

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 26 AUGUST 1976

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

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

RESIGNATION OF SIR GORDON CHALK

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that a vacancy exists on the Standing Orders Committee consequent upon the resignation of Sir Gordon William Wesley Chalk as member for the electoral district of Lockyer.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. W. E. KNOX

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

“That Mr. William Edward Knox, member for the electoral district of Nundah, be appointed a member of the Standing Orders Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sir Gordon Chalk.”

Motion agreed to.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Commissioner of Land Tax, for the year 1975-76.

Operations provided for by Part III—Aid to Development, of The Financial Arrangements and Development Aid Acts, 1942 to 1947, for the year 1975-76.

Under Secretary for Mines, for the year 1975.

Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops, for the year 1975-76.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, for the year 1975-76.

Department of Sport, for the year 1975-76.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

Mining Act 1968-1976.

Factories and Shops Act 1960-1975.

Rural Machinery Safety Act 1976.

Orders in Council under—

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

Racing and Betting Act 1954-1975.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916-1974.

Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913-1975.

Mining Act 1968-1976.

Industrial Development Act 1963-1975.

Regulations under—

Land Tax Act 1915-1974.

Racing and Betting Act 1954-1975.

Stamp Act 1894-1976.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916-1974.

Insurance Act 1960-1976.

Motor Vehicles Insurance Act 1936-1975.

The Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1967.

Mining Act 1968-1976.

Gas Act 1965-1976.

Apprenticeship Act 1964-1974.

Factories and Shops Act 1960-1975.

Fire Brigades Act 1964-1976.

Fire Safety Act 1974-1976.

Statute under the University of Queensland Act 1965-1973.

Rule under the Inspection of Machinery Act 1951-1974.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

SCHOOL DENTAL THERAPY PROGRAMME

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (11.6 a.m.): Honourable members will be aware of a major health initiative launched by this Government in 1974 with the establishment of the first training centre for school dental therapists in this State. Since then this programme, which has been supported by the Commonwealth and State Governments, has continued to develop. I now seek leave to table a Health Paper, the third in a series, detailing developments in this programme.

I table this important Health Paper at this time to alert honourable members and the people of Queensland to a planned open day, at all established centres, to enable the people of Queensland to see at first hand the development of this programme, and to inspect the excellent facilities that are already available for primary school children in this important area of dental health.

The open day is designed to allow parents to visit the centres where their children are receiving treatment and for young women who may wish to take up the career challenge of dental therapy to see at first hand the facilities and opportunities that are available.

The open day will be held next Wednesday, 1 September, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. at the three major school dental therapist training centres at Yeronga, Stafford and Holland Park, as well as at other centres throughout the State.

I intend to circulate widely copies of the latest Health Paper, but I trust that honourable members and citizens of Queensland will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit these centres on the open day. I hope that parents will also visit the clinics with their school-children to encourage a far

greater awareness of dental hygiene and health within the community, for, lamentably, too many Queenslanders are far too complacent in their dental habits.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the paper on the table.

PETITIONS

AMENDMENT OF LIQUOR ACT

Mr. BYRNE (Belmont) presented a petition from 168 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. Row (206 signatories) and Mr. Goleby (124 signatories) and these petitions were read and received.]

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY AND AUSTRALIAN CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY LTD.

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

(1) When will depositors in The Australian Permanent Building Society receive permission to withdraw their funds?

(2) What progress has been made with investigations into Australian Co-operative Development Society Limited (in liquidation) by Mr. J. M. Macrossan, Q.C.?

(3) When will a report be available to the public or to investors?

Answers:—

(1) The Australian Permanent Building Society is in liquidation. Under the Building Societies Act 1886-1976, a Contingency Fund has been established. The former Treasurer and Deputy Premier (Sir Gordon Chalk) has indicated that this fund would enable depositors to be paid dollar for dollar. Depositors will be repaid as soon as all assets of the society have been sold and a claim made upon the Contingency Fund for the amount of the deficiency.

(2) The inquiry which Mr. J. Macrossan, Q.C. has been conducting is still continuing.

(3) Mr. Macrossan will present a report on the completion of his inquiry.

2 and 3. INQUIRIES INTO COMPANY ADMINISTRATION

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

(1) In view of his statement in the "Telegraph" of 14 August that he had no knowledge of any corporate crime in Queensland and could not accept the general philosophy that there was organised company fraud in the State and as

the then Justice Minister, Mr. Knox, said in a statement on 3 October 1974 that the known entry of standover men and criminals into the companies industry was alarming, how does he reconcile these statements?

(2) Did Mr. M. J. Carey, Past President of the Australian Institute of Credit Management, approach him seeking an inquiry when the K. D. Morris group failed?

(3) What was his response to any such approach and was an inquiry held? If so, what was the result?

(4) Has he or the Justice Minister at any time since that date received requests for inquiries into certain company failures and, if so, what was the response?

Answers:—

(1) There was a time difference of almost two years in the dates of the views expressed. I am sure the honourable member has had good reason in the last two years to revise the views he had in 1974 about the ability and standing with the people of Australia of its last Labor Prime Minister.

(2 and 3) I have no recollection of any such approach.

(4) Such requests have been received from time to time and investigated. When evidence of a breach of the companies legislation is available, appropriate action is taken accordingly.

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

(1) Did the former Attorney-General and now Deputy Premier, Mr. Knox, issue a Press statement on 3 October 1974 entitled "Sweeping Changes in Company Law Administration"?

(2) Did the Press report indicate that the creation of the Investigation and Prosecution Branch and the Legal Branch would facilitate speedy and effective investigation of suspected company mismanagement, fraud or breaches of the Act administered by the office?

(3) How many investigations were carried out by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs under all the Acts he administers during (a) 30 June 1974 to 25 August 1976 and (b) 30 June 1971 to 30 June 1974?

(4) In each of these periods how many prosecutions were (a) recommended by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, (b) actually instituted and (c) successful?

(5) Under what section or regulation of the Acts administered by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs was each prosecution recommended or instituted in each of the above categories for each of the two periods?

(6) How many companies were wound up before the Queensland Supreme Court during (a) 30 June 1974 to 25 August 1976 and (b) 30 June 1971 to 30 June 1974?

Answer:—

I ask the honourable member to repeat the question next Tuesday.

4. MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVING LICENCE RENEWALS

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

(1) Is he aware of the problem caused to residents of outlying suburbs, such as Wynnum, by the removal from police stations of the facility of issuing motor vehicle driving licence renewals?

(2) Will he, as a matter of urgency, have this matter investigated and arrange for this necessary service to be re-established at such police stations as Wynnum or at a convenient location in the area?

Answer:—

The matter is already the subject of consideration.

5. RAIL LINK TO NEW BRISBANE PORT

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

(1) Is he aware of the grave concern of residents affected by the proposed Port of Brisbane development concerning the location of the route of a future rail link between the port site and the interstate railway line?

(2) What is the location of the route of the proposed rail link and other rail links associated with the port?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The route of the proposed rail access to the new port of Fisherman Islands has been the subject of investigation by a firm of consultants commissioned by the Department of Harbours and Marine and any comment considered appropriate by him would be a matter for my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services.

6. CLASSROOM LIGHTING, WYNNUM CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware of my continued submissions concerning improved classroom lighting for the Wynnum Central State School?

(2) When will this urgently needed service be carried out?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Approval was recently given for the acceptance of a quotation for the replacement and upgrading of the sub-mains and switchboards. When this work has been completed further consideration will be given to the progressive installation of artificial lighting in relation to available finance.

7. ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY LINE TO FERNY GROVE

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

Will he outline recent and future initiatives in relation to the electrification of the suburban commuter railway line from Central to Ferny Grove, which passes through the centre of the Everton electorate.

Answer:—

Whilst I am conscious of the continuing interest of the honourable member in the upgrading of transport facilities to the benefit of constituents of the electorate of Everton, I am unable, at this stage, to add to the several announcements which I have made over the last month or so.

The honourable member is assured that the programme of projects to which I referred is progressing satisfactorily within the limits of available finance. As there are developments in matters of public interest associated with the electrification of the Brisbane railway system and the urban transport situation generally, I shall make appropriate announcements and in particular ensure that respective members are kept fully informed.

8. HOUSING COMMISSION PURCHASE HOMES, EVERTON ELECTORATE

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

What recent initiatives has he taken to ensure that members of the Everton electorate occupying Housing Commission houses will be assisted to achieve the Australian dream of owning their own homes on their own blocks of land?

Answer:—

For sales to tenants of existing houses I have recently authorised that the maximum advance be increased to \$25,000 and that the minimum cash deposit be reduced to \$200. Tenants also have the opportunity of building up their deposit by a "lay-by" plan. Subject to the restrictions of the 1973 Agreement, this applies not only in Everton but throughout the State.

9. TEACHERS CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENCES

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

Will he give an assurance to myself and to the great silent majority of concerned parents whom I represent in this Parliament that no teacher previously convicted of drug offences will be posted to schools within the Everton electorate?

Answer:—

The Government's policy in regard to teachers convicted of drug offences is clear. We will not employ a teacher who is a known drug offender. The honourable member can therefore be assured that no teacher known to have been convicted of a drug offence will be posted to Everton or any other electorate in Queensland.

10. ASSAULT ON SUSPECTED SHOPLIFTER,
TOWNSVILLE

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

Following an incident in Townsville recently wherein an old lady of considerable reputability and respectability was physically assaulted by a shopkeeper in the Cat-And-Fiddle Arcade, who claimed that she had been stealing from his shop, a charge that was completely demolished and found to be untrue, as the victim must not be put in the invidious and expensive position of taking civil action against her assailant, which she can rarely afford and which loads the dice in favour of the assailant shopkeeper, will he lay down, for the benefit of the police, public, and shopkeepers, a firm ruling that where a female has been physically assaulted by a shopkeeper, whether under the erroneous impression that she was a shoplifter or not, police action must be taken against the shopkeeper?

Answer:—

Members of the Police Force will take such appropriate action as is authorised by law. Where the particular circumstances of a case indicate that prosecution action should be instituted by police, that action will be taken. It would be presumptuous of me to issue instructions to members of the Police Force to institute proceedings where there is clearly no criminal case to answer. I have no information at present on the incident referred to by the honourable member and therefore am unable to offer comment as to whether the action taken by the police in this instance was correct.

11. INQUIRY INTO UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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

(1) Has he been informed that the proposed school of medicine at the James Cook University has been deferred because the Vice-Chancellor stated that finance is not now available for it?

(2) If so, will he confer with the State and Commonwealth Ministers for Education in an endeavour to have the whole university system examined with a view to cutting away the atrocious amount of "dead wood" at the university and turning loose the small army of academics and students at the university who now teach and study nothing really worthwhile for the nation or themselves, so that the tremendous amount of finance so saved might be used on academics and useful students and yet provide all the money necessary for the medical school from what is left over after all the social snobs, spongers and other assorted money-wasters have been eradicated from the campus?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) My attention has been drawn to an article in the "Townsville Daily Bulletin" in which the Vice-Chancellor of the James Cook University is reported to have quoted from an extract of a report of the Australian Universities Commission that the establishment of a new medical school at Townsville has been deferred and that the situation would be reviewed in three years time.

I can assure the honourable member, however, that planning will proceed to meet service needs of the hospital for the foreseeable future. In such redevelopment, every endeavour will be made to ensure that the planning will not inhibit the future provision of facilities for the teaching of medical students.

The comments of the honourable member concerning university students and academics have been noted, but I would suggest to the honourable member that it would be more appropriate for him to take up these matters with the relevant university authorities.

12. PROPOSED SALE OF CITY BUILDINGS,
FLINDERS STREET, TOWNSVILLE

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

Has he been informed that the Townsville A.L.P. City Council proposes to sell the City Buildings in Flinders Street and, if so, can he inform the House if he will have any power to prevent the council from selling the building for reconstruction into shops and an arcade to a firm which proposes to use one or more of the shops for a massage parlour,

or what is known as a "House of Joy", wherein homosexual prostitution will be indulged in, now that homosexual prostitution is part of the A.L.P. policy?

Answer:—

I am informed that there is a proposal of the Townsville City Council to offer the buildings referred to for sale by public tender. The subject land, which is zoned commercial, is held in fee-simple by the council and I understand the premises are available for sale since the council has moved into new office premises. The sale of the premises is a matter within the discretion of the council and no prior governmental approval is required unless a redevelopment scheme is involved under section 33 (19) of the Local Government Act 1936-1976. The use of the premises after sale will, of course, need to be in conformity with the provisions of the council's town-planning scheme.

13. STAMP DUTY ON CONVEYANCE OF HOMES AND LAND

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

(1) In the last financial year, how much stamp duty was paid on the conveyance of dwelling-houses or land for homes with a value of (a) \$20,000 or less, (b) \$25,000 or less and (c) \$30,000 or less?

(2) On how many parcels of property were stamp duties assessed in each of these categories in the last financial year?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The information is not readily available and cannot be extracted without a great deal of clerical effort, which would seriously disrupt the current work of the Stamp Duties Office.

14. PAY-ROLL TAX

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

(1) How many businesses paid pay-roll tax on pay-rolls below \$72,800 in the last financial year?

(2) How much was collected in pay-roll tax from such businesses in the last financial year?

Answers:—

Accurate figures in the form he seeks could not be provided in reply to the honourable member's questions without a great deal of clerical work. However, it has been possible to make reasonably approximate estimates and the information on that basis, and on that understanding, is—

(1) 3,200.

(2) \$3,900,000.

15. REPORT OF BRISBANE RIVER FERRY SERVICES

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

When will the report at present being prepared by the Queensland University in respect of ferry services on the Brisbane River be received and will he give an assurance that it will be made public?

Answer:—

The Metropolitan Transit Project Board expects to receive the report concerning ferry services on the Brisbane River during October this year. The report is expected to deal with the existing services, possible extensions to these services, desirable future services and the types of craft which could be best suited to the operations of future services. The primary purpose of the report is to provide information which will assist in assessing the potential of the Brisbane River as a means of carrying passengers. All the information therein will be freely available.

16. PROPOSED CHANGES TO COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT

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

Will he undertake to give details to this Parliament of the discussions he has had with the Commonwealth Minister for Housing in attempts to have changes made to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement to (a) increase the proportion of funds which may be applied to housing constructed for private ownership as opposed to rental accommodation, (b) the rates of interest offered and those accepted in respect of the two categories and (c) the means test which applies to applicants to the Housing Commission?

Answer:—

Following almost continuous approaches to the several Commonwealth Ministers from Mr. Riordan on, I have had opportunity at recent conferences in Canberra and Sydney to put Queensland's point of view and have since met Mr. Newman for private discussions on two separate occasions.

Briefly, Queensland is happy with the borrowing rate of 4 per cent and the lending rate of 5½ per cent under the 1973-74 agreement, but is unhappy with the volume of money it receives. Despite repeated requests for a fair share, Queensland was restricted by the former Commonwealth Government to about \$18 a head of population compared with Tasmania's \$59 and South Australia's \$45. This State's proportion of the total funds remains as fixed so unfairly in 1974-75.

We also dislike the restriction of sales to 30 per cent of 1973 agreement houses and the unrealistic means test.

For years we have made no headway in getting changes, but I feel there is now a realism in Canberra's thinking, and I am hopeful of better things. The Prime Minister recently made certain proposals to give States the opportunity of greater flexibility. This was a much more co-operative approach than in the past, but until Queensland can get more than 4 per cent the proposals are premature.

17. AID TO QUEENSLAND BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MEDICINE FEDERATION

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

What sporting grants or other financial assistance have been given to the Queensland Branch of the Australian Sports Medicine Federation in the last two financial years?

Answer:—

In August 1974, following discussions I had with the President of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Sports Medicine Federation, Dr. K. T. Hobbs, I arranged for the facilities of the Queensland National Fitness Council for Sport and Physical Recreation to be made available to the Queensland Branch of the federation. This included the provision of a secretary (if required) and a typist at no cost to the federation. As a result, through the National Fitness Trust Fund, provision was made in 1974-75 for part-time secretarial assistance, office space, use of telephone and publication of newsletters and other printed information material.

During 1975-76 a full-time stenographer was provided in addition to the office space and use of telephone and business machines and library facilities. The part-time service of the National Fitness Council's Sports Officer was also made available. Assistance is also available from field officers of the National Fitness Council and from the National Fitness Area Committees situated throughout the State for the organisation and conduct of Sports Medicine Seminars.

In 1974-75, assistance was also given to the Queensland Branch of the federation in relation to the publication of a booklet "In Search of the F Factor". This booklet related to intensive training for sport, particularly in relation to methods adopted with a Rugby League squad. This project was financed from part of the funds received as a special Commonwealth grant to the National Fitness Council for distribution by the State National Fitness Council to tertiary institutions and other

bodies for developmental projects and for new projects for physical education and recreation programmes. The cost of the publication was \$1,301.

