

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST 1976**

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**WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST 1976**

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

**CLAYFIELD AND PORT CURTIS  
BY-ELECTIONS****RETURN OF WRITS**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to inform the House that my writs issued on 27 April 1976 for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral districts of Clayfield and Port Curtis have been returned to me with certificates endorsed thereon by the returning officers of the election on 29 May 1976 of Ivan Milton Brown, Esquire, and William George Prest, Esquire, to serve as such members respectively.

**MEMBERS SWORN**

Mr. Brown and Mr. Prest were introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

**ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF LOCKYER****RESIGNATION OF MEMBER**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the Honourable Sir Gordon William Wesley Chalk, member for the electoral district of Lockyer in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland—

“Treasurer of Queensland,  
“12th August, 1976.

“Dear Mr. Speaker,

“I hereby tender my resignation as the elected representative of the State Electorate of Lockyer, such resignation to be effective as from midnight tonight (12th August).

“I would like to express to you my sincere thanks for the many courtesies you have extended to me from time to time, and such expression also applies to all Officials of Parliament.

“To the Honourable the Premier, Ministers of the Crown, the Leader of the Opposition and all Members of the House, I extend my good wishes and trust that future deliberations which take place within this Chamber are such that they prove beneficial to this State and its people.

“Finally might I say that I will always value the friendships I have made over my twenty-nine years of Parliamentary life, and I look forward to renewing such friendships from time to time as opportunity presents.

“Yours faithfully,

“Gordon Chalk.

“Honourable J. E. H. Houghton, M.L.A.,

“Speaker,

“Parliament House,

“Brisbane”.

## SEAT DECLARED VACANT

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

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Lockyer hath become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of the said Sir Gordon William Wesley Chalk.”

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (11.6 a.m.): As you know, Mr. Speaker, I am not a social snob—that is one of the reasons I am not in the A.L.P.—and consequently I avoid as I would a pestilence all big social functions. However, I received an invitation from a gentleman whose name I forget—his name does not matter, but he sent his address—to a testimonial dinner to be held for Sir Gordon Chalk next Thursday week. It is a black-tie affair, and although black-tie affairs are my pet abomination, I feel so highly about the work that Sir Gordon Chalk did in this Chamber that I decided to accept the invitation and forwarded my \$25. And I want to make it perfectly clear that I will send another \$25 if I am allowed to speak at that function and tell the workers of Queensland of the great work that Sir Gordon Chalk did for railwaymen in the five or six years that he was Minister for Transport. He did more for railwaymen when he was Minister for Transport than his A.L.P. predecessors did in the 50 years before that.

I do not think that that section of his ministerial life should be overshadowed by the very fine job he did as Treasurer. As Treasurer, he was dealing with money and with men in the upper echelon of finance, but as Minister for Transport he was dealing with real dinky-die workers who slaved in the Railway Department. I was in that department for many years and it has not been any good since I left it. As a railwayman—a man who held every official position in the Australian Railways Union other than a paid position—I place on record my tribute and my deep regard and respect for Sir Gordon, who was probably one of the best Ministers for Transport that this State ever had.

Motion (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

REPORT ON INVESTIGATION BY  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that I have received from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations his report upon the investigation of the administrative action of the Public Service Board in recommending the dismissal of three teachers.

I lay the report on the table and ask that copies be distributed to all honourable members.

*Whereupon the report was laid on the table.*

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

## CHANGES IN MINISTRY

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (11.10 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that, on 13 August 1976, His Excellency the Governor—

(a) accepted the resignation tendered by—

The Honourable Sir Gordon William Wesley Chalk, K.B.E., LL.D., as a Member of the Executive Council of Queensland, effective on and after 13 August 1976;

(b) accepted the resignations tendered by—

The Honourable Sir Gordon William Wesley Chalk, K.B.E., LL.D., as Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland;

The Honourable William Edward Knox, as Minister for Justice and Attorney-General of Queensland;

The Honourable Allen Maxwell Hodges, as Minister for Police of Queensland;

The Honourable Thomas Guy Newbery, as Minister for Tourism and Marine Services of Queensland;

The Honourable William Daniel Lickiss, Q.G.M., as Minister for Survey, Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs of Queensland,

effective on and after 13 August 1976;

(c) appointed—

John Ward Greenwood, Esquire, B.A., LL.B., to be a Member of the Executive Council of Queensland;

(d) appointed—

The Honourable William Edward Knox, to be Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland;

The Honourable Allen Maxwell Hodges, to be Minister for Tourism and Marine Services of Queensland;

The Honourable Thomas Guy Newbery, to be Minister for Police of Queensland;

The Honourable William Daniel Lickiss, Q.G.M., to be Minister for Justice and Attorney-General of Queensland;

The Honourable John Ward Greenwood, B.A., LL.B., to be Minister for Survey and Valuation of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 13 August 1976 containing the relevant notifications.

*Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary on the table.*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (11.13 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that arrangements have been made, as you, Mr. Speaker, have been

informed, that the Honourable T. G. Newbery, M.L.A., Minister for Police, will undertake the duties of Leader of the House for the balance of this Parliament.

Honourable members will be aware that the responsibilities of this office have been ably and diligently attended to since its inception by the Honourable A. M. Hodges, M.L.A., Minister for Tourism and Marine Services. Mr. Hodges has decided to relinquish the position and I am sure I speak for all members on both sides of the House when I say that his efforts have resulted in the better dispatch of parliamentary business and that his co-ordination of House matters has produced a more efficient Parliament. We all thank him most sincerely for his contribution in this regard.

I am confident that Mr. Newbery will receive the same co-operation and assistance from all honourable members now that he has assumed this post, and I trust that our combined efforts will result in further improved and speedier Parliamentary proceedings, if that is possible.

#### PAPERS

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

##### Reports—

Public Accountants Registration Board, for the period 1 January 1975 to 31 December 1975.

Board of Trustees of the Queensland Museum, for the year ended 31 December 1975.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

##### Proclamations under—

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

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

Queensland Marine Act 1958–1975.

##### Orders in Council under—

Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968.

Audit Acts Amendment Act 1926–1971.

The Commissions of Inquiry Acts, 1950 to 1954.

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

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

Beach Protection Act 1968–1972.

Water Act 1926–1975.

River Improvement Trust Act 1940–1971.

Ambulance Services Act 1967–1975.

Explosives Act 1952–1975.

Grammar Schools Act 1975 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965.

The Newstead House Trust Act of 1939.

Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958–1974.

State Housing Act 1945–1974.

Fisheries Act 1957–1974.

Art Unions Regulation Act 1964–1974.

Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976.

Collections Act 1966–1975.

District Courts Act 1967–1972.

Jury Act 1929–1976.

Magistrates Courts Act 1921–1976.

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.

##### Regulations under—

Children's Services Act 1965–1974.

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

Queensland Marine Act 1958–1975.

The Canals Acts, 1958 to 1960.

Rural Fires Act 1946–1975.

Health Act 1937–1976.

Hospitals Act 1936–1976.

Grammar Schools Act 1975.

Building Societies Act 1886–1976.

Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973.

Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976.

Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971–1975.

Companies Act 1961–1975.

Co-operative and Other Societies Act 1967–1974.

Invasion of Privacy Act 1971–1976.

Liquor Act 1912–1975.

Valuation of Land Act 1944–1975.

Valuers Registration Act 1965–1974.

##### By-laws under—

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

Education Act 1964–1974.

##### Statutes under—

University of Queensland Act 1965–1973.

Griffith University Act 1971–1973.

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account as at 29 February 1976, of the Union-Fidelity Trustee Company of Australia Limited.

Report of the Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigations.

Audit Inspector's Report on the Books and Accounts of the Queensland Coal Board for the period 8 August 1975 to 30 June 1976.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### SESSIONAL ORDER

**Hon. T. G. NEWBERY** (Mirani—Leader of the House), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, and notwithstanding the provision of Standing Order No. 68, questions may be asked by members without notice being given. The period allotted each day for the asking of questions upon notice and without notice and for the answering of questions shall not exceed one hour.”

Motion agreed to.

## PETITIONS

### AMENDMENT OF LIQUOR ACT

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah) presented a petition from 98 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend the Liquor Act so as to allow golf and bowls clubs to sell take-away bottled liquor to their members.

Petition read and received.

[Similar petitions were presented by Mr. W. D. Hewitt (12 signatories), Mr. Aikens (175 signatories), Mr. Byrne (112 signatories), Mr. Miller (119 signatories) and Mr. Hartwig (30 signatories) and these petitions were read and received.]

## DEATHS OF HON. A. JONES, MR. J. DONALD AND MR. G. TEDMAN

### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (11.35 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Honourable Arthur Jones, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the Crown, and James Donald, Esquire, and George Tedman, Esquire, former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widows and families of the deceased gentlemen the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.”

The late James, or Jim, Donald, who died on 4 May this year at Ipswich, was a former member and Leader of the State Opposition and he was respected by all members of this Parliament on both sides of the House. I say that quite sincerely. He was one of the most modest and unassuming gentlemen to serve Queensland, and some of those present will remember his very quiet

manner of debate, which was always supported by a great deal of preparation and research. It was his general style that made Jim Donald a leading front-bench debater for the Australian Labor Party over many years.

He was born at Redbank in 1895 of Scottish and Australian parents and he became interested in politics right back in the early days when he was attending school. He began his working life as an apprentice cabinet-maker, and at the modest age of 21 was elected president of the Furnishing Trades Union. Later he was employed as a winding-engine driver in the mining industry, and it was there that he began acquiring the extensive knowledge that served him so well in later political life. Jim Donald advanced to become vice-president and State secretary of the Colliery Employees' Union.

By the time he entered politics he had a good understanding of the mining industry of his day, and this experience was soon put to work for Ipswich, which was then one of the State's major mining centres.

He was active in the Bremer electorate when the sitting member, the late Frank Cooper, resigned in 1946. He was subsequently elected to this House, and in 1947 was further honoured when he was elected by his fellow Labor members as secretary of the Parliamentary Labor Party. In 1958 he became parliamentary leader and Leader of the Opposition in a chain of events which culminated in the death of his predecessor, Mr. Les Wood, whom many of us would remember also. It was in that tumultuous period for the A.L.P., which had seen the defeat of Mr. Duggan, the now famous or well-known split within A.L.P. ranks and the eventual expulsion of Mr. Vince Gair, that he held the leadership for a period, perhaps briefly, and it somewhat reflects his modest nature that he resigned in favour of Mr. Duggan when Mr. Duggan re-entered Parliament in a by-election.

Jim Donald's views on temperance and liquor reform were uncompromising and he stuck rigidly to his non-smoking and non-drinking ethics as a strong testimony to right living and sober practices. I can just imagine what he would have said today if he had heard the presentation of the petitions; I respect, too, the views of the honourable member for Sandgate.

Jim Donald will be remembered as an influential power in both State and Federal A.L.P. circles for very many years, and it was in these that he served the people of Ipswich East most capably in promoting development in both political and civic fields.

In his younger days he played representative cricket and Rugby League for Ipswich and served a term as president of the Ipswich and West Moreton Cricket Association.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Hilda Donald, and family. He was a man for whom I always had a very great respect and I wish to pay my own special tribute to his memory.

Another former prominent Labor member was the late Arthur Jones, who passed away on 30 June, aged 84, at his home in Brisbane. He was a man of very amiable spirit and quick wit, who took a leading part in the affairs of this House from 1929 until his retirement from politics in 1960. The honourable member for Townsville South no doubt has many very early memories of Mr. Jones in the North.

While many men believe themselves to be self-made, Arthur Jones could well be said to have been exactly that. He was an exceptional man who, although he possessed little formal education, was known for his administrative ability and his capacity to grasp the most complex of political problems.

Over a number of years I dealt directly and personally with him and I should like to pay him a personal tribute. He was the man who, as Minister in charge of the Aboriginal Affairs Department, came to me and said, "If you care to repatriate the people at Wooraabinda, who were removed from Cape Bedford north of Cooktown during the war, you can set about it." He gave me every facility and encouragement to have all those people who belonged to the Lutheran Mission returned to Cooktown. Eric Deeral, a member of this House, was one of the young men who returned under the help given by the late Arthur Jones.

I always found Mr. Jones exceptionally helpful and obliging. His lack of formal education, of course, was compensated for by a surplus of practical experience and a practical approach to all problems. That served him very well when he later became Minister of Public Instruction, or Education as it is known today. He has been highly praised by his contemporaries and those who have followed him. Indeed, the then Premier, Mr. Forgan Smith, is said to have regarded Arthur Jones as an outstanding inspector of labour, one whom he used extensively in the depression days to help overcome the then problem of unemployment. His rise in public life certainly sets an example to those of faint heart and lesser resolve. It has been said of him that he literally rose from a gun shearer—a man who plays an important role in the community—to the position of Cabinet Minister, which he held very ably.

He was born on 12 June 1892 in Wales, was taken to Canada when he was a young lad and returned to Great Britain. From there he journeyed alone to Australia and lived here with relatives. Like so many of his time, he was working when just 14 years of age. At 18 years of age he was a top shearer in Western Queensland. He was highly respected by his fellow workmen, who soon involved him in union affairs.

After a time he became an A.W.U. organiser and western districts secretary. He got his first taste of politics when he successfully contested the Burke electorate for the A.L.P. in 1929. His political career, however, was short because in 1932 his electorate was abolished through redistribution. He was employed in the Labor and Industry Department until 1939 when he contested and won the Charters Towers seat. His fortunes changed and he retained this seat until his retirement 21 years later. He held five Cabinet posts in Labor ministries from 1942 to 1957. They were Public Instruction and Mines, Public Instruction, Public Lands, Health and Home Affairs and Labour and Industry. The late gentleman was well known for a number of his legislative initiatives during his time in Parliament.

Arthur Jones was well known for his love of travel. At the age of 24 while on one of his many overseas trips he gave a shearing demonstration at Wembley Exhibition. That was something unique. He was also an excellent soccer player and a bowls representative for Queensland. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Fanny Jones, and two daughters.

The late George Tedman, who died on 15 July this year, served for three years in this House, in the Moore Government, as a member of the former Nationalist Party, for the then seat of Maree. He represented his electors sincerely and gained their respect during his term of service and was remembered for his friendly nature.

He was elected on 11 May 1929 and ended his parliamentary term on 10 June 1932. He was a Londoner, born in 1885 into a large family, which, prior to the turn of the century, came to Australia with six boys and two girls. His father was employed for some years in a brick factory at Ipswich. It was from there that the family moved to Brisbane, where George Tedman became active in business and politics.

He was successful in a grocery business in South Brisbane, a produce store at Woolloongabba and a fruit business at Lutwyche. The important part—I did not know him, but it has been passed on to me by many—is that he won a very high reputation as a conscientious and honest businessman. It was said of him that nothing was too much trouble when hard work, long hours and good deeds were required.

In later years Mr. Tedman retired to Redcliffe, where he continued his political activities. As I said, he died this year, at the age of 91, and is survived by a daughter, two brothers and a sister, all of Brisbane.

On behalf of the Government—and, indeed, all members of this Parliament—I extend sincere sympathy to the widows and surviving families of these three respected former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (11.47 a.m.): In seconding the motion proposed by the Premier, I wish to associate the members of the Liberal Party with it.

The late Mr. Tedman was not known to me. He entered and left this House long before any of the present members were first elected. Like a large number of other members in that period, he was a political victim of the depression and he served in only one Parliament. His entry to politics was nonetheless spectacular in that he defeated the Speaker of the House of the day, the late Honourable W. Bertram, who was the grandfather of my colleague the honourable member for Brisbane (Mr. Harold Bertram Lowes).

During his service in the House Mr. Tedman took particular interest in industrial development and the creation of employment opportunities in the private sector. An examination of "Hansard" for the period reveals Mr. Tedman's strong commitment to private enterprise. It was something that lasted with him all his life; he maintained it at all times.

The late Jim Donald was well known to many members. As the Premier has mentioned, he served for a brief period as Leader of the Opposition and voluntarily stood down from that position when Mr. John Duggan was re-elected to Parliament in 1958. However, he continued to be a leading member of the Opposition in this House until he retired from politics in 1969. He was, as the Premier mentioned, an authority on the coal industry, having risen to the position of State Secretary of the Colliery Employees' Union prior to his election to this House.

In my time in the Parliament the knowledge of the coal industry which the late Jim Donald possessed and exhibited would be unequalled by that of any other member. His contributions on that subject were always listened to with attention by members on both sides.

I think it would be fair to say that Mr. Donald was a man of strong political as well as personal convictions. His speeches on matters such as liquor law reform were rivalled in their intensity only by those of the honourable member for Sandgate. On the occasion on which he changed offices in 1957, when I entered the Parliament, I happened to occupy the desk that he previously occupied. During the movement of our personal effects into and out of that office, he took half an hour or so of his time to give me some friendly advice, which I have always heeded. To his family I express my sympathy and that of my colleagues.

