

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 1976**

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## WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 1976

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

### ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CLAYFIELD RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from Mr. J. Murray, member for the electoral district of Clayfield:—

"10th March, 1976

"The Honourable the Speaker,  
"Parliament House,  
"Brisbane, Q. 4000

"Dear Mr. Speaker,

"I herewith tender my resignation as a representative of the Electorate of Clayfield and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, to take effect from today's date.

"Yours sincerely,

"John Murray,

"Member for Clayfield."

### SEAT DECLARED VACANT

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

"That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Clayfield hath become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of the said John Murray, Esquire."

Motion agreed to.

### PAPERS

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

Report of Net Surplus Profits of the State Government Insurance Office (Queensland) for the year 1974–75.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

Poultry Industry Act Amendment Act 1975.

The Sugar Acquisition Act of 1915.

Wheat Delivery Quotas Act 1970–1974.

Wine Industry Act 1974.

Orders in Council under—

Audit Acts Amendment Act 1926–1971.

Racing and Betting Act 1954–1975.

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.

The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1964.

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959–1974.

The City of Brisbane Market Acts, 1960 to 1967.

Margarine Act 1958–1975.

Meat Industry Act 1965–1973.

The Milk Supply Acts, 1952 to 1961.  
Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923–1974.

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926–1973.

Stock Act 1915–1974.

Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900–1973.

Wheat Pool Act 1920–1972.

Regulations under—

Motor Vehicle Insurance Act 1936–1975.

Stamp Act 1894–1975.

Insurance Act 1960–1975.

Pay-roll Tax Act 1971–1975.

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959–1974.

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966–1972.

Fruit and Vegetables Act 1947–1972.

The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1964.

Meat Industry Act 1965–1973.

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926–1973.

Stock Act 1915–1974.

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1, 2 and 3. NEW COMMONWEALTH-STATE TAX-SHARING SCHEME

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

(1) Referring to Mr. Fraser's proposed new Commonwealth and State tax-sharing, if, as the Prime Minister has said, the State's returns on income tax will be indexed, how will the State Government finance extensions of existing services or the introduction of new services under such a scheme when this ensures no real growth in revenue from this source?

(2) Under the proposed tax-sharing scheme between the Commonwealth and States, will any expansion of State services have to be financed by the State Government having to resort to introducing or increasing the State surcharge, that is, increasing State taxes?

(3) In view of his expressed doubts concerning the proposed tax-sharing scheme, when will he be in a position to make a full statement to the Parliament on the details and implications of the plan?

Answers:—

(1) It is too early to indicate what the effect of tax indexation would be on the proposals for tax-sharing as put to the States by the Prime Minister at the Premiers' Conference. This would depend upon what protections and guarantees are included in the final arrangement so as to ensure that the States receive a minimum progression of revenue without taking into

account any income tax surcharge imposed by them. The provision of such protections and guarantees is still under consideration.

(2) This would depend upon the movement in total personal income tax collections and/or the final arrangements adopted in relation to the protections and guarantees referred to in the answer to part (1) of the question.

(3) My ability to make a full statement to the House on the details and implications of the plan will obviously depend upon the length of time taken to settle those details. The matter is being moved along as expeditiously as possible by both the Commonwealth and State Governments but, of course, from the State's point of view the time at which any agreement to the proposals will be expressed will depend upon the preparedness of the Commonwealth Government to finalise aspects of the arrangement which do give the State adequate protections so that it cannot be left worse off than under existing arrangements.

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

(1) Under Mr. Fraser's proposed new Commonwealth and State tax-sharing proposal, is there any provision for the continuation of the betterment factor, and, if not, what will be the likely effect on Queensland's financial position?

(2) If there is no provision for the continuation of the betterment factor, what effect will this have on the State's ability to expand existing services and/or introduce new services?

(3) If there is no provision for the continuation of the betterment factor, how will the State Government finance any increase in existing services or finance the introduction of new services?

*Answers:—*

(1) The continuation of a betterment factor is not an aspect of the broad preliminary outline of the proposals put to the States by the Prime Minister at the February Premiers' Conference. However, the question of certain protections and guarantees for the States has been raised in the negotiation of the detailed arrangements, one of which would be to ensure that the States did continue to receive in the context of a minimum entitlement the equivalent of the effect of the betterment factor along with other factors in the financial assistance grant formula. The final details of the proposals are still to be resolved.

(2 and 3) Under a scheme of the nature proposed, a betterment factor is relevant only to the extent that such might be incorporated in the calculation of an amount under an arrangement for the

guarantee of a minimum grant to the States. Without such guarantee the State's ability to expand or introduce new services would largely depend on the rate of escalation of income tax collections, the introduction of an income tax surcharge or the introduction or increase of other forms of State taxation. As I mentioned in (1), the concept of a guaranteed minimum entitlement has been proposed but the details are still being negotiated. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that for my part I will do all within my power to ensure that, before the Queensland Government enters into any new financial agreement with the Commonwealth Government, all the terms and conditions are fully spelt out and that the future rights of this State are fully protected.

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

(1) Referring to Mr. Fraser's proposed new Commonwealth and State tax-sharing, what guarantee has the Commonwealth Government given to the States that it will not alter the rate structures or assessment provisions and thereby adversely affect the revenues of the States?

(2) What guarantees has the Commonwealth Government given to States as to the amount which the States would get if the Commonwealth adopts the Asprey Committee's recommendations and reduces the comparative incidence of income tax and enters the value-added tax field?

(3) What guarantees has the Commonwealth Government given to States after the introduction of tax-sharing in regard to protecting the States' financial position against a downturn in income tax yields beyond 1976-77?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) The Prime Minister assured the February Premiers' Conference that, under the tax-sharing arrangements proposed by his Government, if there were any basic change to the structure of the tax or any basic change to the weight of income tax compared with some other tax, the matter would be examined so that the States were not disadvantaged by it.

(3) The Commonwealth has also advised that it envisages the States as being protected against a fall, in absolute terms, in their entitlements under Stage I of the scheme from one year to another, Stage I being that part of the scheme which would provide the States with a continuing share of income tax collections regardless of any surcharges imposed by the States. Inquiries made by the States following the Premiers' Conference indicated that Stage I of the scheme in this context has no limitation as to time so that there would be no difference between the protections available in 1976-77 and in the years beyond that year.

4. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS FOR SCHOOLS

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

(1) Because of the location of many schools on major roads, are students experiencing both difficulties and dangers crossing these roads?

(2) Has this problem been aggravated by a significant increase in both traffic flow and the number of students in recent years?

(3) What significant improvements have there been in recent years to these crossings to ensure greater safety?

(4) Because of the type of pedestrian using the school crossings, should they be considered in a different light to other pedestrian crossings?

(5) As any major change, particularly in the metropolitan area, will probably involve a number of departments such as Local Government, Education, Police and others, will he, as a matter of urgency, confer with his ministerial colleagues to have this problem of school crossings rectified and dealt with as soon as possible?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) I agree that there could be some problem areas and that this would be compounded by the location, size and nature of the school allied to its proximity to minor and major traffic routes.

(3) Physical improvement to pedestrian crossings is not a matter coming within my administration but is one for the appropriate traffic authority.

(4 and 5) Whilst I share the honourable member's concern, warrants for pedestrian crossings and details as to their markings, including school crossings, are provided in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices issued by the Commissioner of Main Roads. The honourable member may wish to address his inquiry in this regard to the appropriate Minister.

5. ILLEGALITIES FINDING IN THE SOUTHPORT S.P. BETTING CASE

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

(1) In view of the recent Full Court decision which unanimously upheld the magistrate's ruling in the Southport S.P. betting case and found that the prosecution evidence in that case was tainted with illegality, have such acts of illegality been examined to ascertain if they are such as would constitute offences against the Criminal Code?

(2) If so, who carried out such legal examination and will charges be brought against the police officers who were responsible for the illegality?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Certain aspects of this matter are presently receiving consideration by the Crown's legal adviser.

6. AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY, AUSTRALIAN CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

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

(1) What are the links by way of directorships between the Australian Permanent Building Society, the Australian Co-operative Development Society and the Rural Development Co-operative Society?

(2) Are any of these bodies under investigation over the disappearance of over \$1,000,000 of members' funds?

(3) Has the Police Fraud Squad yet been called in to play any part in the investigation?

*Answers:—*

(1) Of the current directorships recorded in the Office of the Registrar of Building Societies in respect of the three societies named, only Messrs. C. A. Sinclair and G. Knudsen are shown as directors of the Australian Permanent Building Society and Bowkett and Australian Co-operative Development Society Limited. There are no other common directorships between these societies recorded in that office.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes.

7. CAPITAL WORKS FOR PRE-SCHOOLS AND CHILD-CARE

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

(1) In view of the public concern expressed recently regarding the possibility of a cut-back in the capital works programme of State pre-schools between now and the end of this financial year, has this situation been brought about by any action of the Commonwealth Government's Children's Commission?

(2) Does the Children's Commission seem to favour child-care or child-minding, as distinct from pre-school education?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The honourable member has referred to the possibility of a cut-back in the capital programme of State pre-schools. Let me make it quite clear that the Federal Government has not cut back on allocations made in this area by the former Labor Government. In this year's Federal Budget, provision was made to the States of sums adequate to meet existing commitments only. No moneys were allotted

for new projects. What the present Government has done is to confirm that the position as provided for by the previous Government will stand in so far as the State pre-school capital programme is concerned but that, as part of its programme of reducing expenditures as an economy restoration measure, no funds will be allocated for new commitments. This is, of course, most disappointing from the point of view of the State Government. We have over some three years spent about \$22,000,000 on capital developments in the State pre-school area, of which about \$7,000,000, or one-third, has been provided by the Commonwealth. We still have about \$28,000,000 to spend over the next four to five years to complete the programme and our planning is based on a continuation of the present level of Commonwealth support. Expenditure in the current financial year will now be below expectations but will nevertheless reach a level of \$8,700,000, of which \$3,200,000 will come from the Commonwealth in respect of commitments brought forward from 1974-75. As Minister responsible for negotiating with the Commonwealth on child-care matters in this State, I have written to the Federal Minister (Senator Guilfoyle) expressing disappointment at the Commonwealth's decision in this matter and asking that the Commonwealth stay with this joint programme which does and will mean so much to the pre-school children of this State.

#### 8. SECRET TAPE RECORDINGS BY THURINGOWA SHIRE COUNCILLOR

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

Has his attention been drawn to the published fact that an A.L.P. councillor of the Thuringowa Shire admitted that he makes secret tape recordings of all conversations which take place in his home between himself and people who interview him on council business and, if so, is this a breach of the Invasion of Privacy Act or any other legislation, and can action be taken either by the Crown or the unfortunate person interviewing the councillor, who is so spied upon without his knowledge or consent?

*Answer:—*

My attention has not been drawn to the publication referred to by the honourable member. Attention is drawn to the provisions of sections 43 and 44 of the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971, which is administered by my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. The sections in question deal with prohibitions on the use of listening devices and on the communication or publication of private conversations unlawfully listened to. I am advised that the prohibitions in

question do not apply where the person using the listening device is a party to the private conversation.

#### 9. CHANGE OF NAME FOR CITY COUNCIL BALLOT ADVANTAGE, TOWNSVILLE

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

Did an A.L.P. nominee for the forthcoming municipal election, who altered her name so that her name will appear on the ballot-paper in the election for Townsville aldermen in a much higher position than if it had not been altered, commit any breach of any law and does this snide action invalidate her nomination, particularly in view of the fact that her husband, who is not a candidate, has not altered his name similarly?

*Answer:—*

Before replying to this question I might say that a person would have to be a pretty weak candidate if, as the honourable member suggests, she has to change her name, in an attempt to obtain some political advantage, to one starting with A, B or C rather than O, P, Q, R or S. If that is the only attribute that she has in presenting herself for local government honours, the people of Townsville will certainly hear about it. I am not aware of any breach of law in respect of such action and I am advised that the nomination could well be valid. I think that this will at least let the people of Townsville know one of her attributes.