18. REMUNERATION OF SHIRE AND TOWN CLERKS

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

(1) How is the gross salary of a shire/town clerk arrived at?

(2) What percentage of Main Roads jobs undertaken by local authorities is paid to (a) the shire/town clerk and (b) the shire/city engineer?

(3) Does the shire/town clerk receive a percentage of all engineering projects undertaken by local authorities on behalf of the ratepayers?

Answers:—

(1) The salary of the clerk of a local authority in Queensland is determined in accordance with the Municipal Officers' (Queensland) Consolidated Award, which is a federal award, but the local authority may, by resolution, decide to pay its clerk more than the award provision. Under the award the clerk's salary is based on the revenue of the local authority by which he is employed.

(2) Fees payable to the clerk are assessed on expenditure as shown in claims submitted by the shire. No fees are assessed on council plant hire or floating plant and loose tools allowance. The scale of fees for the financial year is:—

Progressive expenditure to \$4,000—2 per cent.

Progressive expenditure \$4,000 to \$34,000—1 per cent.

Progressive expenditure \$34,000 to \$150,000— $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Progressive expenditure over \$150,000—15 cents in \$100.

Fees on contract jobs are assessed at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Fees payable to the engineer for ordinary and special maintenance jobs and contract jobs are assessed from shire claims, and include plant hire and floating plant and loose tools allowance.

Fees for permanent works jobs are assessed from cost returns, prepared by job cost clerk, submitted to the district engineer. On the combined total of maintenance and permanent works the scale of fees is:

Progressive expenditure to \$50,000—2 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Progressive expenditure \$50,000 to \$100,000—1 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Progressive expenditure \$100,000 to \$200,000— $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Progressive expenditure \$200,000 to \$400,000— $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Progressive expenditure \$400,000 to \$600,000— $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

Currently a maximum of \$3,000 is payable.

(3) No provision is made in the award for such payments.

19. ADDITIONAL MARINE SERVICES INSPECTORS

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

As the marine services inspectors appear to be inadequately placed and cannot police the regulations of the Fisheries Act successfully with special reference to the trawling boundaries in my electorate, will he take early steps to appoint such inspectors as are necessary to make sure that the regulations pertaining to trawling are adhered to?

Answer:—

I am pleased to see that the honourable member recognises that the resources of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol are taxed to the maximum in the efficient execution of their duties. However, deployment of the patrol is a matter for my colleague the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services.

Investigations are being made to develop some additional measure of relief and he is assured that the need to effectively supervise fishing activity in his electorate will be reviewed in the light of personnel available and the general economic situation.

The honourable member will be aware, of course, that the Queensland Fisheries Service recently instigated a survey of fishing activity there and appropriate measures can proceed on the result.

20. CLOSURE OF PIALBA RAILWAY STATION

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

(1) How far have negotiations for the closing of the Pialba Railway Station reached?

(2) When will the Railway Department relocate its operations from Pialba to Scarness?

Answers:—

(1) I am not opposed, in principle, to the proposal advanced by the Burrum Shire Council and the Hervey Bay Chamber of Commerce and Tourism for the closure of the Pialba Railway Station and the establishment of railway facilities at Scarness. However, the adoption of any such scheme would represent a major undertaking, conservatively estimated to cost in excess of \$200,000 for the resumption of additional land and the removal and provision of the necessary station and associated facilities.

(2) As there are still many aspects of the proposition to be finalised, particularly in the area of finance, I am unable to comment further at this time.

21. MEDICAL SERVICE, RICHMOND AND JULIA CREEK

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

For what periods have the towns of Richmond and Julia Creek, respectively, been left without a doctor during the last three years?

Answer:—

I am advised that since January 1973 the Richmond Hospital has not been without the services of a medical officer. I am further informed that for a total of 14½ months since that time Julia Creek has been without the resident services of a medical officer. Medical services during this period, however, have been provided by the medical officer at Richmond.

22. TOWNSVILLE MEDICAL SCHOOL

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

Who is responsible for the decision to postpone the building and establishment of the Townsville medical school and is there any action which this Government can take to reverse this spurious and callous decision, which will cost the lives of North Queenslanders?

Answer:—

My attention has been drawn to an article which recently appeared in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" in which it was reported that the Australian Universities Commission proposes that the establishment of a medical school at the James Cook University be deferred and that the situation be reviewed in three years' time.

I, like the honourable member, am deeply disappointed with the decision in this matter and will at the appropriate time use my best endeavours in an effort to ensure the establishment of a medical school at the earliest possible time.

The decision to defer the establishment of the medical school, however, will not delay any further extensions to the hospital which are considered necessary to meet requirements of the Townsville Hospital and the area it serves. In this respect the Townsville Hospitals Board has been asked to give consideration to a re-examination of a scheme already approved by such board and which also made provision for the teaching of medical students. In any redesign, every endeavour will be made to ensure that the planning will not inhibit the future provision for facilities for the teaching of medical students.

23. BUNDABERG IRRIGATION SCHEME

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

(1) Has the Commonwealth Government given any firm undertakings to provide further finance for the completion of Stage I of the Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme?

(2) If not, what action will his Government take to ensure that work continues on this most important scheme?

Answers:—

(1) No.

I again wrote to the Prime Minister on 29 June seeking \$1,500,000 to meet contract commitments and maintain progress to 30 June 1977. A final decision has not yet been received. The honourable the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries and the honourable member for Isis have consistently made representations to me in this regard. At their request, I inspected the whole project some months ago, as the honourable member for Bundaberg would know, and I fully appreciate the necessity for the completion of the scheme. I will continue to make representations to the Commonwealth for financial assistance for the scheme.

(2) State loan funds of \$3,395,000 have been provided in the Estimates of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission for the Bundaberg Scheme in 1976-77. We will continue with implementation of the Phase I works on the Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme in the future in accordance with the funds available for water conservation and irrigation works.

24. USE OF RAILWAY RESERVE R.47,
BUNDABERG

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

As he stated in his reply to my question on 24 March 1976 with reference to Railway Reserve R.47 that investigations would be made to ascertain whether any portion of the area could be regarded as being surplus for future railway requirements, I now ask what was the outcome of the investigation?

Answer:—

The only portion of Railway Reserve R.47 which can be regarded as surplus to railway requirements is situated on the southern side of Hanbury Street. However, this area is at present subject to a lease.

25. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES,
BUNDABERG

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

(1) How many Housing Commission houses were built in the city of Bundaberg area during 1974-75 and 1975-76?

(2) How many pensioner units were built in these years for Bundaberg?

(3) How many applications for rental with 100 points, 80 points, 60 points, 40 points and nil points are on hand with the Clerk of Court at Bundaberg?

(4) What contracts are being called for houses and pensioner units for Bundaberg?

Answers:—

(1) 13 completed; 8 under construction.

(2) nil completed; 7 under construction.

(3) 100 points, 6; 80 points, 9; 60 points, 6; 40 points, 23; nil points, 93; pensioner units, 41.

(4) Tenders for 14 houses are under consideration. Following strong representations from the member for Isis, Mr. L. Powell, on behalf of the Bundaberg district generally, the commission has recently purchased more land in Bundaberg to enable the letting of further contracts.

26. YEERONGPILLY RAIL CROSSING

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

In view of the tremendous boon to southside Brisbane residents resulting from the new Nyanda overpass, will he place all possible pressure on the tardy Brisbane City Council administration to fulfil its parallel and urgent obligation to provide similar relief to the thousands of users of Fairfield Road, who face chronic delays at the outdated Yeerongpilly rail crossings?

Answer:—

I am pleased to hear the honourable member for Kurilpa refer to the opening of the Nyanda overpass as a boon to people living on the south side of Brisbane. Indeed it is, and it is something of which the Government is very proud. I have been kept aware of the many problems arising in the area by my Cabinet colleague the Minister for Works and Housing, who represents it. He has made many representations to me in relation to the matter raised now by the honourable member for Kurilpa.

I am aware of the problems the council faces in finding funds to provide the relief many thousands of road-users would like to see in the various parts of the city. The Government faces the same problems in financing the many proposals on urban

arterial roads under Government control as well as new freeway proposals to ease the situation on existing roads.

Fairfield Road is an arterial road under council control, and, although I understand the overpass suggested is fairly high amongst council priorities, programming of its construction is a matter for the council.

From Commonwealth moneys provided under the Roads Grants Act, the Main Roads Department has allocated \$542,000 to the Brisbane City Council for expenditure on roads in this category during the 1976-77 financial year.

27. STAFFING OF INNER SUBURBAN POLICE STATIONS

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

(1) Will he investigate as a matter of urgency the continuing run-down of experienced personnel at inner suburban police stations such as Annerley and West End?

(2) In view of the seriousness of this situation and the vital need for locally based police resources in these communities to be restored to adequate levels, will he undertake the necessary corrective action without delay?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) It is presumed that the honourable member is referring to the proposed reduction of the strengths of several stations presently in the South Brisbane District.

In furtherance of the Police Department's policy of decentralisation, larger districts like South Brisbane are being broken up into smaller districts. In the case of South Brisbane, one district will be made into six districts, the headquarters of which will be a 24-hour station providing all general police facilities, including mobile and traffic patrols, detectives, and uniform inquiries. In some instances mobile patrols will be extended to areas not previously covered and detectives will be stationed in areas to which they have to travel at present.

This proposal should provide a better police coverage in the areas in question. However, the situation will be constantly reviewed and adjustments made in staffing as circumstances dictate.

28. COUGH-LINCTUS DRUGS

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

(1) In view of the disturbing reports from New South Wales of drug addiction

involving cough-linctus preparations containing antihistamines and of the manufacture of heroin from codeine phosphate, what are the implications of these matters for Queensland?

(2) Will he monitor the investigations now under way in New South Wales and undertake any action that may emerge as necessary to maintain adequate safeguards against these areas of drug abuse?

Answers:—

(1) The reports indicate the wide variety of substances that are involved in the non-medical use of drugs and also the extent of illicit procedures to obtain drugs for illegal use. In Queensland cough linctus containing antihistamine may be obtained legally only on a doctor's prescription. I am advised that there has been one case in Queensland in which heroin was made from codeine phosphate and I understand that appropriate police action was taken. The report emphasises the need for all those who are involved in the control of drugs to be ever aware of new schemes used to obtain drugs illicitly.

(2) Departmental officers are continually obtaining reports from within and outside Australia. I am advised that a report from the parliamentary committee referred to has not been published but the New South Wales Health Commission will be contacted to obtain as much information as possible. I would add further that senior officers of my department regularly attend meetings of the National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence when all aspects of the drug problem are examined and recommendations made to Governments.

29. NEW TRAFFIC BRIDGE OVER HERBERT RIVER AT HALIFAX

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

(1) What is the present estimated date of completion of the new traffic bridge over the Herbert River at Halifax?

(2) Why have further delays occurred since the last published date of completion of this bridge and what action has been taken by the Main Roads Department to ensure the completion of the project during 1976?

Answers:—

(1) Official extended contract time of completion is 29 November 1976. The contractor recently submitted a programme showing that he expected to complete the contract on 7 May, 1977.

(2) Slow progress by contractor on pile-driving has been the main cause of delay. Main Roads Department has consistently urged the contractor to proceed at a greater rate of progress and has advised

him that liquidated damages of \$80 per calendar day will be deducted beyond the official completion date of 29 November 1976.

30. ADDITIONAL SUGAR BULK STORAGE SHED, MACKAY

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

(1) Does the Queensland Sugar Board propose to build another bulk storage shed at Mackay?

(2) What will be its capacity and location?

(3) Will the Mackay Harbour Board be the constructing authority for the new shed, as it was for the three previous ones and, if not, what is the reason and who will be the constructing authority?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The capacity presently envisaged by the Sugar Board is 140 000 tonnes. The exact location of the new shed is subject to the outcome of the question of the relocation or otherwise of railway facilities servicing the Mackay harbour.

(3) The Sugar Board, at the appropriate time, will negotiate with the Mackay Harbour Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Harbours Act, with a view to entering into an agreement with the harbour board for the construction by that board of the additional bulk storage facilities.

31. ROCLEIGH BRIDGE, MACKAY

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

(1) Has the planning report for the proposed Roclough Bridge at Mackay been completed and, if not, what is the delay?

(2) When will (a) the detailed design of the bridge be completed, (b) tenders be called and (c) construction be commenced?

(3) Has Commonwealth finance been made available for this project and, if so, to what extent?

(4) How many vehicular lanes will the bridge have?

(5) Will the bridge have a pedestrian and a cycle lane and, if so, how will these be financed?

Answers:—

Frankly I think we should be referring to this bridge as the "Ron Camm Bridge" because both the Mackay and Pioneer councils agreed with me when I suggested that we should call it the "Ron Camm Bridge" after my colleague, who,

incidentally, was the longest-serving Main Roads Minister in the State, with a term of something like 10 years.

(1) The planning report for the Roclough Bridge was forwarded to the Department of Transport, Canberra, on 12 July 1976.

(2) (a) February 1977; (b) As soon as the contract documents have been processed after completion of design; (c) Early in the financial year 1977-78 subject to a satisfactory tender being received.

(3) A submission has been made to the Commonwealth Government for approval of minor expenditure on preliminaries for this financial year but a reply has not yet been received. The present Act terminates on 30 June 1977, thank the Lord, and advice has been received from the Commonwealth that approvals prior to the passing of the next Act will not be given for works on which actual construction will not commence until after 30 June 1977.

(4) Initially two traffic lanes, within a kerb-to-kerb width of 9.2 metres.

(5) The provision of footwalks and/or separate cycle lanes is a matter for the local authorities concerned. The Main Roads Department is still awaiting advice from the local authorities on their requirements. It should be noted that with the wide traffic lanes, cycle traffic will be able to share the traffic lane with a motor vehicle.

32. PETRIE TERRACE PRE-SCHOOL PROJECT

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

(1) What is the present position with regard to the Petrie Terrace pre-school project?

(2) When is it envisaged that construction of the centre will commence?

(3) How many pre-school units will be operating at the centre?

Answers:—

(1) Four properties have now been acquired. Two dwellings have been removed from the site. One residence is still occupied and the balance of improvements still have to be cleared from the other site. It is anticipated that preliminary planning for State pre-school facilities will be undertaken early in 1977.

(2) As I have just stated, it is anticipated that preliminary planning will begin early next year. Construction is contingent on the allocation of funds.

(3) A single-unit centre is planned.

33. POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS

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

(1) As I am sure that the Minister for Police was as horrified as was the whole

of Queensland over the recent demonstrations in Melbourne against the Prime Minister of Australia, will he give this House an assurance that such unlawful, politically biased demonstrations as those witnessed in Victoria will not be tolerated in Queensland?

(2) Will he also reiterate that lawful, peaceful demonstrations by citizens of Queensland are a right and will not be interfered with?

Answers:—

(1) Like the vast majority of Queenslanders and Australians, I was disgusted by the violent demonstration against the Prime Minister in Melbourne earlier this week.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there will be no repeat of such demonstrations here in Queensland. I will not tolerate a situation where the elected leader of Government or other important public figures are prevented from going about their lawful duties by the cowardly and angry actions of the mob. The Queensland police will take all necessary action within the law to ensure the right of public figures to go about their public duties without having to dodge flying bricks and without having their right of entry or exit barred by a loutish minority whose aim is to drown out their right of free public hearing. Queenslanders and Australians can well do without the type of vicious element present in such demonstrations.

In Brisbane last Thursday night we had a case where a group of demonstrators took over an area of private property at the Stafford squash courts to air their views on the question of apartheid in South Africa. Following complaints by the owner of the property and appeals by the owner to the demonstrators to move on, the police were called on to move the demonstrators from the private property. I am advised that the group of between 80 and 100 demonstrators present on that occasion comprised members of the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist League, the Socialist Youth Alliance, Australian Women Against Rape, Self Management Group, Students Union and the Black Embassy.

(2) Yes. There will be no interference by police with lawful peaceful demonstrations by citizens of Queensland.

34. DRIVING LICENCE TESTS

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

(1) What is the normal waiting period between the time a person in the metropolitan area applies to have a driving test and the time he or she actually has that test?

(2) Should a person be unsuccessful on the first occasion, what length of time usually elapses before he or she may go for a second test?

(3) In relation to questions (1) and (2) above, what was the waiting period between application and test 12, 24 and 36 months ago, respectively?

(4) As the time limitations do not usually apply to licence tests in non-metropolitan areas, will he outline what measures he proposes to take in order to spread the demand pressures for the receipt of licences more fairly?

