any great length at this stage of the debate. I congratulate the Minister on the attitude that he has adopted towards his portfolio. I thank him for his visits to my area and for the visit he proposes to make on 1 and 2 April. I point out that when he has visited my area on those dates he will have visited every hospital in the Warrego electorate. I congratulate him on his zeal and the attitude that he adopts towards his portfolio.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (9.56 p.m.), in reply: I thank all honourable members for the contributions that they have made. Because of the lateness of the hour and the length of the discussion that has taken place I do not intend at this stage—unfortunately, I think—to reply to the comments that have been made. The Bill has obviously created a tremendous amount of interest. When I reply at the second-reading stage I will be only too pleased to comment on many of the points raised. The matters that have been raised have been most interesting. I have arranged for explanatory notes printed on pink paper to accompany the Bill when it is printed and I hope they will be of use to honourable members in their reading of the Bill.

Motion (Dr. Edwards) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Dr. Edwards, read a first time.

The House adjourned at 9.58 p.m.