#### 10. DEFERMENT OF DRINK-DRIVING CASE AGAINST MR. PARKER, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Was a man named Parker, the Australian Labor Party organiser stationed at Townsville, arrested and charged with drink-driving following his demolition of a fence while driving and, if so, when was he charged and when did he first appear before the Townsville court?

(2) Did Parker state in court or elsewhere that his case would not be dealt with until after the municipal elections as he needed the car for A.L.P. propaganda purposes and, if so, when is it proposed to bring Parker's case before the court for determination?

(3) As any adjournment of the trial of this case could be construed as a prostitution by him of the procedures of the court, will an urgent inquiry be made into the periods and circumstances of any adjournments?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am not aware of the circumstances of this matter.

(2 and 3) The granting of any adjournment is a matter of discretion for the court. I would suggest in the circumstances that the question be directed to the Minister for Police.

11. TRAFFIC SIGNALS FOR IPSWICH  
HIGHWAY INTERSECTION, DARRA

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

(1) Has the Department of Main Roads given consideration to the installation of traffic signals on the Brisbane to Ipswich Highway at its intersection with Archerfield Road and Scott's Road, Darra?

(2) Has an application been made to the Commonwealth Government for finance for this installation?

(3) Was finance provided by the Commonwealth authorities to the State Government for this work?

(4) What is the estimated cost of the work and, if finance has been provided, when will these traffic signals be installed?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) The 1975-76 miters programme includes installation of signals and channelisation at Scott's Road, which also incorporates Archerfield Road.

(3) Federal Government approves a bulk sum, but projects included in over-all approval exceed the funds available.

(4) Design is not yet complete. However, it is anticipated that the cost will be of the order of \$100,000. Construction timing is not firm and depends on funds available. It is hoped to commence work late in 1977 and complete it in the following year, so we will probably have it for the honourable member before the next election.

12. NEW STATE HIGH SCHOOL, GOODNA

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

(1) Further to my questions of 10 March 1970, 14 October 1970, 27 October 1971, 10 October 1973 and 10 October 1974 regarding the proposed new State high school at Goodna, have plans been prepared for this new high school and, if not, when is it likely that they will be completed?

(2) When is it expected that the high school will be constructed?

*Answers:—*

(1) Designing of a new high school for the Goodna area has not commenced. Sketch plans and working drawings are not prepared until funds have been allocated to

the project. Preliminary planning in terms of the needs of the area and the acquisition of a site have been undertaken.

(2) Unless population trends in neighbouring schools indicate a more immediate need, a new high school in the Goodna area will not be constructed before 1982.

13. CONTAMINATED BODY AND BABY  
POWDER

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

Is he aware that certain brands of body and baby powder have been found to contain asbestos fibres, which are suspected of causing cancer cell growth, and, if so, what action does he propose in relation to this problem?

*Answer:—*

I am not aware of any local reports of this occurring and there is no reason why any brand on the Queensland market should be withdrawn. However, as a precaution I am having the matter investigated further.

14. BANKCARD AND OTHER CREDIT CARDS

**Dr. Crawford**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What is the end result of the negotiations with the Australian banks in the matter of charges for Bankcard transactions in Queensland?

(2) Have the other Australian States decided to impose charges for each Bankcard transaction as a form of State tax?

(3) What is the Queensland position with regard to charges for other credit cards such as Diners Club and Ansett travel, are charges made in this State for the use of such cards and what are the other States' attitudes to these cards?

*Answers:—*

(1) The honourable member should be aware that the Stamp Act Amendment Act 1975 imposed a stamp duty on credit card business and that I indicated when I introduced the legislation that it was proposed that those provisions should extend to Bankcard transactions. I have had no negotiations since that time with the banks as to any change in the policy of the Government on this matter but I have been informed by the Commissioner of Stamp Duties that he has had discussions with interested parties concerning the interpretation of the provisions and I am presently awaiting legal advice which has been sought on the matter.

(2) I am not aware that any other State has decided to impose similar provisions.

(3) The provisions relating to duty on credit cards are set out in the Stamp Act Amendment Act 1975. It is a matter of

interpretation as to whether any particular credit card business is subject to these provisions. I cannot advise the honourable member as to the attitude of other State Governments to credit cards.

#### 15. EFFECT OF DELAY IN INVESTIGATION INTO POLICE FORCE

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

As it has now been announced that no immediate inquiry into alleged malpractices in the Police Force or into alleged inefficiency in the force is contemplated, what is the legal situation when police witnesses such as those involved in the Southport case are called to give police evidence in new court cases?

*Answer:—*

Such witnesses can be called and can give evidence in new court cases as this evidence is a matter for the court. However, it is also appropriate to point out, that, under section 4A of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, the establishment of any commission of inquiry headed by a judge of the Supreme Court would immediately prevent any criminal trial relating to matters which were directly or indirectly connected with the inquiry from proceeding.

#### 16. FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF RADIOLOGISTS AT ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITAL

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

As it would appear that the Queensland Health Department has so completely embraced the socialist concept of insisting on full-time employment of radiologists at Royal Brisbane Hospital that Mr. W. Hayden would whole-heartedly approve of the corner-stone of his policy being implemented so vehemently in our State, what action does he, as a Liberal Minister, intend to take to correct this situation?

*Answer:—*

I am at a loss to understand whether the honourable member is making a statement or asking a question. If his preamble is imputing that the Queensland Health Department is politically motivated, then I resent very strongly the implication. The Health Department, along with all other Government departments, is charged with the responsibility of carrying out and implementing decisions and policies of this Government and indeed of Parliament. For the information of the honourable member and indeed for all members in this House, I wish to indicate clearly the serious position currently obtaining in the Radiology Department at the Royal Brisbane

Hospital. The establishment for radiologists allows for both full-time and part-time staff. The honourable member will be aware of the present difficulties in the Radiology Department at Royal Brisbane Hospital. I have received a number of deputations from the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists concerning this matter and have asked them for assistance in an endeavour to fill a number of vacant positions for both full-time and part-time radiologists. The North Brisbane Hospitals Board has advertised widely for visiting radiologists but has received no applications. In an endeavour to fill some of the vacant full-time staff radiologist posts, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services recently interviewed applicants in the United Kingdom. It is hoped that some of the applicants will be coming to Brisbane in the near future. In fact, I received advice a few minutes ago that one would be arriving on Sunday. I point out that there is a world-wide shortage of radiologists and every effort is being made to recruit both full-time and visiting staff so that a high level of service can continue to be provided.

#### 17. AMBULANCE TRANSPORT OF ABORIGINAL PATIENTS

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

(1) Is he aware of any decision by the Commonwealth Government to cease reimbursing ambulance centres for the cost of transporting Aboriginal patients?

(2) If so, is there anything that the State Government can do to compensate for what appears to be an inhumane decision?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) To the best of my knowledge there has been no change in the policy of the Commonwealth Government in relation to the ambulance transport of aboriginal patients.

#### 18. RURAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY LIMITED, RESORT CORPORATION OF QUEENSLAND PTY. LTD., CONDOMINE COUNTRY ESTATE PTY. LTD. AND DARLING DOWNS SOFTWOODS PTY. LTD.

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

(1) What are the names and addresses of the directors of Rural Co-operative Development Society Limited, Resort Corporation of Queensland Pty. Ltd., Condomine Country Estate Pty. Ltd. and Darling Downs Softwoods Pty. Ltd., what is the paid up capital of each company and when were they registered?

(2) Did any of these persons have any connection with Queensland Groceries Ltd. or the Queensland Syndication Management Pty. Ltd. group of companies which

were the subject of reports to this Parliament some three years ago by Mr. P. D. Connolly, Q.C. and, if so, what was the connection?

(3) Have any of the persons named any criminal records or are any of them known associates of persons connected with a leading Sydney crime syndicate?

(4) In view of his statement of 3 October 1974 expressing concern at the known entry of standover men and criminals into Queensland companies and his assertion that the sweeping changes in the administration of company law in Queensland and the restructuring of the Corporate Affairs Commissioner's Office would give greater protection for the investing public and the ordinary citizen, will he arrange for a full judicial inquiry into the affairs of the four companies?

**Mr. KNOX:** I shall be glad if the honourable member will redirect his question to me tomorrow.

**Mr. CASEY:** I do so accordingly.

#### 19. RURAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY LIMITED

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

(1) Was Rural Co-operative Development Society Limited properly incorporated in Queensland under the Co-operative and Other Societies Act?

(2) Is he aware that the main activity of this society was to receive deposits from so-called shareholders and to lend to several land-developing companies?

(3) Is he aware that most of the so-called shareholders in the co-operative were unaware that they had even become members until such time as they received a share certificate in the mail and that their money was invested in a co-operative until they received a deposit certificate also and that in so far as they were concerned the only transaction that they had entered into was to sign a contract of sale to purchase land in one of the land-developing companies?

(4) Would these activities constitute a breach of the Co-operative and Other Societies Act and, if so, what action can be taken against those who were associated with this obvious fraud, including the agents engaged in selling the land?

*Answers:—*

(1) Certificate of incorporation in respect of this society was issued pursuant to the Co-operative and Other Societies Act 1967–1974 under date 28 April 1975.

(2) By recent publicity, the liquidators appointed in respect of this society and their solicitors have made statements to this effect. Investigations being undertaken by officers from the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs are continuing

into this aspect in order to substantiate the claims as well as into many other complicated aspects of the affairs of the society.

(3) The statements in relation to this aspect have also been made by the liquidators of the society and their solicitors. Investigations made by the commissioner's officers have indicated that in all cases investigated so far the persons concerned have signed authorisations for the deposit of moneys in the co-operative society for fixed terms.

(4) The commissioner's officers have been for some time investigating apparent breaches of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971–1975 in relation to this matter and detailed investigations are continuing by the Corporate Affairs Office and other bodies into the possibility of fraud by various persons associated with this society and other related corporations.

#### 20. RESORT CORPORATION PTY. LTD.

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

(1) Is he aware that company criminals and snide real estate developers are taking advantage of the fact that it is quite common in Queensland for sales of unregistered land to be made with settlement of the transaction contingent upon registration of the relevant survey plan and issue of the certificates of title and that in some cases this is even being done without local authority approval of a plan of subdivision?

(2) If so, and in view of further recent cases such as the Resort Corporation Pty. Ltd. swindle whereby so many members of the public are being fleeced of their money, what legislative or administrative action can be taken to stamp out this practice and thus offer greater protection to the land-buying public?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) In the last session of Parliament, legislation was passed prohibiting the sale of any registered land where there are more than five blocks of land involved, such legislation to come into effect in 1978. The present legislation provides that, where contracts of sale of unregistered land are entered into, all moneys received are to be paid into a trust account until an appropriate certificate of title is available to allow registration of a transfer into the purchaser's name. Current and future legislation affords members of the public a great deal of protection but obviously one cannot legislate to prohibit individuals from entering into questionable commercial transactions. Members of the public who are acquiring real estate property of any sort should always be guided by legal advice before entering into such transactions. This course of action will provide the maximum amount of security required.



## 21. COMMONWEALTH-STATE TAX-SHARING

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

(1) With reference to Mr. Fraser's proposed new Commonwealth and State tax-sharing, has the Prime Minister set up an Administrative Review Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Bland to report to the Prime Minister with particular reference to the degree of Commonwealth involvement in detailed supervision of State expenditure and to avoiding unnecessary duplication?

(2) Has this State been advised at what level of Government—Commonwealth, State or local government—will unnecessary duplication be directed?

(3) If there is unnecessary duplication, does this mean, as it suggests, that there will be sackings where there is duplication and, if not, what is the reason for the investigation?

(4) Why is a Commonwealth representative conducting the investigation which involves State areas of influence?

(5) Will the States be given a copy of the Bland Report for scrutiny and investigation?

(6) If this Government is reporting on the State's side of this investigation, will this Parliament be given the opportunity of debating the report prior to its being sent to Canberra, or will the report by an Executive reporter, as usual, ignore the interests of back-bench and Opposition members of Parliament?

*Answers:—*

(1) The establishment of an Administrative Review Committee, including its membership and terms of reference, was announced by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister on 21 December 1975.

(2) The Prime Minister wrote to me the following day asking that I furnish him with certain relevant information in this regard.