In the long history of this Parliament, few men who served in it would have had a more in-depth and first-hand knowledge of the Far West and North West of this State than the late Arthur Jones. Although it is only 16 years since he retired from this House, there are I think no more than

eight members here today who served in Parliament with him. I am one of those. Perhaps that demonstrates the comparative fragility of our political existence. The late Mr. Jones represented western and north-western electorates in the Parliament for a total of 24 years and he was a Minister for 15 years. In those times the task of representing electorates remote from Brisbane was even more difficult than it is today. It was almost as difficult for Ministers, particularly in portfolios such as Lands, Mines and Public Instruction (all of which Mr. Jones held at one time or another) to service adequately the State as a whole. However, Mr. Jones was able to do both and I am certain that it was his knowledge of the West and its problems which helped him to do so.

He rose from being a "gun" shearer of some note in the West to a senior Minister in the last Labor Government. In view of the issues which precipitated the Labor split of 1957, Mr. Jones, as the Minister for Labor and Industry, figured very prominently in the events of what was the most turbulent period of Queensland's political history.

After his retirement he maintained a keen interest in public affairs and enjoyed comparatively good health until the brief illness which resulted in his death at the age of 84. On behalf of my party, I extend our condolences to his family and to the families of the two other former members whose deaths this motion records today.

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (11.52 a.m.): I should like to associate the Opposition and other members of the Labor Party with the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier. It is always distressing to find on the resumption of Parliament a list of names of those who served the State and the nation very well and who died during the recess. We are then required to speak of them, many of whom we may never have met and indeed may never have heard of. I did not, for instance, know Mr. Tedman at all. He began his parliamentary career before I was even born. In fact, I would have been less than one year old when he completed his parliamentary term. But, as is the case with every member of Parliament, I believe that, as a result of his parliamentary duties, his family would have suffered the loss of his assistance, his co-operation and his personal attendance with them during that period. That happens to the families of all parliamentarians. I think therefore that we, as responsible members, have a duty always to pay our respects to them and assure them that we know what they went through whilst the deceased was a member of the House.

In the case of Arthur Jones—I started to become active in the party just prior to the split, at which time he was a figure in the House. He left the Parliament

in 1960 and I, of course, did not enter it until 1972. I did not know Arthur Jones in the Parliament, but I knew of him in the West. I was an organiser for the Australian Labor Party for many years in Western and North-western Queensland, where Arthur Jones was well respected. At the time of the split, as one went round the West one found that there were many good Labor men and members of the A.W.U. who would talk with great pride of their friendship with Arthur Jones and their knowledge of him. His friends as well as members of his family will miss him and I know that many people in the West will be saddened to hear of his death. I join with the Premier in offering my condolences to his wife and family.

Jim Donald was a person with whom I worked for a considerable time. On many occasions he spent some time putting me straight on aspects of my job as an organiser and secretary of the party. When Jim Donald became secretary of the Parliamentary Labor Party, I, as an officer of the party, had a tremendous volume of correspondence with him. Many times he was prepared to go completely out of his way to assist the party and the working-class movement, as well as the unions concerned, to solve various problems. I can remember him making a trip to Rockhampton one weekend at a time when he was very busy and not well. He certainly did not have to go there but he knew that the movement needed the assistance and quiet reassurance that he could give at a difficult time. He came with us and other members of the executive committee to solve that problem.

I remember that he was always prepared to give of his best for the party and for the movement. His work in a short hectic period in 1957 showed, I think, the true measure of the man. He took on the leadership of the party after Les Wood died, which was a very difficult time. Although the party was in complete disarray, he was prepared to take on that very hard job, and immediately Jack Duggan won the by-election in Toowoomba he handed over the reins. In other words, he was not after any personal benefit from the position. He was interested in the party itself, and in the union movement. He was a worker and he represented them very well, and I think it is a fitting tribute that many miners have written to ask me to say on their behalf in this Parliament how much they will miss the wise counsel of Jim Donald.

I know that Evan Marginson, who is sitting behind me and who succeeded Jim Donald would say that the years that Jim spent looking after that area made the seat such a strong and worth-while Labor seat that it was a lot easier for Evan, and each and every one of us, to hold for the Labor Party. I join with the Premier and the Deputy Premier and associate the Opposition and all members of the Labor Party

with these motions of condolence, and I pass on our sympathy to the wives and families of these deceased members.

**Mr. MARGINSON** (Wolston) (11.56 a.m.): I join with the previous speakers in expressing my sympathy to the families of the three deceased members. I knew Mr. Jones, and naturally I knew Mr. Donald. I did not know Mr. Tedman, but I have heard of him. I am rising this morning to express my personal sorrow to Mrs. Donald and to the family, including the grandchildren, of Jim Donald, who was my immediate predecessor in this House as the member for Ipswich East.

My association with Jim Donald would date back almost 50 years. He became a member of the Ipswich Hospitals Board in 1936 when I was the secretary of the board, although I had known him previously. I found him a very excellent companion. It was my honour and privilege to be a member of every campaign committee which helped to elect Jim to this House. He was a man of very firm views on many matters both political and personal, as the Premier mentioned. He was one who was not afraid to expound his views both on politics and on matters of a personal nature. I feel that I have benefited from knowing Jim Donald for so long.

He did a lot for Ipswich. He was well respected in the electorate of Ipswich East, which he represented. He first entered Parliament in 1946 as the member for Bremer, an electorate near Ipswich which took in part of the eastern suburbs of Ipswich. He was so respected that he was returned with substantial support on every occasion he stood for election to this House. I join the Premier, the Deputy Premier and my Leader in paying a tribute to these former members, particularly Jim Donald, and I express my sympathy and sorrow to his widow and family and to the wives and families of the other two members.

**Hon. N. T. E. HEWITT** (Auburn—Minister for Water Resources) (11.59 a.m.): This morning I would like to join with the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing my sincere sympathy to the Tedman, Jones and Donald families. Though I did know Arthur Jones I did not know him as well as I knew Jim Donald. Let me say that when I entered this house in 1956 as a fairly young man who had never been through the gates of Parliament House and who knew very little about politics, Jim Donald was the first man to approach me. He said, "Nev, if I can do anything at all to help you, I will." He took me around to practically every Government department and introduced me to the people whom I naturally would have to contact from time to time. That to me was a marvellous thing.

Although we may have been poles apart politically, over the years I came to regard Jim Donald as a great friend.

In addition, his daughter, Mrs. Colin Dennis, lived in my old electorate of Mackenzie, in the Clermont area, and she has made a great contribution there.

Therefore, I would certainly like to join in the motion of condolence to the three former members.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (12.1 p.m.): I join with other honourable members in expressing condolence to the relatives of the three members concerned.

I did not know Mr. Tedman, but I am prepared to accept unreservedly all the fine things that have been said about him by other honourable members. However, I did know very well the late Arthur Jones and the late Jim Donald. I think that Arthur Jones was one of the finest Labor men who ever came into this House, and in that respect I think he could be paired with Jim Donald. Of course, comparisons are odious, but I doubt whether the Labor Party will ever again bring to the fore two men of the calibre of Arthur Jones and Jim Donald. It seems to me that after men such as that—and there were only two of them—have served their time, somebody breaks the mould and throws it away. One certainly does not see men like them in the Labor Party today. However, it is not my purpose today to make political capital out of the death of two very fine men.

I knew Arthur Jones when he was a shearer out in the Far North-west, and he was a very good shearer. In the argot of the shearing sheds, he was a deuce artist, and there were not very many of those about. It meant that he could shear 200 sheep in an eight-hour day. He was a very fine type of man, and in those days, of course—and this merely exemplifies how far the working class has come since then, particularly in the shearing industry—shearers walked to the sheds, rode there on their bikes or horses, or came in buckboards. Arthur Jones first rode a bike with his swag over the back wheel; later he rode a motor-bike.

In about the early 1920s he became an A.W.U. organiser in the West, when A.W.U. organisers were dinky-die trade unionists. They would go straight to the shed; they would not go to the main house. Later on, of course, before the big stations were broken up, A.W.U. organisers used to drive up in motor-cars. They would go straight to the homestead, where they would put on a white shirt and a black tie and have dinner with the manager. Arthur Jones was one of the old-time A.W.U. organisers who went straight to the bunkhouse where the men camped, and he bunked in with them and ate in the mess with them because he was one of them. So he brought into this House, as did many of the old-time Labor men, all the principles and decencies that one found in the Labor men of that day.

I think it was in 1929 that the late Darby Riordan resigned from the State House to contest the Federal seat of Kennedy against a man named Grosvenor Arundell Francis, who had won the seat more or less accidentally a couple of years before. Darby Riordan was the most popular man in the West, and he contested the Federal seat and won it and, of course, left his State seat of Burke vacant. Arthur Jones was a lay-down misere to win the State seat of Burke. He duly won it and was member for Burke for, I think, two or three years before the Moore Government's redistribution of 1932 wiped him and about 10 other members of the A.L.P. out of this Assembly.

He then became an officer of the Department of Labour and Industry in Brisbane, and later, when Billy Wellington, who had been the member for Charters Towers for many years, died, the workers of Charters Towers sent down to Arthur Jones and said, "Come up here and contest the Charters Towers seat on our behalf." He did, and he won the seat and held it till the big split in 1957. He won it again after that split in 1957, but he did not, if I remember correctly, contest the 1960 election.

Arthur Jones was one of the real, dinky-die, dyed-in-the-wool Labor men. When I look upon the benches occupied by the members of the A.L.P. today—and I do not want to be acidulous; I certainly do not want to indulge in odious comparisons—I can see only one member who even faintly resembles Arthur Jones in his adherence to A.L.P. principles and decencies. The rest of them are nowhere near the same A.L.P. calibre as men like Arthur Jones and Jim Donald.

Arthur Jones was a remarkable Minister. He had a quiet voice and spoke well. He was a Welshman, of course, and had that lovely little lilt that all Welshmen have in their voices—men like Lloyd George and Billy Hughes. I know it is rather disconcerting to A.L.P. men to talk about Billy Hughes. Time and time again Arthur Jones would stand up in this House and in his quiet, lilting, Welsh voice lay the Opposition and A.L.P. opponents in the aisles.

I could talk for hours about what Arthur Jones did as Minister for Labour and Industry, actions which endeared him to everyone who knew him. He had a quiet, self-effacing way. He got on with his job and did it properly. He was reared in the Labor movement; he was steeped in the Labor movement; his very soul was engrained in the Labor movement. These days, we see very few men like Arthur Jones. I personally liked him very much indeed. We were very good friends and got on well together. I was very sorry for his wife and relatives when I heard that he had died. I only hope he died as peacefully and as happily as he lived. He had a very fine sense of humour.

Jim Donald was a man of a slightly different type; nevertheless, he, too, was dedicated to the A.L.P. The A.L.P. was Jim Donald's life. Nothing mattered to Jim Donald except the party. He was prepared to sacrifice all his hopes of promotion in the party in order to be genuine about what he considered to be his duty to the working class and the dinky-die members of the Labor Party. As the Premier said, Jim Donald did not wallow in grog. He was a teetotaler, but that did not stop him from getting into Parliament. It did not prevent him from being a fine man and a reputable, responsible citizen loved and respected by all.

I was in the Labor Party all my life. I was penalised and punished and lost a lot of things at times for being a member of the A.L.P. Jim Donald was one of those who believed with me that one does not have to hang around pubs and buy grog or associate with all sorts of drunken no-hopers in order to win elections. I can remember when quite a few Labor men in this Chamber said to me, "I don't know how you get a vote. Don't you go around and shout for the boys during an election campaign?" I said, "No." One fellow said to me once, "Buy us a beer, Tom, and I will vote for you." I said, "Look, I will give you my philosophy on that. If I can buy your vote for one beer, someone else can buy it back for himself with two beers. If a beer is the price of your vote, it's not worth having."

I agree with Jim Donald, the Premier and other people that whether a person drinks or not is his business. I don't know about members of the A.L.P. but I know that there are members of the trade union movement who believe that the only way to get on in the trade union movement is to get a lot of drunken no-hopers around them. They take them to various public meetings addressed by their political opponents. We have one allegedly prominent fellow in Townsville—a professional man—who gathers together a mob of drunken no-hopers every time a prominent member of the Federal Government goes up there. He fills those no-hopers up with booze at the hotel opposite David Jones and then takes them along to interject in all sorts of scurrilous and obscene ways at the public meeting.

That is the way he thinks he can get on in the A.L.P. I am glad that a very close relative of his does not follow the same line. He seems to get on in the party to which he belongs without that sort of conduct. That is something on which we should act. We should stand behind men like the Premier and Jim Donald and tell the people that it is not necessary to be a drunk or a potential alcoholic in order to get into Parliament and hold one's seat in Parliament.

I am going to say something that perhaps should go on record, although actually it is already on record. It is something that should be told to the new breed of the A.L.P. today. Jim Donald was a man who stood up for what he believed to be right

in the interests of the ordinary people whom he represented. The member for Bundaberg also does this, and is to be commended for it.

Jim Donald was the representative of a coal-mining constituency, known at the time as Bremer. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, his party was then beginning to fall into disarray. The Labor Party introduced a Bill, even though Jim Donald had fought, unsuccessfully, in caucus against certain clauses in it, dealing with coal-miners' pensions and entitlements. Jim Donald rose to his feet in the House and said, "I cannot and will not vote for this Bill. Although it is being brought forward by a Minister in my own political party, I cannot and will not vote for it; it is opposed to all my working-class principles and to my sense of industrial decency."

Jim Donald refused to vote in support of the Bill, and walked out of the House. He was told by the Labor Party—and it made sure that its pledge was kept—that that was the last chance he would have of entering the Ministry. Anyone who cares to read the history of the A.L.P. will see that, although Jim Donald remained as the secretary of the A.L.P. in this House, he was never again considered in caucus for appointment to a ministerial post. Even though he was on the way to such a position, he deliberately and calculatedly threw away the chance in order to be loyal to the people whom he represented.

As honourable members know, I do not like to turn the knife in the wound, but I remind them that the obnoxious provisions in the Bill to which Jim Donald objected and in relation to which he sacrificed any chance of appointment to the Ministry remained in the legislation until 1957, when the Nicklin Government was elected. One of its first actions on assuming power was the introduction of amendments to the coal mining legislation incorporating the very provisions that had been urged by Jim Donald. The Nicklin Government stuck up for the things that Jim Donald stuck up for and proved, on that occasion at least, that it had the interests of the coal miners at heart more than did the A.L.P., which was swept into oblivion in the cataclysm that started in 1957.

I regret the passing of men like Arthur Jones and Jim Donald. However, the wheel of time turns and we have to accept fate as it is dished up to us. Unfortunately we do not see many men like them today; they seem to be a forgotten breed. They seem to be passing away, and no-one seems to be taking their place in the A.L.P.

Again I express my sincere condolences to all those left behind by Mr. Donald, Mr. Jones and Mr. Tedman. The State is the poorer for their passing.

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (12.13 p.m.): I rise to support

the motion moved by the Premier and express my sympathy to the relatives of the late Jim Donald, the former member for Bremer.

As has been indicated, Jim Donald served the people of Ipswich in the State seat of Bremer, as it was then known, for a very lengthy period. He was followed by Mr. Marginson, and in the redistribution in 1972 part of Ipswich East became the seat of Ipswich, to which I was elected at that time.

Jim Donald was a devoted and dedicated member of Parliament and one who gained the respect of the Premier and, as other speakers have indicated, all who knew him. He contributed a great deal to the Queensland Parliament. His strong stand on moral issues earned the respect of all who knew him. He was, of course, a great fighter for the city of Ipswich and its people, no matter what their political or other beliefs. The people of Ipswich were always supported by Jim Donald.

As has been indicated, he was a teetotaler and a non-smoker and he expressed very strong views on temperance and liquor reform.

When I was elected to this Parliament, Jim Donald was one of the first people to ring me and offer advice as a member of Parliament representing Ipswich. He did this even though we were of different political views. He was also a very devout churchman. On the Sunday before he died, he found his place, as was his custom week by week, in the church to which he belonged. Ipswich has lost a great citizen and I believe that he will long be remembered for his service to this Parliament and to the people of Ipswich. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

**Mr. HALES** (Ipswich West) (12.15 p.m.): I support this motion, especially that part expressing sympathy to Mrs. Donald and her family. It is probably 20 years since I first met Jim Donald. I went to see him about a dispute I had over a workers' compensation claim. I gained a great respect for him. Many other people of Ipswich also held him in high regard as a great Ipswich gentleman. I am sure that everyone in Ipswich mourns his passing.

I was pleased to note that so many people attended his funeral and, more particularly, that many parliamentarians and Cabinet Ministers were present. That is indicative of how highly respected he was. Once again I extend my condolences to Mrs. Donald and her family.