Answers:—

(1) In the case of a new learner-driver, this depends on the learner-driver; but, where an appointment is made at the time of the issue of the learner's permit, this would be six weeks. In the case of persons already holding one class of licence and seeking a test for an additional class the period could be considerably less, depending upon the circumstances of the particular case.

(2) This depends upon the individual case and additional driving instruction that may be necessary to bring the applicant to the required standard to pass the test for the issue of a driving licence.

(3) The Department of Transport only assumed control of the three metropolitan testing stations at Coorparoo, Rosalie and Nundah on 1 July 1975, and I am advised that at that time the waiting period was from 10 to 12 weeks. Information as to the waiting period 24 and 36 months ago is not available to me.

(4) The period of six weeks from the issue of a learner's permit before an applicant can undertake a test for a driver's licence, which the honourable member would appreciate would be barely sufficient time for a new learner-driver to become competent to obtain a driving licence, applies throughout Queensland at the present time as required by the traffic regulations. Additional testing staff have recently been appointed to the Brisbane testing stations and the position continues to be kept under review.

35. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, BELMONT ELECTORATE

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

In relation to Housing Commission houses in the Belmont electorate—

(1) How many have been painted externally since December 1974?

(2) What is the estimated expenditure by the commission in relation to maintenance, including painting, during the same period?

(3) How many houses are eligible for purchase under the newly announced Housing Commission purchase incentive?

(4) How many rental houses have become vacant since December 1974 and how many of those have been re-rented?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) As records are not kept by electoral districts, it will take some time to extract the information. However, the honourable member can be assured that I will write to him and supply the details when they are available.

36. JUVENILE AID BUREAU

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

In view of the recommendations of the recent Committee of Inquiry into matters relating to Youth, will he give consideration to the implementation of those specific proposals in relation to the Juvenile Aid Bureau in order that the fine achievements of that group may be enhanced and spread more broadly across the State?

Answer:—

The recommendations of the committee of inquiry will receive consideration.

37. COAL FOR SWANBANK POWER HOUSE

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

(1) What stockpiles of coal are presently at Swanbank Power House?

(2) Is the Southern Electric Authority still railing coal from Central Queensland to Swanbank?

(3) Will the coal production of the West Moreton field be sufficient to supply the needs of Swanbank in future?

Answers:—

(1) 314 935 tonnes or 6.1 weeks as at midnight, 22 August 1976.

(2) Yes—limited to one train per week.

(3) The Ipswich collieries have not been able to guarantee the total requirements of the Swanbank Power Station over the next twelve months, although on recent performances it is expected that they will go close to supplying the total needs of the power station. The limited railings of Blackwater coal are only being continued to help to build up stockpiles after the miners' August vacation and until such time as it is clear that the local coalfield will meet all the needs of the power station.

38. AIR POLLUTION FROM DARRA CEMENT WORKS

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

(1) With regard to his letter to me of 3 December last concerning a pollution problem in the area of Darra Cement Works, wherein he advised that the Director of Air Pollution Control expressed his serious concern about the levels of fall-out, can he now indicate if the company has carried out or is in the process of carrying out any of the work mentioned in that letter which may assist in partially or wholly eliminating this problem?

(2) As I am still receiving numerous complaints with regard to this pollution, can he give me any indication when any very real improvement in the levels of fall-out can be expected?

Answers:—

My Cabinet colleague the honourable member for Sherwood keeps me informed on this matter and we are in daily contact on the problem. However, in reply to the honourable member for Wolston, who is apparently representing someone in the Sherwood area, I supply the answers that follow.

(1) The planned replacement of collection equipment on some bulk-cement silos and conveyors is complete. The enclosure of the clinker shed has begun and the foundations are in place. Completion of the shed enclosure by the end of 1976, as required by the Air Pollution Council, should be met.

(2) There are two separate problems—fall-out from the stacks and dust blown at low-level from the plant. So far as the stacks are concerned, the kilns already have electrostatic precipitators and the grit emissions, on test, have met the limit of 0.23 gram per cubic metre imposed by the Air Pollution Council. Nuisance from low-level emissions should be reduced by the steps outlined in (1) provided that the company looks to its management, particularly in housekeeping and plant maintenance.

39. TRAFFIC SIGNALS, BRISBANE-IPSWICH HIGHWAY, GOODNA

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

When will traffic signals now being erected on the Ipswich to Brisbane highway at its intersection with Church Street, Goodna, be completed and brought into operation?

Answer:—

Underground work has been done and it is expected that the balance will be completed and the signals brought into operation in about one month from now.

40. HOSPITAL CONTRACT TO CIVIL &
CIVIC PTY. LTD.

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

(1) Has a contract been given to a firm known as Civil & Civic Pty. Ltd. for the construction of a hospital building and, if so, were public tenders called for the work?

(2) If public tenders were not called, what was the reason?

(3) What is the nature of the project and what amount is involved?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The Banana Hospitals Board has entered into a contract with the firm of Civil & Civic Pty. Ltd. for the sum of \$766,000 for the reconstruction of the Theodore Hospital, which was destroyed by fire. This contract is on a project management basis and the firm of Civil & Civic Pty. Ltd. invited registrations by public advertisement from all persons or firms interested in tendering for all the components in the construction of the hospital. All who registered with the firm were given the opportunity to submit tenders. Tenders subsequently received were subject to acceptance by the Banana Hospitals Board.

The honourable member would be interested to know that the Banana Hospitals Board is extremely satisfied with the arrangements made by this firm for the construction of the new hospital at Theodore. The arrangements made by the board in this matter were approved by Cabinet in view of the urgency to replace the hospital building destroyed by fire. I might add also that the member for the area, the Honourable the Minister for Water Resources (Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt), who has been most energetic in his endeavours to have the hospital built with the minimum delay, has expressed his complete satisfaction and that of the local community with the arrangements made in this matter and for the progress that has taken place already on the site.

41. STAMP DUTY ON MOTOR VEHICLE
COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE

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

(1) On how many vehicles was stamp duty paid on motor vehicle comprehensive insurance policies in the last financial year?

(2) How much stamp duty was paid on all motor vehicle comprehensive insurance policies in the last financial year?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The figures in the form which the honourable member is seeking are not available at present but they are being extracted for supply to the Commonwealth

Grants Commission. I will arrange to supply the honourable member with the information when it becomes available.

42. APPLICATIONS FROM TEACHERS FOR
EMPLOYMENT

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

(1) How many teachers had applications for employment with the Queensland Education Department rejected or deferred in the last 12 months?

(2) What types of teachers were they and what were the reasons for such rejections or deferrals?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Teachers seeking employment apply to regional education offices and the information requested by the honourable member is thus held in these offices. I am informed that the number of rejections or deferrals would not be great, but to ascertain the exact number would involve considerable research involving all regional offices. I do not feel that I could justify the diversion of officers from other important work to collate the information requested by the honourable member.

43. BEENLEIGH TO GOLD COAST
RAILWAY LAND

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

(1) How much of the land on which the former Beenleigh to Gold Coast Railway was situated has been sold or in any way encumbered?

(2) What sections of this land have been so dealt with?

(3) What were the terms and what was the consideration paid in each of the dealings?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The information sought by the honourable member has not been recorded separately and it is not considered that the considerable clerical effort which would be involved in its collation would be justified. Apart from certain areas disposed of by auction, the land was sold to the Main Roads Department, local authorities and adjoining landowners at the market value as determined by the Valuer-General at the date of sale.

44. ABDUCTION OF CHILD, MICHAEL
WILSON, STRATHPINE

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

(1) What is the present position of investigations into the abduction of the son of Miss Patricia Wilson of Strathpine?

(2) Will he give an assurance that every action possible is being taken to restore this child to his mother?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) A complaint was made by Miss Patricia Wilson on 7 August 1974 reporting her son, Michael Paul Limb, as a missing person. Such report indicated that the missing person was in the custody of his father, Michael Charles Limb. Whilst the child was the subject of a custody order, there is no evidence that the child was in fact abducted.

In February 1976, a letter was received by the Police Department indicating that the child was well and also forwarding a medical certificate showing the child had been medically examined at the Central Road Medical Clinic, East Bentleigh, Victoria. Inquiries by the Victoria Police failed to establish the whereabouts of the missing child. Although extensive inquiries have been in progress since 1974, those inquiries to date have met with negative results.

45. STANDARD BUILDING BY-LAWS

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

Is any action being taken to reinstate the "Responsible Design" clause to the Standard Building By-laws?

Answer:—

The matter is presently under examination. I will be attending the Local Government Association Conference in Cairns next week. I will be talking to some people who were concerned about this matter and I believe it will be possible to give the honourable member a reply within a couple of weeks.

46. COMPANY FAILURES

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

(1) How many prosecutions were initiated by the Corporate Affairs Office as a result of misappropriation of funds or fraudulent practice by registered companies in Queensland during 1973, 1974 and 1975?

(2) If the answer is nil, can he assure the House, as a result of investigations by the Corporate Affairs Office into company failures, that the failures were caused by honest dealings?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Two members of the Fraud Squad have been attached to the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs since 9 August 1976 to investigate allegations of misappropriation of funds and fraudulent practices by companies. These

officers are working in conjunction with Corporate Affairs Office inspectors, the objective being to expedite investigations of this nature. Previously the initial investigations were carried out by inspectors from the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs but the Fraud Squad was involved immediately there was any evidence of possible criminal offences. The number of prosecutions instituted by the Fraud Squad under the previous arrangements should be obtained from another Minister.

47. FINANCE AND COMMERCE LTD.

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

(1) What are the names and addresses of the directors of Finance and Commerce Ltd., a society registered under the Co-operative and Other Societies Act?

(2) Were any of the present directors of Finance and Commerce directors of Great Australian Permanent Building Society and City Savings Permanent Building Society at the time an administrator was appointed to handle the affairs of these two societies?

(3) Are any of the directors of Finance and Commerce also directors of Investment Centres of Australia Ltd. and, if so, what are the names of the directors?

(4) Did Investment Centres of Australia obtain a loan from Finance and Commerce for \$250,000, with interest being paid only on a monthly basis?

(5) Which directors of Finance and Commerce are real estate agents and which directors of Finance and Commerce are also directors of Nursing Towns and Nursing Centres of Australia?

Answers:—

(1) The names and addresses of the directors of Finance and Commerce Co-operative Society Limited are as follows:—

Desmond Paul O'Shea, 5 Stanley Street, Hunter's Hill, New South Wales;

Clarence Edward Coulson, 9 Emlyn Street, Coorparoo;

Raymond Michael O'Shea, 2 Somerfield Street, Mount Gravatt;

John Pinnell, 28 Hebe Street, Bardon;

Peter Fleming, 461 Kessels Road, Sunnybank;

Hugh Gerard Patrick Carroll, 34 Newman Avenue, Camp Hill; and

Maurice Frank Tickle, 17 Capella Street, Coorparoo.

(2) (a) The following directors of Finance and Commerce Co-operative Society Limited were directors of Great

Australian Permanent Building Society on 17 December 1975, the date of appointment of an administrator for this society:—

John Pinnell; and

Clarence Edward Coulson.

(b) The following director of Finance and Commerce Co-operative Society Limited was a director of City Savings Permanent Building Society on 17 December 1975, the date of appointment of an administrator for this society:—

Clarence Edward Coulson.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) Desmond Paul O'Shea; and Raymond Michael O'Shea.

(4) There is no registered charge in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs from Investment Centres of Australia Limited to Finance and Commerce Co-Operative Society Limited.

(5) (a) The following are directors of Finance and Commerce Co-operative Society Limited and also registered real estate agents:—

Clarence Edward Coulson; and Maurice Frank Tickle.

(b) The following directors of Finance and Commerce Co-Operative Society Limited are also directors of Nursing Centres of Australia Limited:—

Desmond Paul O'Shea; and Raymond Michael O'Shea.

There is no company registered in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs with the name Nursing Towns of Australia Limited or Nursing Towns Limited.

48. SUNNYBANK BUS SERVICE

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What are the terms of the franchise of the Sunnybank Bus Service?

(2) When was the franchise last renewed and when does it expire?

Answers:—

(1) Sunnybank Bus Service Pty. Ltd. is authorised under a licence issued under the provisions of the State Transport Act 1960–1972 for the carriage of passengers by road within the City of Brisbane on specified routes within the areas of Acacia Ridge, Salisbury and Moorvale area, in accordance with routes, fares and timetable as determined by the Commissioner for Transport from time to time. The general conditions of operations are contained in the State Transport Act and Regulations.

(2) The licence for the operation of this bus service was renewed on 27 April 1972 for a period of seven years from 1 May 1972 to 30 April 1979, inclusive.

49. INQUIRY INTO APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM

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

(1) With reference to his statement of 10 August and the subsequent advice in "The Courier-Mail" of 21 August regarding an inquiry into the apprenticeship system in Queensland, does he consider that a period of approximately one month is sufficient time for persons to submit information before the commission of inquiry?

(2) What method of advertising the commission of inquiry was used other than "The Courier-Mail" newspaper?

(3) Is Mr. Victor James Anderson conducting the inquiry in a singular manner, restricted to written submissions?

(4) When is it anticipated that the inquiry will conclude and who will be advised of the results?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Subject to the terms of reference set out in the Order in Council which was published in the Government Gazette of 14 August 1976, it is the sole prerogative of the Commission of Inquiry into Apprenticeship to determine the manner in which the inquiry is conducted. It would be quite improper for me to make any comment on how the commission should conduct its affairs. The Commissions of Inquiry Acts 1950 to 1954 confer certain powers upon a commission of inquiry and it would be at the discretion of the Commission as to whether it examines persons on the written submissions made by them. When the commission has completed its inquiry it is required by the Order in Council to report to me and I will then decide what further action is necessary. The advertisement has appeared in the Brisbane "Telegraph" as well as "The Courier-Mail".

50. PERSONNEL OF STATE FIRE SERVICES COUNCIL

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

What are the names, addresses and occupations of the personnel of the State Fire Services Council and what organisations or companies do they represent?

Answer:—

Charles Arthur Philip Clark, I.S.O., A.A.S.A. (Chairman)—Retired;

Kevin John Joseph King (appointed as representative of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board)—Insurance Manager;

Thomas Breckell (appointed as the representative of Fire Brigade Boards other than the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board)—Store Owner;

Leslie Francis Harvey Rendle, Ernest Walter Kingston (appointed by the Insurance Council of Australia)—Insurance Managers;

John Leslie Beausang (appointed by The Local Government Association of Queensland)—Farmer/Grazier;

Kevin Donald Whiting (appointed by the Minister for Police and the Minister of the Crown charged with the administration of the State Counter-Disaster Organisation)—Public Servant; and

George Healy, O.B.E., B.A., M.I.Fire E. (appointed by the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Minister of the Crown charged with the administration of the Rural Fires Board)—Public Relations Officer.

For matters associated with the State Fire Services Council, the members may be communicated with through the council's office, 85 Eagle Street, Brisbane.

51. S.G.I.O. BUILDING SOCIETY

Mr. Marginson for **Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What is the total sum withdrawn in excess of deposits from the five societies which now make up the S.G.I.O. Building Society?

(2) Is the society making any effort to attract funds and, if so, by what means?

(3) Is he satisfied that each separate segment of the over-all society is giving satisfactory service in regard to cash withdrawal and attracting funds?

(4) Will the practice of closing facilities during the lunch break be a permanent procedure?

(5) Is it the intention of the society to establish any new agencies in country areas?

(6) Does the society intend to encourage people to continue Bowkett scheme payments or induce them to withdraw?

(7) When will the society be making first mortgage home loans?

Answer:—

(1 to 7) I am not prepared to divulge information concerning the affairs or planned business tactics of a building society to which the S.G.I.O. has lent funds, any more than I would divulge similar information which may be known to the Government with respect to any other enterprise in which members of the community have an interest. The S.G.I.O. Building Society is operating in a similar manner to and in competition with other

societies albeit that it has been arranged that the S.G.I.O. should provide a substantial volume of funds on loan so as to free the savings of investors in the societies which were amalgamated under the S.G.I.O. Building Society.

I have arranged for the question to be passed on to the Chairman of the S.G.I.O. Building Society and have asked him to make available to the honourable member any information which the building society considers prudent to supply.

However, in relation to the portion of the honourable member's question relative to Bowkett operations, I would advise that the S.G.I.O. Building Society is not involved in the Bowkett content of the suspended societies but has agreed to act as a receiving agent for the Combined Bowkett and Building Society.

52. SUPPLY OF TEACHERS

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

(1) In view of the general concern that has been expressed regarding the over-supply of teachers by 1977-78, what assurances can he give that all teachers at present in training at the colleges of advanced education will be employed upon graduating?

(2) With regard to university students studying for a Diploma in Education, will he clarify their employment possibilities with his department?