(3) When the Administrative Review Committee completes its work, it will report to the Commonwealth Government.

(4) The committee membership, with Sir Henry Bland as chairman, is—Mr. John Reid—Chairman of James Hardie Asbestos Limited, Hardie Trading Limited, Mercantile Credits Limited and a director of BHP Company Limited. Mr. John Taylor—A commissioner of the Commonwealth Public Service Board. Mr. Gerald Gleeson—A member of the New South Wales Public Service Board.

(5) This is a matter for decision by the Commonwealth Government at the appropriate time.

(6) I have already forwarded to the Prime Minister the information he requested.

## 22. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUNG

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

What positive practicable action is the State Government taking to increase the employment opportunities of unemployed young people?

*Answer:—*

Surely in his many years in this House the honourable member has seen for himself that one of this Governments prime concerns has been to provide incentives and encouragement for private enterprise to expand and develop its segment of the economy so that numerous employment opportunities could be created for Queenslanders. This State's industrial expansion as a result of the lead and assistance given by the Government has been truly remarkable and the only major obstruction encountered was the advent of the Whitlam regime. The first blow struck in this regard by that unlamented and unsung Government was the halting of the giant Weipa aluminium complex. This was closely followed by such massive deterrents to Queensland's development as the rejection of proposals for coking-coal operations in Central Queensland and the refusal to allow the planned uranium enrichment plant to proceed. Again, export licences for coal projects were consistently denied.

**Mr. Marginson:** Are they going to go on now?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** When you kill something, it is rather difficult to revive it.

*Answer (contd.)—*

The inevitable consequence of all this was unemployment on a large scale and an almost total freezing of industrial employment opportunities. Fortunately, the people of Queensland and Australia have demonstrated their views on the policies and directives of the Whitlam era. We are confident that measures now being taken will soon overcome the problems inherited from that unhappy period. Indeed, there are many encouraging signs that already the private sector of the economy is recovering confidence, thus creating employment opportunities. Finally, it is with some regret that I have to remind the honourable member that all these obstructions to Queensland's progress, all these denials of employment opportunities to Queenslanders, and particularly young Queenslanders; and all the associated evils of inflation and a marked down-turn in prosperity resulted from the policies and actions of a Federal Government composed of people whose political philosophies the honourable member himself supports and espouses. He ought to be ashamed of himself.

23. GREYHOUND RACING RULES

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

(1) Has he received any request from the Greyhound Racing Control Board to amend the rules to allow more than one dog from the same owner or trainer to be entered in a greyhound race, especially a feature or sponsored race?

(2) If so, when was the request received and what decision has he made, bearing in mind that in galloping races the same owner or trainer can and does have more than one horse in the same race?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) By letter dated 24 December 1975, the Greyhound Racing Control Board sought my approval to an amendment of Club Rule 5, which is the rule covering the situation raised by the honourable member. Being aware that a similar restrictive rule has been in existence in New South Wales for many years, I suggested to the board that it should seek the views of its counterpart organisations in other States on the proposed amendment before proceeding further. I have just received the views of each of the controlling bodies in other States. Victoria has a rule which is like the one now being proposed by the Queensland board. However, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia are opposed to what the suggested amendment provides. On the basis of this advice, I propose to ask the board to reconsider the matter and to then inform me whether it reaffirms its earlier decision.

24. INCREASED COMMISSIONS FOR GROWERS' AGENTS, BRISBANE MARKETS

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

(1) Have growers' agents at the Brisbane Markets and elsewhere made applications for an increase in their commission on sales to 15 per cent?

(2) Can he give an assurance that before a decision is made growers or their representatives will have an opportunity to present their case opposing the granting of a commission of 15 per cent?

(3) Is he aware that any increase in commission must inevitably be passed on to the housewife?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. An application has been made. It is currently under detailed investigation.

(2) Yes. No decision will be made on this or any other similar application without consulting all parties concerned.

(3) No. The more probable result would be that any increase would further reduce the returns to the grower.

25. LAND USE, NORTH PINE RIVER DAM CATCHMENT AREA

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

(1) Has the land use study of the North Pine River Dam catchment area been completed and, if not, what is the expected completion date?

(2) Have any notices been sent to landholders in the Dayboro area, especially pineapple growers, placing restrictions on them regarding the present use of their land?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes, the land use study of the North Pine River Dam catchment area has been completed.

(2) No notices have been forwarded to any landholders in the area. I hasten to assure the honourable member that he can tell the pineapple growers and farmers in the area that they have nothing to be concerned about. Their interests are being protected by my friend and colleague the Minister for Primary Industries and all other Government members. We did allow the Pine Shire and the Brisbane City Council to have a look at the study to get their reaction. That also applied to interested Government departments. The honourable member can tell the farmers in the area that they have nothing to be worried about.

26. ALLEGATIONS THAT KALLANGUR AND NARANGBA STATE SCHOOLS ARE FIRE HAZARDS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement by Mr. Barry Minter, Teachers' union industrial officer, that Kallangur State School and Narangba State School are fire hazards?

(2) Will he investigate the claims to determine whether they are correct or just another chapter in the campaign being conducted against the Government by Mr. Ray Costello, president of the Teachers' Union?

*Answers:—*

(1) I have read a Press statement by Mr. Minter wherein he claims that a classroom building at Kallangur State School has been condemned.

(2) Both these schools are of standard construction and are typical of many such schools in the State with sufficient egress by staircase being provided. Because of the honourable member's representations, and not because of Mr. Minter's extravagant statements, officers of my Department of Works have been requested to undertake an investigation into the buildings at both schools and to submit a comprehensive report thereon.

27. ADVISORY OFFICER ON RIGHTS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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

(1) Is he aware of the problems which often arise in relation to workers' compensation amongst some people in the community who find it difficult to understand their entitlements and the procedures, especially those for appeals?

(2) As this is especially true of migrant and underprivileged groups, will he give consideration to the appointment of an advisory or liaison officer who can be specifically charged with the responsibility of sympathetically and informatively discussing the problems and the rights of the respective aggrieved individuals?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The appointment of an advisory or liaison officer to the staff of the State Government Insurance Office, with responsibilities broadly in line with those mentioned in the question, is presently under active consideration. I expect to be in a position to make an announcement on this subject in the near future.

28. PENSIONER CONCESSIONS, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL BUSES

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

(1) Is he aware of the present anomaly existing in relation to Brisbane City Council bus concessional passes applying only to age and invalid pensioners?

(2) Will he investigate what avenues are open for the broadening of this concession, so as not to prejudice the wives of such pensioners and other pensioners who are not presently subject to such entitlements?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am aware that concessional fares are presently granted for travel on Brisbane City Council buses to persons in receipt of widow, age or invalid pensions only.

(2) The question of the extension of this concession to other classes of pensioners and to the wives of pensioners is one for determination by the Brisbane City Council in the first instance. Undoubtedly the honourable member will have some colleagues who see themselves as future aldermen in the Brisbane City Council. Possibly they would like to include this in their platform and policy.

29. PROSECUTIONS UNDER DOOR TO DOOR (SALES) ACT

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

(1) Was there a successful prosecution under the Door to Door (Sales) Act recently?

(2) In view of the need for constant publicity to condition the public to accept the need for vigilance, will he provide the House with the basic relevant details of the prosecution?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The Consumer Affairs Bureau is most active in a continuing programme of consumer education. It is currently distributing 40,000 copies of its 12th brochure—on this occasion warning people what to do and look for before buying household appliances. On many occasions it has urged householders to establish the standing of firms represented by door to door salesmen and to analyse most carefully what might appear to be extravagant claims advanced in advertisements on behalf of a product. In the case to which the honourable member refers, a firm, Vynaflex (Australasia) Pty. Ltd. was convicted about two weeks ago for breaching the Door to Door (Sales) Act. Fines and costs imposed totalled \$119.25. The prosecution followed detailed investigation by my officers and the Crown Law Office into a transaction and into an advertisement claiming a product, Benlux, had fire-resistant qualities and that it would give a surface coating which would not require maintenance for at least 20 years. The Government Chemical Laboratory reported, after analysis, that the product was not of high quality and that claims regarding its useful life were exaggerated. It is difficult, I know, to warn the gullible, but once again I would urge upon householders the need to make care second nature so that they are not duped.

30. VACCINE TO COMBAT INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

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

(1) Are Queenslanders likely to suffer from a severe influenza epidemic this winter?

(2) Will Commonwealth Serum Laboratory's influenza vaccine afford any protection to individuals and the public in general?

(3) Is this vaccine manufactured from fertile hen eggs?

(4) Is this vaccine in short supply because of technical difficulties in manufacture causing the rejection of one batch of vaccine?

(5) Has the position been further aggravated by a shortage of eggs?

Answers:—

(1) I cannot say positively that an epidemic will occur. However in the winter just ending in the northern hemisphere, outbreaks have been reported and one must be on the alert for such an occurrence here. Following previous experience this will probably occur.

(2) The vaccine will afford protection against specified influenza viruses.

(3) Yes.

(4 and 5) I am advised by Commonwealth Serum Laboratories that there has been no technical difficulty in manufacture nor shortage of eggs. The department has been advised that supplies will be available next month.

31 and 32. VETERINARY PENICILLIN

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

(1) Has veterinary penicillin in cows' milk caused severe reactions in any persons who are allergic to penicillin?

(2) What quantity of penicillin can cause a severe allergic reaction?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The World Health Organisation reports instances of allergic reactions. The honourable member would know that there are great variations in the manner in which patients react when exposed to a possible health hazard.

**Dr. Lockwood**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Has the level of penicillin in cows' milk at any factory in Queensland ever inhibited cheese manufacturing processes?

(2) What professions or persons are entitled to procure and distribute, sell wholesale or retail and dispense fourth schedule drugs such as veterinary antibiotics without having a veterinary surgeon present during trading hours?

Answers:—

(1) My department has not received any reports of antibiotic inhibition of cheese-manufacturing processes for many years. Milk supplies in Queensland are regularly monitored for the presence of bacterial inhibitory substances such as antibiotics.

(2) This question should be directed to my colleague the honourable the Minister for Health.

33. CASES RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFERMENT OF INVESTIGATION INTO POLICE FORCE

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

(1) Who are the policemen involved in the seven cases which on 9 March caused

a further deferment of the judicial inquiry into the Queensland Police Force promised last August?

(2) What were the charges in each case and when were they laid?

Answers:—

(1) Reginald Neal Freier and John James O'Sullivan, as accused.

(2) On 13 December 1974 Reginald Neal Freier was arrested on the following charge under section 121 of the Criminal Code:—

“For that one Reginald Neal Freier between the 3rd day of December, 1974 and the 6th day of December, 1974 at Brisbane in the State of Queensland one Reginald Neal Freier corruptly gave to one Arthur Victor Pitts being a person employed in the Public Service of Queensland as an Inspector of Police in charge of the Licensing Branch, Brisbane in which capacity he was concerned in the detection of offences and the prosecution of offenders certain property namely money for himself in consideration that the said Arthur Victor Pitts would give protection to offenders against the law from detection and punishment.”

On 13 December 1974 Jack Reginald Herbert was arrested on the following charge under section 121 of the Criminal Code:—

“For that Jack Reginald Herbert on the eleventh day of December 1974 at Brisbane in the State of Queensland corruptly offered to give to one Arthur Victor Pitts, being a person employed in the Public Service of Queensland as an Inspector of Police in charge of the Licensing Branch, Brisbane in which capacity he was concerned in the detection of offences and the prosecution of offenders, certain property namely money for himself, in consideration that the said Arthur Victor Pitts would give protection to offenders against the law from detection and punishment.”

On 13 December 1974 Patrick McIntyre was arrested on the following two charges under section 121 of the Criminal Code:—

“For that one Patrick McIntyre between the 3rd day of December, 1974 and the 6th day of December, 1974 at Brisbane in the State of Queensland corruptly gave to one Arthur Victor Pitts being a person employed in the Public Service of Queensland as an Inspector of Police in charge of the Licensing Branch Brisbane in which capacity he was concerned in the detection of offences and the prosecution of offenders certain property namely money for himself in consideration that the said Arthur Victor Pitts would give protection to offenders against the law from detection and punishment.”