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

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### SCOTLAND YARD INVESTIGATION, POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Mr. MELLOY:** I ask the Minister for Police: Can he inform the House when the deferred and delayed inquiry into the Queensland Police Force is to be resumed?

Have the two Scotland Yard officers abandoned the inquiry in disgust? Has any advice been received from them as to their intentions?

**Mr. NEWBERY:** The Scotland Yard detectives were booked to return on 9 September. However, they will now return to Queensland upon the completion of the court case being heard in Brisbane, which is likely to continue for another 10 weeks.

#### DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS FOLLOWING CONVICTION ON DRUG CHARGES

**Mr. KATTER:** I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities: Is the Minister aware of moves by the Queensland Teachers Union to ban classes formerly taught by teachers convicted of using drugs and later dismissed by the Public Service Board? Is the Minister aware of statements by the Queensland Teachers Union president (Mr. Costello) to the effect that these offences are petty and that the teachers have been punished excessively? Is this the same Mr. Costello who only 12 months ago was persecuting four students at Townsville who were expelled for smoking marijuana? Did Mr. Costello at that time make a statement that the reinstatement of the four students within a short time would not give the parents the assurance that their children would be provided with the maximum protection against exposure to drugs whilst at school? Did the teachers at Townsville also, as quoted in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 5 August, 1976, state that "in future any students who are expelled from a school for drug offences should not be permitted to re-enter another school"?

I ask the Minister to assure the parents of Queensland, specifically those of Charters Towers, that the Government will not tolerate drug use in our schools and that the Queensland Teachers Union will be reminded of its hypocrisy in its present statements concerning the dismissed teachers.

**Mr. BIRD:** Of course, as a result of publicity through the news media, we are all aware that Mr. Costello's casting vote was required to carry a motion that teachers be withdrawn from the schools where these teachers who have been dismissed from the teaching service had taught. What action is being taken at the present time I do not know, although I understand that the union has approached the teachers at Camp Hill and that Mr. Costello is going to Charters Towers to talk to the teachers up there.

As to the absolute hypocrisy of Mr. Costello, the president of the Queensland Teachers Union, I would certainly agree with the honourable member that here is a man who is obviously more concerned with taking away from the children of this State their right to an education than with anything else. He has not come out and said that he would support the well-being of the children of this State by ensuring that at no

time will they be liable to be influenced by persons who illegally use a drug or commit any other type of indictable offence.

I was amazed to see that Mr. Costello had taken this stand with regard to the teachers when, as the honourable member said, only 12 months ago he was insisting that four students should not be allowed to complete their education, not because they had been found guilty of a drug offence but simply because they had been caught. Now we have the ridiculous situation where these teachers have not only been caught but have been found guilty through the normal processes of the law of this State. An approach was made to the Public Service Board, which recommended to me and to my department that their services be terminated. Might I say that I had no hesitation whatsoever in acting on the recommendation of the Public Service Board. May I give an assurance to the parents and the students of this State, and the great majority of the teachers of this State, who are still dedicated to the education of the young people of Queensland, that similar cases in the future will be dealt with in this manner so far as I am concerned.

#### REDUCTION IN FEDERAL TAX ON COAL EXPORTS

**Mr. CASEY:** I ask the Premier: As the reduction announced recently by the Federal Treasurer of \$1.50 a tonne in the coal export levy has been interpreted by many Japanese buying companies as an indication that there will be a consequential reduction in the export price of coal from Queensland, can he indicate whether any of the mining companies that have agreements with the Queensland Government are in fact reducing their export price of coal by \$1.50 a tonne? Are they using that concession to increase their already substantial profits from the Queensland coalfields, or are they passing on the reduction?

**Mr. Bjelke-Petersen:** Passing on the reduction to whom?

**Mr. CASEY:** The Federal Treasurer has recently announced a reduction of \$1.50 a tonne in the coal export levy. Under the terms of their agreements with the Queensland Government, are the mining companies passing on that reduction to the buying companies in Japan and elsewhere throughout the world, or are they simply using it to increase their own already substantial profits?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I would have to admit that I do not know what they do with the \$1.50. From my own general knowledge and observation of the situation, I should think they are entitled to it. If I were the honourable member, I would not say that they are using it to increase their "already extensive profits."

**Mr. Casey:** "Substantial" was the word I used.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Well, substantial profits. I would not say that is so in every case. Last week I spent a number of days visiting the various coalfields, and I now have a deeper appreciation of the problems facing the companies. I learnt that in one area the company concerned was losing over \$1,000,000, whereas it would have shown a slight profit on its operations if it had been able to retain the \$1.50 a tonne. Because of action instigated by the former Federal Labor Government, that company is now showing a loss. It is reaching the point where it must decide whether to continue operating on the present scale or cut back very considerably. I can only say I believe that this is an entitlement of the companies themselves and that it should not, as suggested by the honourable member, be passed on to overseas companies.

#### ART UNION FEES

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Will he comment on an article appearing in today's "Telegraph" in which the sum of money referred to in relation to art unions conducted in the previous year is given as \$100? I believe this to be incorrect and ask the Minister to clarify the matter.

**Mr. LICKISS:** I thank the honourable member for drawing my attention to this matter. Of course, the amount should read "\$1,000" not "\$100".

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that His Excellency the Governor, on Tuesday, 24 August, delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume honourable members will take the Speech as read?

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

[Sitting suspended from 12.56 to 2.15 p.m.]

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Before calling the honourable member for Clayfield, I remind the House that this is the maiden speech of the honourable member and I ask that he be extended the usual courtesies.

**Mr. BROWN** (Clayfield) (2.15 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said: I move—

"That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the third session of the Forty-first Parliament of Queensland—

'May it please Your Excellency:—

'We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection

towards the Throne and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session.

'The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State.'

I also extend the continuing loyalty and affection of the constituents of the Clayfield electorate to His Excellency and to the Throne and Person of our most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II.

I am compelled to deplore the actions of a minority of people, no doubt incited by hard-core professional agitators, who demonstrate against the Person of His Excellency the Governor-General despite the overwhelming support of the Australian people, especially in Queensland, of his action in determining the appointment of the Labor Prime Minister and all the Ministers of that Government some nine months ago. I am doubly honoured therefore to emphasise our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and the Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign.

I thank the electors of Clayfield for their confidence and I promise to represent my constituents to the best of my ability and without the intrusion of party-political considerations. I particularly wish to thank my campaign director (Mr. Kevin Martin), my assistant campaign director (Mr. Michael Habermann) and the team of dedicated party members who worked so effectively during the Clayfield by-election campaign. I am also deeply appreciative of the assistance given so freely by our busy Liberal Ministers and the many Liberal members of this Assembly who gave unstintingly of their time. I would also sincerely thank Sir Douglas Tooth, a well-known past member of this House and retired Minister of the Crown, for his help and good counsel. I also thank Federal Members—the Honourable Kevin Cairns (Member for Lilley), Mr. Don Cameron (member for Griffith) and Mr. Peter Johnson (member for Brisbane)—and Liberal aldermen Mrs. Dulcie Turnbull and Syd McDonald for their assistance. It is with a deep and genuine sense of humility that I give tribute to all who assisted during the campaign, for without such unselfish help success would not have been achieved.

The Clayfield by-election was a three-cornered contest involving the Liberal Party, the National Party and the A.L.P. There have been several statements in the media, attributed to various people, that the Liberal Party held Clayfield with a narrow margin. May I point out that, of the combined Liberal/National Party vote, the Liberal Party

polled 10.2 per cent more than the National Party, that is, of a combined Liberal/National vote of 6,714 the Liberal vote was 3,699 and the National Party vote 3,015. In the unusual climate of a by-election, may I observe this to be a decisive win for the Liberal Party. The final figures after distribution of preferences of 59.95 per cent Liberal, 38.99 per cent A.L.P. and 1.05 per cent informal showed a resounding win for the Liberal/National Party coalition, and substantial rejection of the A.L.P. There is no doubt in my mind that the effective campaign mounted by the National Party and the quality of the National Party candidate contributed to this over-all success.

The electorate of Clayfield is small in area but densely populated. Over the years Clayfield has changed. The gracious homes of Clayfield itself have to some extent been replaced by multiple-unit dwellings. Fortunately these are of a high general standard and provide excellent accommodation.

Clayfield, an inner suburban electorate, has no large scale industrial or commercial activity so its character is largely domestic. Contrary to what appears to be general belief, the electorate covers a broad cross-section of society from Clayfield, through the suburbs of Eagle Junction, Wooloowin and parts of Albion and Lutwyche to Kalinga and Kedron. In the 1972 general election the Liberal primary vote was 47 per cent and the seat was held after distribution of D.L.P. preferences.

As I emphasised during the by-election campaign the more pressing needs of the electorate are more effective police protection and attention to schools, pre-schools and child-care facilities. I do not propose to dwell on these matters now, except to say that I intend raising them in this House at the appropriate time. Kedron Brook does not present a problem of the magnitude at first thought, although attention is required to alleviate flooding in certain limited areas. The clearing of Shulz's Canal has commenced and when completed will allow unimpeded flow of water from Kedron Brook into and through the canal, thus reducing the back-up of water in Kedron Brook.

I am opposed to an increase in the price of electricity for domestic consumers in Brisbane and will put forward my views on this matter in the proper places and at the appropriate times.

As pledged during the campaign, I have established an office in the electorate.

I congratulate the Honourable the Deputy Premier on his appointment as Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland and on his election as leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party. There is no doubt that the Honourable the Deputy Premier will carry out the responsibilities of his new offices with the same foresight, diligence and efficiency that were manifest in his conduct of the Transport and Justice portfolios in

the past. I have every confidence that under his leadership, the Liberal Party will prosper and that, as a result of our continued co-operation with our National Party coalition partners, this State will continue to progress as it has for 19 years of coalition government.

I would also pay tribute to Sir Gordon Chalk on his retirement after 29 years of service to this Parliament, 19 years as a most competent Minister of the Crown including 10½ years as a State Treasurer of outstanding ability. Sir Gordon said on leaving his high office, "I leave with some silver in the till". This typifies the practicality of the man who has contributed so much to the State of Queensland. The silver in the till is represented by a budget surplus of over \$700,000 of an over-all budget of \$1,349 million. I believe the figures speak for themselves.

The Honourable the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs is to be congratulated on his election to the Deputy Leadership of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, a position to which he will bring his experience and integrity to our benefit.

I also congratulate the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, the Honourable the Minister for Police and the Honourable the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services on their respective new appointments, and also our newly appointed Minister the Honourable the Minister for Survey and Valuation.

I would now like to speak briefly of my own background. On discharge from the A.I.F. in late 1945, I was in business on my own account for three years. Following this, my experience with large companies included the marketing of a wide range of products in North Queensland, including products for the rural industry and for the hardware, building and electrical industries. I moved from Cairns to Townsville as a branch manager, then to Brisbane as marketing manager, and later became State manager of a widely diversified company. During these years I represented the company at national level.

Over the past 25 years I have travelled Queensland extensively, usually by car, and have come to know some of the problems of the industries within the State. One cannot develop accurate market projections without a study of industry, so I came to know Queensland reasonably well.

For the past seven years I conducted my own business as a distributor of domestic electronic products throughout Queensland, the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales and Darwin. On election to the Queensland Parliament, I made arrangements to quit the business, and as of 30 June 1976 I have no interest in it, either directly or indirectly. The business continues under new ownership and neither my wife nor I derive any remuneration from it. My own free

choice is to devote my full time to the job of representing the Clayfield electorate and to making such contribution as I am able as a member of this Assembly.

At this stage I wish to pay a tribute to the former member for Clayfield, Mr. John Murray. As you know, Mr. Speaker, John Murray was member for Clayfield from 1963 till this year. He is a personal friend of mine, and I am sure that he made a worthwhile contribution to the debates and deliberations of this Assembly.

My business background tells me that the greatest single problem confronting business today is the erosion of working capital by inflation. In broad terms, a business operating on a working capital of, say, \$100,000 in December 1972 required a working capital of \$145,000 in 1975 to maintain a similar volume. Alternatively, and without provision for growth, the \$100,000 in 1972 would have a purchasing power of only \$61,000 in 1975. This crippling blow was delivered to the free-enterprise system by the Whitlam Labor Government, and it is now pleasing to see, with the introduction of the first Budget from the Fraser Government, measures designed to strengthen the private sector and reduce inflation and, through those measures, to improve the employment situation. Recognition that inflation is the root cause of our economic problems and implementation of measures to reduce the inflation rate augur well for the effectiveness of the 1976-77 Federal Budget.

We are often told that Queenslanders are different, and I think we probably are different, for a variety of reasons. Queensland differs not only in climate but also in terms of a decentralisation which manifests itself in distribution of population over a vast area. So we have a communications problem unknown to other States, which are either smaller in area or have the bulk of their population living in an area approximating that of Victoria. From this difference flow many problems of cost. For the provision of the basic services of government, the cost per capita is greater in Queensland than in our sister States, and for business to operate throughout the State the cost is greater. In the business sense, the additional costs are borne by the consumer, so the cost of living in our far-flung provincial cities and towns is greater. The cost of getting products to the market-place is greater in most cases. Compared to those of Victoria and New South Wales our internal markets are small, and this also adds to costs.

Queensland also differs from other eastern and southern States in terms of natural resources. The resource development projects of the '60s brought Queensland very much to the fore. Intelligent continuing development of our natural resources is undoubtedly the key to economic security. Continuity of these projects was rudely interrupted during the three years of socialist rule in Canberra, very much to the detriment

of our economic well-being. But now, with national leadership in the hands of responsible people, one can see signs of recovery and confidence which under the leadership and encouragement of the Queensland Government will restore our position.

This Government has done much to foster free enterprise. However, in line with other States, the 5 per cent pay-roll tax, in spite of exemptions relieving some business from this burden, is a bad tax in that it is unrelated in any way to profit, being calculated simply on the wages bill of the company concerned. In practical terms this tax, like all indirect taxes, is paid for by the consumer, and is therefore inflationary. As wages rise, the burden of the tax increases, and when added to the wage increase becomes a component of the cost of production or the provision of services. Because this tax is a burden to business, the work-force suffers because employment opportunities are reduced. I am delighted that the honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland has indicated the intention to initiate a study and evaluation of the question of pay-roll tax.

As a businessman with 25 years' experience with interests throughout the State of Queensland and in other States, I have come to appreciate and understand the meaning of the free-enterprise system, which is best expressed in Liberal philosophy. I am a Liberal because Liberalism encapsulates my ideals in terms of an understandable political philosophy which concerns itself with the individual freedoms, minimum interference by Government in business and the everyday affairs of the people, and accent on development of the individual together with respect for the law and recognition of responsibility to protect those freedoms. As opposed to these freedoms, consider the performance of the Australian Labor Party when this party held power in the Federal Parliament, giving effect to what it chose to call reformist Labor policies. With the mindless prosecution of these socialistic schemes our national economy was decimated. In the space of those three years untold harm was done to the people of Australia, proving that socialism is the system which seeks to establish public wealth but in reality produces private squalor.

Members of the Opposition in this place are cast in the same mould as their federal counterparts. How ludicrous then is the offer of the Leader of the Opposition for a temporary Liberal-A.L.P. coalition for the purpose of a redistribution in Queensland! I join with my colleagues in rejecting such an unholy alliance.

I commend the Government for practical attention to small business through the honourable the Minister for Industrial Development. The excellent publications distributed and the seminars held lend valuable assistance and encouragement to this most important segment of the over-all business community. It is particularly pleasing to note

that the Minister for Industrial Development is to create a division for small business within the framework of his department. This will be of great benefit in the future.

One aspect of small business in which I am interested is what may best be termed the service industry, with particular emphasis on the skilled tradesman who goes into business on his own account. A surprising volume of domestic repair work is carried out by the skilled tradesman who operates in a small way. These are the people who come into our homes to repair electrical and electronic equipment or to carry out plumbing repairs, carpentry and the like. The well-being of the end user of many consumer durables is heavily vested in the ability of the service industry to carry out repairs with competence and at reasonable cost to the consumer.

In the area of the skilled tradesman in business on his own account are also those who are subcontractors to the building industry. I am proud to be an honorary director of a group of domestic electronic technicians in Queensland. This group has set a code of ethics to which all members are required to subscribe and a standard of technical excellence which each member is required to attain in order to be granted membership. Seminars are regularly conducted on the latest technical developments. For example, the group retained the services of a well-qualified electronics engineer to conduct regular classes on colour television long before the introduction of this medium to the Australian market so that its members were competent to service this highly complex electronic device when it was first marketed here. The group also organises schools on "running small business" and on other topics germane to its style of business. Prior to the formation of the group, the service industry in this particular field was fractured into a large number of small operators, whereas now the members representing a large proportion of their particular service industry may speak with one voice through the group. Such representations are listened to by manufacturers, who respect and value their advice to the extent that these technicians who carry out practical service work in the field have the opportunity to influence design and componentry, and this can only be of ultimate benefit to the end user of the product.