(3) How many overseas teachers are still under contract with the Education Department?

(4) How many such overseas teachers were brought to Queensland during the last financial year and is his department continuing its overseas recruiting programme?

(5) Will the intake of trainee teachers at colleges of advanced education be drastically reduced in 1977 and, if so, is he able to give details as to the degree of reduction which is anticipated?

(6) Should a serious over-supply situation develop next year, what measures does his department intend to take to ensure that no retrenchments will occur?

Answers:—

(1) All trainee teachers under bond to the Department of Education will be employed on graduation provided they are able and willing to serve anywhere in the State. Trainee teachers not under bond to the Department of Education will be employed on graduation if there are vacancies in departmental schools in areas

where they are able and willing to serve. Employment is also subject to a satisfactory interview with an officer of the department.

(2) Students who are under bond to the Department of Education, who will complete the Diploma in Education at the end of 1976 and who are able and willing to serve anywhere in the State will be employed. Students not under bond to the Department of Education can apply for employment with the Department of Education. Employment will depend on the curriculum subjects they are able to teach and vacancies occurring in areas where they are able and willing to serve. Employment is also subject to a satisfactory interview with an officer of the department.

(3) Some 700 teachers recruited from overseas are currently still under contract to the Department of Education. Some of these were recruited prior to the 1975-76 financial year.

(4) During the 1975-76 financial year a total of 528 teachers recruited from overseas arrived in Queensland. My department will not be continuing with the overseas recruitment programme. In fact, the recruitment of overseas teachers effectively ceased with the arrival of some 98 teachers in January-February of this year.

(5) Intakes into three-year pre-service primary and pre-school teacher education courses in colleges of advanced education in Queensland are being reduced in 1977, as indeed, I understand from the Report of the Commission on Advanced Education, they are throughout Australia.

Present plans are to limit intakes to 1170 in 1977, compared with 1442 in 1976. This action is necessary to avoid a gross over-supply of primary teachers within the near future. The declining Australian birthrate is resulting in a reduced demand for teachers.

Intakes into three-year pre-service secondary teacher education courses in colleges of advanced education in Queensland are being reduced in some subject specialties, but increased in others where there continues to be an identified shortage. Overall, the position is that new enrolments in courses of secondary teacher education in 1977 will be 365 compared with 331 in 1976.

(6) A serious over-supply situation is not expected to develop next year. No retrenchments are anticipated.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! All questions remaining unanswered will appear on tomorrow's Business Paper.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.

SITTING DAYS

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, and that on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after 1 o'clock p.m. on Wednesdays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business.”

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, and notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, on each sitting Wednesday a period shall be allotted until 1 o'clock p.m. for discussion of matters of public interest on which any member may address the House for ten minutes. If the discussion is still proceeding at 1 o'clock p.m., it shall be terminated by Mr. Speaker.”

Motion agreed to.

TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the following amendments to the times allowed for certain speeches shall apply—

(1) Under Standing Order No. 37A (Disallowance of Proclamations, Orders in Council, Regulations or Rules):

Mover of the motion, fifteen minutes; seconder of the motion and any other member, ten minutes; Minister in reply, twenty minutes. Total time allowed, two hours.

(2) Under Standing Order No. 109 (Time Limit of Speeches):

(a) Paragraph 4—In Committee on a Bill, Motion or Estimate—substitute ‘ten minutes’ for ‘fifteen minutes’.

(b) Paragraph 8—In Committee on the introduction of a Bill—substitute ‘twenty minutes’ for ‘twenty-five minutes’.

All other provisions of Standing Orders Nos. 37A and 109 shall continue to apply.”

Motion agreed to.

DAYS ALLOTTED TO ADDRESS IN REPLY

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That the House may, on the Tuesdays and Thursdays allotted to the debate on the Address in Reply, continue to sit until 10 o'clock p.m. Each of the periods between 11 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. and between 4 o'clock p.m. and 10 o'clock p.m. shall be accounted an allotted day. All provisions of Standing Order No. 17 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, continue to apply.”
Motion agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

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

“That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the constitution of Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, the receiving of resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day.”
Motion agreed to.

OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. LANE (Merthyr): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government department (all funds) in 1975-76.”

Motion agreed to.

FEES PAID BY CROWN TO BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. AHERN (Landsborough), for **Mr. MULLER** (Fassifern): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors during the 1975-76 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received separately.”

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, of

expenses of Ministers for the period 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail.”

Motion agreed to.

FEES PAID BY CROWN TO PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. MARGINSON (Wolston), for **Mr. YEWDALE** (Rockhampton North): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to public relations agencies or consultants and advertising agencies or consultants during the 1975-76 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received separately.”

Motion agreed to.

USE OF OFFICIAL AEROPLANE

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the flying hours and air-route miles logged for the official aeroplane, together with the names of Cabinet Ministers, Government officials and others who have used the plane, and showing each individual trip separately and in detail, during the fiscal year 1975-76.”

Motion agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Notice of motion No. 6, in Mr. Ahern's name, will appear on tomorrow's Business Paper.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIRST ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 25 August (see p. 24) on Mr. Brown's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.6 p.m.): I welcome this opportunity to pledge the loyalty of the Opposition to Her Majesty, Queen of Australia, and I am certain that all Queenslanders will welcome her visit here next year.

We extend our best wishes to Sir Gordon Chalk in his retirement and congratulations to Mr. Knox on his elevation to the Liberal leadership and surviving authority of the Treasury portfolio.

Similar congratulations are due to the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs on his rise to the Liberal deputy leadership and to the two new members of this Parliament elected at by-elections during the recess. I know Bill Prest quite well, and I can assure the

House that he will be both an excellent member and an excellent representative of the Port Curtis electorate.

I anticipate a close working arrangement with the new Government Leader of the House and thank his predecessor, Mr. Hodges, for his co-operation while he held this office.

For three years from 2 December 1972 until 13 December 1975 Queensland was exposed to a battery of words and promises by Liberal-National Party leaders and members, both Federal and State. The list of promises made on behalf of a future Federal Liberal-National Party Government would require more than the 40 minutes that I have at my disposal to read into "Hansard". In fact, after less than nine months of Fraser federalism I could occupy my entire time recording the pre-election promises that have been broken, amended or abandoned.

On Tuesday, 2 December 1975—during the final days of the eventful campaign last December—the National Country Party leader and now Deputy Prime Minister said:

"We rely upon the good judgment of the Australian people to judge who is telling the truth."

It is that same truth, honesty and credibility in government that I propose to develop as the central theme of my speech today.

Now that the Fraser Government has presented its first full-scale Budget, we can compare promises against performance. We can discover who was telling the truth last year and who was indulging in flights of fantasy to deceive a bewildered electorate.

I support the Labor premiers of New South Wales and South Australia in allowing the new Federal Budget a fair trial. Certainly I will not be a party to the senseless, costly political confrontation practised over the past three years by the Queensland Premier and his disruptive camp-followers.

In his electoral impatience the Premier cost Queensland millions of dollars that it can never recover. I am pleased to see the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Chamber because the other day he was one of the first to admit that Queensland lost \$10,000,000 on the lands scheme because of the Premier's political impatience. The Premier himself helped deepen the economic uncertainty that persists today.

Mr. TOMKINS: I rise to a point of order. I did not say we lost \$10,000,000. What I said was that it was the Whitlam Government and the conditions in the agreement that made it unacceptable.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to accept the Minister's denial.

Mr. BURNS: I accept his denial, but I shall read from "The Sunday Mail" of 15 August 1976, in which the Minister is reported as saying—

"We were unlucky to have missed out on \$10,000,000 for cheap home sites because just as the agreement was about to be signed the Whitlam Government went out."

Those are the Minister's words, not mine.

I could never agree with a Budget strategy built upon the highest, expanding unemployment pool since the depression of the 1930s.

The Federal Treasurer has said that he wants single-digit inflation, which is an admirable pursuit, but he is content with six-digit unemployment—six-digit unemployment in which the first figure could be 3, 4, 5 or 6. In Queensland, where unemployment already stands at 5.8 per cent and is the second highest in Australia, this could mean a jobless level of at least 7 per cent when school-leavers enter the work-force later this year.

As a first step towards economic recovery, Government leaders must, I believe, restore public faith in their own credibility and their own determination to tackle inflation in conjunction with unemployment rather than separate from each other. I emphasise the phrase "in conjunction with unemployment". In their electoral greed last year the Liberal-National Parties gave undertakings which they have never tried to honour and introduced into the affairs of the nation a degree of inconsistency and deceit that was previously unknown and will take years to erase.

To illustrate the type of double-talk that was indulged in last year, I refer again to a statement of the National Country Party Leader (Mr. Anthony)—the political colleague of 39 Government members, including the Premier. On 1 December in Albury when he was chasing votes, he said—

"There will be no big cuts in Government spending."

That was reported on the front page of "The Courier-Mail". Could anyone who read the Budget papers or listened to the Budget debate in the last few days believe that statement? Yet those are the words of our Deputy Prime Minister, who was so busy upholding Federal austerity on the ski slopes of some distant ski lodge in Switzerland last week that he did not bother to return to hear his Government's Budget presentation—a Budget which promised no hope for many people in rural industries and for many others who are out of work.

Without trying, I can list 17 areas of Commonwealth spending in Queensland alone that have been slashed by the major reductions which Mr. Anthony cynically promised would never occur. If Government members cared to follow matters covered in the Budget papers, I could list for them section after

section where cutbacks have been imposed. The Federal Budget Papers should be read by all Government members.

It is little wonder that public insecurity, confusion and fear continue while promises and policies made at top Government level conflict with such obvious dishonesty in such a short space of time. Let us not dwell in general terms on spending cutbacks that may delight a few Treasury experts in Canberra but turn to areas where the Government should have put people before austerity.

I refer first to the problem of unemployment. Last year in their haste to discredit the Whitlam A.L.P. Government, members opposite, particularly the Premier, were tremendously vocal about unemployment. Now that a Government of their own choice and colour resides in Canberra, the same members—and the same Premier—are not only resigned to its excessive existence but are receptive to its growth.

In late November, before the Federal election, the Premier advertised at public expense under the State crest and his signature, in these terms—

“Those of you who have children leaving school this year are reconciled to the fact that many of them will go straight from school to the dole queue.

“Before you vote on December 13, ask yourself—will my son or daughter get a job when he or she leaves school next year, under a Labor Government?

“Is my own job safe, when half a million other Australians are out of work because of a Labor Government?”

In line with the Premier's practice in his advertisements that the Queensland public pay for, he was as extravagant in his misuse of the facts as he was with public money.

Unemployment under Labor never approached the 500,000 mark, as the Premier erroneously asserted, but his gloomy prediction seems likely to be fulfilled this year with himself in charge in Queensland and his protege, Malcolm Fraser, in Canberra. Together, after their guarantees of last year, they have managed to present school-leavers with their most frightening job prospects since the depression more than 40 years ago.

Last year, before Fraser's federalism, members of the Liberal-National Parties declared that everyone who was out of work was a dole bludger. They used questions and answers in this Parliament, and Parliament itself, to smear honest people who were looking for a job. On 7 October in this House, a National Party member—that is, the honourable member for Barron River—said—

“The only way to overcome our present problem of inflation is by not paying the dole to anyone who does not work for the money he receives.”

According to this National Party member, who was not criticised by any of his parliamentary colleagues, a dairy farmer on the

dole or an ordinary worker who is out of a job should not be given anything. With tolerant wisdom towards jobless families, he went even further when he said—

“Unemployment benefits represent an absolute waste of taxpayers' money.”

Mr. TENNI: I rise to a point of order. I did not say that. I said that a person has to work for the money he receives. I ask the honourable member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. BURNS: I withdraw the remark but I shall read from page 888 of the debate on the Financial Statement on 7 October 1975, where the honourable member for Barron River is reported as saying—

“The only way to overcome our present problem of inflation is by not paying the dole to anyone who does not work for the money he receives.”

After all this talk about dole cheats and promises of rigid scrutiny, the Liberal-National Parties, as a Government, managed to undertake only nine prosecutions throughout Australia between 1 January and 9 March this year. Using those mathematics, the coalition Government will not prosecute as many as we did in our last year in office. I can only assume that either their investigators are incompetent, their allegations are inaccurate or the dole cheats are extremely elusive and cunning. Once again, is it little wonder that more and more Queenslanders are becoming sceptical of the integrity of our present Government leaders and some of the back-bench members of this Parliament?

But let me develop the subject of unemployment still further. In July 1974, soon after the Liberal-National Country Parties forced a double dissolution on the Whitlam Government, unemployment in Queensland stood at 12,737, with 4,313 available job vacancies. This July, with Malcolm Fraser and Joh Bjelke-Petersen in joint command, the number of unemployed has risen to 38,346—more than three times as many—and vacancies have fallen to 1,834. More are out of work and fewer jobs are available. Yet the coalition parties are in command! It is a dangerous situation, with the jobless level increasing and available work opportunities crumbling.

For the benefit of National Party members, who view everyone on unemployment benefits as some sort of scrounger or bludger, I have extracted some figures for country and provincial areas. They might like to tell the people in those areas what they are. These figures applied at the end of July 1976. In Atherton, up near Barron River, 490 males were unemployed, but there were only three vacancies—160 more for each job available at the employment office. Women need not go to Atherton if they are looking for a job. There are 171 women registered as unemployed, but no jobs registered with the employment office.

Mr. Newbery: They come from over the border.

Mr. BURNS: What did they do? Walk up to Atherton and carry their swag? The Minister would like them to be back carrying a swag. There are 171 girls in Atherton whom the Government does not want to have a job. I challenge the Minister to tell the girls in Atherton that they came from over the border. I will invite him up there to give him the opportunity to tell them they are all bludgers, as the Government said last year. Last year the Government was going to take some action against them—prosecute them. How many were prosecuted in Atherton?

I turn now to Charleville, where 220 males were unemployed, with only one job vacancy registered. Forty-eight females were unemployed, but only two job vacancies were registered. What about Townsville? I remind honourable members that all of these seats are represented in the State Parliament by National Party or Liberal Party members, and in the Federal Parliament they are represented by coalition members. No more can Labor be blamed. The coalition is in Government at both State and Federal levels. It has the members in the area. It must accept the blame for its own mismanagement and its own misjudgment. In Townsville, 1,435 males were unemployed and there were 43 vacancies. There were 759 females unemployed, but only 20 vacancies. In Maryborough, 505 males were unemployed and there were 25 vacancies. Eleven jobs were available for the 321 females unemployed. In Toowoomba there were 1,145 males unemployed and 49 jobs available. Do Government members say that each of those men who cannot get one of those 49 jobs is a bludger? They did. They used it in the election campaign. They worried the electors that they were wasting their money on these people. In Toowoomba, there were 20 jobs available for 649 unemployed females. They would be scratching each other's eyes out to get at the jobs.

These are only random samples—examples of Liberal-National Country Party failure to honour the pre-election promises on employment. What, I ask, is the reaction of these political parties towards the desperate, immediate need for jobs? I looked through the Governor's Speech. I cannot find anything about the unemployed. Who worries about them? The State Government has either sacked employees from its Works Department or forced them to resign reluctantly through unnecessary, inappropriate transfers.

In Canberra, the Fraser administration is shutting off controlled spending that would provide employment in both the private and public sectors. At a time when the local labour market is stagnant, the Federal Government plans to import, through immigration, a further 70,000 foreign workers this year. Likewise, as workers in our shipyards

wait for the sack, this Government has let four Australian shipbuilding contracts to Japan or overseas. But Government members do not worry about our blokes. Trade unions are told cynically to keep industrial peace to save jobs—by a Government that follows an import-export employment policy to reduce opportunities for our fellow Australians. I cannot imagine, in the current circumstances, a more unpatriotic, traitorous attitude from any Government towards the work-force of this nation.

A survey by the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed that in November, when the Labor Government left office, the average period of unemployment was 13 weeks. By May, under the Liberal-National Country Party Government, it had grown to 17.6 weeks, and I venture to say that now in August it is approaching 20 weeks or even longer. Unemployment may seem a long way from the plush pastures of Nareen and Taabinga village, but it is very real for the Queensland families that it touches. Too often still we hear people say—and I've heard it said here—"I've never met anyone who was out of work." All I can say is that if the Liberal-National Parties continue their present heartless policies it will not be long before they will meet many people who are out of work. Already in Queensland about one family in every 17 is affected by unemployment and I believe that by the end of this year the figure could be as high as one in 14.

The Liberal-National Parties are ruthlessly pursuing a line that must inevitably divide Australia into social strata based on the "haves" and the "have-nots", the "in jobs" and the "out of jobs". It will be a shallow victory if, after inflation is eventually conquered, we are left with an unemployment pool that takes years to dissolve and a depleted work-force inadequate to cope with the demands of economic recovery. This will certainly occur in many country areas where Liberal-National Party decentralisation policies have forced people from their homes in droves to our cities in search of jobs.