“For that one Patrick McIntyre on the 11th day of December, 1974 at

Brisbane in the State of Queensland corruptly offered to give to one Arthur Victor Pitts being a person employed in the Public Service of Queensland as an Inspector of Police in charge of the Licensing Branch Brisbane in which capacity he was concerned in the detection of offences and prosecution of offenders certain property namely money for himself in consideration that the said Arthur Victor Pitts would give protection to offenders against the law from detection and punishment."

On 29 May 1975 John James O'Sullivan was arrested on the following charge under section 121 of the Criminal Code:—

"That between the 3rd day of October 1974 and the 11th day of December 1974 at Brisbane in the State of Queensland corruptly promised or offered to give one Arthur Victor Pitts being a person employed in the Public Service of Queensland as an Inspector of Police in charge of the Licensing Branch Brisbane in which capacity he was concerned in the detection of offenders or the prosecution of offenders certain property namely money in consideration that the said Arthur Victor Pitts would provide for the protection of certain offenders or intending offenders from detection or punishment."

On 29 May 1975 Alfred George Pearce was arrested on the following charge under section 121 of the Criminal Code:—

"That between the third day of October 1974 and the eleventh day of December 1974 at Brisbane in the State of Queensland one Alfred George Pearce corruptly promised or offered to give to one Arthur Victor Pitts being a person employed in the Public Service of Queensland as an Inspector of Police in charge of the Licensing Branch Brisbane in which capacity he was concerned in the detection of offenders or the prosecution of offenders certain property namely money in consideration that the said Arthur Victor Pitts would provide for the protection of certain offenders or intending offenders from detection or punishment."

On 5 June 1975 Lance Michael Nicholas was arrested on the following charge under section 121 of the Criminal Code:—

"That between the eighth day of August, 1974 and the twenty-seventh day of August, 1974 at Brisbane in the State of Queensland one Lance Michael Nicholas corruptly promised or offered to give to one Arthur Victor Pitts being a person employed in the Public Service of Queensland as an Inspector of Police in charge of the Licensing Branch Brisbane in which capacity he was concerned in the detection of offenders or the prosecution of offenders certain property namely money in consideration that the said Arthur Victor Pitts would

provide for the protection of certain offenders or intending offenders from detection or punishment."

In addition, action on a number of similar charges under section 131 of the Criminal Code was commenced against Freier, Herbert and McIntyre during May 1975.

#### 34. COST OF CROWN APPEAL IN SOUTHPORT S.P. BETTING CASE

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

What was the total cost to the Government of the Crown appeal in the Southport S.P. case dismissed unanimously by the Full Court on 5 March?

*Answer:—*

Total cost to the Government, including the preparation of the appeal record, to date amounts to \$7,427.18.

#### 35. ABORIGINES' TRUST FUNDS

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

(1) How much money belonging to deceased Aborigines is being held in trust funds?

(2) How many estates are involved?

(3) How many Aboriginal beneficiaries are involved?

*Answers:—*

(1) An amount of \$27,326.12 is involved in estates of deceased Aborigines being administered by the department but excludes those being processed by the Public Curator or other executors.

(2) Sixty-one.

(3) The number of beneficiaries is conditional upon evidence of succession in accordance with any testamentary instruments, the laws of intestacy or as otherwise provided under legislation.

#### 36, 37 and 38. PRIVILEGES FOR PRISONERS

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

With reference to the recent release of two long-term prisoners, Donald John Maher and Barry John Cassidy, from Brisbane Prison to attend the Neil Diamond concert at Festival Hall, as the Minister is quoted as saying in "The Sunday Mail" of 7 March in regard to these privileges that prisoners were not considered unless they were close to parole or consideration for release-to-work, are we to accept from this statement that Maher, who has served only four years of a life term for murder,

and Cassidy, who has served 33 months of a nine-year sentence for armed robbery, are considered either close to parole or release-to-work?

*Answer:—*

No.

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

(1) How many inmates of Queensland prisons sentenced to life imprisonment for murder have been released in the past two years on (a) release-to-work and (b) parole?

(2) Of those assigned to release-to-work, how many later qualified for parole?

(3) What was the average term served by the convicted murderers before (a) release-to-work and (b) parole?

(4) What was the shortest term and the longest term served by any convicted murderer granted over the past two years (a) release-to-work and (b) parole?

*Answers:—*

(1) (a) Five. (b) Thirteen.

(2) Three.

(3) (a) 18 years, 9 months. (b) 15 years, 5 months.

(4) (a) 5 years, 1 month; 31 years, 4 months. (b) 7 years, 3 months; 33 years, 7 months.

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

At what time did the long-term prisoners, Maher and Cassidy, leave Brisbane Prison to attend the Neil Diamond concert and at what time did they return?

*Answer:—*

Prisoners Maher and Cassidy left Brisbane Prison on 20 February 1976 at 6.50 p.m. and returned at 11 p.m. on that date.

### 39. STUDENT ROAD SAFETY FILM

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

With reference to an article entitled "International Stardom for Brisbane Children", which appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of 5 February—

(1) Has the production of the film "Do Cows Lay Bottles of Milk" been given a higher priority than the road safety film specifically related to travel to and from school which he foreshadowed in answer to my question of 9 April 1975?

(2) When may the many concerned parents and students anticipate the premiere of the student road safety film?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) In this financial year, the Education Department's film production team will complete 18 motion picture films. One of these has the title, "Creating Learning Environments for Spastic Children", with a sub-title of "Do Cows Lay Bottles of Milk?". This film, for use with teachers and parents of spastic children, will be premiered on 28 March at the Oxford (England) Conference on Planning Better Education for Neurologically Impaired Children, at which Queensland is to be represented by the Director of Special Education, Mr. P. Briody. Funds were made available for the first of the road safety films in the 1975-76 Budget announced in October. This film has been professionally scripted, and the film will be premiered by the end of May 1976.

### 40. SECONDARY SCHOOL TEXTBOOK ALLOWANCES

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

In view of the chronic lag in payment of secondary school textbook allowances until the commencement of second term and the resultant hardship to certain students and their parents, will he investigate existing systems and procedures and implement the necessary changes to ensure prompt payment of these allowances at the commencement of first term?

*Answer:—*

The present procedures for the payment of the textbook allowance are under review with the hope of implementing a new scheme in 1977, whereby payment of the allowance will be effected earlier than in previous years. Every effort will be made in 1976 for the allowance to be paid before the end of first term.

### 41. UNIFORMITY OF PROCEDURES, ROAD ACCIDENTS NEAR NEW SOUTH WALES BORDER

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

In view of an apparent lack of formal border exchange procedures between the Queensland and New South Wales police in respect of the conduct of tests on vehicle driver casualties hospitalised immediately across the border from the State in which the relevant accident took place, will he set up such procedures with his ministerial counterpart in New South Wales so that all who are involved in road accidents near the border will be assured of the full operation of the law?

*Answer:—*

The suggestion would appear to have constitutional complexities. Should the member submit clear propositions to me, I will be prepared to discuss them with my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Transport, who administers the Traffic Act, and, if necessary, consult with our relevant counterparts in the State of New South Wales.

#### 42. TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

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

Will he ascertain the circumstances of the recent serious sulphuric acid spill in New Zealand and conduct a comprehensive check of safety procedures currently applicable in Queensland to the bulk carriage of sulphuric acid and other dangerous chemicals and materials, with particular emphasis on their passage through heavily populated urban areas?

*Answer:—*

As there is an inter-departmental committee under the chairmanship of the Director of Local Government considering all aspects of the transport and storage of dangerous goods, I suggest to the honourable member that he redirect his question to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

#### 43. SCHOOL MODERATION

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

(1) Has he read the story in "The Courier-Mail" of 9 March referring to the Queensland Teachers' Union's attitude to school moderation?

(2) Does his department have the authority to direct its teachers to co-operate with the moderation apparatus or is this solely a matter for the Board of Secondary Studies, as claimed by the Queensland Teachers' Union president?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. I might add that I have noted the leader in today's "Courier-Mail".

(2) As the matter now constitutes an industrial dispute, it has been referred to the Public Service Board. A compulsory conference has been set down for 10 a.m. today.

#### 44. OPEN-AREA CLASSROOMS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

(1) How many open-area classrooms exist in Queensland primary schools at present?

(2) How many are presently under construction?

(3) How many are planned to be built during this year?

(4) How many partitions are available to teachers wishing to convert these to single classroom situations?

*Answers:—*

(1) The concept of open teaching area classrooms in primary schools was introduced as a general practice in 1973. Permanent classrooms at primary schools completed since that time have been:—1972-73 financial year, 208; 1973-74 financial year, 261; and 1974-75 financial year, 241. Of these, where more than one classroom was provided, the open double teaching area would have been established.

(2) At primary schools, 104 classrooms in permanent construction have been built during the 1975-76 financial year or are presently under construction.

(3) The draft works programme for 1976-77 financial year has not yet been finalised and all details of minimum requirements for commencement of the 1977 school year have not yet been determined. It is not possible therefore, at this juncture, to indicate the number of classrooms that will be planned during this year to cater for increased enrolments at the commencement of the 1977 school year.

(4) Four mobile room dividers are provided, as standard provision, to each double teaching area.

#### 45. INVESTIGATION INTO POLICE FORCE

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

Does he consider it likely that an inquiry into the Police Department will take place during the life of this Parliament? If so, can he give any indication of when such an inquiry might be set under way?

*Answer:—*

It is not proposed to conduct an inquiry pending finalisation of certain outstanding charges. I am unable to give any assessment as to the date upon which those charges will be determined.

#### 46. COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

With reference to my question of 27 November 1975 regarding the late presentation of the financial accounts of the Commonwealth Public Service Permanent Building Society, have the inquiries and the inspection of this society been carried out as indicated by the Minister in his reply and, if so, what was the result?

*Answer:—*

This matter was investigated by the Registrar of Building Societies, who found that the printer engaged by the building society had made an error when printing the published accounts, incorrectly showing the year "1975" instead of "1974". As the accounts had been dispatched by mail to members before the printing error was observed, the chairman of the society's board at the annual general meeting at which the accounts were presented made a full explanation to members. A resolution was passed at that meeting that the year "1975" be amended on the accounts to read "1974" and it was further resolved that the audited accounts and balance sheet for the year ended 30 June 1974 be received and adopted.

47. MEAT EXPORTS TO JAPAN

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

In view of the expanding Japanese fast food industry, is any increase expected in meat export to Japan?

*Answer:—*

There has already been a substantial recovery in exports to Japan over the last eight months, following the lifting of the Japanese beef import embargo in June 1975. I might add, to all of the militants, that this was a direct result of the work carried out by my mission and me in March last year. I say that to all of the militants.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Well, what did Senator Wriedt do about it when he had the responsibility—nothing!

*Answer (contd.)—*

For the seven months' period of 1975-76 to January 1976, 38 840 tonnes of beef were exported to Japan from Australia compared with only 5 923 tonnes for the same period in 1974-75. I expect that the total Japanese market could account for upwards of 80 000 tonnes this year.

48. FOWL PLAGUE IN VICTORIA

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

(1) What was the origin of the recent outbreak of fowl plague in Victoria?

(2) What effect has the outbreak had on Australia's exports of poultry products?

(3) What action was taken by the authorities to control the disease and what is the estimated cost?

*Answers:—*

(1) The origin of the outbreak is not known. This is most often the case with this disease; in more than 80 per cent of

outbreaks that have occurred throughout the world, the origin has not been traced. The most likely source is migratory birds. A large duck farm about 40 acres in extent with 16,000 ducks was involved in the outbreak and ducks appear to be less severely affected than fowls but are good multipliers of the virus and the thinking is that the duck farm was the first contact point.

(2) As the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Sinclair, indicated in his Press release, the economic effects of the outbreak have been serious. Export of live chickens, poultry meat and eggs to New Zealand, New Guinea, Fiji, Singapore and Western Samoa were cut off by these countries immediately they were advised of the outbreak and these markets will have to be re-opened. Queensland supplies both live chickens and poultry meat to most of these countries and all of our trade has naturally stopped and, following the declaration of eradication, I hope, is about to be resumed. Interstate trade in live chickens from Victoria was cut off and the Egg Board in that State incurred substantial losses.