As I said, I am proud to be associated with this group, which, I believe, through careful forward planning and the will to learn and succeed, exemplifies what is best in our free-enterprise system. It has proved that the "little bloke" can move forward to better things and, while improving his own position, make a valuable contribution to society. The honourable member for Pine Rivers, in his maiden speech on 18 March 1975, said, "Pine Rivers has 2,000 more voters than the electorates of Balonne, Gregory and Cook together."

**Mr. Akers:** It has 5,000 more now.

**Mr. BROWN:** That's the way it goes.

He went on to say, "I cite these figures only to show that there is far too great an imbalance between electorate populations at present." I support these views expressed by my colleague and, while there might be little prospect of a redistribution of electorate boundaries during this the 41st Parliament, I support the principle of a redistribution which seeks to level out the many anomalies that exist at present in this State.

I feel the present number of electorates in Queensland, standing at 82, to be sufficient as a basis for the redistribution and I favour a loading in favour of country electorates. I can drive between the widest boundaries of my electorate in about 10 minutes and need not draw a comparison between Clayfield and some of our large sparsely populated country electorates in terms of the time, distance and communications factors to make this particular point. This is, however, a subject on which I hold strong views—views that I would hope are shared by many members of this House. I submit with respect that the people of Queensland will welcome what is seen to be a fair distribution of electorate boundaries in this State.

In conclusion—I am proud to be a Liberal, to be a member of the party with a political philosophy which seeks to serve the whole of society, not just a particular section of society. I pledge to honour the institution of this Parliament by observing the rules and respecting the traditions.

**Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (2.40 p.m.):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech with a great deal of pride. At the same time, I am personally aware of the significance of this occasion and the many grave problems that confront us here in our State of Queensland and, indeed, in our nation as a whole.

All of us are aware of the pressures that have been placed on our traditional, inherited ties with Britain in recent years and those have intensified even more in recent months. During this time, none of us could avoid being touched by the courage and the dignity of the men who have been the representatives of Her Gracious Majesty, the Queen of England and Australia, in this country. And indeed, we in Queensland have been most fortunate to have a man of such calibre and patriotism as His Excellency Sir Colin Hannah in these difficult times.

At the same time, all Queenslanders deplore the attitude of those socialist-inspired hoodlums whose only claim to fame is causing increasing disruption commensurate with their increase in bribes. These are the very people who scream for the protection of the law while they themselves defy and frustrate the law at every opportunity.

I take this opportunity also to express the appreciation of the people of the Mt. Isa electorate and, no doubt, all Queenslanders,

to the former Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Sir Gordon Chalk, for his masterful handling of the Queensland economy over many years. To his successor, the honourable Bill Knox, we all extend our sincere congratulations. This Government and the people of Queensland look forward to a continuation of the wise and sound judgment of our financial affairs.

It is a common fact that these days good leadership is taken for granted. Too often, we regard good stewardship of our State as just a matter of fact. In Queensland, there are too many successes, however, and they happen with too much consistency for it to be simply a matter of fact. The millions of investment dollars that have poured and continue to pour into this State are abundant testimony of the confidence and the respect that people and industry around the world have in our Premier, (Joh. Bjelke-Petersen) and this coalition Government.

The scourge of socialism that threatened to bring our great nation to its knees and plunge us into debt from which we may never have emerged has now, thankfully, been stopped. Now is the time for us to once again in a practical way demonstrate to people of this nation that our free-enterprise system is the only system which enables the ordinary man and the ordinary citizen to have the maximum degree of both freedom and prosperity. None of us, I hope, will allow himself to become apathetic about the threat of socialism in the future.

The price of our freedom is indeed eternal vigilance. However, this Government must impress upon industry that it has a duty—a duty to instil in the Australian community an understanding, confidence and faith in the free enterprise system. The Chairman of M.I.M. Holdings Ltd., Sir James Foot, said recently—

"Unless we stand up and be counted as supporters of the system that has served us so well despite its faults, unless we take upon ourselves the role of educator in the general community, then the system may well collapse in the face of a combination of attacks from its opponents who now enjoy its benefits, and from the apathy and ignorance of those who should be its supporters".

In free enterprise, the emphasis is on "free". Too many people these days talk of democratic socialism, but surely that is a contradiction in terms. Democracy gives people the freedom of choice, while socialism cannot do that. It is vital that we convince employees of the merits of the free-enterprise system.

In the words of Sir George Fisher, trade unions which embrace policies of socialisation are, in effect, practising a kind of "death wish", because if they attained their objective of "social ownership" or "socialism", they would lose their identity and freedom of action. Bitter experience has

shown that in a totalitarian regime there has never been, and never can be, the right of trade unions to fight against the dictatorship. There is only one system in the world within which trade unionists cannot be stopped from fighting for what they believe to be their rights and that is a free-enterprise democracy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reflect on the specific issues in my own and neighbouring electorates. I want to draw the attention of this House to decentralised, productive Queensland. The people of decentralised Queensland are indeed enduring very hard times and unless we can find fast and effective solutions to their problems, few can ever be expected to again make worthwhile contributions to the economy of this State. The work of many years by this Government encouraging organised development of our State will be lost.

Many of the problems that exist in decentralised Queensland are a direct result of, or have been much aggravated by, the policies of the Federal Labor Government when it was in office: the thoughtless removal of many equalising subsidies for people in remote areas, such as petrol subsidies, rural air subsidies, finance for the Flinders Highway and the reduction of education tax deductions. The dramatic cutback in expenditures in these areas and the tide of inflation will destroy the people of decentralised Queensland and Australia.

Granted, it is the responsibility of our Federal colleagues to overcome many of these problems; but, as a State Parliament, we also have our duty to ensure that our Federal colleagues are continually and consistently aware. As a State Government, we need to look at our responsibilities in our decentralised, productive areas and take every opportunity to ensure that no unnecessary further hardship is placed on these people because of State Government policies and departmental operations. Government cannot solve the problems of decentralised Australia alone, however. We must urgently get back to the business of motivating large-scale private investment. This, I know, is very much the policy of our Government and I'm pleased to note that the latest Federal Liberal-National Country Party Government Budget has introduced such policies.

In Queensland, we need schemes like the proposed east-west North Australian railway line to utilise the huge coal reserves of Queensland and the iron ore of West Australia. Our Premier is to be loudly applauded by all Queenslanders for his efforts to date in promoting this project and other major northern development concepts. We need to see every encouragement given to exploration and development of oil shale at Julia Creek. We need to continually look to the possibility of further opening up the Gulf of Carpentaria, realising that North-west Queensland contains incredible mineral wealth and pastoral potential. We need to encourage our major developers in these

areas and involve them with the people of Queensland in the excitement of such mammoth development undertakings. Policies which encourage business and forget people are not what are wanted. We urgently need legislative decisions that will motivate Australian industry and the Australian people. Both industry and the people must be encouraged into co-operative development of our country.

To many in this Parliament who represent city electorates, the problems confronting the people of decentralised Queensland probably mean very little. I say this in response to those who would tell us in the decentralised, producing regions of the State that our produce belongs to all Queenslanders but who, in their very next breath, would criticise this Government for taking steps to equalise electricity charges throughout the State. The same people care little that there are people in some sectors of my electorate who are paying as much as \$1.20 a gallon for petrol. They care little that freight increases have virtually wiped out the profit of many, many private businesses. The combination of this long list of thoughtless burdens imposed on our people in the North and the West has established them as little more than second-class citizens who are virtually paying for the right to develop this State and this nation.

Let us study the income of this State and see just exactly where the cream on this State's cake comes from. While we are doing so, here are some interesting statistics to digest. The national average gross domestic product per person employed in all sectors of industry in Australia today is approximately \$7,000. The average in the minerals and energy industries, which are now the mainstay of decentralised Australia, is three times that amount, at around \$21,000. Quite obviously, decentralised Australia and its industries represent a productive golden goose, which I hope we will all have the common sense not to destroy.

I believe that if there is one commitment above all that our Government ought to make in the year ahead, it is a commitment to bring about an equalisation of opportunities and services to all Queenslanders, regardless of where they live. It simply is not acceptable that people in the capital cities should be able to live better and cheaper than those living and operating in remote areas, especially when our State derives so much revenue from these decentralised regions. Queenslanders have led the nation in decentralised development to date, but now is not the time to sit back and say that we have done enough.

On this occasion I believe it would be remiss of me not to bring to the attention of the House the efforts of our Government in North-west Queensland during the two short years in which I have been privileged to be the member for Mt. Isa. It has been an encouraging start—but I am a long way from being satisfied yet.

Foremost, I would like to record the thanks of the people of Mt. Isa for the financial assistance only recently given to the city of Mt. Isa to alleviate the serious problems of financing the Julius Dam project and water supply system. I am mindful of the many other similar projects wanting money in the State and I would hope that my colleagues in this House who represent those areas will convey a message of understanding to their electorates. It is worth noting that prior to this assistance from our Government there were some 1,000 homes on the market within the city. This is an incredible number of homes being sold in a city of some 30,000 people.

The underwriting of the \$30,000,000 railway link with the Duchess phosphate development in my electorate is another deed of this Government that has gone unheralded by many. Few noted at the time that the Federal Labor Government nearly allowed this wonderful venture to be shelved. It was left to the Queensland Government to come forward with the necessary guarantees to enable development to proceed. I do believe, however, that our Government should continue to press for further expansion of phosphate mining in the North-west. The Lady Annie and other deposits to the north of Mt. Isa are a viable proposition and we should continue to strive for their development.

The re-opening of the Mary Kathleen mine in the heart of my electorate has been a controversial issue since it was first mooted several years ago. All of us should now be aware that, because of inconsistencies within the Labor Party and thoughtless action by some union leaders who live many thousands of miles away from the project site, a cloud of gloom now rests over the community and the operation at Mary Kathleen. The 320 workers and their families who have pulled up roots from all over the Commonwealth to make their contribution to the re-opening of Mary Kathleen have been subjected to a complete lack of understanding and consideration by the people whom I have previously mentioned.

On the local scene we have trade union leaders who are more interested in playing politics, promising the people of Mary Kathleen that they are "confident" that everything will be all right in the future, while at the same time they are fully aware that the future of Mary Kathleen rests totally in the hands of their masters who operate out of Sydney and Melbourne. The local union leaders are being used and ignored, like mere puppets on strings.

One of the basic corner-stones of our society must be that we honour our agreements. The Labor Party and the trade-union movement backed the reopening of Mary Kathleen and underwrote the issue for reopening funds with the taxes of Queenslanders. They must now honour that agreement or totally lose face with the people of this State.

I ask honourable members: how can the Leader of the Opposition or any of his cohorts have the audacity to expect the Queensland people to vote them into Government when they cannot be taken at their word? The fact that the Labor Party did not have the ability to assess the Mary Kathleen project before it committed the people—and the millions of dollars of Australian taxpayers' money—to the project surely is not our responsibility.

An important part of the mineral development industry in North-west Queensland is the activities of the small miners in the region. These operators supply fluxing ores and limestone to the Mt. Isa copper smelter. All will appreciate that this in itself is a most valuable contribution to the massive Mt. Isa operation. There is also the aspect that these small-scale operators are also carrying out valuable advance exploration in the region on deposits which are not ordinarily attracting the attention of the major operators. Increasing costs and diminishing grades of available near-surface ores are rapidly eroding the viability of these operations. However, I am continuing my efforts to bring this situation to the attention of the Minister for Mines and Energy. It is essential that everything possible is done to maintain viable operating conditions for these smaller operators, who have a most important contribution to make to the balanced development of North-west Queensland.

I have previously mentioned in this House that I would like to see a detailed feasibility study undertaken of the mineral potential around the town of Cloncurry, in the hope that sufficient tonnages could be indicated that would encourage the possible establishment of a copper treatment facility in Cloncurry. The survey of North-west Queensland which has only very recently been completed by our Governments will, hopefully, have looked into this possibility. We eagerly await its release.

The plight of Cloncurry is common to such small communities of the West, where at times nothing but a stout heart and faith keeps things moving. It is little wonder therefore that the people of North-west Queensland become excited over the prospects of a railway line spanning Australia from east to west and serving twin giant steel mills in Queensland and Western Australia. This is action. This is constructive action that the people of the North-west appreciate. It is not mealy-mouthed politics that is bogged down in red tape and meaningless promises and excuses. The people of North-west Queensland know the benefits that come from such development. They appreciate that it is a waste of time and money to provide welfare homes and myriads of Government facilities if there is no industry to pay for them.

The people of North-west Queensland understand that development means better living conditions and this is what we are after. We are prepared to live in North-west

Queensland and develop it, as I know our friends in the other remote areas are, so long as Government takes action and gets things done. Forget the fancy talk and the hollow promises. Let us have facts and action. Let us get back to talking about productivity when we talk about curing the ills of inflation. Let us not get bogged down in believing that all we need to do is to reach agreement with the unions and everything will be rosy.

Now we move on to education in North-west Queensland. Education in the western areas continues to be a problem, but I would like to record my sincere appreciation of the interest shown in my electorate by the Minister for Education.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that the reading of speeches in the House is not permitted. I did allow the honourable member for Clayfield to read his as it was his maiden speech and I intend likewise to allow the honourable member for Port Curtis to read his, but the honourable member should know that he cannot read his speech and I ask him to refrain from openly doing so.

**Mr. BERTONI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are just copious notes. As I said, I would like to express my appreciation to the Minister for Education for his tour of my electorate. We do have problems with education in North-west Queensland and Cloncurry is one area where people are experiencing certain difficulties in the education of their children. Children in Cloncurry cannot receive education beyond Grade 10 and to obtain a high school education they must either travel 100 kilometres to Mt. Isa or go to boarding schools, thus placing an even greater financial burden on people living in this area.

I would also like to record my electorate's support for the stand adopted by the Minister and the Government on the illegal use of drugs in our schools. The dedication and professionalism of the school-teachers and principals in the Mt. Isa electorate never cease to impress me. I know from private discussions I have had with them that they are horrified that certain members of their profession would degrade it by illegally using drugs. They have told me to mention that they back completely the Government's stand on the issue.

The beef industry continues to be a problem throughout the North West and in the other remote areas of the State. At the moment, the main cause for concern in the beef industry in my electorate is the lack of rail wagons in North-west Queensland, and it is within the Government's power to ease the burden that this imposes.

I said in my first speech in an Address-in-Reply debate in this Chamber that five important points must be taken into account by the Government in attempting to solve the problems of the beef industry. They were:

firstly, that the beef industry should overcome its internal problems and speak with a united voice; secondly, that the industry should co-operate with the State and Federal Governments to reconstitute the Australian Meat Board, with a view to implementing a minimum price scheme.

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. BERTONI:** No, they should speak with one voice. Thirdly, the representation on the Meat Board should be selected by all producers; fourthly, a long-term stabilisation beef-marketing scheme should be promoted; and, lastly, increased home markets should be promoted. I believe that these comments are as valid today as they were 18 months ago.

It is noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, that in December this year we will see the long-awaited completion of the sealing of the Flinders Highway. I thank the Government, and particularly the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads (Mr. Hinze) and the Deputy Leader of the National Party (Mr. Ron Camm), for the responsibility they have accepted in seeing that the project was completed. The sealing of the Flinders Highway will open up vast tourist attractions in the Mt. Isa area and also in other areas farther west. That, in turn, will assist the mining industry; it will also assist smaller centres and towns in the area.

**Mr. Lane:** The museum at Mt. Isa is outstanding.

**Mr. BERTONI:** I must agree with the honourable member that it is a great attraction. I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads to tackle the problem of financing similar projects in the area, such as the sealing of the road to Gunpowder.

The plight of sport in Australia recently came to the fore during the Olympic games, when people throughout Australia were concerned about the poor showing of our athletes.

In western areas of Queensland, as in other parts of the country, sport plays a very important part in the development of a community spirit. As most people in remote areas are not able to visit the seaside and lack swimming locations and other social attractions that are readily available in city areas, sport becomes one of the main attractions for them. In areas such as Mt. Isa, of course, all codes of football are played; but to illustrate the plight of sport in Mt. Isa, let me take Rugby League as an example because it is one of the major codes. Many honourable members probably are aware that the Mount Isa Rugby League team competes in the Foley Shield competition against teams from Townsville, Mackay and the Burdekin. Every time the team competes in one of those areas, it costs the Mount Isa Rugby League \$4,000, and last year it cost the league more than \$20,000 to enable the Mt. Isa team to take part in the competition.

**Mr. Aikens:** The other teams have to visit Mt. Isa, too.

**Mr. BERTONI:** Yes, but they have to travel there only once a year. The Mt. Isa team has to make three or four trips to centres on the coast. That is the difference. I ask honourable members how sport is to be encouraged in the face of financial burdens such as that.