I close my remarks concerning unemployment on this note: the past nine months have proved, if proof was needed, that the Liberal-National Parties have never shown conscience towards unemployment except at election-time and when in Federal Opposition.

I should now like to speak about Medibank. Nowhere is Liberal-National Party deceit, dishonesty and duplicity more unscrupulously visible than in their treatment of Medibank. In the 1969 Federal election campaign, when the A.L.P. proposed Medibank for the first time with a 1.35 per cent levy, the Liberals in Queensland replied with posters reading, "Don't let Labor destroy your free hospitals". That was the text of signs put up by Liberal members in this Parliament and that was the attitude of the Liberal Party then toward the imposition of a levy. The same approach applied at the 1972 and 1974 elections. In fact, the then Liberal

Leader (Sir Gordon Chalk) said on behalf of the Government in his 1974 State election policy speech—

“If the Federal Government insists on imposing more taxes on you for their scheme, then we will again oppose them. If they persist and levy this additional tax on you for a free hospital service you already enjoy then we will fight to ensure that the additional taxes come back to Queensland for improved services throughout the State.”

The Federal Government was then a Labor Government and the scheme referred to was Medibank.

But what was the reaction of the same Liberals—and the National Party as well—when the Fraser Government announced within a few months of election a 2.5 per cent levy for Medibank—almost double the one originally proposed by Labor? What did honourable members opposite do then? The State Health Minister, who represents the Liberal Party, which claimed that a 1.35 per cent levy would destroy free hospitalisation, turned round and declared that a 2.5 per cent tax would not affect it. Likewise, after his 1974 promise to resist a 1.35 per cent levy, which he described as an additional tax on the free hospital service, Sir Gordon joined the Health Minister on a one-day jaunt to Melbourne to declare meek surrender to the Prime Minister's 2.5 per cent tax.

On its own verbal admissions, the Government has sold out Queensland's free hospital system. From 1 October, whether one likes it or not, one will pay either the 2.5 per cent Medibank levy or compulsory private insurance for health services that, before “Fraser federalism”, were traditionally free in this State for more than 30 years. Again I ask this Parliament here today: is it any wonder that the Liberal-National Parties face a credibility problem? Is it any wonder that Queenslanders are reluctant to trust the Government with their economy when the Government has proved so deceitful in matters concerning their health?

But let me develop still further the web of dishonesty surrounding Medibank. Between 1973 and 1975 the Liberal-National Parties, through their numbers in the Senate, continued to block a 1.35 per cent levy for the scheme. In the face of this opposition, Labor finally introduced Medibank last year funded from Consolidated Revenue without any direct charge on the taxpayers. It was on this basis that Medibank went before the Australian people last December for the fourth time in five years and on that occasion with Liberal-National Party support. Never at any stage in that campaign did the Government parties give the slightest hint that they proposed a heavy post-election tax for the scheme. The situation was in fact quite the opposite. If honourable members

opposite do not think that that is so, let us read some of the things that were then said by their spokesmen.

On 12 December, the day before the election, Mr. Malcolm Fraser said in this full-page advertisement (I really do not want to look at him!) bearing his signature—

“Medibank, pensions, education and social welfare will be strengthened by honest, responsible government.”

Dearie me, honest, responsible government! Mr. Michael Evans, the National Party's “Little Boy Blue” and State secretary, went even further in “The Courier-Mail” nine days earlier. Let us see what he had to say.

Mr. Moore: Toilet paper!

Mr. BURNS: No, that is only Malcolm Fraser's advertisement—and I do not really want to look at him, as I said earlier. What did he say in this advertisement? “You lie Mr. Whitlam! This is the real truth”.

Let us go back to the one the honourable member says is toilet paper and have a look at what Mr. Evans had to say on Wednesday 3 December. He said—

“Free education will be maintained and extended to cover the whole spectrum of school studies; Medibank will be maintained and not scrapped, down-graded or prostituted;”

That is his statement, that Medibank would not be scrapped, down-graded or prostituted but maintained. In a full-page advertisement in the same newspaper titled “You lie Mr. Whitlam” we find this—

“Medibank will be maintained intact.”

Again I leave it to Queenslanders to decide who was the liar.

There is no question in my mind that the Liberal-National Parties were never sincere in their pre-election pledges towards Medibank, that at all times they secretly planned, if elected, to join with the powerful doctors' trade union to disembowel the scheme. I suggest their contempt for the scheme was evident in this House last year as the time approached for Queensland to sign the Commonwealth-State agreement. It was Mr. Sparkes, the non-elected busybody of the Government ranks, who came down here and told Government members that they were not to sign. It was he who was standing over them at that time.

So we now have in place of the simplicity of Medibank a confusing variety of differing schemes that few people understand. Private health schemes, which failed dismally to contain costs when they had a monopoly of insurance, have suddenly discovered hidden reserves and are engaged in a price-cutting war to lure customers away from Medibank. These reserves, I might add, were obviously salted away in the past from contributors' funds denying the sick, the ill, and the infirm

the cost benefits that were available to them then. I do not need a crystal ball to foresee what will happen if the private insurance companies are successful in their plot to destroy Medibank and, again, exert a stranglehold on health services. Up will go the scales that are now being pruned. Doctors' fees will rise with regular monotony, as they did in the 1960s, and the patients will pay more every time in insurance.

From a Medibank scheme three times endorsed, understood and accepted by Australians, we transfer now to a multiple monstrosity that the Government, as its architect, must spend millions of dollars to explain and do not worry, we are spending millions of dollars explaining it. It is clear that health occupies a low priority in present-day Government thinking, both Federal and State. We learn that under the new plan pensioners with income above the pension rate will be subject to the 2.5 per cent Medibank tax, not only on their extra earnings but on their pensions as well. If you choose to rely completely on the Queensland free hospital system, you must now pay whether or not you ever seek care or treatment beyond it. The Liberals promised that they would fight against it, that they were going to fight against the socialists in Canberra on the 1.35 per cent tax yet they caved in meekly on the 2.5 per cent tax.

The Federal Government, in its first Budget, has chopped real spending on hospitals. On 1 July, without warning or consultation, it varied the national formula of assistance to nursing homes for the aged conducted by charitable and religious organisations. They must now limit their operations by reducing patients or staff, or, in some cases, both, and they must restrict the degree of intensive care they can provide. That is Liberal Policy towards old people. It is a callous bureaucratic exercise against elderly Queenslanders when they most need the comfort and security of a sympathetic society.

Pharmaceutical benefits rose in the infancy of Fraser federalism; intermediate and private hospital fees soared by up to 100 per cent. Pensioners, until public anger was heard, were threatened with the loss of their free hearing aids and \$40 funeral benefits. Commonwealth funds for tuberculosis control are scrapped. One could go on and on. They were not really concerned about helping the aged, the ill and the infirm.

Federal payments to schools dental services and nursing homes are down by 50 per cent.

The State Government should shiver in its guilt. Without a murmur it has ransomed free hospitals which past Labor Governments in this State fought past southern Prime Ministers to preserve. Likewise, except for whispered protest, it has cowered to measures that strike at our aged, ill and

infirm. It accepts the inequality of low and middle income earners paying a full 2.5 per cent levy for health protection while a wealthy minority, including the Premier and the Prime Minister, subscribe as little as 0.5 or 0.1 per cent.

Let me turn now to housing. In his Opening Speech on Tuesday, the Governor admitted that less funds will be available in Queensland this year for welfare housing. He said—

“Although funds for welfare housing are not available to the same extent as in the last financial year . . .”

That was said on behalf of the Government.

Surely when the high-employment building industry is depressed—and it is more severely depressed here than in other States—it is time to stimulate recovery rather than ratify recession. Last year, when the Federal Labor Government held office, the Minister for Works and Housing in this State was questioned in the Queensland Parliament on its housing policy. In reply he said—

“The effect on young marrieds and their chances of owning their own Housing Commission homes are clearly disastrous.”

Do you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if one sends someone to the Housing Commission today, the Commission says, “You will have to wait 18 months. Don't fill out a form now, because if you do it will be out of date by that time.” I am speaking about people who own their own blocks of land and want to buy homes under this free-enterprise Government. I wonder what the Minister thinks now that the Fraser Government, which he endorsed with such blind vigour, has, in its first Budget, decreased funds still further.

On the same day, in answer to the same question, the same Minister added (and I quote his exact words)—

“The situation is further aggravated by the Whitlam Government's mishandling of the economy, resulting in permanent building societies necessarily charging high rates of interest.”

This year, with the Liberal-National Parties in office in Canberra and in Queensland, the interest rates, which they promised to reduce, have risen twice. Both rises were announced by the State Government. Both were caused by Government mismanagement and Government misjudgment.

Building societies enjoying healthy growth last year were brought to the brink of collapse. Their lending capacity was destroyed and the investments of thousands of people were threatened. Chaos in the building societies started with the Fraser Government's 10.5 per cent savings bond issue, which the Federal Treasurer described as a “huge success”, and was accelerated by the ill-advised statements of Queensland Cabinet Ministers. They manufactured a crisis that, according to estimates, will result in 6000 fewer homes being built this year.

The Federal Government's new cutback comes when there are 8000 couples on the waiting lists of the Queensland Housing Commission. It represents cruel, illogical economics.

Let me quote further to illustrate the false political standards of members opposite. On 14 October last year, with Labor still in office in Canberra, the National Party member for Wynnum had this to say—

"It would appear that the Federal Government has been hell-bent on taking away from Australians and Australia the distinction of being the country with the greatest percentage of home owners in the world."

If Labor was "hell-bent", as the junior back-bencher alleged, his own Fraser Government must now be classified as paranoiac in its approach to the same issue, because the Governor, in his speech, said that Queensland has less money this year than it had last year for this purpose.

Let me turn now to land. The Minister for Lands was in the Chamber earlier, took a point of order and "blew through". The fact is that the New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian Governments supported the scheme proposed by the Federal Labor Government to enable cheaper land to be provided; so did the Queensland Minister for Lands at the time (now Sir Wallace Rae) and the Lord Mayor of Brisbane at the time (Alderman Clem Jones). I can only assume from his statement in "The Sunday Mail" on 15 August 1976 that the scheme now also merits the approval of the present Minister for Lands (Mr. Tomkins). I read his statement earlier, but let me quote from it again so that it will be clearly recorded. He said—

"We were unlucky to have missed out on \$10 million for cheaper home sites because just as the agreement was about to be signed the Whitlam Government went out."

The two barriers to Queensland's entry into a cheap-land scheme for the people of this State were that well-known pair—the Premier, who rebuked Sir Wallace Rae for his recommendation, and the non-elected Mr. Sparkes, who claimed that a plan to cut residential land prices was contrary to basic National Party principles. If any honourable member does not believe that, I suggest that he read "The Courier-Mail" of 22 June 1973 where it reported—

"The plan of the Lands Minister (Mr. Rae) to cut residential land prices was contrary to basic Country Party philosophy, the party president (Mr. R. L. Sparkes) said yesterday."

Cheap land is against the philosophy of honourable members opposite.

At one point the Premier claimed that \$5,000,000 in Federal money (the original amount at the inception of the scheme) "would not even clean up a back yard." I do not know how much it costs to launder his paddocks at Kingaroy, but I do know

that \$5,000,000 at that time—\$10,000,000 now, as the Lands Minister claims—would have developed a lot of back yards at reasonable prices for home builders in Queensland. Again we missed the boat because of the stupid party political bigotry of the Premier and his colleagues. This is the sorry record of the Liberal-National Parties—the loss to the State because of their policies.

Mr. Marginson: They look after the real estate agents.

Mr. BURNS: They look after their own.

I believe that the range of Fraser austerity is so scattered, and in many cases so petty and paltry, that it will take months before the full effects seep through to the Queensland public. We must never forget that the State Government, no matter how it may wriggle today, is an accessory both before and after the fact to the present sins of its federal counterpart in Canberra. It was this Government that last year was over-eager to cast aside conventional ethics and pursue parliamentary anarchy in the Senate to force the premature dismissal of the Whitlam administration. It cannot escape its guilt by murmuring objection in the wake of broken promises and lies.

To demonstrate the irrational economic thinking that prevails at present in both this House and Canberra let me now detail just a few of the Fraser-Lynch Budget measures. The nitrogenous fertiliser subsidy, which benefits our sugar industry, is being scrapped. How do the Minister for Police (who is in the Chamber), the Mines Minister, the Education Minister and other members opposite who represent sugar electorates react to this piece of rural juggling? What are they going to have to say about that? Are they going to stand up and start to fight for their electorates?

Allow me to delve still deeper into the economic duplicity conceived in Canberra and obviously endorsed by the Government in Queensland.

There is a fellow named Katter from the North—Katter of Kennedy. Rural telephone charges are to leap, and the restoration of the petrol subsidy, promised last December by the Federal member for Kennedy, has not occurred. Look at what Katter says here in his advertisement. He promises lower postal and telephone charges. He promises relief and assistance for the beef cattle industry. It didn't get much of that! He promises relief from punitive fuel taxes in the West. This is a full-page advertisement. "Greater education opportunities for your sons and daughters in Kennedy. Greater job opportunities for you and your family in Kennedy." More of his promises! They didn't get those, either. And Mr. Anthony asked us to judge who told the truth! I am judging them and I am finding them guilty of not telling the truth.

Employees are urged to accept a drop in real wage values, but "Queen Street" farmers, who use their assets as tax dodges, are to gain financially from the income equalisation plan. They will gain more than the poor fellow on the farm who did not get a quid last year out of his farm.

Funds for area improvement have been cut from \$2,300,000 to \$470,000.

What about school milk? Government members in this Chamber were crying tears of milk last year. They were so worried and concerned about school milk. What happened when their Federal colleagues came into office? What about the school milk scheme that was going to be restored as soon as they came into power? What happened to all the promises they made about what they would do if they were returned to the Treasury Benches?

Finance for legal aid remains static at \$28,000, despite the effects of inflation. That flag-wagging Government has cut in half the amount of money available for flags for schools. It has really done a great job! The sham flag-wavers here were crying tears of blood about the Governor-General and other matters last year. Let them look at their colleagues' Federal Budget and see how they have performed. They will be very disappointed. The unemployment relief scheme—the R.E.D. scheme—has been scrapped completely, except for a little bit of money that was handed out to finish off jobs from last September. The Commonwealth contribution towards flood-mitigation works on Enoggera and Breakfast Creeks has been cut from \$2,100,000 to \$1,800,000.

No new projects in relation to urban public transport have been approved for this year.

Assistance to isolated children is down by \$1,160,000 and, at a time of mounting unemployment, Federal finance for N.E.A.T. has been slashed. Let me make this point. Money for rural reconstruction was cut, as was the money for dairy-farm reconstruction. How can people who have been on farms all of their lives be retrained if the N.E.A.T. scheme is cut back? Let the Federal Government be a bit sensible about the programmes it is implementing. If it is fair dinkum, let it put a bit of money into its programmes.

Mr. Tenni interjected.

Mr. BURNS: The Mussolini from the North is always shouting and carrying on. He is the fellow who said that out-of-work people shouldn't get any money at all; that they should starve if they are not employed.

I content myself today with these examples but, believe me, there are many more. What I say is this. Our State is being steered into an economic unknown by a Government that is ruthless, but erratic, in its adherence to what it terms austerity. Public spending is being sliced in areas where

the saving is insignificant compared to the hardship it inflicts upon the community pockets it strikes.

The Premier cannot avoid his involvement. He was the most vocal advocate of Fraser federalism last September, before he knew what it entailed, and, as late as February, he was telling Queenslanders in public paid advertisements that they should be well pleased with Fraser federalism.

The Premier, in his political prejudice, deliberately enslaved Queensland to a scheme which even the former Treasurer admitted at the Queensland Press Club last year is likely to mean double taxes inside three years, with differing scales for the various States. Obviously Queensland will be one of those adversely affected. Either the Premier was incompetent in his assessment or electoral deception gained priority over State interest.

I believe my speech has illustrated the inconsistency, impatience, illogic and inconsideration that have dominated the parliamentary administration for far too long. Government leaders both here and in Canberra must first recapture their own credibility before they can hope to inspire the kind of public confidence that is essential for economic revival.

No Government can break promises to pensioners, to workers, to primary producers, to students and to the aged, ill and the infirm without arousing public anger and without earning both public distrust and public disgust. It is impossible for Government leaders to command respect when their own actions incite disrespect.

In the nine months since December the record of the Liberal-National Parties is riddled with contradiction. It is contradictory to the point of contempt.