(3) The disease was eradicated by slaughtering out all the ducks and poultry on the infected farms, burying all litter and thoroughly disinfecting the premises. About 60,000 birds were involved and the cost including compensation will be in excess of \$200,000. Poultry meat from the infected farms was seized and destroyed as the virus can survive storage, and the risk of further infection if fowls or ducks had access to scraps of meat from infected birds had to be considered. This, of course, is another situation which demonstrates the risk of swill being made available as pig feed since poultry running on pig farms could be exposed in this way.

49. PEAK CONTRACTORS PTY. LTD.

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

With reference to the matter of Peak Contractors Pty. Ltd. (in liquidation) in which the total receipts from the date of the winding-up order amounted to \$11,679.17, while liquidators' outlays were \$641.17, selling charges \$1,396.93, legal fees \$2,155.71 and liquidators' fees \$7,450.11, as the liquidators' outlays, charges and fees and legal fees in this case amounted to almost 95 per cent of the company (in liquidation) funds and as it is apparently not uncommon for the liquidation fees and general costs to gobble up most small companies' assets, what action can he take to ensure that creditors at least share in the assets of companies that have gone into liquidation?

*Answer:—*

The honourable member will be familiar with the several provisions of the Companies Act relating to liquidations and, in



particular, to those provisions relating specifically to the distribution of the property of a company in liquidation—

- \* that a petitioning creditor shall at his own cost undertake proceedings in winding up until a liquidator has been appointed by the Court;
- \* that the Court may order reimbursement out of the assets of the company of taxed costs to the petitioner;
- \* that a liquidator's remuneration or salary may be determined either by agreement with a committee of inspection or by the Court, which may in either case be varied by the Court;

and specifically to provisions relating to the priority of payment to all other unsecured creditors and, lastly, to shareholders of the company. The first payment under this latter provision as stipulated by the legislation is the costs and expenses of the winding-up including taxed costs of a petitioner and the remuneration of the liquidator. These provisions running centrally through the companies legislation are in conformity with the uniform provisions existing in participating States throughout Australia and indeed all States of the Commonwealth. To change the relative pattern of these provisions, it would be necessary to have regard to the policies, if not to seek and obtain the co-operation and agreement in at least some cases, of the Legislatures in the various States of Australia. I have already given an undertaking to various interested persons and organisations in the community to consider proposals for the amendment of all of the provisions relating to the winding-up of companies under the Companies Act which would include aspects relating to costs and disbursement of assets realised during the course of winding-up. At the appropriate time and on receipt of all possible submissions regarding these matters, my department, as well as the Interstate Corporate Affairs Commission and the Ministerial Council constituted under the Interstate Corporate Affairs Agreement, will consider amending legislation.

#### 50. RURAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY LTD. AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES

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

(1) With reference to the winding-up of three associate companies of Rural Co-operative Development Society Limited for alleged debts totalling almost \$800,000 and the reported comment by Mr. Justice Williams that the companies were "hopelessly insolvent", when did officers of the Corporate Affairs Office first become aware of the financial predicament of these companies?

(2) What random investigations were ever carried out by his officers into the activities of Rural Co-operative Development Society Ltd. or its three associated companies?

(3) In view of the failure of these companies and as there is concern that from the outset the whole scheme was a carefully planned rip-off, will he cause an inquiry to be held into the total operation of Rural Co-operative Development Society Ltd., Condamine Country Estate Pty. Ltd., Resort Corporation of Qld. Pty. Ltd. and Darling Downs Softwoods Pty. Ltd.?

(4) Will he also make public the method of operation of Rural Co-operative Development Society Ltd. so that future would-be investors in such real estate schemes can be duly warned?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) The Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs first became aware of the financial predicament of the companies referred to in about the middle of February 1976 following preliminary investigations into the affairs of the companies. No random investigations were carried out but immediately the irregular activities of the companies concerned came to light, two of the most senior inspectors of the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs were assigned to carry out investigations. These investigations are continuing.

(3) As indicated above, investigations are continuing into the activities and total operations of—Rural Co-operative Development Society Ltd.; Condamine Country Estates Pty. Ltd.; Resort Corporation of Qld. Pty. Ltd.; and Darling Downs Softwoods Pty. Ltd.; and such inquiries will continue to be made and prosecutions undertaken if these investigations reveal breaches of any of the Acts or criminal fraud.

(4) The exact method of the operations of Rural Co-operative Development Society Ltd. are not yet known and no doubt the liquidators will, in due course, make known to the public the scheme of operation.

**Mr. KNOX:** I should bring to the notice of honourable members that the honourable member for Cunningham has taken special interest in these matters and he discussed them with me some time ago.

#### 51. UPGRADING OF YEPPEN CROSSING, CENTRAL WESTERN ROAD

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

In view of repeated election promises made by his Government regarding the upgrading of the Yeppen crossing on the

Central Western Road to an all-weather condition, will he now give a definite undertaking as to when this project will be commenced, as the untrafficable condition of the crossing during wet weather is seriously restricting the people of Rockhampton, Gracemere and the towns on the Capricorn Highway?

*Answer:—*

Results from the Yeppen Model Study have confirmed that road proposals previously examined together with the Railway Department proposals to replace bridges on the Central West line would increase the flood height upstream of the crossing with some effect on the aerodrome. Further tests from the model study have enabled the Main Roads and Railway Departments to investigate an alternative proposal and the Main Roads Department is now awaiting the decision of the Railway Department before proceeding with further planning. Funds presently available to the Main Roads Department do not allow consideration for the construction of two relatively flood-free highways across the flood plain. Priority for higher flood immunity has been given to the national highway, that is, the Bruce Highway. I understand that during the present wet season the Capricorn Highway at Yeppen Crossing has been closed to traffic for three periods totalling less than three days and the adjacent section of the Bruce Highway for only one day. As advice has not yet been received from the Commonwealth Government of what funds will be granted for national highways past the current financial year, the programme has not been finalised, and I am not in a position to give any assurance as to when any work on the section of the Bruce Highway across the flood plain can be commenced.

#### 52. BEEF EXPORT LEVY; INQUIRY INTO BEEF INDUSTRY

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

(1) Is he aware of the timely removal by a sympathetic Commonwealth Government of the 1.6c per lb beef export levy introduced by the previous A.L.P. Government and that Australian beef is now reported to be selling on the American market, and yet the price per hundred for beef cattle is resulting in a shrinkage of income to beef producers?

(2) Will he, through the Australian Agricultural Council, endeavour to bring about a royal commission into the beef industry within Australia, particularly in relation to the marketing and exporting of our beef to overseas markets?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am very well aware of the removal by the new Federal Government of the levy on export beef and I congratulate them on their expeditious action. There

has never been a complete cessation of sales of Australian beef to the United States of America. We have at times, however, been subject to voluntary restraint as far as volume is concerned. I am aware that after a temporary increase in prices to the Australian beef producer, the market has fallen somewhat. I am equally aware that beef producers' cost, like all other primary producers' costs, have been rising sharply. This concerns me greatly. No rural industry can withstand the present cost escalation. At the same time, I hope and expect that prices for beef will firm over the next few months. This, I believe, should result from projected increases in sales to Japan, the United States of America and other areas during the current year.

(2) No. I do not believe that a royal commission into the beef industry would solve anything. Royal commissions take time and the beef industry's immediate need is for increased sales at better prices. This calls for tough commercial negotiation, not royal commissions.

#### 53. TRANSPORT OF SCHOOL-CHILDREN, KURANDA TO CAIRNS HIGH SCHOOL

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

In view of the obsolete rail-motor being used to transport children from the Kuranda area to the Cairns High School and the constant breakdowns which on some occasions cause the children to get home as late as 8 p.m., will he immediately make available bus transport, or a new rail-motor, for the reliable transport of these children?

*Answer:—*

The 8 p.m. arrival at Kuranda cited by the honourable member apparently related to the running of the rail-motor on Monday, 3 November 1975, when delay was occasioned by an electrical fault. I am unable to trace any record of serious late running of this service since that date. The honourable member will recall that I advised him on 7 November 1975, that the Department of Education had investigated the establishment of a road transport service from the Kuranda area to the Cairns State High School but had decided against taking any such action. There is no rail car available which could be substituted for the existing units at this stage.

#### 54. EMERALD IRRIGATION PROJECT AND FAIRBAIRN DAM

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

(1) What is the total cost to date of the Emerald Irrigation Project and the Fairbairn Dam?

(2) How many farms have become viable commercial propositions as a result of the irrigation project?

(3) What return on investment has the Government received and what is the estimate of future returns?

(4) Have requests been received from some existing farmers for a change of condition regarding water supply?

(5) What uses other than irrigation have been planned for the waters of Fairbairn Dam?

*Answers:—*

(1) To 30 June 1975 expenditure on the Emerald Irrigation Project totalled approximately \$28,000,000, of which some \$20,000,000 was on the Fairbairn Dam and the balance on reticulation works. In 1975-76 a further \$1,000,000 will be expended on area works.

(2) A total of 29 farms are now in production and there is no indication that the farms are not viable units. As is normal with most irrigation projects, some problems are being experienced.

(3) Because the irrigation project is still in the early phases of development, no surpluses of income over expenditure have yet occurred. As more farms come into production, this situation will change. At full development it is anticipated that the annual surplus of income over operating costs will be between 0.5 per cent and 0.75 per cent of capital cost of scheme.

(4) The only request received from irrigators has been for a change in the water year, presumably to suit local cropping requirements. This request has been referred back to the Irrigators Association for additional information. Objections have been received to the increased irrigation and drainage charges levied from 1 July 1975, but these have been rejected.

(5) Development of the irrigation project is currently being restricted to a total of 80 farms and the balance of the water reserved for industrial, and possible power station, use in the Blackwater area. If the power station proposal does not eventuate, a further 20 irrigation farms could be developed.

#### 55. NATIONAL PARKS

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

(1) When an area is gazetted a national park, what does the gazettal imply as far as logging, mining, tourist development, etc. are concerned?

(2) What industrial, commercial or mining developments are allowed in national parks?

*Answers:—*

(1) An area gazetted as national park cannot be subjected to logging, mining or other forms of industrial or commercial

enterprise save that—(a) tourist development may be allowed where this will assist in the proper public enjoyment of the park; and (b) permits to graze stock, and permits for apiary sites may be granted, provided in each case that the objects of the national park legislation are not thereby prejudiced or opposed.

(2) See Answer to Question (1).

#### 56. STORM AND TEMPEST INSURANCE PREMIUMS, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

In view of the high incidence of and heavy claims arising from the spate of cyclonic disturbances experienced in the southern regions of the State, is it anticipated that any review will be made of the storm and tempest insurance premium rates now applicable in the region of North Queensland, which are presently set at an inordinately higher level than for the more afflicted southern parts of the State?

*Answer:—*

Following the passage of the Commonwealth Insurance Act of 1973, insurers ceased to be subject to the licensing provisions of the Queensland Insurance Acts as they obtained authority for their operations from the Australian Insurance Commission. In the face of a disappearing licensing system and recognising that control on an Australia-wide basis was desirable, the Government recently amended the Insurance Acts under which maximum premium rate control was formerly exercised by the Insurance Commissioner. Consequently, the Insurance Commissioner does not have that controlling power on maximum premium rates any longer. Also, by virtue of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act, the insurer is no longer bound by any minimum premium control that previously existed within some sections of the industry. Each insurer is, therefore, now free to make his own decision regarding the storm and tempest premiums he charges in various areas and to negotiate with his policyholders accordingly. I am therefore not in a position to anticipate what the storm and tempest premium rates will be for northern regions of Queensland as a result of this change. I can, however, indicate that the S.G.I.O. is currently reviewing its position with regard to the storm and tempest coverage that it provides.

#### 57. AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROLL-ON, ROLL-OFF TERMINAL, PORT OF CAIRNS

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

What is the present position relative to the agreement negotiated with the Australian Shipping Commission and/or

A.N.L. management relative to the contract for construction of the roll-on, roll-off terminal project at the Port of Cairns?