**Mr. Casey** interjected.

**Mr. BERTONI:** I might agree with the honourable member on that point. I express my appreciation to the Minister for Sport, who has always been very helpful to me. However, I suggest that he look at ways of alleviating the financial burden on teams from remote centres that have to travel long distances to compete.

In taking this opportunity to provide the House with an up-to-date appraisal of the North West I believe it is essential that I also mention some very basic health and community problems. The decision not to proceed with extensions to the Mt. Isa Base Hospital has been an enormous blow to our area.

**Mr. Houston:** It must have been poor representation.

**Mr. BERTONI:** I don't agree with that.

We ask that the Minister reconsider that decision so that building can be commenced next year. Mt. Isa is the centre of a vast region in the North West. Nothing emphasises the problems of the people in the North West more than the need for up-to-date medical facilities. In Mt. Isa we have an organisation known as H.E.L.P. I have previously mentioned that that organisation stands for health equality for all people. It was established in Mt. Isa to endeavour to obtain the same facilities and privileges for all people in the State, irrespective of where they live. It is important that the Government look at ways and means of providing free air and rail travel for patients and relatives required to accompany them to areas outside of Mt. Isa. I must thank the Minister for Health, Dr. Lew Edwards, for obtaining a number of firsts for Mt. Isa. We are fortunate to have specialists in pediatrics, orthopaedics, gynaecology and ear, nose and throat and eye specialists now visiting Mt. Isa. This has taken a great burden off the people in Mt. Isa. However, many patients still have to travel to Brisbane or Sydney for specialist treatment. It would be unrealistic to expect such people to have to pay for their own medical treatment and fares. One lady in my electorate who spent some weeks in a Sydney hospital spent approximately \$1,000 on travel and accommodation, despite the fact that she had a great deal of assistance from friends. Another patient itemised his Brisbane accounts as: medical expenses, \$230; other expenses, \$589. Another person is on his seventh trip to Brisbane in 20 months for more surgery

because of a heart problem. His wife had to accompany him on four occasions. Imagine the enormous expense to that family!

**Mr. Wright:** Why doesn't the Government decentralise health care?

**Mr. BERTONI:** It might be getting around to that.

Frequently parents have to accompany children. A stretcher case requires three or four seats in the aeroplane, and the additional seats have to be paid for. It is a crippling expense to people living in that part of the State. The Government must look to ways and means to alleviate the problem.

**Dr. Crawford:** What is the fare to Mt. Isa now?

**Mr. BERTONI:** About \$240.

I should now like to comment on one of the most serious problems that confront this Government, namely, the Aboriginal people of Queensland. On many occasions in this House I have listened to debate on the problems of the Aboriginal people, and have repeatedly heard criticism of our Government's policies from everyone from the illustrious Leader of the Opposition to the church leaders in this State. All seem to have the same underlying theme: "Give, give and give more. Cleanse your past sins against the Aboriginal people with money and hand-outs. Denigrate the Aboriginal people with gifts. But whatever you do, don't do anything that makes them earn their way in our community." This Government departed from free hand-outs in 1965 at the request of the Aboriginal people themselves, that is, at the request of the leaders of the Aboriginal Advisory Council. The Federal Labor Government took up the free hand-outs again when it was in office, and we sincerely hope that the Federal Liberal-National Country Party Government will enforce policies for the betterment of the Aboriginal people, instead of merely giving them hand-outs.

I recall the words of Abraham Lincoln, spoken more than 100 years ago when America was tearing itself apart with racial problems. He said—

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money alone. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help a man permanently by doing for him that which he can and should do for himself."

Wise words? Yes, indeed! And they were spoken more than 100 years ago.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will cease interjecting.

**Mr. Aikens:** Make them go outside to hold their caucus meeting.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I suggest that if they want to hold a caucus meeting they go outside.

**Mr. BERTONI:** To repeat—Abraham Lincoln said, "You cannot help a man permanently by doing for him that which he can and should do for himself." How any one of us, black or white, can really believe that we have the right to have things given to us without earning them is totally beyond me. How some church leaders can place importance on decrying the Government's handling of Aboriginal affairs in this State when they give very little service to the social responsibility of the church in the community is more than I can understand. When was the last time that we heard church leaders come to the fore and admit that the real problem of our Aboriginal people is alcoholism?

All the beautiful homes and all the money that we give to the Aboriginal people by way of mining royalties won't save them unless our Government, the Federal Government, the churches and all Australians, black and white, face this very real fact. I could give the House instances of the destructive influence of alcoholism in my electorate among the Aboriginal people. It is true, of course, that we recognise that alcoholism is a problem in the whole community not merely among the Aborigines.

Our Labor colleagues have little to be proud of in their handling of the problems confronting the Aboriginal people. They spent a lot of money and made a lot of promises, and then relaxed in their padded chairs and said, "Well done." But I would like to see one instance of the Aboriginal people of Australia really benefiting as individuals during those three years.

Hand-outs and free rides have never made a good citizen in all the history of the world. I cannot see how any one of us can expect that fact of life to alter now.

Somehow the Aboriginal people need to find their feet. They must regain their dignity and realise that they have a right to be here, a right to work and a right to reap all the benefits that this society has to offer. To this end, I strongly advocate that a programme of education of the pitfalls of alcoholism be undertaken among the Aboriginal people and every encouragement be given them to ensure that the children make liberal use of the educational and financial assistance offered by this Government.

In conclusion—I look forward with confidence to further advancement of the way of life of the whole community, including the Aboriginal people. This can be achieved only by the development of the productive

area of our State, of primary production, roads, water, mining, education and cultural activities and medical and social welfare.

I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Burns, adjourned.

#### FORM OF PETITIONS

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I wish to advise that a petition presented to the House this morning by the honourable member for Merthyr on behalf of the Windsor Bowls Club is not in order, and I have ruled it out of order. If any honourable member wants assistance in the preparation of a petition, he should see the Clerk of Parliament or me, and we will be only too pleased to assist.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

##### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the immediate initiation in Committee of the Whole House of a Bill intituled 'A Bill to amend the Local Government Act 1936–1976 in certain particulars and for another purpose', and the passing of such Bill through all its stages in one day."

Motion agreed to.

##### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

##### INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.17 p.m.): I move—

"That a Bill be introduced to amend the Local Government Act 1936–1976 in certain particulars and for another purpose."

This Bill is a simple measure relative to the provisions of the Local Government Act dealing with the appointment of an advisory committee to advise the administrator of a dissolved local authority.

The Local Government Act presently provides that, where the council of a local authority is dissolved and an administrator is appointed to carry on the affairs of the council until fully elected local government is restored, the Minister may appoint an advisory committee to advise the administrator on the administration of the council. Advisory committees have been appointed by me to advise the administrators of the shires of Cook and Torres, which are the only two local authority areas in the State the councils of which are dissolved.

Following representations to me by members of the advisory committee appointed to advise the administrator of the Shire of Cook, I visited Cooktown recently to discuss the administration of the shire with the administrator and members of the committee. The members of the committee felt that, for the committee to be effective, the administrator should be bound by majority decisions of the committee on matters of policy. Under present law the committee acts in an advisory capacity only and final decisions on all matters relating to the administration of the local authority area rest with the administrator, who is answerable to the Minister.

Members of advisory committees are selected to represent particular parts or interests of the local authority area concerned so as to give a fair spread of representation. Many of them have to travel many miles to attend meetings of the advisory committee and they are concerned that the work of the committee could be frustrated if effect is not given to majority decisions of the committee on matters of policy.

The Government feels that there is merit in these representations. It has therefore been decided to amend the law to provide for the appointment by the Minister of an executive committee to a dissolved local authority and the appointment of advisory committees will be discontinued. The function of an executive committee will be to assist the administrator of a dissolved local authority area with the administration of the affairs of the local authority.

The Bill provides that the administrator is to give effect to decisions of the executive committee on matters of policy. It provides, however, that where the administrator considers that the implementation of a decision of the committee would not be in the best interests of the local authority, he may within 14 days of the decision refer the matter to the Minister for determination. The determination of the Minister is deemed to be a decision of the executive committee, and the administrator has to give effect to such determination.

The Bill provides that the administrator of a dissolved local authority area will be ex officio chairman of an executive committee appointed by the Minister in respect of that area. It also provides that an advisory committee appointed prior to the coming into force of the amending legislation will continue to be constituted as an executive committee and the members of the advisory committee will continue in office as members of the executive committee.

As in the case of the previous law, the Bill provides that members of an executive committee may be appointed by the Minister for such period as he thinks fit and the Minister may determine how often the executive committee shall meet and fix the amount of any fees and expenses payable to members of the executive committee for attendance at meetings of the committee and for making inspections authorised by it.

Fees and expenses payable to members of the committee will be met by the local authority concerned.

Under the Bill an executive committee will cease to exist upon the restoration of elected local government to the area affected.

The Bill provides that the holding of an office of a member of an advisory committee prior to the coming into force of the amending legislation has at no time been an office or place of profit under the Crown. The purpose of the provision is to avoid any possible argument that the holding of such office was in contravention of section 5 of the Officials in Parliament Act.

The effect of the amending legislation will be that the administration of a dissolved local authority will move from that of an administrator with sole autonomy to the position where electors of the area will have some say through the Executive Council in the administration of local government in their area. In other words, the Bill moves half way towards the restoration of full local government to the area. The aim of the Government is, of course, to foster and promote the autonomy of local government, and it is the wish of the Government to restore elected local government as soon as practicable to those areas where administrators have been appointed.

I think honourable members will agree that the Bill will provide for the better administration of dissolved local authority areas, and I commend it to the Committee.

**Mr. MARGINSON (Wolston) (3.22 p.m.):** This Parliament has been in recess for something like five months. It has done very little this year. In fact, since 1 January, Parliament has sat for something like 22 days; yet on our first day of sitting a Bill has been presented that the Government wants to rush through all stages. As we have been in recess for so long, I want to know why it is so urgent.

**Mr. Tenni** interjected.

**Mr. MARGINSON:** I am not talking to you.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** He's a half-wit.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller):** Order!

**Mr. MARGINSON:** I want to know why this is so urgent. There must be something that the Government wants to overcome quickly. I ask the Minister to consider going through the introductory stage only today, so that the Opposition in this Parliament will have its rights preserved and be allowed to examine the proposed legislation.

As an indication of just how it has been thrust upon us, I mention that it was not even on the Business Paper this morning! At 11 o'clock this morning this legislation was not indicated; yet this afternoon it has been placed in front of us. The Minister wants to push it through all stages today.

**Mr. Houston:** Cabinet is holding this Parliament in contempt.

**Mr. MARGINSON:** It certainly is. That is what Queensland has suffered for many years under the present Premier.

I want the Minister in his reply to tell us why this has to be done now. He has shied away from any such explanation. He gave us no reason why it has to be done.

**Mr. Bjelke-Petersen:** You couldn't have been listening.

**Mr. MARGINSON:** I am not talking to you, either.

**Mr. Houston:** Why didn't you put it on your Business Paper?

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. MARGINSON:** I realise that we have only had two administrators in local government in Queensland and that we have had an advisory committee for quite some time; but isn't it time that local government had its own council? We have been told that the Government believes in the autonomy of the councils, but it has taken much away from them. At the same time, however, it has loaded local government with responsibilities that should be carried by the Government. I visualise the administration of the noise pollution legislation also being thrown on to local government. I ask the Minister to give serious consideration to deferring this legislation to allow the Opposition, which is surely entitled to some consideration, to have a look at what is proposed. I also ask the Minister to give us some details of why this is to be done.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (3.26 p.m.): Experience has taught me to walk very warily round any motion rushed into the Parliament without prior notice, and to walk particularly warily round any motion that provides for the passage of a Bill through all stages in one day. I for one would like some elucidation of why this has been done in the present case. The Minister for Local Government is a man who speaks very lucidly and I understood everything that he said in his introductory remarks. Although he mentioned Cooktown, the Bill does not refer only to Cooktown. I can be corrected if I misunderstood what the Minister said. However, as I heard the Minister, the Bill gives him power to set up a committee with respect to the appointment and powers of an administrator in any local authority area in Queensland. It is, as I see it, a simple machinery amendment and, if it is as I think it is, the sooner it goes through the House the better. When the legislation becomes law, as I suppose it will by tomorrow when the Governor signs it, the Minister will have power to set up an administrator in any local government area in the State.

The time is not far distant (I should like the Minister to advise me if this is part of the reason for the introduction of the Bill)

when the Minister will have to appoint an administrator to look after the affairs of the city of Townsville, which has been controlled since the last election by an A.L.P. council and an A.L.P. mayor. That was brought about—I am not going to spare the Government—by the fact that at the last local authority election there were three National Party teams each of 10 running against one A.L.P. team. It was a mathematical certainty that the A.L.P. team would be elected. There was one National Party team headed by the mayor (I forget his name for the moment; he is a dentist) and another National Party team run by Alderman Arnold. There was yet another National Party team run by Brian Newell and there were three Independents. Hagarty, by the way, was the name of the incumbent mayor. There were therefore 43 candidates in the field, only 10 of them A.L.P. I am absolutely astonished that in those conditions and under those circumstances, and with that handicap, the anti-Labour forces were able to have three aldermen elected of the 11 on the Townsville City Council.

That was only a few short months ago but since then things have already reached an explosive state in Townsville. Not only have rates been jacked up to the sky and charges jacked up much higher than the average person can afford, but it has been blandly and calmly announced that no work at all will be done in the council area. Not even grass-cutting is going to be done. In addition to that, when the Municipal Officers' Association, which consists of a few fat cats in the administration section of the council, applied for incremental increases and was knocked back by the industrial tribunal, the Townsville City Council said, "We don't give a damn what the Arbitration Court said. We are going to grant these men annual incremental payments." Those payments amount to \$83,000 a year.

In addition, the aldermen said, "Although the council is in perhaps the worst state of financial distress ever, we will give ourselves an increase in aldermanic allowances of 100 per cent." And they did. I wonder what they would say if members of this Parliament gave themselves a 100 per cent increase in their salaries and allowances? I would vote for it because I am worth it. I do not know whether I would vote for it for other members, because I do not know whether they are worth it. But that is what the aldermen are doing.

Let us make it abundantly clear: they have the support of the media in Townsville. As a matter of fact, the other day the Mayor of Townsville said, "I am the Chief Magistrate of Townsville", and he ordered a man out of town. That man was a reporter for one of the radio stations, and when the Mayor of Townsville found he had no power to order this man out of Townsville he had to back and fill, squirm, twist, genuflect and grovel and have his photograph taken with a big, wide, asinine

grin on his face shaking hands with this man and making friends with him. But he really thought he had the power to order people out of town and he did it under the power that he mistakenly thought he had. I think it is about time the Minister had this power to set up an administrator in more cases than the Cook Shire.

God knows what Townsville aldermen are going to do in other ways. The people are not being told that, in addition to all the allowances they granted themselves, the mayor and all the aldermen also get \$35 or \$40—whatever it is—a meeting for all the meetings they attend by virtue of their position on the city council. I refer to the two representatives of the Townsville City Council on the Townsville Harbour Board, the Townsville City Council representatives on the Townsville Regional Electricity Board, the Townsville City Council representatives on the Townsville Fire Brigades Board, the Townsville City Council representative on the rags, bags, bones and bottles board and so on. They all collect allowances of \$40 and \$50 a meeting for being the council representatives on those boards.

As a matter of fact, I do not know very much about local authority matters and what lurks and perks are in it these days. When I was an alderman I received a guinea a meeting, and I received that only for meetings of the Townsville City Council. These aldermen are arranging all sorts of special meetings in order to justify being paid \$35 or \$45 a meeting. When the influenza epidemic scare was on, they held a special meeting of the health committee—I think there are seven members—to decide to get in touch with the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory and ask for more anti-flu serum to be flown to Townsville. One of the office boys could have done that. The Town Clerk could have done that, but they had a special health committee meeting to pass a motion to send this request to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory and they all collected their \$35 for a meeting which took exactly 25 minutes.

In general terms I concur with the remarks made by the honourable member for Wolston, but if the Minister believes, as I believe he believes, that this motion is urgent and if he has in the back of his mind the idea that he might have to apply this legislation even more quickly than he thinks he should, but not as quickly as the people of Townsville think he should in regard to the Townsville City Council, in order to have an administrator inquire into the affairs of that nighted city, then I am quite happy to support the measure and shoot it through this Parliament in the one day and take it up to the Governor for his signature as quickly as possible.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (3.34 p.m.): As the Deputy Premier and Treasurer said this morning, there are not many of us who were in this place prior to 1960, but as

one of those who have been here for the full period of office of this Government I find the introduction of this Bill today quite extraordinary. I have always understood that the procedure in this Legislature for the introduction of Bills was that an introductory speech was made by the Minister, members were then given an opportunity to study the details of the Bill, and it then went through the Committee stage. Even with Bills which had far-reaching effects and had to be implemented quickly, we still had one or two days to look at them. There have not been many occasions when we have been asked to deal with legislation as we have today. Let us make the position very clear. The Leader of the Opposition has spoken to me on this matter because I have had the privilege of being a member for quite some considerable time longer than other members of my party and so I have been asked to make this point. The point is that when we were asked to carry a Bill in the one day, as we are now being asked to do—

Mr. Lane interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! I warn the honourable member for Merthyr.