Over the past few days we have discovered both the Liberal and the National Parties suddenly clamouring for pay-roll tax relief. The A.L.P. will support any legislation to this end, right now, today. I challenge the Government to do as it did yesterday, when it introduced a Bill for the honourable member for Cook, and legislate for pay-roll tax relief today without waiting for the Budget. We will accept it now. But what is the Government's record in relation to pay-roll tax? Since September 1971, when the responsibility was transferred to the States, the rate has doubled from 2½ to 5 per cent. In fact, instead of encouraging decentralisation of small business, this Government has sent its inspectors into the country areas to hound employers whose wage bills, through inflation, have strayed above the exemption limit. No Government can revive public confidence when its own actions are stained with such contradiction. No Government could convince pensioners that it is sincere when it promises immediate rises in December, breaks those promises in January and then attempts to revive those promises again in August. It is hop-scotch economics blanketed in contradiction.

Workers are told by the Federal Treasurer to go out and spend at a time when the Treasurer himself is reducing real wage values, at a time when he is planning the new Medibank tax and at a time when he is reducing public spending and encouraging higher unemployment. No Government will win public confidence while such inconsistency prevails.

The Premier talks of missiles around our cities and the Federal Minister for Defence talks of build-ups at a time when the Defence Forces are short of ammunition and shoes. Our own newspapers report that they will have guns and rockets but no bullets or boots. I imagine that if the Government continues with its present policies our army will be known as the "bare-foot brigade". Army spokesmen blame not the Labor Government but the Liberal-National Government for this state of affairs. Last year Liberal-National Party advertisements told us that the cadet corps would be retained, maintained and expanded. "The Courier-Mail" reported this year that the kids might have to be sent down the road to buy their uniforms from second-hand stores. That is the way the Government keeps its promises to the people of this State.

How can the Government hope for economic confidence when the Premier appoints as his financial adviser a bankrupt American who cannot pay his bills in the North? Yesterday the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads said that he would not employ him as an adviser to the Cook Shire, which went broke. He gave the House an assurance that he would not appoint this man. The Premier, however, appointed him to represent this Parliament and this State on a tour around the world at our expense. We paid for him to go overseas. Australians are told to tighten their belts while Federal and State Ministers journey around the world.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I rise to a point of order. I have just entered the Chamber after coming from an Executive Council meeting and I happened to hear the Leader of the Opposition make some statements which he knows to be untrue.

Mr. Burns: What are the untrue statements?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: He said that a certain gentleman had travelled around the world at the taxpayers' expense.

Mr. Burns: That's right.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: That is an absolute lie.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I would ask the Premier to withdraw the word "lie".

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member is telling an untruth.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I now ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his statement.

Mr. BURNS: I will withdraw my statement that he travelled around the world at public expense on the day the Premier answers my questions in relation to where the money came from. The money came out of Government funds, and the Premier spent it on a bankrupt Yank.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: No wonder the Labor Party will never get anywhere; its members will not stick to the truth at any time. That statement is completely untrue and I again ask the honourable member to withdraw it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The Leader of the Opposition will withdraw the statement.

Mr. BURNS: In deference to you, but not to the Premier, I do so, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But—

(Time expired.)

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12.46 p.m.): I fear that with all the good will and best intentions in the world there is literally nothing we can do for the Leader of the Opposition. No matter how one tries to be generous to him, all that he seems able to produce at any time is the usual Trades Hall tirade of invective, abuse, distortion, half-truths and untruths. He is back in this Parliament after sufficient time for rest and reflection and an opportunity to get around Australia to see things for himself, but apparently he went to China thinking that things were better there. On this occasion, at the beginning of a new session, when he opened the Address-in-Reply debate for the Opposition all we got was what, unhappily, many of us anticipated—a kind of sewage spate of ignoring history, even history of only a short six months ago, in favour of gross misrepresentation of all facts—facts that all of us, other than honourable members opposite, know.

The Leader of the Opposition should reflect on the fact that the political programmes which he so happily attacks, taking little bits and pieces and enlarging them to make them look as if they are the whole picture, are programmes that are supported overwhelmingly by the mass of the people. The programmes that he appears to espouse have been rejected overwhelmingly by the masses. The honourable member appears to have forgotten that we had an election in this State in which his side of politics was reduced to 11 and that last year we had an election in which his side of politics got only a shade over one-third of the total vote—little better than one in three of the people in Queensland voted for his side of politics. Never was Labor sorrier and never was it sicker than it is today.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. PORTER: The type of comment the honourable member is making by way of personal jibes are an indication of how sick Labor really is. If anyone wants to make a personal jibe about me, he should reflect on the fact that it is possibly my very capacity and dedication to certain principles which put me beyond consideration in some quarters. Let Opposition members chew on that for a little while.

When I say that Labor members are sick, I mean that they are sick in a clinical as well as a factual sense. Every public opinion poll that is taken—and seeing that there are four of these services operating in Australia they appear almost weekly somewhere or another—shows that Labor has made literally no recovery from the low ebb it reached last December. On any of the survey figures, an election today would mean that Labor might pick up a seat or two here and there, but in real terms it would be devastated as completely as it was last December. The Leader of the Opposition, who is now retiring to scratch his wounds, not lick them, is suffering both from hysteria and schizophrenia. He unctuously decries demonstrations because he knows that they are eroding the A.L.P.'s shrinking base of support, yet the "Hansard" record shows what he did to encourage violent demonstrations in speeches he made last year and in the early session of this year. All honourable gentlemen opposite are in the same boat. It is very easy to decry that now when they know what it means to them politically. The Leader of the Opposition attacked the Federal Government in today's economic situation by making a lengthy reference to unemployment.

Mr. Marginson: If you say that about me, Charles, you are a liar.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member for Wolston made an audible interjection which I will not permit. He will withdraw the statement.

Mr. Marginson: The honourable member for Toowong was incorrect in saying that I led demonstrations, but I withdraw the statement.

Mr. PORTER: I am sorry that I did not hear that or I would have enshrined it in "Hansard".

The Leader of the Opposition took great pleasure in attacking the Federal Government because of today's economic problems—attacking it in the most violent terms because of unemployment, yet he conveniently forgot the genesis of this situation. Who caused our economic problems? Who started this downward rush towards a tremendous level of unemployment? The plain fact, of course, is that it was the Whitlam Government. The Whitlam Government was supported, in season and out of season, by the honourable gentlemen opposite.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Have you ever been in season?

Mr. PORTER: I do not know whether the honourable member who has just interjected has, but I know the pastures to which he should repair if he needs servicing.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke of the need to contain inflation, but he then went on to support every extravagant welfare scheme, every so-called socialist cheap-land device—and I would imagine the Minister for Lands has a total reply for him on that matter—and every hand-out that was devised by the now utterly discredited Whitlam Government. Now, how in heaven's name he can make logic out of a suggestion that inflation should be controlled when at the same time he wants the Government to give money to everybody who asks for it is totally beyond me and, I believe, beyond anybody with any common sense at all.

He spoke, too, of the fact that the Fraser Government and the Queensland Government are ignoring the necessity to restore public confidence. What hypocrisy, coming from that side of the House, which dealt the most savage blow to individuality, to enterprise, to competition and to the role of business and commerce in this community that has occurred in all the years since we have had federation! And they dare talk of the failures on our part to restore public confidence! That poor gentleman, the Leader of the Opposition, is a bit like the Pavlovian dog: given the standard stimulus of "Fraser out! Kerr out!", he salivates and froths at the mouth and then makes all the predictable Left-wing-stooge reflex responses.

I wish to pay a very real tribute to the Governor of Queensland (Sir Colin Hannah) and Lady Hannah, who perform a difficult task in difficult times with dignity and with some small degree of individuality, which I for one admire. I congratulate, too, those who moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. It is a great pleasure to have here as a colleague Mr. Ivan Brown, the honourable member for Clayfield. I know that he will do a very good job, following in the steps of John Murray.

That gives me an opportunity to pay a tribute in passing to John Murray, a very dear friend and a valued colleague of many years' standing. He was in the Federal House from 1958 till 1961 and then in the State House from 1963 until earlier this year. If ever there was a fighter for people and a fighter for the rights of this Parliament, it was John Murray. In the early days, and newer members would not know how difficult it was to change the manners and the attitudes of this Parliament, he fought hard to get things done in a way which would make the Parliament more reflective of the whole electorate. He was a great man for pricking pretences and pomposities. I will never forget one night

when he said five words and got the headlines next morning—"Mr. Minister, you are a pompous fool." Others, of course, like myself, go to a lot of trouble to make speeches and do not have much notice taken of them at all.

He was a man of intelligence and capacity and, what is more, he was a friend of everybody in this House. I well recall Mr. Menzies, as he then was, saying to me in 1958 when he came back from the North, when John Murray stood for the Herbert seat in North Queensland, "Murray is the best candidate the Liberal Party has unearthed since 1949." And he was a good man. The fact that he never managed to make the Ministry only tends to demonstrate, I suppose, how high is the capacity of the Ministry here.

Mr. Marginson: You have something in common with him.

Mr. PORTER: Yes, indeed I have something in common with him. I am not ashamed to share that in common with Mr. Murray.

In making a tribute to the Governor, I feel that one must also refer to the fact that the role the Governor plays in Queensland is the role that is played, perhaps in a larger sphere, by the Governor-General on the national level. When one turns to that area, one is immediately confronted with one of the great problems of our time. That is the problem of whether a Government should govern—whether it should make its decisions and then, at the proper time, be subject to the will of the people at an election—or whether government should stem from the gutter. Should Government be determined by mobs of demonstrators? The real meaning of the demonstrations against the Governor-General is not whether or not he did the right thing at the time of the constitutional crisis last year; the real purpose of the demonstrations is to enable the mob to break down, to dissipate and to reduce completely his role in the affairs of the nation. Honourable members opposite who are doing a little talking among themselves at the moment should remember that the role of the Governor-General as the Queen's representative in Australia is minor. His real role, which is where his massive power lies, is in what the Constitution says he is, and the responsibilities and powers that it prescribes for him. Let nobody pretend that the office of Governor-General is some sort of archaic vestige—some relic of a long-forgotten colonial age. The fact is that the Governor-General is an integral part of our Constitution. He was placed there by the founding fathers to do specific things and given powers, obligations and responsibilities. Any attack on the Governor-General by the mobs, mainly university students with a stiffening of Left-wing trade-unionists, is an attack on the

Australian Constitution. It is an attack on what may be called in broad terms the Australian way of life.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Don't you think the Constitution should be revised?

Mr. PORTER: If it were revised, one of the first requirements would be that the High Court should not interpret the Constitution to mean what its words plainly say it does not mean. That should be the first part of any revision of the Constitution.

A great issue today is the growing belief, sedulously fostered by Left-wing unions and the universities, that there is an inherent democratic right for people to take control of the streets and ram their viewpoints down the throats of people who may not hold the same opinions. This is such a contradiction of democracy that it puts democracy into an area of immediate danger. The right to protest does not mean the right to occupy the streets and it may well be that Governments and Parliaments such as this Government and Parliament will have to consider implementing some form of legislation that provides for demonstrations and protests to be held in a proper way and at a proper time and place. No-one has the right to take the use of the streets from the ordinary citizen to whom they belong.

Mr. Marginson: Do you want to hit them on the head?

Mr. PORTER: The honourable member for Wolston throws in an inane interjection. If the honourable member is trying to make capital, and pretty sick capital at that (it is the sick syndrome to which I have already referred), from the case of a girl who took part in a demonstration and was hit by a baton, let him bear this fact in mind: the girl should not have been there. If people did not take to the streets and did not deliberately put themselves into a situation of confrontation and provocation with the police, these unfortunate incidents would not happen.

I had a small, very tame-cat affair with the honourable member for Archerfield on television last night. Unfortunately he did not seem to be shining too brightly. He tried to make the point that people had a right to demonstrate but at the same time he was against violence in demonstrations. I asked him then, as I ask this House now, how can anybody guarantee that when a mob takes to the streets, shouting and screaming obscenities and insulting the police, there will not be some incident that will spark off violence and possibly bloodshed?

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

Mr. PORTER: I want to say with all the passion and conviction at my command that anybody who believes that the right to demonstrate—the right to protest—necessarily means that we accept the right to

occupy the streets must also realise that this means we accept an inevitable escalation of disorder and violence. It means that we are accepting that our society has to march into a dark, dank, chill tunnel, and that at the other end of it there awaits, as surely as night follows day, bloodshed, anarchy and political assassination. Anybody who believes that with the situation that exists today there could not be a political assassination in this country has a strange idea of what is happening around us.

I say that nobody in his right senses could possibly believe that "protest" means the right to push other people off the streets; and this seems to be particularly the belief in university circles today. I must ask myself, and I ask this House: what is so elite and so superior about university people that they have a divine right to harry us on the streets and to thrust their viewpoints onto us whether we want to receive them or not? Why can't they, like other ordinary people, use all the other forms that are available for law-abiding people to use if they want to protest—letters to the Press, appearances on the media, persuading people as individuals, putting pamphlets in letter-boxes and so on, or does all this seem too much like boring drudgery to them? Certainly it would not enable them to perform under the eye of TV cameras, which always magically appear on the right spot and at the psychological moment when some incident in a so-called spontaneous demonstration is about to occur.

The situation that revolves around the universities these days warrants the close attention of every Parliament in Australia. Sir Louis Matheson, who was the first Vice-Chancellor of Monash University and was until his retirement the nation's longest-serving vice-chancellor, has quite recently strongly criticised the growing university militancy and he points out that consonant with this has been a great falling in academic standards, and this, of course, is echoed in the current report to the Federal Government of Professor Carmel's Universities Commission. We have to remember that around \$700,000,000 is being spent currently in Australia on universities—

Mr. Moore: Taxpayers' money.

Mr. PORTER: Yes, taxpayers' money, and for a total of about 150,000 students, which means that apart from what they cost in terms of the suspension of fees and the payment of allowances we are up for \$5,000 per student in merely the annual cost, and this takes no account of the capital investment. Of course, the other thing we have to bear in mind is that an Australia-wide survey done recently by Flinders University in Adelaide showed that, of the 150,000 total Australian university enrolments, almost 40 per cent of the graduates are out of work or misemployed at any one time—40 per cent of them! Yet here we are cosseting universities, pouring money into them and

pretending that they have roles superior to those of ordinary people when in fact the end product is not required by this community to the extent that they are coming off the assembly line. It seems to me a form of extravagant nonsense which we in our time simply cannot permit.

Then there is the other angle of this, that at any given time about 1,000 full-time academics are away on what is called sabbatical leave or, euphemistically, study leave. They are off for six to 12 months on full pay and allowances plus allowances for their spouse and their children. At any time, one in 10 of them! It is said, of course, that this does not cost the university much money because the rest of the staff take over the work of the bloke who is away. If that is true, one is constrained to ask: could they not operate permanently with 10 per cent fewer staff? There must be an answer to it somewhere. Certainly universities have to realise that these days their position is fragile in the extreme.

Most taxpayers to whom I speak are becoming thoroughly outraged by the tendency towards the disputation and senseless violence that emanate from so many of Australia's universities. When the stage is reached that a Governor-General and a Prime Minister are harried as they go about their official business, a Prime Minister is held captive for two hours and university students look like the vanguard of some sort of invading hostile army, I suggest it is high time that universities took a good look at themselves and Parliaments such as ours took a damned good look at universities.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Why don't you stand up out at St. Lucia and tell them that?

Mr. PORTER: The honourable member asks why I do not tell them that at St. Lucia. I am one of the two Government members on the senate of the University of Queensland; the honourable member for Bulimba is the other. I have endeavoured to interpret this Parliament to the university, and I have endeavoured to interpret the university to this Parliament. Perhaps I have been singularly unsuccessful on both counts. Believe me, I have told the senate these things time and time again in different ways—but not with much success, I must say.

However, I think that the situation is becoming extreme, and those of us who are concerned about the true welfare of universities—and I certainly am; I have always been a fighter for the true welfare of the universities—do not want to see a critical stage reached that can yet be avoided by the exercise of a little common sense, a little discipline and a little restraint.

The next thing I want to refer to is the question of federalism. That subject received quite a deal of attention from the Leader of the Opposition. I want to say to the House, and to the Opposition in particular, that from my viewpoint—and I

believe that this is truly the viewpoint of most members on this side of the House—federalism must be made to work. Whatever may be its deficiencies at the beginning, however it may rub in some places, however difficult it may be because of the financial shortcomings at the present time, it must be made to work, because only with a partnership in government can we achieve a decentralised administration and a truly participatory democracy. Australia is a very vast and a very diverse country, and the Whitlam years demonstrated beyond all possible doubt that it is not possible to govern Australia effectively from Canberra. So I say it is essential that we make federalism work.