*Answer:—*

I am advised by the Cairns Harbour Board that, at this stage, the board has been unable to negotiate an agreement with the Australian Shipping Commission satisfactory to the Board concerning the construction and operation of a roll-on ramp in Cairns Harbour but that negotiations are continuing.

#### 58. CONDITION OF MT. ISA-TOWNSVILLE RAILWAY LINE

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

(1) With reference to previous questions in relation to the state of the Mt. Isa-Townsville Great Northern Railway line, how many derailments have occurred on this line in the past two years?

(2) Is the line barely coping with the traffic from Mt. Isa and other centres on the line and is there some concern that sections of the line could crack up under the additional tonnage from the Duchess phosphate deposits?

*Answers:—*

(1) I refer the honourable member to my reply to the question which was asked of me by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on this matter on 24 October 1975.

(2) No. Some upgrading work is being carried out for the planned level of phosphate traffic. If this traffic increases beyond that level, further upgrading will be undertaken.

#### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

##### HERBERTON HOSPITAL

**Mrs. KIPPIN:** I ask the Minister for Health: In view of the continued conjecture as to the future of the Herberton Hospital, will he inform me if he intends that the Herberton Hospital should continue operating as an acute unit?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I am well aware of the honourable member's very keen interest in that particular project. In fact, I visited the area with her some time ago. A decision was made a couple of years ago by the Government that the Herberton Hospital would be phased out as an acute hospital, firstly because of the condition of its buildings and secondly because of the decreasing number of people requiring in-patient care. A decision has been made by the Government that we will be rebuilding part of the hospital as an acute outpatient centre with one or two holding beds so that acute emergencies in that area can be kept overnight and, perhaps, through the day, if

necessary. Following the honourable member's constant requests to us, we give the assurance that we will give the people of Herberton a daily medical service which will be in line with the present medical service available in the old hospital as it is.

As a Government we are also investigating the possibility of the development of a geriatric unit in the area adjacent or in the Herberton or Atherton area. This matter is being investigated at the present time. Following her very strong representations to me, I assure the honourable member that we will be able to make an announcement on this in the very near future. I can assure the honourable member that on no occasion will there be any reduction in medical services in the area except the removal of the few acute beds available at the present time.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The time allowed for questions has now expired.

#### PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

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

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1974 in a certain particular.”

Motion agreed to.

#### FORESTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

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

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Forestry Act 1959-1975 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

#### DAIRY ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

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

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to ratify and approve two agreements between the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the State of Queensland relating to a dairy adjustment program.”

Motion agreed to.

## PRIMARY PRODUCERS' ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### INITIATION

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

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Primary Producers' Assistance Act 1972-1974 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### CAPRICORN INSURANCE COMPANY

**Dr. LOCKWOOD** (Toowoomba North) (12.11 p.m.): In this debate today I wish to bring to the attention of Parliament and the people of Queensland some matters of the utmost importance concerning the disappearance of money paid by shareholders and policyholders to Capricorn Insurance Limited, which is now in receivership. Questions were asked in this House concerning the failure of Capricorn to meet its obligation in regard to motor policy commitments. The matter must not be allowed to rest there. I believe this failure was deliberate and, as such, it should be fully exposed. The policyholders lost the value of their policies plus the cost of their repairs.

Perhaps the first groups to alert the public to the impending failure of Capricorn were the panel beaters and auto rebuilding shops. These groups found that they were fobbed off with stories that cheques would be coming. They were then given not-negotiable cheques in the wrong name, and they were given cheques for amounts far less than they were owed.

It is a shame that Capricorn was not closed when these matters were first raised and that the Government at that time did not fully investigate Capricorn. If that had been done, it might have greatly minimised the loss to the public.

Capricorn Insurance Limited issued a prospectus which boasted—

“Your Board proposes to make every effort to ensure that the company joins the ranks of these respected, profitable institutions, and indeed, will endeavour to set leadership standards in our specialised field.”

How, then, is it possible that a company with such a proud boast in its prospectus could suddenly become insolvent? The use of words such as “respected”, “profitable” and “leadership” was deliberate as part of the company's con-man type of sales pitch. The company's actions were far from respected; they were never profitable and they were despised by all the true leaders of business.

Capricorn was incorporated in Brisbane on 15 September 1972 with a nominal capital of some 1,200,000 fifty cent shares. From the time of nomination of Desmond George Taylor, Douglas John Bishopp and Noel Crew as directors, Capricorn was doomed—and perhaps even designed to fail.

At the date of incorporation, Douglas John Bishopp was operating the only crematorium in the Tweed district of New South Wales. As well, he had gained control of all council cemeteries in the Tweed, despite a reported New South Wales local government direction to the contrary. Some Tweed councillors were incredibly kind to him in helping him establish a business on council property, with the help, it is said, of council finance and workmen.

The Tweed Ministers Fraternal united to expose Bishopp for the completely unscrupulous undertaker that he was. If it is possible to have undertakers struck off, as other members of professions can be, Bishopp should be certainly struck off as an undertaker. After assuring people in these terms, “Families find a sense of security and peace of mind when they thoroughly plan for the future”, he set about perpetuating the most horrid deeds. I cite:

(1) Soliciting funerals over sick beds and during the funeral service itself when people are deeply emotionally distraught.

(2) Shallow graves with only 14 to 38 inches of soil cover.

(3) A baby's grave left open to public view for two full days after the funeral.

(4) Body-snatching being practised when other funeral directors had full charge of the funeral arrangements.

(5) Funeral flowers being re-used or hawked in the hotels of Coolangatta, Kirra and Burleigh by his Murwillumbah manager, who became popularly known as the flower man. Often he did not bother to take the decorative ribbons off the sheaths.

(6) Prepaid private exhumations for relocation in Mr. Bishopp's cemetery never being carried out and never being refunded.

(7) Bribes were offered.

I have interviewed a man who swears that Bishopp offered him \$50 for every funeral he could send his way. Bishopp could not offer this \$50 to the bereaved, nor would he offer it to the charitable organisation that that good man represented. It had to be a secret, private deal. It was a bribe, and it was flatly rejected. That is the way I believe Bishopp worked in his business.

Aged couples who purchased Bishopp's funeral benefit plan found that they had been duped in the following ways. Firstly, they had signed for two funerals, not one. Secondly, they found this entitled them to the cheapest coffins made. Finally, costs were added when the funeral eventuated—the hearse, the chapel, the seating and then the grass matting around the open

grave to keep people's shoes from the soil. Of course, then there was a plaque, which had to be another \$100. The great bulk of these plans were never honoured. Bishopp's funeral benefit type of plan was a plan to benefit Bishopp.

With the disclosures about Bishopp by the fraternity of ministers at the Tweed, his funeral and cemetery business began to disintegrate. When an audit was called for, it was found that over \$8,000 could not be accounted for and four receipt books were missing. Personally, I believe that they were cremated to destroy evidence.

Douglas John Bishopp and Desmond George Taylor each received 112,000 shares, with a face value of \$56,000, for the two companies jointly owned by them. When those two companies were finally sold to honest people, they realised only \$10,000. As well, it has been reported that Douglas Bishopp concealed liabilities of over \$49,000 in the companies he sold. To my way of thinking, Douglas John Bishopp swindled Capricorn out of at least \$105,000, as was declared in the receivers' report, which confirmed my own investigations made independently before I ever saw the report. Noel Crew, another director of Capricorn, received 92,650 shares and Mervyn Bruce Roberts received 35,350 shares for their equity in N.C. Properties. Those shares had a face value of \$64,000. Their property interest was mortgaged for \$100,000, but the highest offer to date for the property concerned has been \$80,000. These two, then, swindled Capricorn from its inception of some \$84,000. The liquidators state that Capricorn sold the funeral benefit plan under the leadership of Douglas Bishopp.

In the Tweed district, Bishopp's agent, Mr. Challis, high-pressured a lady into a double funeral over the bed of her desperately ill husband, who was dying of a terminal illness. In fact, he died three weeks later. In filling out a declaration as to his state of health, Mr. Challis wrote "No" in the personal health statement to the question, "Have you consulted a doctor within the last five years or met with any accident or injury?" Honest insurance salesmen never make such a mistake, as we are all aware. This was a deliberate fraud.

The Corporate Affairs Office and the liquidators should make every attempt to find out how many such frauds were perpetrated from within Capricorn against Capricorn's assets, with particular attention being paid to the interval between the sale of the policy and the death, the names of the beneficiaries and the agents proposing the insurance.

Two unsecured creditors raised the matter of trips to Switzerland and questioned the possibility of deposits being made in Swiss bank accounts. Money was lent to directors and friends of Capricorn without real security. It was interest free. Mr. P. R. Best still owes \$10,000 of a \$26,000 loan

he received, and Mr. M. B. Roberts mentioned above owes a separate \$35,000, which I believe there is no hope of recovering.

I have tried to show how Capricorn Insurance was, from its incorporation, destined to fail. It was undercapitalised; it gave capital to directors; it failed to meet any of the published aims of its prospectus; and it claimed diversification when directors sold their companies to Capricorn. I ask the Corporate Affairs Office to investigate Capricorn and the men mentioned in this speech and to look particularly for ways and means of recovering the \$1,000,000 or more that has been lost permanently to the creditors of Capricorn.

#### QUEENSLAND POLICE FORCE

**Mr. MELLOY** (Nudgee) (12.21 p.m.): I rise today to address myself again to a matter of urgent public interest and importance—the turmoil that continues to exist in the Queensland Police Force. I appeal to the Minister to do something about it. I think he is only contributing to his own destruction by following the course upon which he seems set. Public opinion is rising against the Government in this regard, and I should remind the Minister that public opinion is much stronger than Cabinet opinion. That is one matter the Minister has to consider in this situation today.

There is a clamour throughout the community for a solution to the apparent conspiracies and fraudulence in the Queensland Police Force today. It is incumbent upon the Minister for Police to put his foot down very firmly and take decisive action in this regard.

**Mr. Hodges:** How do you think all of these cases come before the court?

**Mr. MELLOY:** The Minister cannot hide behind this matter indefinitely. He has to overcome this problem. Some of the things happening in the Police Force today are not connected in any way with the cases that are before the court. The Opposition totally rejects the latest fragile, frantic excuse put forward by this Government this week for postponing a judicial inquiry into the Police Force. It claims the postponement is due to these imminent court actions.

The inquiry was promised on 11 August last year. We reject the proposition that it cannot be held, as do two of Brisbane's leading barristers, who have expressed themselves in "The Courier-Mail" today.

The Government is standing alone as it dodges the responsibility that it acknowledged seven months ago. With the Minister's record of diffidence, incompetence and inconsistency, it is not surprising that he should shy away from this broad-reaching inquiry. It is disturbing to discover that the Minister for Justice—the eternal pretender to the Liberal throne—is conspiring with him in this latest evasion.

Last year we were assured that the inquiry would proceed after the completion of the Crown appeals in the Southport S.P. case. That assurance has been dishonoured. The appeals were rejected by the Full Court last Friday without a dissenting voice, but still the long-promised inquiry does not seem to eventuate. There is no indication from the Government that it will eventuate. Despite legal opinion, the Government seems to be not prepared to go on with it. The Minister for Police, with the assistance of his colleague the Minister for Justice, has suddenly found seven new legal excuses for further delay. We are told that the inquiry cannot be held for at least two months. I would venture to suggest that the delay could be six months. In fact, I would go further and say that more than likely it will never eventuate. But if it does, by the time it is held it will no longer be an inquiry; it will be a post mortem.

The Government is guilty of detergent politics. It is trying desperately to wash its hands clean of its own declared obligations. If a free election on popularity was held today within the Police Force, Idi Amin would win more votes than the present Minister and his Commissioner combined. In fact, on the latest Gallup poll results published in "The Courier-Mail" last week he would even beat the Premier.