Mr. HOUSTON:—in every case the Minister gave a detailed reason. The Premier is nodding his head. That is so. Honourable members were given a detailed reason, and the Premier now says that he will give us a detailed reason. I say that is a further reason why the Leader of the Opposition was quite right when he said to me, "Also announce that we intend to divide the Committee in opposition to this because we have not been given the reason why the Bill is being introduced and rushed through."

The parliamentary programme that was given to honourable members—and we appreciate the action of the Leader of the House in giving us a copy of it—lays down very clearly that on Tuesdays and Thursdays we will be debating the Address in Reply till 5.30 and then legislation from 5.30 till 10 p.m. I have no quarrel with that proposal. The Government has a duty to legislate for the State. But why could not this Bill be introduced now and put through the second reading, Committee and third reading stages tomorrow afternoon? That would be a delay of only one day, and it would not break down the procedures of this Assembly. As this is the beginning of a new session, I say that I hope this is not going to establish a pattern for getting legislation through the Chamber. No matter how important legislation is, surely its passage could be delayed for 24 hours.

What did the Minister say? Briefly, he said that there is an administrator in only two local authority areas. He said also that he visited them some time ago. If it was absolutely urgent that this matter be dealt with, Parliament could have sat earlier. There

have been occasions in the past when it has sat earlier because a certain situation has arisen. I remember, for example, a special sitting to deal with the situation at Mt. Isa. There has been plenty of opportunity for the Minister to recall Parliament if he so desired. I believe that there is some hidden reason why this legislation is being put through today.

Actually, I am not so concerned about the reason for the introduction of this Bill as I am about the pattern of a breakdown of parliamentary procedures that have been followed long before any of us came into this Chamber, and which certainly have been followed in the 19 years of this Government. I can recall only one or two occasions when honourable members have been asked to pass legislation through the Chamber in one day, as we are now being asked to do.

As I said earlier, the legislation only changes a method. The Minister said that exactly the same people will constitute the advisory committee and that the committee will advise the same administrator. Apparently, the only difference is that at present if the majority of the advisory committee vote for something the administrator has not to take that advice. It appears to me that there must be some issue upon which the advisory committee has said, "It should be this", and the administrator has said, "It need not be." That would seem to me to be the only situation that would justify the sudden introduction of the legislation. If that is so, I believe that the Committee should be told.

It is not good enough for the Premier to come into the Chamber and say, "You will be told." The object of the Minister's introductory speech is to inform the Committee what the legislation is all about, and I believe that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads should tell honourable members what it is all about. As he has failed to do that, the Leader of the Opposition has asked me to say that the Opposition does not intend to support the introduction of the legislation. We oppose it not because of what is in it but because of the method of introduction used and because the Minister has not clearly told the Committee why it is needed so urgently.

**Mr. LINDSAY** (Everton) (3.39 p.m.): As the democratically elected representative of the silent majority of the Everton electorate, I, too, have not yet been convinced by the Minister that the Bill needs to be rushed through the Chamber today, in its three readings, after Parliament has been in recess for five months. I look forward to hearing a more detailed explanation from the Minister as to why it is necessary to have the matter finalised today.

**Mr. LANE** (Merthyr) (3.40 p.m.): Those honourable members who listened carefully to the Minister's introductory speech would have grasped immediately that what we are doing here today concerns a principle. It

concerns the principle that the greatest possible cross-section of the community should have an opportunity to be represented here in this Chamber, that democracy should have its way in that the maximum number of people, irrespective of their occupation or to what representative body they belong, should be qualified to come here without any inhibition in law against their representing the views of the people in this Parliament, so that the broadest view can be expressed in this place. This is a great principle by which many of us have stood so frequently in Parliament and out on the highways and by-ways of the State, and it is something that we are intending to perpetuate here today in this amending legislation. It is the principle that as few people in the community as possible should be precluded from eligibility for election to this Parliament. That is the principle we are concerned with. I would hope that honourable members on both sides, particularly those dull individuals who occupy the few Opposition benches, would grasp this principle immediately and go with it. Obviously Opposition members are in a state of confusion because they have no firm reference point in terms of political principle. They have no firm reference point at all. They are without the advantage of being briefed by their fancy research officers and their pretty-speech writers outside the Chamber. Therefore they are very flat today. Their contribution to the debate will be flat and dead.

It is not unusual to see that the so-called Leader of the Opposition is absent from the Chamber once again. Once again he is quite inadequate when it comes to grasping something off the cuff or spontaneously in this place. The former Leader of the Opposition (the honourable member for Bulimba), who was disposed of some years ago but who still sits there on those benches in his shame, once again has had to rise and take over the leadership of the Opposition in this Parliament. He has had to do that because the man who formally holds the Opposition leadership is quite inadequate for the position. He is not only inadequate in terms of principle but he is also inadequate in terms of leading a team on the floor of Parliament. He is probably the most inadequate parliamentarian who ever stepped into this Chamber. That is why he does not grasp what is at stake here today. I am sure we cannot expect anything better from honourable members opposite, but I know we can expect something better from members on this side. We can expect them to take a view based on the principle of having the greatest cross-section of the community being elected representatives in this place—persons who are prepared to face the people, not appointees through the Labor machine, and to enter this Parliament irrespective of their occupation.

I found it strange when I came to this place from the Public Service where very definitely I held an office of profit under the

Crown. I had to exclude myself from my former place of employment. I had to resign to be qualified to come here. I hope that in due course that will be corrected so that public servants, members of the Police Force, members of the Railway Department and members of various Government bodies will be able to come here without fear of being caught by some legal technicality which they may not comprehend immediately. Obviously it is not comprehended by the Leader of the Opposition. Other people in the community who stand for Parliament may not see that fine point of the law, and they could find themselves excluded. That might occur to some unsophisticated people—persons who are not lawyers might find themselves in that predicament. So I support any proposal which removes inhibitions on the eligibility of anyone for election to this Parliament.

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (3.45 p.m.): I am thankful to the Premier for speaking to me in the lobby for a few moments and explaining some of the reasons for the introduction of this measure. Opposition members were upset and concerned at the way in which this legislation was rushed into the Chamber and at the fact that we were not advised of any of its ramifications or the reason for its introduction. Now that we have heard some Government members talk about their belief in principles and selections, we are even more concerned about it.

The Minister in his introductory speech clearly stated that advisory committees have been appointed by him. Appointed! We have heard Government members talk about elections, democracy, adult franchise, the rights of the individual and private enterprise. The honourable member for Merthyr had the hide to talk about democratic principles in a matter concerning the appointment of a committee by the Minister. The Minister also said that members of advisory committees are selected. Selected! We hear no more about elections or about giving the ratepayers in the area a say. We hear nothing about persons over 18 or 21 years of age having a say or about property franchise, which the honourable member for Merthyr would like to see. We are told that the Minister is selecting people to represent an area.

Why don't we go back to the basic principle of democracy, which is that the people in the area should be able to elect their representatives? Aren't the people in Cook or Torres going to be treated in the same way as those in any other local authority area in Queensland? Do we have to accept the democratic principle enunciated by the honourable member for Merthyr and other Government members, that is, that the Minister will appoint or select four or five people and put them there to take control of the area? That's democracy "Shady" Lane style!

Under the circumstances, and in the light of the points made by the honourable member for Bulimba and the Opposition spokesman on Local Government, we will call for divisions. For the reason that we are not too sure of the ramifications of the Bill, and we will continue to call for divisions until we are sure of them.

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.47 p.m.): I share the concern expressed by my Opposition colleagues. On my very first day in this Chamber the Government of the day brought forward a Bill and had it passed through all its stages in the one day. The two new members who have entered the Chamber today for the first time are experiencing exactly what I experienced when I walked into this Assembly as a new member.

**Mr. Moore:** What year was that?

**Mr. JONES:** 1965. At that time the Government brought forward its anti-picketing laws to overcome an emergency that arose on that day. I disagreed vehemently with that legislation, and it would be remiss of me on this occasion if I did not rise and voice my opposition to this measure.

The present situation in the Cook Shire has been created by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. From what I have heard, it is not an entirely satisfactory situation. Apparently the advisory committee has been appointed or selected by the Minister. His nominees sit on this advisory committee. Whoever they may be, they are not answerable to the ratepayers. Furthermore, they may have pecuniary interests in their area. If they reside there, they must have such interests. They are using a particular political force in their area to get what they want. My information is that on many occasions they have been in conflict with the present administrator and that they have ganged up on him. On prior occasions he has had the administrative responsibility of overruling their wishes. They are not elected representatives. If the Minister were honest he would give the ratepayers a vote to let them elect their own people. He should give these people a democratic right to elect their representatives on their local authority bodies. That is not untoward in any way. What is happening in that area is peculiar to the Cook Shire and the Shire of Torres. These people should not be set apart. They should be given the democratic right to select their own people by secret ballot.

We have heard much about secret ballots in trade unions and the upholding of the democratic principle of secret ballots. Let us apply this theory in principle and in practice in this area. If that were to be done I am sure the Minister would get a response from these people in this far northern area.

I am very sorry that the honourable member for Cook, the representative of the area, is not in the House today. I should have liked him to have his say on what

is happening and on what is being steam-rolled through this Assembly. We would like to know its background. We are not being told and I do not believe what is happening today is honest. I am very suspicious of this measure. I am concerned about the way in which so-called democratic forms are being applied and I will vote in opposition to the measure. It is wrong that we should be making such a decision. We certainly have not got the Bill before us and we do not know its ramifications. We have not seen a written word of the Bill. Until about 3 o'clock this afternoon we had no indication that the Bill was to be introduced. Nothing appears on the Business Paper about it. We got information through the back door that the Bill was to be introduced at the conclusion of the speech seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I am very concerned. I appeal to the Minister not to go beyond the first reading today but to give us an opportunity to study the Bill and handle this matter in a truly democratic way.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.53 p.m.), in reply: I am sorry to have to say to the honourable member for Cairns that it appears he got caught with his pants down. He was not listening. He was probably babbling to one of his colleagues and did not hear what I said when I introduced the Bill. This is what I said at page 7 of my prepared speech—

“The Bill provides that the holding of an office of a member of an advisory committee prior to the coming into force of the amending legislation has at no time been an office or place of profit under the Crown.”

That is the guts of it, if the honourable member wants to know, but apparently he was not listening. The honourable member for Wolston has asked me to repeat what I said, and this is what I said—

“The purpose of the provision is to avoid any possible argument that the holding of such office was in contravention of section 5 of the Officials in Parliament Act.”

The honourable member for Cairns said that he knew nothing about it until 3 o'clock. That surprises me because generally everybody knows everything that is going on around the place. Frankly, I gave him credit for knowing. He will have to pull his socks up if he wants to do better this session because on the first day of the session he has been asleep.

**Mr. Jones:** What about the member for Cook?

**Mr. HINZE:** The honourable member for Cairns wished that the honourable member for Cook were here. The honourable member for Cook held office for one year on the Cook Shire Council Advisory Committee from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976.

**Mr. Marginson** interjected.

**Mr. HINZE:** Of course the honourable member will hear about it. He was selected especially to represent the interests of the Aboriginal community of the shire.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** By the Premier.

**Mr. HINZE:** By this Government.

Of course, he is a National Party representative in this Parliament. Senator Bonner is a Liberal Party representative in the Federal House. Who is there to represent the Opposition in either this Assembly or the Federal House? Perhaps it is racial discrimination; I wouldn't know.

The honourable member for Cook has not received any payment from the Crown. The only payments he receives are the normal meeting fees paid by the Cook Shire Council. Legal advice, however, is that his appointment by the Minister could affect his position as a member of the Legislative Assembly, even though that he receives no payment from the Crown. He has not taken his place in the Chamber today.

**Mr. Deeral's** appointment was made in good faith and he has performed very useful work in his capacity as a member of the advisory committee. To overcome any possibility of his position as a member of this Parliament being affected, the Bill provides that the holding of an office as a member of an advisory committee prior to the commencement of the amending legislation does not and never did constitute the holding of an office or place of profit under the Crown within the meaning of the Officials in Parliament Act.

**Mr. Burns:** What about the other things in the Bill?

**Mr. HINZE:** As to that, I will refer specifically to the argument put forward by the Leader of the Opposition. Being a “new boy” when it comes to local government, of course, he just would not know. The Cook Shire had a council, the same as every other local authority in this State. It went broke—bankrupt—and something had to be put in its place. The Government of the day put in the place of the Cook Shire Council an administrator. That is the simple position.

If the Leader of the Opposition were to go to the 131 local authorities in this State, he would hear every one of them say that this Government and this Minister are giving them more autonomy than they have ever had, particularly in the period up to 1957. The Government gives, and will continue to give, full autonomy to local authorities in this State.

When the Cook Shire is in a position to elect its own council—and, frankly, I think it is getting very close to it now—it will be given full autonomy.

As I said previously, I went to the area and met the advisory committee in Cooktown. This does not very often happen. I spoke to the advisory members, who travel hundreds of miles at their own expense. Frankly, these fellows who make up the advisory committee are the salt of the earth. But all that the members of the Opposition can do is criticise the measure.

**Mr. Burns:** Why don't you let them run for election?

**Mr. HINZE:** I don't think it will be too long before we do that.

**Mr. Burns:** Then we don't need this Bill.

**Mr. HINZE:** I would say we do need the Bill, for the very simple reason that I explained about our friend and colleague the honourable member for Cook.

I do not think that I should prolong the debate any further. I have indicated the reason for the introduction of the amending legislation.

Question—That the motion (Mr. Hinze) be agreed to—put; and the Committee divided—

AYES, 58

Aikens	Knox
Akers	Kyburz
Alison	Lamond
Armstrong	Lane
Bertoni	Lee
Bird	Lester
Bjelke-Petersen	Lickiss
Brown	Lindsay
Byrne	Lowes
Camm	McKechnie
Campbell	Miller
Cory	Muller
Crawford	Newbery
Doumany	Porter
Edwards	Powell
Elliott	Row
Gibbs	Scott-Young
Glasson	Simpson
Goleby	Small
Greenwood	Tenni
Gunn	Tomkins
Hales	Turner
Hartwig	Warner
Herbert	Wharton
Hinze	Young
Hodges	
Hooper, K. W.	
Hooper, M. D.	
Katter	<i>Tellers:</i>
Kaus	Ahern
Kippin	Moore

NOES, 10

Burns	Prest
Casey	Wright
Hooper, K. J.	<i>Tellers:</i>
Houston	Jensen
Jones	Marginson
McIlroy	

PAIRS:

Frawley	Dean
Sullivan	Yewdale

Resolved in the affirmative.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

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

PRINTING OF BILL

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (4.7 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be printed.”

In doing so I should explain to the Committee that, in accordance with practice, copies of the Bill have been printed and are held ready for distribution. These copies, having been printed in advance, do not contain in the long title the concluding words “and for another purpose” which have been added to the long title of the Bill as introduced; otherwise the copies of the Bill are identical.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

SECOND READING

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

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

**Mr. MARGINSON** (Wolston) (4.9 p.m.): Having now heard the real reason why we have had this legislation rushed into the Chamber this afternoon and why it has to pass all stages before we leave, we accept the point made with respect to the honourable member for Cook, and if we had been told—

**An Honourable Member:** Why vote against it?

**Mr. MARGINSON:** We voted against having it put through in this manner and we made it clear that that is what we voted against. We will continue to oppose this sort of thing, when an attempt is made to put legislation through all stages like this. But we accept it now that we have been told why, and if we had been told in the first place the Government would have saved some time. But I want to say that in the last few minutes I have found that this matter was discussed at the Local Government Conference in North Queensland last week.

**Mr. Lane:** Why don't you take an interest in what goes on?

**Mr. MARGINSON:** The Minister did not tell us that. The decision reached at the Local Government Conference in North Queensland was far from unanimous. Quite a number of delegates spoke against this principle. Why cannot we say that we would like a further look at it?

It is true that at this stage the administrators of both of these local authorities need not accept the advice and the recommendations of the advisory committee. Under the existing legislation, the administrator has the sole power to deal with the matter as he wishes. After all, men who are made administrators of local authorities are men

of great experience. Under the Government's proposal this afternoon, a select group of people will be appointed by the Government to carry out the work and the duties of elected aldermen or shire councils. The Government will be able to put on the advisory committees any of its mates, if it wishes to do so, and they will not even be responsible to the electors of the particular area. Quite candidly, I would rather have a democratically elected council control the area concerned, even if it got into debt, than have stooges of the Government put onto the advisory committees to do what the Government dictates that they shall do.