I say to members of my own Government and to the new Treasurer—and I certainly have said it to the preceding Treasurer—that it is not a good thing for this State to be constantly moaning about not getting enough money. If the Federal Government has decided on measures to tackle inflation—and I believe that this is totally the proper thing for it to do—the States must also expect to carry some of the burden. They most certainly cannot expect to maintain all their services at the same level and believe that the Federal Government alone will be able to reduce inflationary pressures. It cannot and will not, and the States must play their part; and those of us on our side of politics, who are deeply committed to the rehabilitation of the federal system, have to accept that there will be some problems in this regard.

The other aspect to which the Leader of the Opposition referred at great length was the unemployment that is flowing as a result of inflation. I say again that I believe that the Fraser Government's Budget strategy was totally the correct strategy in broad terms. There are some things I would have liked to see. I would have liked to see an interest plan covering home-building, and so on, because of the importance of the building industry to the whole economy. But the broad thrust of the Budget was correct in attempting to restrain spending, particularly in the public sector.

I know it is very easy to say that the Federal Government is cutting down on the number of jobs because it is not pumping out money for public spending. I am perhaps a simple soul in economics; but since the whole of our problem is created by overspending—literally, we have spent ourselves into the present mess—it is beyond my comprehension how anybody can think we can spend our way out of it. It cannot be done, any more than a person can do it or a family can do it.

Everybody regrets unemployment, but let us remember who caused it. Who engineered this fearful dislocation to the economy? Who engineered this enormous escalation of inflation which has put businesses out of action,

reduced the capacity to produce and threatened sales everywhere and, as a result, has put people out of employment in so many places?

I believe that unemployment stems directly from uncontrolled inflation. There is no doubt at all that unless inflation is controlled unemployment will not be controlled. It may well be that in the endeavour to shift the emphasis from the public sector to the private sector there will be an increase in unemployment. I unhesitatingly concede that possibility, as any economist worth his salt must do. However, I say this: it is like Hamlet saying to his mother in Shakespeare's play, "I must be cruel, only to be kind," because to provide money for make-work jobs now will only make absolutely certain that in 12 months' time there will be many more people unemployed for a much longer period. There is no easy way out of the present hard situation, and the Government's thrust in attempting to control inflation first is absolutely correct.

In discussing federalism and our deep commitment to make it work, I make it quite plain that of course this does not mean that everything the new Federal Government does in Canberra will have our absolute, total and uncritical support. Of course it will not. The Torres Strait border issue is one of those issues where I, for one, find myself in direct conflict with what the new Federal Government appears to want to do. After all, federalism must not be seen by people as merely an exercise by the Government in Canberra to off-load many difficult fiscal, monetary and economic problems onto the States. It must be seen as a true partnership—a partnership between equals. Therefore for our Federal Government to attempt to use its treaty-making powers to brush aside essential State sovereignty is a very bad thing. This is what Whitlam wanted to do.

If one accepts that the Commonwealth Constitution can be so stretched that the Federal Government's treaty-making capacity can enable it to infringe on State sovereignty, then there is no end to what Canberra can do to the States. Canberra could make some sort of pact or agreement with Japan to the extent that the only coal exported to that nation would come from New South Wales. It could make an agreement that coloured people from some other country could automatically come into one State rather than another. The capacity for Canberra to limit, delimit and circumscribe the States, and impose on them, would be absolutely enormous if we accept that Canberra has the right under its treaty-making powers to do what it wants to do in terms of a boundary that has existed for nearly 100 years between New Guinea and Queensland.

All this specious nonsense about pretending that there is not going to be a boundary alteration, and that all we are going to do is put a sea-bed border somewhere south of the islands and another border north of the

islands, with a sort of delimited territory between two undefined lines, is totally the product of clever, glib people in Canberra, and has no relation to reality at all. If anybody believes that we are going to have a recognised line south of the islands which will not become the border in very short order, all I can say is that he ought to keep on reading Alice in Wonderland and go and live in the land behind the looking-glass.

That boundary line must remain sacrosanct, not only for our future defence purposes but also because the people in the islands concerned want to stay with Queensland. If we subscribe to the rights of self-determination—I understood we always did, and certainly honourable members on the Opposition benches do—the people of those islands have as much right to determine where they want to be as do the peoples of any of the countries where they loudly proclaim action once the Communists feel that their authority is being attacked. There is no doubt that federalism must work, but it must be a general broad basis of federalism that includes a recognition of State rights, State responsibilities and State sovereignty in areas other than those merely associated with the economy. This is a matter on which I hope to have something further to say when the Budget is being presented.

Finally, I was heartened to read statements by the Premier to the effect that this State would consider action to permit all the normal, decent and ordinary trade-unionists to get out from under the obsessive yoke of radical Left-wing control fastened on them by the Communists.

Just as we may need to have a confrontation with the universities over protests in the street, we may need to have a confrontation with unions over the question of who governs. The situation that we are running into now, where the government of this country is usurped by the Clancys, the Gallaghers, the Halfpennys and the rest, cannot be permitted. Only Governments govern, and they are subject to the will of the people. All their rights are derived from the people. These rights are expressed, freely given and freely withdrawn at successive elections. Union bosses are not in that category. It is more than high time that we instituted systems of balloting for union positions and on questions of strike, to put beyond doubt the role that union officials play. Their role should be an industrial one, not a political one.

In my view, when union leaders contrive with one another, from union to union, to organise rolling strikes or to organise a number of unions in key areas to bring the economy to its knees and to wreak havoc on the ordinary citizen in the community, they are close to conspiracy. This is wrong and cannot be justified.

For a long time we have been talking about action. I was chairman of a Government committee which, two years ago, came

up with some excellent contributions, a few of which have been enshrined in the Act. I hope, however, that in the very near future many more such recommendations will be included in the legislation. If Queensland sets a lead to Australia in this regard, as it has in so many others, Queensland will be the better for it and Australia, too, will be the better for it.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (2.33 p.m.): I am glad that the honourable member for Toowoong touched on universities. He did so in a very able but general way. I want to be a little more specific, because we have reached the stage where something has to be done about the universities. I suppose that the position in other States is just as bad as it is in Queensland, but let us deal with the position here.

We have reached the stage where we, as the only governing body in the State, the only law-making body in the State and the only body that provides finance to universities in the State, must clean out the universities. Today they are nothing more than a monstrous, blood-sucking parasite that is bleeding the taxpayers white.

The fact remains, and cannot be disputed, that 60 per cent of the people at the universities probably have some right to be there (I am talking of academics and students) and 40 per cent of them should not be there at all. Among the academics we have bludgers, spongers, time-servers, hopeless no-hopers and all sorts of queer creatures—all being paid munificent salaries and all enjoying wonderful lurks and perks such as sabbatical leave. They have to be paid for by the taxpayer.

Such is the position that over the years the universities have been allowed to build up for themselves the idea that they are absolutely sacrosanct, that they are apart from and above the law and that nobody can deal with them. Even a policeman, who can go into my home and into my yard or into anyone's home and anyone's yard, cannot go onto the university campus. The universities have been told by the law students—I shall deal with them later—that they are absolutely sacrosanct. The attitude of the universities to the Government is this: give us all the money we demand; pour into us all the money that we tell you to pour into us, and we will spend it just as we like and when we like.

I can remember an occasion when Sir Thomas Hiley, probably one of the most able men to enter this Parliament, was Treasurer.

He met a university deputation led by academics. Naturally they had a great big list of amounts that they needed for various things at the university. Tom Hiley being a competent accountant said, "Let us examine some of these things to see if they are really necessary." He said that one old gentleman said, "How dare you! How dare you suggest that anything we ask for should be examined.

Anything that the university asks for should be granted without demur." That was the attitude then and that is the attitude today.

These bludgers, parasites and time-servers are there because many of the faculties are in the same category. I never lapse into the vulgar vernacular but I know how the students and academics at the university describe many of the subjects. Many of them are bovine excreta and they are called that in the vulgar vernacular at the university. Although some faculties are good, many of them are bad and serve no useful purpose for the students or the university. We must separate the sheep from the goats—the worthy from the worthless—in the faculties at the university. We cannot do anything with them until we do that.

I digress for a moment to talk about the proposed medical school at the James Cook University. We have heard from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Back. Incidentally, there was a big article in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" the other day, about him, complete with his picture, written by one of his toadies who described him as a very strong man. He is so strong that, to use the western vernacular, he could be stabbed with a boiled carrot.

When we study what is done at the James Cook University we soon become convinced of the need to cut away the dead wood. We have been told that a medical school cannot be established at that university because there is no money. The university has no money because so much of it is being wasted on the useless, bovine-excreta faculties and all the lurks and perks that the academics have been used to getting over the years.

I have no doubt that the Queensland University follows the same time-table as the James Cook University. The James Cook University sits for three terms, the first being from 1 March to 23 April, the second from 17 May to 20 August and the third from 6 September to 29 October. I think that takes in 30 weeks a year for the students, leaving 22 weeks in the year with absolutely nothing being done. They could go out and earn a living if they were capable of doing so, but they do not. What the academics do in that 22 weeks is left to our imagination. The media moan very frequently—"The Courier-Mail" is outstanding for this—about Parliament not sitting long enough to do the work required of it, and that we have too many weeks of recess.

But we never hear the media grumbling about the universities sitting or pretending to work for only 30 weeks in the year and having 22 weeks off every year.

I have here some figures on the James Cook University, and I am not pulling them out of the hat. I have here the James Cook University of North Queensland calendar for 1976, which is well worth reading. This official document shows that this year, at the James Cook University, 1,831 students are registered, including 563 part-time

students. Being a generous, egalitarian man I shall add them together. There are no fewer than 214 academics to teach these 1,831 full-time and part-time students. That includes professors, down to tutors. There is one academic for every eight full-time or part-time students. To buttress the academics there are 23 people on the administrative staff—all on top salaries. I am not saying anything about the 100 or so people employed around the university on useful work such as keeping the place clean and attending to the gardens. There we have it—all those people at the James Cook University.

We have, too, at the James Cook University—and this is only something they have put there lately—an artist in residence. I will not give honourable members his name. They can find it in the calendar if they want it. I was out at James Cook University only a couple of weeks ago addressing the students in the refectory—a huge building—and right across the inside of its back wall is a mural painted by the artist in residence. I looked at it. As a matter of fact, I staggered back when I saw it. Then I was asked my opinion of it. Being a simple country lad and an honest man I said, "Well, that reminds me of a tennis court out in the back country made on a salt pan or a clay pan, having the lines of the court painted by a man in the horrors." That is what it seemed to me to be—a great big brown splurge about 50 ft. long by 10 ft. wide, with every now and again a straight line in a different colour. What it is supposed to convey, I wouldn't know. It probably would be in the same artistic category as "Geronimo", a picture that was painted quite recently by the art teacher at the technical college—and I will be dealing with "Geronimo" in another debate and at another time. So we have there, 214 academics, 23 administrative staff and an artist in residence.

I want to deal with the problem that is vomiting to the surface today, and that is the demonstrations being staged by university students. I will say that we do not have the demonstrations in Townsville from the James Cook that are experienced from the students at the University of Queensland. The James Cook specialises in absolute, degrading filth. Its students' union would be, I suppose, the filthiest this side of the black stump. I am sorry that the honourable member for Rockhampton is not in the Chamber; he is an apologist and a toady for the university system. However, for anybody who might disagree with me, I have brought the orientation handbook for this year, printed by the students' union at the James Cook University. I invite honourable members to read through it—I have marked a couple of passages here—and then they might ask themselves why it is that there are in Townsville many decent boys and girls— young men and young women—who have matriculated but who will not go near the

James Cook University. We have decent parents there who will not allow their children to go near it.

If the honourable member for Rockhampton were here, I would invite him to read a passage from this filthy publication, round which I have put a pencil mark. I took this out with me the other day when I addressed the students, and I invited any one of them to come up on the rostrum, stand alongside me, use the loudspeaker and read the passage round which I have run a pencil mark. Not one of the brave creatures, male or female, was game to do it.

Mr. Jensen: The trustees let them get away with anything—and the Minister, too. I don't know why they don't do something about it.

Mr. AIKENS: I know the Minister's view about these things, but unfortunately his power is a little restricted.

In this handbook we have a very fine article "Being a Lesbian and Living in Townsville", written by one of the academics up there. Mind you, this is for young kids starting their university life. The woman author extols the pleasures and thrills of lesbianism, as well as launching a vicious and virulent attack on Dr. Scott-Young and me for having the temerity to oppose lesbianism. Now that the Minister is in the Chamber, I ask him to take a note of this and make some inquiries into it. I understand that the James Cook University, which cannot afford to set up a medical school, is contemplating setting up a faculty of lesbianism. The woman who wrote this filthy article is to be the dean of the faculty.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: I will not give her name, because, when all is said and done, she might have relatives. It is a wonderful article! Anybody who is interested in lesbianism is at liberty to read it. I do not say the person will be thrilled when he does, but there it is.

Mr. Jensen: I had never heard about it until I entered Parliament. That's how ignorant I was.

Mr. AIKENS: That may be so.

I now want to deal with the way in which a close, almost inseparable bond has developed between the students at the University of Queensland, in particular, and the A.L.P. We know that they work together as one. It started in about 1956 when Vince Gair was Premier of this State and had a Labor Government behind him. He decided to introduce a Bill that I thought was the epitome of justice. There was a lecturer at the University of Queensland who felt that he was entitled to a position at the university. He had all the qualifications, the seniority and the decency for it, but he was passed over for the higher-paid position

by a junior lecturer. There was no court to which he could appeal such as that which is available to all other civil servants. University lecturers are only civil servants, just as judges are civil servants.

The lecturer who was passed over went to the Gair Government. That Government said, "We will end this injustice and inequity" and Gair brought down a Bill to provide for university academics the right of appeal to a properly constituted appeal court against promotions that passed them over and left them in the lurch. The Labor Party carried that Bill by its majority. I voted for it because I believe in the right of appeal. The Opposition, led at the time by Mr. Nicklin, as he then was, voted against it.

No sooner had the legislation been passed, assented to by the Governor of the day and placed on the Statute Book of Queensland than the boys at the Trades Hall, who were then working for and organising the big rift that split the Labor Party down the middle—the Egertons, the Whitesides and others—carried a resolution, "Hands off the university! Preserve the rights of academics! Repeal this foul Bill!" But Gair went on with the proposal and the legislation remained on the Statute Book until the 1957 election, which was brought about by the split in the Labor Party.

After that election Gair was returned with, I think, 11 members of the D.L.P. The Labor Party had about 14 members. The Country and Liberal Parties, with Mr. Nicklin at their head, formed a Government with a great majority. And, believe it or not, one of their first acts was to repeal that portion of the legislation that gave academics the right of appeal against unjust promotions. Every member of the A.L.P. in this House voted with the Tories to remove the right that had been given to academics to appeal against promotions that left them for dead. I voted with the D.L.P. to retain the right of appeal for academics.

From that day, of course, academics, students and the A.L.P. have drawn closer and closer together so that now they are irrevocably linked. No-one could separate them even if he wanted to. I know that the Leader of the Opposition was not in the A.L.P. at that time, nor was Percy Tucker. They came in only after the split to make for themselves any gains that they possibly could. The students' union issued the edict, which was made public at the time, "Now that you have supported us, we will support you at election-time. You support us on the campus and everywhere else. You support us in our demonstrations." And didn't they do that!

I read in the Press only yesterday, I think it was, the sickening, slobbering, casuistry of the Leader of the Opposition, who ran out and deplored the actions of yahoos and hoodlums. He knows very well that the people are getting sick and tired of the hoodlums or, should I say, the scum element

at the university. So the Leader of the Opposition came out and deplored what they were doing. Yet there was no greater supporter of the hoodlum and scum element at the university than the Leader of the Opposition and, of course, his political blood-brother Gerry Jones during the Springbok tour riots. We can all remember the photographs that appeared in the newspapers and we all remember that on the second night we had that magnificent example of Labor Party initiative and trade-unionism, Senator Georges, sitting down in the gutter with a scruffy-looking individual outside the Tower Mill Motel.