When it comes to avenues of escape, compared with the Police Minister Houdini was an amateur. I ask the Minister what will happen if there are appeals in the seven cases of graft and corruption now before the court. I ask him what will happen if further charges emerge whilst the current cases are being heard? And what if there are appeals in those cases? The whole procedure could go on ad infinitum. An inquiry could never be held if it is to depend upon the determination of charges that have been made against police officers.

The Minister for Police and the Minister for Justice appear to be guided by the illogical theory that whilst corruption exists an inquiry cannot be held. Conversely, and presumably on the same reasoning, if the Police Force was contented and there was no corruption, that would be the ideal time for an investigation. In the Southport S.P. case, a provincial city magistrate and now three judges of the Full Court have upheld charges of tainted evidence against certain police officers. Unanswered allegations of brutality, the watch-house king-hit case, tow-truck bribes, massage parlour corruption and many more aspects of police administration are in question. But still the inquiry promised seven months ago cannot be started.

**Mr. Hodges:** Why don't you attack them as much as you attack the police?

**Mr. MELLOY:** That is the Minister's responsibility. He claims to be the Minister in charge of law and order. It is his responsibility to investigate and crack down on all

such criminal activities. Despite that, we still cannot get the inquiry that was promised seven months ago.

**Mr. Hodges:** You'll get it.

**Mr. MELLOY:** The Minister for Police himself claimed in "The Courier-Mail" that his own position in Cabinet was threatened because he had refused to co-operate with certain National Party members to have drink-driving and other offences hushed up. The Minister complained about that in the Press.

**Mr. Hodges:** I didn't make any complaint.

**Mr. MELLOY:** The Minister has apparently lost control of the situation completely. Motions of no confidence against the Commissioner of Police have been passed by police officers, and the Minister for Police was himself snapped into line by the Premier in Cabinet over the Police Arts and Science course. That is what is going on and that is why I appeal to the Minister to put his foot down, disregard his Cabinet colleagues and take the line that he knows he should follow to clear up the whole situation.

The Opposition believes that the terms of reference for the promised inquiry should be announced immediately so that those involved will know where they are going and the inquiry can proceed without hindrance. A judge should be appointed without further legal delay. In the current circumstances it would be a fruitless exercise if the inquiry was restricted to specific cases hand-picked by the Police Minister. It must be broad enough in scope to include the entire police administration and witnesses must be awarded amnesty to ensure frankness. Likewise, the inquiry must not be confined to Brisbane. For the convenience of witnesses it should sit in a number of centres throughout the State.

The diversionary tactics of the Government in this issue are a scandal. The Scotland Yard investigation cannot resume and a promised judicial inquiry cannot even begin. Police morale has reached an all-time low and continues to drop. Police officers have lost all confidence in the administration of the force, and that must be obvious to the Minister. But, as mounting evidence increases the urgent necessity for a judicial inquiry, the Police Minister and the Justice Minister continue, with magical precision, to discover fresh legal obstacles.

At present there is, I believe, on the bookstands a novel titled "Justice on the Rocks" by Bill Knox. It is very appropriately authored. I am certain that there are many police officers in Queensland who would welcome the opportunity to submit a title for a similar literary effort by the Police Minister.

There are instances in which it has been established that certain police officers are guilty of malpractice in their duties. In these cases there is no point in any delay whatever. We have seen no indication that any action has been taken against these men,

despite the fact that they have been found guilty by a magistrate and this verdict has been confirmed by a decision of the Full Court. There is no need to have an inquiry into the circumstances. The men have been adjudged guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation and various other malpractices, and they are acknowledged to be guilty. It is up to the Police Department to take action against them, and if it fails to do so they will continue to carry out their duties, and could even do the same thing again in other cases without having action taken against them. The Minister has the opportunity now to proceed against these men, but he is not prepared to do so.

(Time expired.)

COST TO MT. ISA RATEPAYERS OF JULIUS DAM PROJECT

**Mr. BERTONI** (Mt. Isa) (12.31 p.m.): I would like to take this opportunity of bringing to the attention of this Parliament the serious situation that will exist in the next few months for the ratepayers of Mt. Isa on the completion of the Julius Dam project. For the information of those of my colleagues who might not be aware of it, this project is at the junction of Paroo Creek with the important Leichhardt River. The dam was named in memory of the late Mr. Julius Kruttschnitt, a former general manager of Mount Isa Mines Ltd. in its difficult, formative years.

As many of my colleagues will be aware, Mt. Isa has a population of some 32,000 people, and has previously been totally dependent for its water supply on the dam at Lake Moondarra, which was financed and developed by Mount Isa Mines Ltd. This supply became available, of course, only after a great many years during which pioneering Mt. Isa was dependent on water bores in the Leichhardt River.

The growth of the city of Mt. Isa and surrounding areas necessitated the construction of the Julius Dam. The project is now nearing completion. Having been mayor of the city of Mt. Isa at the time of its commencement and now representing the area in the State Parliament, I am very proud of the project. However, I am not very pleased that so far we have not been able to obtain assistance in the way of extra grants to relieve the financial burden on the ratepayers of Mt. Isa.

The cost of this project has risen from \$22,000,000 to an estimated \$31,000,000 over three years, of which the Mt. Isa ratepayers' contribution through the Water Board is approximately \$7,000,000. The remaining contributions are made up as follows: State Government subsidy, \$4,000,000; Mount Isa Mines, \$15,000,000; and bridging loans and spare supply, \$5,300,000. This in effect means that the ratepayers of Mt. Isa must repay this loan of \$7,000,000 over a number of years. This places an almost impossible burden on these people. In effect, the yearly water rates alone will rise from \$74 per tenement per year to an estimated

\$150 per year. That will be approximately 450 per cent more than the State average of \$35. This will mean, in effect, that the rates of the average householder will increase from approximately \$240 a year to in excess of \$400 a year. Compare this to the figure of \$150 a year in some Brisbane suburbs.

You may ask, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what all this will really mean. I will tell you. There could be a great exodus of people from the Mt. Isa district! And could one blame them if they look for cheaper, greener pastures on the coast? We have a policy of decentralisation, and surely Mt. Isa is one of the greatest examples of decentralisation in Queensland. However, we urgently need assistance so that our people can enjoy a way of life comparable to that of our city counterparts. After all, water is an essential basic commodity and the cost of developing and providing water in an arid region should not be fully borne by the ratepayers of the area. It should be noted, however, that every single water-storage facility in North-west Queensland was built entirely by private enterprise.

I need not remind my parliamentary colleagues of the contribution that is made by Mount Isa Mines and other industries in the Mt. Isa district to both the State and Federal coffers by way of royalties, taxation, rail freight, excise and sales tax. Last year alone this was conservatively estimated to be \$130,000,000. That is right, Mr. Deputy Speaker—\$130,000,000!

A great deal of effort has been put into highlighting the need for State and Federal Government awareness of the needs of the Lake Julius project, and I would like to bring these efforts to the attention of this Parliament.

In October and November 1972, letters were written to the Federal Liberal-National Party Coalition Government. The result—nothing!

In December 1972, letters were written to the Premier of Queensland and to the then Federal Labor Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr. Uren. In January 1973, Mr. Uren advised us to see the Minister for Northern Development, Dr. Rex Patterson, and, accordingly, the submission was referred to him.

In April 1973, as mayor, I wrote to the Labor Minister for Northern Development requesting that he meet a delegation at the earliest possible moment in Canberra, so that finance for the Julius Dam might be discussed.

In May 1973, I again wrote to the Minister for Northern Development requesting a similar meeting. In May 1973, the Labor Minister for Northern Development, Dr. Rex Patterson, advised that the council's request was one that fell within the State and local government area rather than in the area of matters eligible for consideration of direct financial assistance by the Commonwealth, and he referred also to Prime Minister Whitlam's announcement on 20



March 1973 to the effect that the Government was amending the Grants Commission Act to authorise that body to inquire into applications for assistance by regional organisations composed of local government authorities.

Subsequently the council requested a grant from the Grants Commission, but late in November 1975 Mr. Walls of the Grants Commission said—

“It is not the function of the Australian Grants Commission to find \$7,000,000 or anything like it.”

He also said—

“But if I went back to the Commission and recommended that you should be given a grant so that you can meet your share of the cost, I would be thrown out of the room.”

Once again—nothing!

In July 1973, a delegation comprising myself, two Mt. Isa aldermen and the Town Clerk went in a deputation to Dr. Patterson and Mr. Uren, who were attending a conference at Surfers Paradise. Following on from this, the delegation also made representations to the Premier of Queensland in Brisbane.

In August 1973, the Mt. Isa Council met with the Minister for Northern Development in the council chambers in Mt. Isa to again discuss financial assistance to the council for its contribution towards the cost of Lake Julius.

In January 1974, consequent upon discussions held with the Minister for Northern Development on the Gold Coast in July 1973 and in Mt. Isa in August 1973, the council forwarded to Dr. Rex Patterson a copy of the costs and benefits study made for it, with the request that he again consider the council's case for Australian Government financial assistance.

In April 1974, the Premier's Department referred to the council's original submission in January 1974 and advised that Prime Minister Whitlam had forwarded to the State Government a statement of his Government's policies and intentions in relation to development and management of Australia's water resources. Again—nothing!

In January 1975, letters were written to Prime Minister Whitlam and the Premier of Queensland requesting an audience for a delegation from the Mt. Isa Council to again discuss financial assistance to the council for its proportion of the cost of Lake Julius.

In February 1975, a letter was received from Prime Minister Whitlam's department suggesting that it would be more useful for the council to seek an audience with Dr. Patterson, who was the responsible Minister. The usual buck passing was on!

In April 1975, a telegram was received from Dr. Rex Patterson suggesting that nothing positive could be gained by seeing him then.

In August 1975, a letter was written to the Treasury Department in Canberra advising that Prime Minister Whitlam, when on a visit to Mt. Isa in the latter part of 1974, had made a statement to the Mt. Isa City Council to the effect that if the Queensland Government would provide half the council's share of the cost of the Lake Julius project, his Government would be prepared to consider matching the offer, and that the Queensland Government had informed the Australian Government that if it would match the contribution already committed by the Queensland Government by way of subsidies—that is, \$4,000,000—the Queensland Government would be prepared to talk in terms of sharing what remained. The result from the Federal Labor Government—nothing!

In late August 1975, a delegation consisting of myself, two Mt. Isa aldermen and the Town Clerk went to Canberra to see the Treasury and once again press the council's case for financial assistance towards the cost of the construction of Lake Julius. The result—nothing!

On 18 November 1975, prior to the Federal election, the then caretaker Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, said that a sympathetic hearing would be given to a request for assistance for the Julius Dam project if his Government was re-elected. The result to date—nothing!

In February-March 1976, a petition containing approximately 9,000 signatures was presented to both State and Federal Governments. The council is still waiting.

It is of the utmost importance that the extent of the efforts made by all concerned to finance the Lake Julius project should be recorded in this Parliament. The buck-passing has got to stop. We are sick and tired of buck-passing. We urgently require financial assistance before 30 July this year to allow the Mt. Isa City Council to bring down a reasonable rate charge.

In conclusion I would once again take this opportunity to ask my Government to increase its efforts to gain additional financial assistance either by way of a total grant of \$7,000,000 or, alternatively, a grant of \$800,000 for the first year's interest and redemption payment due later this year.

#### DISMISSAL OF WORKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (12.41 p.m.): This is the first opportunity that we on this side of the Chamber have had to enunciate the ruthlessness of the Government's maladministration of its building activities. It is surprising that some Government members have not risen to express concern about the recent cold-blooded sacking of 400 good employees of the State Works Department, which makes a total of 1,100 sackings this financial year.

Symbolically, all the worker has to offer is his hands. He wants the best price he can get for those hands and the best possible conditions under which to use them. It is also true that he expects his trade union to protect those rights, and to protect his right of employment. If the employee is going to have his right to strike taken from him, the employer should have his right to hire and fire taken from him.

I want to make it quite clear that I support whatever industrial action the building group of unions desires to take to protect the interests of its members employed by the State Works Department.

**Mr. Lane:** Including violence?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That is a stupid interjection. The honourable member was known as the greatest "walloper" in the Police Force when he was there.