I again express my regret that the Minister did not give any notice of this legislation. Until five minutes before he rose to his feet, we did not even know that he intended to introduce it. We certainly did not know what the legislation was until he began to speak, and he then requested that we pass the Bill through all stages in the one day. The Opposition will continue to oppose rushing Bills through this Parliament. Honourable members are well aware of what has happened in the case of much legislation that has been passed through this Chamber. On a record number of occasions during the last 18 months or two years, measures that have been introduced by the present Treasurer have had to be amended. A remarkable number of changes have had to be made to laws relating to the Department of Justice. I hope honourable members are not going to be asked again and again during the life of this Parliament to pass legislation without being given the opportunity to express considered opinions on the proposals.

**Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (4.13 p.m.):** It was not only members of the Opposition who were stunned by the Minister's request that this Bill be passed through all stages in one day. One back-bench member on the Government side expressed his opinion. However, I very carefully looked round at the time and noted the looks on the faces of most Government back-benchers, and it was quite obvious that they had absolutely no knowledge of the measure now before us.

**Mr. Lane:** Are you a mind reader, or something?

**Mr. CASEY:** Well, the honourable member for Merthyr! Today was the first time we have ever seen a member come into the House and present a blank piece of paper as a petition. He did not get it signed properly. It is probably just as well that he left the Police Force. His powers of investigation could not have been very good.

When one looks at the introduction of this legislation, one sees that the people most maltreated by the Premier and the Minister are the Government back-benchers, who had absolutely no knowledge of it. One of

them had the intestinal fortitude to rise in his place in the Chamber and express his pique and his surprise at what had happened. Of course, most Government members were getting ready for the party meeting at half past 3 this afternoon, at which they might have found out about it and that an effort was being made to get it through.

Let us look at the principles contained in the Bill and see why there is a need for such a rush. In his reply, the Minister indicated in a half-hearted sort of way that it was introduced because of the position of the member for Cook. I think we all respect the fact that the honourable member for Cook is a conscientious member of the House. I would express the thoughts of my colleague the honourable member for Townsville South who earlier today said, "Where is Eric Deeral? I have not seen him about today." When we see the principle embodied in the Bill, we realise that if there is any problem because of his holding an office of profit under the Crown, the Bill is clearly retrospective. Surely that completely negates any need for speed on this occasion. I completely agree with the honourable member for Wolston, who at both stages has expressed his opposition to the rapidity with which the legislation is being passed.

Let us consider the two shires covered by that aspect of the legislation, bearing in mind, as has been pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, that this could happen with any council anywhere in Queensland. The Minister himself has acknowledged that. The honourable member for Townsville South has asked him to look at another council. Because of current matters I have no doubt that, if the Minister were able to exercise his own complete rights, he would ask for something similar in respect of the Gold Coast City Council. That is obvious from his criticism of the mayor of that council and what has occurred in that area. When we look at the statistics for local authorities in Queensland, we realise that the Cook Shire covers a very big expanse of some 122,800 square kilometres of Queensland. Contained within that area are 7,500 people, according to the latest statistical figures available.

**Mr. Lowes:** How many ratepayers?

**Mr. CASEY:** We often hear that call from Liberal members who think that all persons should be judged by the property they own. We are looking at adult franchise in Queensland. We have had adult franchise for a considerable time. It is the duty of every member of this Parliament to ensure that we have continuing adult franchise. But there are two exceptions where we do not have adult franchise. I refer to local authority elections in the Shires of Cook and Torres. Every member in the House knows that the majority of people in those shires are of either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

descent—the coloured people in the community. How much lip-service is being paid to some of the Government's stated policies about the coloured people in the community? The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in those shires are denied adult franchise in local authority elections. The principle embodied in the Bill further strengthens the Government's control by insisting that the people concerned with local authority administration in those areas do exactly what they are told by the Government.

Let us make some comparisons. I mentioned the area and population of the Cook Shire. The Torres Shire has an acknowledged area of 2,800 square kilometres and a population of 5,400. The population of the two shires is more than the population of the Shire of Sarina of which the new Leader of the House and Minister for Police was chairman for a number of years. I am positive he would never have wanted to see the appointment of an administrator in that shire or the adult franchise taken away from the people of the area. Furthermore, most of the larger western shires in Queensland contain areas approximately half that of the Cook Shire, yet they have only about one-tenth of the population of the Cook Shire. In the main, the people in these western shires live in grazing communities and are of Caucasian descent, and unlike the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders on the Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait islands, they enjoy full adult franchise.

Both the Cook and Torres Shires have larger populations than the Shires of Wondai, Murgon and Nanango, all of which are in the Premier's electorate.

**Mr. Gunn:** Not Nanango.

**Mr. CASEY:** Parts of the Nanango Shire are within his electorate.

**Mr. Gunn** interjected.

**Mr. CASEY:** As the honourable member looks after the Nanango Shire, he should be on his feet trying to get for the people in the Cook and Torres Shires the same rights as those enjoyed by the people in the Nanango Shire. I will accept the honourable member's interjection concerning Nanango. Let us take the Kingaroy Shire, which is in the Premier's electorate. It has far fewer people than the Cook Shire.

Let us get down to tin-tacks. We hear a lot of talk in the community about giving more and better rights to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. This legislation, however, will strengthen the Government's control over Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and will deprive them of autonomy. It will not give them adult franchise, nor will it give them the right to have a say in their own local government affairs.

Earlier today either the mover or the seconder of the Address in Reply said that Queenslanders are different. We are certainly

different; we are going in an opposite direction to that of every other State in the Commonwealth in the matter of rights for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. This legislation, introduced in haste, is not in the best interests of the people of Queensland.

**Mr. AKERS** (Pine Rivers) (4.22 p.m.): As a member of local government, I completely support the principles embodied in this Bill.

Until the Minister told me the reason for the hasty introduction of this Bill, I was not happy with the way in which it was to be rushed through.

**Mr. Houston:** He told you?

**Mr. AKERS:** He told me the reason for it. The reason for rushing through this very sound principle is that it will enable a certain member of the House to remain here.

The division on the first reading of the Bill showed Opposition members for what they really are—a bunch of racists. They spoke to the Bill without knowing anything about it, but when they called for a division they knew what it was all about, and in spite of that they called for a division. They showed that they did not want an Aboriginal member of Parliament. Their vote clearly showed that.

**Mr. Melloy:** We didn't know what was in the Bill.

**Mr. AKERS:** Of course they knew what was in the Bill. They had been told by the Minister what was in it.

**Mr. Melloy:** We didn't know; we hadn't seen it.

**Mr. AKERS:** They did know. On other occasions I have seen Opposition members vote in favour of the introduction of a measure while claiming that they did not know what was in it. On this occasion, as soon as they found out that if this Bill was not introduced the member for Cook would be kicked out, they voted against it. They did not care about better representation or about a wider base of power in local authorities that have an administrator appointed to them. The principle of the Bill is that, instead of one man being in charge of a local authority area, there will be a committee that will have full say.

**Mr. Houston:** Appointed. Why don't you elect the committee?

**Mr. AKERS:** I know the committee will be appointed. But there has to be reason for having an administrator in the first place. Administrators are appointed, and this is the first step towards the election of a council. Any of the local authorities in New South Wales over which administrators have been appointed have finally gone back to elected

councils. That is what the shires of Cook and Torres are heading for. I should like to think that if the same situation arose in my shire, one administrator would not be controlling the whole shire—that at least a committee would control it. That is why I support the Bill, although I am not happy that we have had to rush it through all stages in one day.

The honourable member for Wolston referred in his second-reading speech to stooges of the Government on this committee. Yet Opposition members supported the Whitlam Government that wanted to introduce the interstate commission. Has anybody looked into what that commission was about? It was to be composed completely of stooges of the A.L.P. Government and it would have controlled every item in Australia. It is completely hypocritical for the honourable member for Wolston to talk about stooges of the Government running a shire when he was prepared to accept a group of people—stooges of the Federal Labor Government—to run the whole of Australia.

The honorable member for Mackay said that this covers all councils in Queensland. That is the point which must be borne in mind when we are considering the basic principle of this legislation. As I said, I would not like my council area to be controlled by one man. This principle will cover the whole area.

**Mr. Houston:** Would you like to see your council dissolved and an administrator appointed?

**Mr. AKERS:** Two calls have been made for my council to be dissolved, but the Minister has seen fit to reject them because my council has done a good job.

In Cook and Torres the appointment of administrators was necessary. I will be watching closely what happens (as no doubt will the honourable member for Cook now that he can stay here), and hope that we will get elected councils in the area.

**Mr. LINDSAY (Everton) (4.28 p.m.):** At the introductory stage I indicated on behalf of the silent majority of the electorate of Everton that after a recess of five months I had serious doubts about a Bill being rushed through all stages today. I asked the Minister to explain why that should be done and I am grateful to him, as I am sure the silent majority of the Everton electorate are, for his explanation. It boils down to the fact that we must support this measure. If we do not, the democratically elected Aboriginal member for Cook will no longer be eligible to be a member of this House. Inadvertently he continued to hold an advisory committee position in the Aboriginal and Islander Advancement area. The silent majority of the Everton electorate will understand that it was a genuine mistake by the honourable member for Cook. Therefore, on their behalf, I support the measure.

It is a matter of tremendous personal pride to me as a man born in Brisbane who spent many years in the defence of his country in places like Papua New Guinea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam, and who has travelled extensively in other areas, to know that we have in this House a democratically elected Aboriginal representative. It is well to point out that we also have Senator Bonner, who is a man of my own political persuasion. It is interesting to note that only the Liberal and National parties in Queensland are prepared to nominate and select Aborigines. The A.L.P. does not have a very worthy history in this field.

As part of the socialist philosophy, we might look, too, at Communist China. Nobody ever says how the Chinese look after their Aborigines. They have Aborigines, who are forced into the rugged country to the south-west of China. Let us look at Malaysia. The people most brutalised by the Communists during the Malaysian emergency were in fact the Malay Aborigines. Where are they? Are they in the Parliament of that country? No. They are in the Cameron Highlands. They have been forced out into the bush. The Dyaks in Borneo have been similarly treated. In Vietnam, who were the ones most slaughtered by the North Vietnamese battalions and regiments as they streamed down from the northern part of Vietnam into South Vietnam? Who were the ones most badly treated? Of course, the Montagnards.

However, back home in Queensland, we have in our Parliament an Aborigine—Eric Deeral—who is a tremendous fellow. I have travelled with him throughout his electorate—through all the Aboriginal reserves and through most of the Torres Strait islands. He is highly regarded by all of his constituents. For my part, I cannot find it in my heart, representing as I do the silent majority of the people of Everton, to vote him out of this Parliament on a technicality. I am quite sure that the electors of Everton would agree with me, and they are the ones I am interested in, for they are the people who put me here.

**Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (4.32 p.m.):** I hesitate to rise twice in the debate on this legislation. It is a simple machinery matter that should slide through the Parliament fairly quickly without any opposition. Unfortunately, the members of the Labor Party saw fit, when they realised who was affected by the legislation, to oppose it by voting against it, in the full knowledge of what they were doing and who they were attempting to exclude from Parliament. That is a burden of guilt that will sit upon their heads for the rest of their days.

They already have a very poor record in encouraging our indigenous people in any real and practical way. If they wish to prove otherwise, one of the members opposite ought to stand aside at the next election.

Perhaps endorsement for Nudgee or some other reasonably certain Labor seat should be given to an indigenous person. Endorsement might be given to one of their friends in the Aboriginal community—Dennis Walker or one of the others who run with the Labor Party. Maybe we could have Dennis Walker sitting in this House as the Labor Party member for Nudgee after the next election, representing that electorate as a full member of the Australian Labor Party. The only way they could erase the sins of their vote in this Chamber on the introduction of this Bill would be to endorse Dennis Walker for Nudgee.

**An Honourable Member:** When he gets out.

**Mr. LANE:** He is in gaol now, but he will get out in time. He will not be so very different from some of the members who sit on the Opposition benches now. In fact, his behaviour on the streets is not so different—although I dare say it is a little different in gaol.

However, I want to apply myself to some of the principles involved in the Bill. During the introductory debate I spoke about the principle of allowing maximum representation in this place—that is, allowing representation here from the broadest cross-section of the community. But I am happy to support the other proposals encompassed in the Bill—those giving an administrator full power to act as such and providing for a proper degree of supervision over him by the Minister for Local Government, the man who is the responsible Minister in this State for seeing that local government is conducted in a proper, business-like fashion.

I feel it is a great shame that the Australian Labor Party has taken this attitude. Incidentally, I notice that the Leader of the Opposition is absent once again. As usual, he has left it to the honourable member for Bulimba to stand in and hold up the front bench. It is not difficult to understand why so often we now hear the cry in this place, "Bring Jack back." At least we would then know to whom we referred when we spoke of the Leader of the Opposition. The moment the debate becomes a little heavy and requires a knowledge of parliamentary procedures and Standing Orders, the Leader of the Opposition flees and hides his head. Perhaps he goes up the road and gets Jack Stanaway out of the pub for advice.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. LANE:** I know that all members on this side of the House are happy to give their support to the Bill, just as they were happy to endorse Neville Bonner as a Liberal candidate for Senate election a few years ago and as the National Party was happy to have Eric Deeral run for Cook. But Labor Party members have stood up here

today and attempted by their votes to exclude from this House a very worthy representative and a conscientious and respectable gentleman of the Torres Strait with whom we on this side of the House are proud to serve.

**Mr. JONES (Cairns) (4.37 p.m.):** Initially I want to correct the wrong assumptions made by some Government Members on the objection of the Opposition to the method of bringing down this legislation.

**Mr. Lane:** You are making excuses now. Get off the hook if you can.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. JONES:** Our objection was to the way in which the Bill was brought before Parliament. It concerns more than just the future of the honourable member for Cook in this Assembly. Now that the Bill has been printed, we see that it occupies about a page and a half and only six lines refer to the position of the honourable member for Cook.

**Mr. Houston:** It was an afterthought.

**Mr. JONES:** It is the last clause in the Bill. I commend to the honourable member for Merthyr a reading at leisure of this Hitler-type legislation. In effect, the Minister becomes the de facto council of the Cook Shire. He appoints a committee; he hand-selects its members. That committee will make decisions irrespective of whether the administrator likes it or not. If the administrator does not agree with a decision, he can appeal to the Minister who has appointed the committee. I ask honourable members what chance the administrator would have when he finds himself between two such heavyweights—a majority decision and a ministerial decision. In those circumstances the administrator would have only a very slim chance.

What chance, then, would there be for the ratepayers of Cook to have any say in any decisions made by these two big guns? The people might disagree with the executive council (or whatever it is to be called) but they will have no chance at all of being heard.

The Minister seems to be earning for himself a reputation for taking over and standing over. We do not have to refer to the matter concerning the bird sanctuary at Currumbin to get an indication of what is happening; we have it in this type of legislation that is now being brought before the House. The Minister is spoiling his reputation. He is no longer a benevolent Minister; he is starting to adopt a dictatorial attitude.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will spoil his own reputation if he does not return to the provisions of the Bill.

**Mr. JONES:** Under the provisions of the Bill the Minister appoints all the members and decides everything. The majority in the electorate will have no say; they are not represented. I said that this was Hitler-type legislation and I repeat that. In fact, I do not think that Hitler could have done better. I think that even Idi Amin, a man of some deeper colour than the Minister but of somewhat similar proportions, would have been proud of the Minister's efforts on this occasion.

It would appear that the Minister wants to hand-pick the executive committee but wants its verdict to be compulsory. If the administrator, in his wisdom and with his knowledge of local government matters, which the executive committee might not have, disagrees with a decision of the committee, he has the right to appeal to the Minister, who will act as judge and jury. He will be the fellow who says yea or nay. He will be the man to bring down the axe on the poor old ratepayers of the Cook Shire. The poor innocent ratepayers will not have any say at all. The Minister appoints his committee and then has the power of veto over the committee, the administrator and everybody else.

Frankly, if we pass this Bill with such suspicious haste we might as well do it without going through the Committee stage at all. We might as well do away altogether with the administrator and with the executive committee. We might as well abandon any thought of ever electing a council in the Cook Shire and simply install the Minister as "El Supremo" or "El Presidente" of Cook Shire.

Surely we should look at the financial arrangements. I wonder whether the Cook Shire is going broke because some people up there are not paying their rates. When the Premier was in Cairns recently he had some discussion with Mr. Wiley Fancher, who is a ratepayer in that area. Recently, about seven days after he had some financial discussions with the Premier, he went bankrupt. The Minister might even appoint Wiley Fancher to the executive committee. It is up to the Minister. There is nothing to say it is not possible; the Minister has the power.