The sacking of employees of the State Works Department is typical of Liberal Party thinking. The most recent example of Tory hypocrisy was given by those who roundly condemned the employment problem under the Whitlam Government, but then promptly sacked 17,500 public servants to prove how sympathetic they were to the unemployed. Apparently the present Minister for Works and Housing gained his sympathy for the unemployed by trying to emulate mad Mal Fraser in the Federal sphere.

The Minister is on record as saying that rising wages were the cause of the dismissals. That is rather ludicrous. The Minister spoke from the top of his head when he made those remarks. There was no wage rise in the September quarter of 1975. The first increase was in the December quarter, and it was granted in February this year. It is quite obvious that the Minister for Works and Housing (Mr. Lee) was smoking opium when he made those remarks, as there were no wage increases from August 1975 to February 1976.

In February this year the Premier returned from the Premiers' Conference in Canberra. I might add that that conference was convened by the Liberal-National Country Party Federal Government under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Fraser. The Premier got nothing at the conference, but said that Queensland should be well pleased. What a profound statement! It was typical of the Premier. On his return from the conference on the same day, the Treasurer (Sir Gordon Chalk) said that his Budget was a good one, and would carry the State confidently through the current financial year. Yet less than a fortnight later 300 employees of the State Works Department were sacked, allegedly because there was no money. Either Mr. Lee is trying to make a liar out of the Premier and the Treasurer—

**Mr. Jensen:** That wouldn't be very hard.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That is true. Either he is trying to make a liar out of the Premier and the Treasurer or he is well pleased with the sackings by reason of the State of Queensland being bankrupt with less than half of the financial year to go. Mr. Lee is either being treacherous to his bosses or is grossly incompetent—and either way he should be sacked.

His colleague the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Fred Campbell) recently wept crocodile tears at the lack of apprentice training by private employers, while at the same time Mr. Lee, in his capacity as Minister for Works and Housing, dismantles the biggest Government enterprise to handle that type of training.

**Mr. Jensen:** He said they would get plenty of money from the Fraser Government.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** They all said that, particularly the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads (Mr. Hinze). The new Federal Government has been in office for three months, but the money just has not materialised.

**Mr. Byrne** interjected.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** After listening to the honourable member yesterday—a renegade priest!—I would be interested to know why he got kicked out of the seminary.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order!

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** The day-labour force of the Works Department has made a valuable contribution for more than a generation—

**Mr. BYRNE:** I rise to a point of order to draw attention to the fact that the honourable member appears to be reading his speech.

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

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This Tory coalition Government is following a deliberate policy of handing out major contracts to private enterprise. Works Department tradesmen are necessary to effect urgent work such as the repairs necessitated by vandalism in schools, a problem that the Minister closes his eyes to. At least while the Minister's predecessor (the present Minister for Police) was administering the portfolio, the employees had a reasonable guarantee of 10 years' employment, which they lack under the present Minister.

On numerous occasions Works Department tradesmen have informed me that they have had to rectify the faults of contractors after a school is finished. Some years ago I was part of a parliamentary delegation that visited the Wacol Gaol. The then Comptroller-General of Prisons, Mr. Kerr, showed

me two doors, one built by a private contractor and the other by the Works Department. It was quite obvious that the work performed by the Works Department tradesmen was far superior to that of the private contractor.

It is common knowledge that the present Minister for Works and Housing has set out to destroy the Works Department in favour of private contractors.

**Mr. Lee:** That is a lie.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That is true. I am glad that the Minister is in the House. If he listens to me, he might learn something. He has a complete lack of knowledge of his portfolio. He is a nice, pleasant fellow and I pay him tribute as a nice bloke. But as a Minister he is a disaster. If the Premier were doing his job properly as the Premier of Queensland, to put it bluntly and colloquially, he would give him the big "A".

The private-contract system is tainted with graft and corruption. It is widely rumoured outside that some Cabinet Ministers are on the pay-roll—or, if not on the pay-roll, on the boards—of some of these companies. The Minister for Works and Housing is an avowed apostle of so-called private enterprise.

**Mr. LEE:** I rise to a point of order. I do not like doing it but the honourable member said that Cabinet Ministers are on the boards of private companies. If he did say that, it is incorrect. I take exception to it and ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Minister has asked for a withdrawal of that statement.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** With respect, I did not name the Minister. I said, "Some Ministers".

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Nevertheless the Minister has taken exception to that and I ask the honourable member to withdraw it.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** Very well, I withdraw it.

The Minister is on record as saying that his philosophy is to get in and make a quick dollar and get out. That sums up his philosophy. His objective is to reward the real bosses of the Liberal Party in this State, the wealthy building contractors who contribute heavily to Liberal Party slush funds. To give an example, within walking distance of my own home there is a new housing development. I am glad that the Minister for Survey, Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs, who is in charge of this matter, is in the House. To make it easier to sell 700 home blocks in this development than it would be as a section of Inala (which it really is), the State Government, in its wisdom, decided that it should be called Durack. It is passing strange that 70 per cent of this so-

called new suburb of Durack consists of undeveloped land owned by Thiess Holdings. It is quite obvious that this has been done purely and simply for the benefit of Sir Leslie Thiess.

**Mr. LICKISS:** I rise to a point of order. That statement is completely untrue. The decision on the naming of suburbs is a matter for the local citizens. This has been policy.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to accept the Minister's denial.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I do so. Well, I live in the area; why not call the new suburb "Hooper".

Perhaps it is coincidental that the managing director of the development, Sir Leslie Thiess, is a personal friend of the Minister for Works and Housing. Last Monday week, in company with my colleagues the honourable members for Wolston and Sandgate, I was in Gladstone to attend the funeral of the late Martin Hanson. We arrived back at the Gladstone Airport 20 minutes earlier than anticipated, and what did we observe? The Minister for Water Resources and the Minister for Works and Housing furtively boarding a private aeroplane owned by Thiess Holdings! It is quite obvious to me that both the Minister for Works and Housing and the Minister for Water Resources were flown from Brisbane to Gladstone and back again in a private aeroplane owned by Thiess Holdings. It is also quite obvious to me that that was for services rendered.

#### QUEENSLAND POLICE FORCE; RADFORD REPORT ON EDUCATION

**Mr. LINDSAY** (Everton) (12.50 p.m.): It is the duty of any Government—not merely the Police Minister and the Police Force—to provide for the peace and security of its subjects. I believe that we are failing in that duty. To discover that, one needs only to door-knock the streets of our city to see the many hundreds upon hundreds of frightened men and women who answer a knock at their own front doors.

The social evolution of urban industrial society has resulted in both an increase in crime against persons and property and disrespect for the law. The lunatic fringe now abuse society, and society expects us—and rightly so—to do something about them. The answer lies first in the effective protection of the citizen and his property and, secondly, in the use of an effective deterrent as punishment. The increasing lawlessness within our society demonstrates that neither of those goals is being achieved.

There seems to be a trend in sociology to argue for an understanding of criminal motives. That has led to insufficient punishment being applied. To all honourable members I say that we, the legislators of this

State, must take a stand. We have been given the mandate. In the case of violent and heinous crimes, our sympathy and the sympathy of the legal system must rest with the victims.

Eighty per cent of the inmates of the Brisbane Prison at present are there for the third time or more. It is interesting and frightening to note from the commissioner's report for the year ending June 1975 that the offences most commonly committed by juveniles—and there is an enormous upsurge in juvenile crime—in the Brisbane area were—

Breaking and entering	..	925
Stealing	..	609
Unlawful use of motor vehicles	..	161
Malicious Damage	..	152

General crime statistics in Queensland for the year 1974-75 show a significant rise of 11 per cent over the figure for the previous year. By contrast, the figures for the two years prior to that revealed almost a levelling out. At the same time, police staff numbers needed to cope with the problem of rising crime rates appear to be increasing at a decreasing rate. Hardly a day goes by without someone somewhere urging the employment of more police. The need to boost police numbers is not in dispute. To my knowledge no-one associated with the administration of the Queensland Police Force has ever said that Queensland has enough police. However, many statements have been made—most of them by members of the Opposition—giving the erroneous impression that the problem of shortage of police is somehow peculiar to Queensland and is the direct result of some flaw in the administration of the force by this Government.

The number of police is a problem in Queensland. It is a problem that is not just Australia-wide, but world-wide. I draw attention to an article published in "The Courier-Mail" on 2 March this year, in which Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police, points out that his force has 400 fewer men today than it had in 1921. I draw the attention of the House also to a British Home Office report on police recruitment and wastage in the U.K., which was presented to the House of Commons in April last year. That report points out that, whereas the authorised establishment of the London Metropolitan Police Force in December 1974 was 26,628, the actual strength was 20,850, or 5,778 below strength. It is worth pointing out, too, that in 1974 the increase in police numbers in London was only 67—about the same as the increase in the Queensland Police Force. Of course, London police authorities can draw their recruits from a population of more than 50,000,000 people whilst in Queensland our pool for selection

is only 1,900,000. The same report indicates that, while the total authorised establishment of the forces of England and Wales at that time was 115,806, the actual strength was 102,086, or 13,720 below. It is equally interesting to note that the total recruitment into the forces of England and Wales during the year 1974 was 7,545 while the total wastage was 5,959—in other words, a total gain of only 1,586.

I think that these figures prove that, whilst a problem exists in Queensland, it is no worse than that being experienced in other parts of the world and in other parts of this nation. We still, of course, have the problem of obtaining more police and combating the ever-increasing crime rate.

In an age of increasing lawlessness and white-collar crime, not only here in Australia but throughout the world, it makes good sense to ensure that the Police Force has available to it the latest developments in crime prevention and detection.

It was to me, at any rate, a source of pride when this Government scored a first with the creation of a separate portfolio of Police. It seemed that this most valuable public service had at last been recognised and given the full and proper attention of elected Government; yet this important administrative move was not accompanied, regrettably, by a commensurate increase in Government funding of the Police Force.

The Minister could perhaps check my figures, but the maintenance of law and order in this State costs Queenslanders a paltry 10c per head per day. An article in "The Australian" of 11 December 1975 reads—

"Policemen win more pay for greater risks.

"Greater risks because of more bomb threats and demonstrations won New South Wales police pay rises of up to \$17 a week."

It is obvious that this situation in Queensland must be rectified as quickly as funds will permit. It is no use members, on both sides of this House, complaining about rising crime and lawlessness when the authority vested with the skills and mandate to do something about crime—the Police Force—is being hamstrung and hampered by lack of finance.

This entire criminal justice system, of course, is engaged in this so-called war on crime; but the Police Force makes up the front-line troops. They must have the best equipment, including electronic equipment. In the front line in Vietnam or any other theatre of war, if we had been denied the best possible equipment there would rightly have been an uproar, yet the front liners in the war on crime are so denied presumably through lack of funds.

It should be remembered that, unlike those forces concerned with national defence, the police do not encounter cease-fires or amnesties; nor have they a Geneva Convention type of agreement with the enemy. Theirs is a 24 hour, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year war and it is manifestly unreasonable to expect them to fight it efficiently and effectively without the proper tools. I refer, of course, to tools such as computers and other electronic marvels of this age which, in other countries—notably the United States and the United Kingdom—are playing a significant part in law enforcement.

I call on the Government and this Parliament to give the Minister for Police the authority to investigate the use of computers in police work and to allocate to the Minister sufficient funds to enable him to implement the chosen system as quickly as possible not only for the benefit of the members of the Police Force but also for the safety and security of all Queenslanders—the people whom we are supposed to represent and protect.

In the few minutes remaining at my disposal, I should like to make a small contribution on a controversial issue in the mind of the public—the Radford report. Any members of the House who have followed the progress of the education system in Queensland must be aware of the widespread dissatisfaction with the Radford scheme. Perhaps it is a product of the thinking of our times that the whole advanced secondary system seems increasingly devoted to the levelling of differences between students, and to the reduction of all students to a great middle to fit the “normal distribution curve” so dearly beloved by the whizz-kids in our society. This “democratisation of education” is reducing all students and schools, whatever their abilities, to the one predetermined level of achievement.

Another irritant in our present system of secondary education in Queensland is the situation under which students are graded by criteria of excellence which depend upon their teacher’s own summation.

(Time expired.)

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.

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