I want to draw attention to the fact that this matter was discussed at a recent meeting of the Local Government Association in North Queensland. I believe that one of the principal speakers at that meeting was Mr. Kattenberg, the chairman of the Atherton Shire Council. I believe that there were other speakers, including Mr. Dickson, Chairman of the Johnstone Shire Council. The unanimous feeling of the meeting was against any amendment to the Local Government Act, and in fact another unanimous motion was passed condemning the amendment to the Local Government Act which is now before the House. The Minister's argument is that it is a step

towards autonomy for local government, but according to my advice and the feelings of this meeting of the Local Government Association in North Queensland, that is not true.

I say that Cooktown cannot afford it and that it will not provide it with any more money. It creates a precedent. It is a Big Brother situation in which the Government can appoint its own nominees to the executive committee. A very dangerous precedent is set when the Government can appoint its own nominees and can interfere to this degree at this level of local government through legislation and thereby kill local government in the area completely in the guise of greater efficiency, as the Minister said. I do not believe that is the situation. It has yet to be proved, and I do not believe it.

The big problem in the Cook Shire is that if universal franchise were introduced, Aborigines at the Hopevale Mission and other Aborigines would be eligible to vote at local government elections. If true democracy prevailed, they would outnumber all the European votes in the area. Technically, therefore, the proposed amendment could be seen as being essentially racist and designed to deprive those people of their franchise.

As the Minister would be aware, there have been some innuendoes and slurs against the administrator and his family arising from the suggestion by the previous advisory committee that the administrator, because he was a consulting engineer, had contracts with the Cook Shire Council. However, an investigation by Mr. Johnson found that he was completely above board and a totally honest person, and I should like to hear the Minister reiterate that when he replies to my contribution to the debate. If that is so, what is the need for a change in the administration or the administrator? It is not necessary to change the entire system—as I see it, it is a change that threatens local government as a whole—simply to get rid of an administrator or to overrule him. If the Minister has no confidence in him, I suggest that there are other means at his disposal under the Act to overrule him. Why hoodwink the House by introducing a measure in this guise if that is the purpose behind it?

As a former alderman of the Cairns City Council and a representative of local government, I concede that there are uniform problems in local government. They are going to be compounded because less financial assistance will be available from the Federal Government in the current financial year. Uniform problems are not confined to the regional councils. Local authorities make their decisions, which are then reflected in the regional councils. Of course, the Co-ordinator-General would be aware of that situation, and the Minister would not need to be reminded of the difficulties that are inherent in all local government matters.

The Minister has already appointed an advisory committee to advise the administrator. The administrator is the expert in the local government sphere, but the Minister now seeks to ratify through the measure before the House, which will become an Act of Parliament, the decision that the advisory committee alone—a non-elected body—should be the decision-making authority within the Cook Shire. Previously the committee acted in an advisory capacity to the administrator, but the Bill decrees that the people selected by the Minister will bind the administrator of the Cook Shire to a majority decision of the executive committee. It will not be an elected committee but a committee nominated and selected by the Minister alone, on any ground that he may determine. We have not been told what type of people will be on that committee. The Minister determines that, and he adjudicates their excellence, ability and capability. The Minister alone will determine who the members of the executive committee shall be. The administrator will be bound by the decision of that committee, and I think that is a shame. It will be a blight on our democratic processes.

Previously, all matters relating to the administration of the shire were decided by the administrator, advised by the advisory committee. He was answerable only to the Minister. Now, of course, the advisory committee is answerable only to the Minister. I say unequivocally that it should be the ratepayers that those people are responsible to—the voters, the citizens of the Cook Shire. Now the Minister again appoints an executive committee, which is the old advisory committee. These personnel will be empowered to assist the administrator. That is a nice choice of words. They will “assist” the Minister with a power of majority decision. Previously they were only advisers, but now they tell the administrator what to do on all matters. The administrator now technically works under their direction—a non-elected executive committee. The administrator has the power of appeal to the Minister against the Minister’s own appointees—an appeal from Caesar to Caesar. Whether it will be effective will be the Minister’s decision.

It is a sad day for democracy in Queensland when an administrator is put in an ex officio position as the chairman of a shire council. He could be compared with Sir Bruce Small, who is a shire chairman with no power because he has no numbers on the council. It is a non-elected body. It is an undemocratic situation which I vehemently oppose. It is undemocratic and unrealistic in this day and age. I know the Opposition will be opposing the Bill on that ground.

**Mr. KATTER** (Flinders) (4.52 p.m.): I should like to make a few observations on the Bill and the hidden issue involved in

it, namely, racism. In my own home town of Cloncurry a number of people representing a party that is represented by very small numbers on the opposite side of the House were on the local council. They were the only three councillors who voted for the destruction of Aboriginal homes. Councillors of different political persuasion—I am proud to say they were of my political persuasion—trenchantly opposed the move and tried to prevent 20 homes from being torn down.

That is the issue we see today. The A.L.P. constantly lines up on the side of people in this State who unfortunately are racists.

**An Opposition Member:** What has this to do with the Bill?

**Mr. KATTER:** It has a lot to do with the Bill. Opposition members are attempting to punish a person for not having certain knowledge. Many of us have a European background. We have access to certain knowledge and are brought up with knowledge vastly superior to that enjoyed by many people with an Aboriginal background. Lack of knowledge is probably why they are discriminated against. Because of lack of knowledge and education, a person has been caught in a situation where democracy is defeated on a technicality. That is the essence of discrimination. Because of his lack of knowledge, Opposition members want to punish that person.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. KATTER:** That is exactly what the Bill is all about.

The power in a democracy lies right here in this room, in a room in Canberra, or in a room in a local council. That is where the real power lies. Let us reflect upon how many times the A.L.P. has been prepared to give this ultimate power to members of the Aboriginal race throughout Australia. Not on one single occasion in the history of this nation has the A.L.P. attempted to get a person of Aboriginal origin into a position of power.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. KATTER:** I defy the honourable member for Bulimba to cite one instance when the A.L.P. has pushed forward a person of Aboriginal descent to fill a position of real power in this State—either in this House or in the Federal House.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I rise to a point of order. I don’t want to argue with the honourable member, but just to put the record straight, an Aborigine is the Governor of South Australia, and he was appointed by a Labor Government. Furthermore, we had a candidate standing in a Queensland State election prior to Senator Bonner or Mr. Deeral

I do not intend to name the person concerned, but the House can take my word for it that that is so.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member for Flinders to accept the denial of the honourable member for Bulimba.

**Mr. KATTER:** I will accept it on one basis. But I was referring not to token power but to real power. We have been prepared to give that. We gave Eric Deeral a very real and genuine chance of getting into this House, but now we see a very concerted attempt by Opposition members to remove him from this House. He is the only person of his race presently in the House.

The only thing the A.L.P. has done for the Aboriginal race is spend someone else's money upon them. It has taken money from other people by way of taxes and thrown it at the Aborigines, saying, "What good fellows we are for having done that." Unfortunately some Aborigines have been deceived by that policy.

Let me conclude by saying that the real power lies here. The A.L.P. has made a concerted effort to remove from this House the only person of Aboriginal extraction who has ever succeeded in getting to it. I am quite certain that the Aboriginal people of Queensland will long remember what the A.L.P. has attempted to do today.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (4.58 p.m.), in reply: I want to allay any fears of the Opposition concerning the continuation of the type of council in which an administrator is appointed.

I just want to give a brief history of this matter. The Cook and Torres Shires were dissolved because of their financial problems. In both shires Government reserves represent a large area and this had the effect of reducing the area of rateable land in Torres by 70 per cent. In Torres, the rates hardly cover the clerk's salary. In both areas substantial Government grants have had to be made to enable the local authorities to carry on.

The matter is kept under review and we feel that the time is not yet ripe to restore elected local government. This will be done, however, when the Government is satisfied that elected representatives could carry on the affairs of the Cook and Torres Shires on a firm financial basis as a normal local authority.

The Bill, by enabling executive committees to be appointed to assist in the running of the shires, goes half way to restoring elected local authorities.

The member for Cairns referred to pecuniary interests of members of the executive committees. He made some remarks that I

do not want to repeat. The honourable member for Wolston referred to members of the advisory committee and suggested that they could be stooges of the Minister. I know he did not mean that. He has been in this House and a member of local government for far too long to think that members of any responsible authority would be stooges.

The Bill provides that a member of an executive committee will be in a position similar to a member of an elected council in regard to pecuniary interest. It provides that if a matter is raised at a meeting of an executive committee and a member of that committee has an interest in it he must disclose his interest and refrain from voting on the matter. That takes care of pecuniary interest.

I want to assure the House that it is my intention to restore as quickly as possible to the Cook Shire the right to elect its own local authority. This is a sort of transitional period that it is going through. As the honourable member for Cairns has said, there is concern in some quarters at giving to those fellows who make up the executive council the authority to vote. I would ask the honourable member to put himself in their position. They travel hundreds of miles to Cooktown to attend a meeting and are told by the administrator, "O.K., you can make your representations but you have no vote."

I have tried to give these fellows the right to some say by way of a vote until councils are appointed. I have tried to give the administrator a semblance of a position in that, if the voting is three all, he has the casting vote. That does not take away his authority. I have recently recommended to the Government that he receive a salary from the State. That has never happened in the past. He also has the right to make representations to me if he disagrees with the executive committee. I have to report to Parliament, so let there be no silly ideas or suggestions that I intend to appoint Wiley Fancher or anybody else. It should be well understood that such appointments cannot be made when we are dealing with responsible positions. Frankly I believe that what is being done is a step forward.

I do not wish to dwell further on the person involved other than to say that I am sure honourable members opposite agree with the steps I have taken now that the position has been explained to them.

**Mr. Houston:** We said that.

**Mr. HINZE:** I am not arguing with the Opposition. Quite frankly I thought that the Opposition knew. Somebody said to me, "The Opposition knows exactly what you intend to do." That is why I presented the Bill in the way I did. I now accept the

Opposition's attitude and I also accept that the Opposition does not intend to oppose the Bill any further.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Clause 3—Office of a member of advisory committee not an office of profit under the Crown—

**Mr. MARGINSON** (Wolston) (5.2 p.m.): The first sentence in my second-reading speech was, "The Opposition accepts the position with respect to the member for Cook." Since that time honourable members who have been anxious to make propaganda have made accusations of racism and the like. Clause 3 has some relevance to the Officials in Parliament Act 1899–1961, and section 5 (1) of that Act reads—

"Any person holding any office or place of profit under the Crown . . . who is also a Member of the Legislative Assembly . . . shall be incapable of being elected, or of sitting or voting, as a member of the Legislative Assembly; and the election of such person to be a member of the Legislative Assembly shall be null and void, and a writ shall forthwith issue for the election of a member in his stead."

I am pleased—and the Opposition is pleased—if there is any doubt about the position of the honourable member for Cook being on this advisory committee, that the Government should introduce clause 3 of this legislation to cover any doubt. There must be some doubt because someone made it plain—I think it was the Premier—that the honourable member for Cook would not be in the Chamber today until this legislation went through. I make it quite clear that we are not opposing clause 3. We support it for the reason outlined by the Minister.

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (5.4 p.m.): Today, we have heard debate for and against the ramifications of the Bill. I have made my opinions known to this Assembly. On this occasion I intend once again to put my opinion before the Chamber as a member of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition. We are setting a precedent, whether it be for a presently elected member of the Assembly or for some future representative. Previously, a member of Parliament could not receive two emoluments from the Crown. As a railway employee, I could not hold down my position and remain as an elected member of this Parliament. On other occasions we have seen similar legislation brought down for the benefit of a member. I do not believe that that is right.

I wonder whether this aspect of protecting a member of an advisory committee by allowing him to receive dual emoluments will be extended to representatives in local government and to all other offices of the Crown. Why are we doing it? Are we doing it to protect one member of the Parliament? If we are legislating for one member, I wonder on what occasion the Assembly will next be required to legislate. Whenever an instance is brought to light of somebody making a mistake, the Government will cover it up. Speaking generally, this should be a matter for determination by our courts of law. We should not be covering up the situation with legislation.

**An Honourable Member** interjected.

**Mr. JONES:** I heard the word "racist". If there is anything racist about it, it is these people raising that issue. The member for Cook is a member of this Legislative Assembly. He is not merely a member of any political party; he is a member of Parliament. We are legislating for an individual, no matter what he is, who he is or whom he represents. Whom he represents in this place is more important than who he is or what he is. That is the overriding principle of the parliamentary system. Surely we should be looking at it from that point of view.

Although the Opposition is greatly outnumbered by members on the Government side, I still want it to be recorded that Government members are putting themselves in an invidious position. They will have to legislate every time a member of Parliament gets into trouble by either wittingly or unwittingly receiving emoluments from the Crown. On this occasion we are dealing with a member of an advisory committee to the administrator of the Cook Shire. What will it be next week? On a previous occasion it was a barrister's fee for a member who was some sort of legal adviser to the Air Force. Are we on some other occasion to be faced with a Bill being rushed through all stages in the Parliament for the protection of another individual? I wonder whether the same enthusiasm would be exhibited in this Parliament, with the numbers as they now are, for a member of the Opposition who found himself in this predicament. Would Parliament be making this decision this afternoon if a member of the Opposition were involved?

Clause 3 is a matter for determination by numbers in this place; but it is also a matter of precedence in the Parliament, which will be lumbered with the precedent for evermore.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (5.10 p.m.): I had not intended to participate in this debate again, but I have listened to perhaps the most deplorable, detestable, despicable exhibition of lugubrious, slobbering hypocrisy that I have ever heard. I

refer to the speech just delivered by the honourable member for Cairns. Nobody knows better than he that this Parliament makes laws as well as it can, free of errors and loop-holes. Every now and again the attention of Parliament is drawn to a loop-hole in a law enacted by it and almost immediately Parliament closes that loop-hole.

The honourable member for Cairns should look through the pages of "Hansard". I can remember at least 30 occasions on which this Parliament has brought down legislation of this type. At times it has been not simply a clause in a general Bill, as is the case now, but a special Act of Parliament to exempt a member, irrespective of his party-political complexion, from the operation of the law regarding an office of profit under the Crown.

I can remember Parliament passing a special Bill to exempt a member of the Labor Party who held a casket agent's licence. It was thought that that was an office of profit under the Crown and a special Bill was brought down to protect that person.

I remember when Parliament passed a special Bill to protect a member of the A.L.P. who held a pastoral lease. Some legal eagle or vulture considered that by holding such a lease he was breaking the law relating to the holding of offices of profit under the Crown. I can remember the amazing case of a special Act being passed to give to a member of the Liberal Party, who is back again on the gravy train, the right and authority to hold down a job in the Air Force. I forget the number of titles that went with it.

**Mr. Jones:** Judge Advocate-General.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Yes—and he was not a judge, an advocate or a general.

As soon as this loop-hole in the law was realised, Parliament passed a Bill to close it. It is just not correct for the honourable member for Cairns to suggest that this Bill has been brought down only because the member concerned is a member of the National Party. That is an example of cowardly racism by him and his party and I for one will have no part of it.

**Mr. JONES:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member was known as "Energy" Aikens in the railways. I object to his reference.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable member has taken his point of order. The honourable member for Townsville South will withdraw the remark that is offensive to the honourable member for Cairns.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I do not know what he said, Mr. Hewitt. He mumbles to himself and he is almost completely incomprehensible. However, whatever he said, I will

withdraw if you want me to. At least I can understand what you say and I know the points that you make.

Fancy the honourable member for Cairns, of all people, telling us that, if a member of the A.L.P. found himself in the same predicament as the honourable member for Cook owing to an honest error, Parliament would not legislate to protect him from the consequences of that honest error! We all know, of course, that "A.L.P." stands for "Academics and Lawyers' Party". The honourable member for Cairns has the gall to suggest that such matters should not be cleared up and rectified by Parliament but that the unfortunate person concerned should go to law. Who wins when people go to law? The only winners are lawyers, and no point is ever adequately cleared up by court action.

I am very sorry that the honourable member for Cairns adopted the attitude that he did. I hold him in high regard in certain respects but I think the years are beginning to tell on him. I remember an old union mate of mine describing him as possessing a particularly brilliant and bright mentality. But that was many years ago. It is now almost non-existent. I am sorry that he made the remarks that he did. On the one hand, the A.L.P., led by Senator James Keeffe, the architect of legalisation of homosexuality, abortion, prostitution and all similar activities and the one who completely ran the A.L.P. Labor-in-Politics Convention in Cairns, the honourable member's home town, 18 months ago, poses now and again as the champion of the downtrodden Aborigines. To have the honourable member for Cairns come and speak against the tenets laid down by Jim Keeffe is rather confusing. I am beginning to think that, if I listen to the honourable member for Cairns, his mental condition might be contagious and it might be better for me to leave the Chamber every time he speaks.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

### THIRD READING

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

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. T. G. NEWBERY** (Mirani—Leader of the House): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.