It is unfortunately true that many of the students at the university have very little to do. It is mostly those who are taking subjects in the general humanities field such as arts, psychology, sociology and behavioural science—what we call the bovine excreta subjects—who naturally drift into these demonstrations. Very rarely does one see a worth-while student from a worth-while faculty at any of these demonstrations. One does not see many medical, dental or engineering students or students of that particular calibre at these demonstrations; one sees only the useless and the worthless ones. Of course, the prime leaders of all these demonstrations are the law students. They have nothing to do out there at the university because anyone who knows anything about the law will tell one that a lawyer may get his LL.B. but he knows no law. He may know something about pleading procedure and evidence according to Blackstone but he knows no law. Consequently, having nothing to do they invariably become presidents of the University of Queensland Union. We have a Liberal Minister today who was president of the students union in his time. We had old cry-baby Gardiner, a lawyer, who was president of the students union and who led the shocking demonstrations at Roma Street when people sat down on the street and entwined their arms and legs to stop the traffic going through and who squealed like brumby stallions when the police threw them into the paddy wagons. Then we had Mr. Wyvill, another, shall we say, knight in shining armour in the A.L.P. who was also president of the students union. Of course, these men lead the stupid students. They give them legal advice that, frankly, would not stand up in a corroboree court, yet the students take it.

Let me say, too, that the university always looks after its law students. We had the case of a lawyer who came to Townsville. He was a briefless barrister. He did not know where his next feed was coming from, but the James Cook University looked after him. They appointed him as a part-time lecturer in criminal law. I do not think the students ever saw him on the campus. The university also gave him a very fine set of quarters at a students' hostel. He was provided with free food, drink and everything else and was given a substantial spending

allowance in order to entertain we do not know whom. But I have asked questions in the House about it and it is all there in facts and figures. That is where this lawyer was in Townsville until he could scratch a living off clients at the Bar.

We had a worse case out at the University of Queensland. A lawyer had a part-time lectureship there and suddenly one young student found out that he had been working a pretty cheap and detestable robbery racket for nearly 12 months. He had been taking books from the library at the University of Queensland and selling them to a second-hand bookstore in Brisbane. The brilliant university people, not knowing this was going on, went round looking for books to buy for the library and bought back their own books from the second-hand store. The cost of this racket ran into thousands of dollars before this man was nailed and pinned down, but he did not get the sack; he did not have to put the money back. I have not the slightest doubt that that legal thief at the university is now probably one of the leaders of the Queensland Bar, if he has not already been appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court.

I have here a most remarkable document. I invite honourable members to read it and I will have it photostated for them if they wish. During the big Springbok riots in 1970 Zelman Cowen quite publicly made a statement that, "When my students go off the campus they are out of my control and they become citizens of Queensland and responsible to Queensland law." He should have told them that they were citizens of Queensland on the campus, that they did not have to leave the campus to become citizens of Queensland; but they have the idea that once they get onto the campus of the university they have sanctuary, that no-one can deal with them and no-one can touch them. I have exploded that theory a dozen times as a result of questions I have asked of various Ministers. Zelman Cowen got into strife with some people for saying that. As a matter of fact, I was threatened with prosecution for having this document. I did not steal it as someone suggested I did; it was given to me by a little man with a long grey beard and I appreciate the fact that he gave it to me. It is dated 29 July 1971, and Zelman Cowen said—

"Yesterday afternoon, July 28th, a document was presented to me under the signature of Mr. Errol O'Neil on behalf of the University of Queensland Strike Committee."

It said that a motion had been passed concerning the strike. Later in the statement, Zelman Cowen went on to stress the obvious—

"The Government of this State provides millions of dollars of public money for this University; it respects our autonomy, as I well know, in essential respects, but it is rightly concerned to know that that

money is being spent on staff, students and equipment for the regular purposes of the University."

That hits the nail right on the head. No-one knows better than Zelman Cowen that money is being spent there not for the regular purposes of the university.

There is another little excerpt from this amazing document that I bring to the attention of honourable members. It says—

"... John Maguire, a man of serious and honourable purpose, who pressed me to give official University support to the strike. This I refused to do for reasons which I shall come to in due course."

How could he be a man of serious and honourable purpose if he tried to press the Vice-Chancellor of the university to declare a general strike at the university in support of the Springboks? These things go on. I do not intend to read the whole document, but these are the facts. They are here for honourable members to see and study, if they wish to study them.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: I ask the honourable member not to incite me or provoke me.

Recently I went to the James Cook University and addressed the students, and I came away from there, as I always do from any university, with 60 per cent of the students supporting me and 40 per cent against me. I have addressed university students on many occasions. I have an honour peculiar to members of this House in that I am the only member of this Assembly who has been asked to give the Stevenson Lecture at the University of Queensland. At the time I did not know who Mr. Stevenson was, but I went out there and gave the lecture and they were quite happy about it.

Let me tell honourable members what goes on at the James Cook University and on the Townsville City Council, where we have, of course, a Labor Council—by the grace of God and the stupidity of three members of the National Party.

Quite recently Sir John Kerr came to Townsville. Immediately it was announced that he was coming to Townsville, Percy Tucker took the bit in his teeth and said, "I will give Sir John Kerr a reception." Immediately he said that, the Herbert Divisional Executive of the A.L.P. held a special meeting and denounced him and said that he should not do it, that it was against A.L.P. policy. Other people also denounced him. We had men such as Mr. Rockett, the northern organiser of the Queensland Teachers' Union, getting up with a known Communist at Hanlon Park and referring to Sir John Kerr as a rat who was looking round for a fox-hole—a cornered rat—and everyone cheered him. All the members of the W.E.L. were there, of course—the Women's Electoral Lobby, whom we know as the group "We Endorse Lesbianism."

So poor old Percy found he had spoken too soon as far as the A.L.P. was concerned, and then he started to hedge and said, "Well, the reception I had in mind was the afternoon tea given by the Show Society Committee after he opens the show." It was then that some of us took him on. I wrote an article in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" that shamed him into saying, "Well, I will give him a reception after all." Then he ducked away—unfortunately, his wife was ill and he had to go away—but when he came back he found that they had a big demonstration on the day before the show was to be opened. It was a monster demonstration—all the trade-unionists, all the workers, all the A.L.P. supporters, all the W.E.L. supporters, all the university students. It was a really monster procession in Flinders Street, Townsville; 161 people—not counting dogs—marched in it.

Consequently, when Alderman Reynolds, the Deputy Mayor of Townsville, got in touch with Percy down here and said that the demonstration against Sir John Kerr was a No. 1 flop, Percy decided to fly back for the opening of the show. In the meantime, Percy—shamed into doing it—had decided that the Townsville City Council would give Sir John Kerr a secret lunch. Nobody knew who was to be invited; nobody yet knows who was invited, except myself, and I have let out a few names. It was at Lowth's Hotel, and there were only 20 guests all told. Many of the aldermen were not invited, and the former mayor was not invited.

Poor old Alderman Reynolds—"the old bearded lady", as we call him—the Vice-Mayor of Townsville, found himself, as Nugget Jesson would say, "on the horns of Emma". He did not know what to do. He did not want to go to the luncheon, because that would have offended the A.L.P. executive and the Commos. He did not want to stay away, because that would have offended Percy Tucker. Therefore he reached an agreement with Dr. Back, the Vice-Chancellor of the James Cook University. He said to Dr. Back, "You go along to the luncheon at Lowth's Hotel and stand in for me. At the same time you arrange for the sociology department at the James Cook University to sit me for an examination on that day. I will have an excuse for staying away and you will have an excuse for going to the luncheon." So it was arranged. Dr. Back went to Lowth's Hotel to stand in for Alderman Reynolds and Alderman Reynolds went out to the university and sat for a sociology examination. There are no prizes for anyone who can guess whether Alderman Reynolds passed that examination.

Now we have all these statements being made about a tertiary allowance. Why is a tertiary allowance required? Some students are entitled to a tertiary allowance. Those from poor families who are taking a useful faculty at the university should be given a tertiary allowance, but can anyone justify

any tertiary allowance at all for assorted social snobs and misfits who are just wandering around the campus because of the social imprimatur that will be attached to their name if they attend the university?

We heard Zelman Cowen say the other day that everyone invited to the Queensland University would be treated with courtesy and kindness. He also said that there were no demonstrations there. There have been worse demonstrations by student yahoos at the Queensland University than at any other university in the world. I say that without qualification. I can remember when Sir Paul Hasluck, the former Governor-General, went to the Queensland University and tried to address the students. Some of the things that the students yelled out to him and his wife were absolutely unprintable. One would not hear them in a camp of drunken bullock drivers. I am the son of a bullock driver so I know the language they can use, drunk or sober. The students left the bullock drivers for dead.

When Zelman Cowen and his wife were walking away from that meeting, they were followed by a hundred or so yelling, screaming, obscene-chanting, foul-mouthed students who yelled and screamed and abused Zelman Cowen and his wife all the way to their car. Later I discussed it with Zelman Cowen. I asked, "Why didn't you take action against them?" "Oh well," he said, "you have to look into the legal aspects of these things, you know. Quite a lot of legal aspects have to be considered." He didn't take them on; he wasn't game to take them on; he was afraid that perhaps the university would stop.

We have men like Sherman. What a shocking performance he gave on A.B.C. television! Any rat-bag or idiot student can always find plenty of time made available for him on A.B.C. television to say anything he wants to say. Sherman was given time on A.B.C. television and Zelman Cowen was put on with him. Some of the things he said to Zelman Cowen were worse than some of the things that the A.L.P. are saying to the honourable member for Bundaberg at the moment. And that's pretty bad! That idiot had the superlative nerve to ring me up on one occasion and tell me that he was doing a paper to get his Ph.D., and that the subject of his paper was the 1948 railway strike. I know quite a lot about that because I was in it right up to my neck. I stuck to my railway mates on that occasion, and if a similar set of circumstances arose, I would stick to them again. He said, "No one can give me the information that you can give me, Mr. Aikens. I would like to come down and get it from you."

I asked, "You want me to assist you to get a Ph.D.?" I won't tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what else I said to him. If someone else were in the chair, perhaps I might repeat what else I said to him. However, I have such a high regard for you and your

sound and religious background that I won't insult your ears by telling you what I said to him. But I told him what he could do with his Ph.D. and what would happen to him if he had the nerve to come down to my office. That didn't stop him from coming down to Parliament House, however. He came down here and was closeted with prominent members of the A.L.P. who gave him all the information that he wanted in the hope that they would help him get his Ph.D.

Recently the honourable member for Rockhampton shed crocodile tears, saying what a tragedy it is that this year or next year 7,000 students in Queensland will not be able to attend the university. I only hope that 17,000 students will not be able to attend the university this year, if all of them want to take what we call the bovine-excreta faculties of arts, sociology, behavioural science and that sort of thing. I have no tears to shed over the scum section of the university; nor do I have any tears to shed over demonstrators, louts and yahoos. I have no tears to shed over people who walk around the university campus doing absolutely nothing; nor do I have any tears to shed over the spongers, loafers and time-servers who are kept in their well-paid jobs merely to make the university the great big mausoleum that it is. And it reminds me of a mausoleum.

I don't know whether honourable members have been to places like Ingham where there is a preponderance of Italians. They bury their dead in lovely big marble mausoleums, which look absolutely beautiful from the fence and even from close by. But anyone who opens the door and sees what is inside will find nothing but filth, corruption and rottenness. Many of our universities are the same. They represent lovely edifices, but inside they are like a mausoleum. They contain a small percentage of decent students and academics, who are trying to do something for the universities and the people, but other than that they are not worth two bob.

I want to say with all the sincerity at my command that we must get back to the point that I have hammered time and time again, that is, that this Parliament is the only law-making authority in Queensland and no-one else can make a law without our approval and concurrence. Parliament is the only body in Queensland that can dole out millions and millions of dollars of taxpayers' money for this purpose or that. And we are doling it out. The honourable member for Toowong referred to the hundreds of millions of dollars that are given to the universities of Australia today (I am dealing only with the Queensland universities) and much of that money is going straight down the drain in our rotten, putrid university system that we have inherited from Great Britain.

It is almost as rotten and putrid as the legal and judicial system that we have inherited from Great Britain. But at least we are fiddling around with that system and

trying to improve it in Queensland. Nothing is being done, however, to clean or cleanse the university system in Queensland. Until something is done, we stand condemned by every decent citizen in Queensland for being responsible for everything that happens in the streets.

We have created in the minds of the students the impression that they are supermen, that they are celestially begotten, that they are anointed of God, that they are sacrosanct, that they are above the law and that they can do what they like. The moment they march onto the streets and a policeman does his duty as he is required to do by the laws of this State, what happens? The Press rushes into big headlines and displays photographs of some poor dear little foul-mouthed girl being hit over the head with a baton.

At the James Cook University I was asked what I thought about a woman being hit over the head with a baton. I replied, "The last time I was out here you were a disciple of Women's Lib." The woman who asked me the question said, "I still am." I asked her, "Why discriminate between a woman and a man? If she was out there as a student and was doing something that deserved a hit over the head, she should be hit over the head, no matter what sex she was." She asked me, "Won't you bring this up in Parliament?" I replied, "I certainly will . . ."—they started to cheer—"not."

We have had students in their thousands outside this building. We saw them here when "Cry Baby" Gardiner led them down. "Cry Baby" Gardiner was the man who thought he could play the same stunt in this Parliament as he did in the streets. When arrested on the order of Mr. Speaker and taken down to one of the corridors to wait for the paddy wagon, he was crying like a baby or bellowing like a bull. One Liberal member who is no longer with us, out of kindness or generosity, said to him, "What's the matter, Frank?", and he said, "Ooooh——", and he howled and whinged.

Mr. Wright: Spell that last bit for "Hansard".

Mr. AIKENS: I could not spell anything for the honourable member for Rockhampton. When all is said and done he is so superlatively erudite he could not learn anything from me.

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: The honourable member is a toady to the university. I ask him to stand up and read this aloud.

Mr. Wright: Did you write it?

Mr. AIKENS: No, it is from the Orientation Handbook of the James Cook University. I had nothing to do with it.

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: I ask the honourable member to stand up and read it. We will see just how much belly he has.

Mr. Wright: Can I say, "Chairman Tom said——"?

Mr. AIKENS: Yes, the honourable member can say, "Tom Aikens gave this to me to read out."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! All comments should come through the Chair. Both honourable members should know that.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: Tom Aikens did not write it. There it is, there. I ask the honourable member to stand up and read it at the top of his voice. Take the microphone!

(Time expired).

Mr. ROW (Hinchinbrook) (3.12 p.m.): In joining this debate I do not propose to emulate the performance of the honourable member for Townsville South. I rebuke him mildly for casting aspersions on some of my late constituents in referring to the mausoleums at the cemetery. I assure him that, unlike the people he maligned in his analogy, they certainly died doing an honest day's work. I hope that the honourable member will accept my assurance about my late constituents and will not again malign them as he did. I appreciate his sentiments on some of the matters he raised this afternoon.

I congratulate Sir Colin Hannah, the Governor of Queensland, on his Opening Speech.

Mr. Wright: Is he related to you, too?

Mr. ROW: I leave that to the honourable member's judgment. His Excellency is certainly not related to the honourable member; if he were, he would not be Governor.

I believe that we are all proud that the parliamentary system continues in Queensland. Whilst it is enjoyed by the members of the Opposition, who interject so readily, it certainly would not survive very long should they hold the reins of Government.

It is very nice to know, as mentioned in the Governor's Opening Speech, that this State continues to prosper. I am quite certain that the State's prosperity is attributable in no small measure to the sound administration of the Queensland coalition Government, which has lasted for so long and has been so successful.

In saying that, I pay tribute to Sir Gordon Chalk, our Treasurer until recently. No man who has occupied these benches has contributed more than Sir Gordon to the welfare, success and development of this State. He is a man of single purpose with a great deal of vitality. I congratulate him and wish him well in his retirement.

I also congratulate our new Treasurer (Hon. W. E. Knox). He has been a Minister for quite a number of years. As Minister for Justice and Attorney-General he was very energetic and handled that portfolio with great credit. As a back-bencher of several years' standing, I must acknowledge his great co-operation and the great deal of assistance—in many cases beyond the normal call of duty—that he was prepared to render to all of us in this Chamber. For that, I thank him, and I can assure him of my sincere support in his present portfolio. I am sure that he will make a very good Treasurer of this State.

While making those remarks, I do not overlook the support that this Government has had from so many loyal Queenslanders—I speak particularly of constituents in my electorate—who in essence are responsible for a great deal of the commercial success of this State. Of course, I am speaking of those Queenslanders in positions carrying the responsibility of making decisions in industrial management and business policies, those who carry out the decisions, and right down to the workers who, in so many cases, have served the industrial complexes of this State so loyally that, without a doubt, we have the most stable industrial and political environment in the Commonwealth. I hope that that situation continues. I am sure that it will, as long as the stable Government of the Liberal-National Party coalition exists.

Whilst I am referring to the industrial situation in Queensland, I should not overlook the fact that there are many industries, particularly in the rural sector, which, in spite of their great endeavours, have had to make many sacrifices in recent years to maintain their viability. I am pleased that there are some signs of hope for improvement in the viability of our rural industries, particularly of meat producers, who perhaps have been most detrimentally affected. Unfortunately, the cattle-grazing industry has probably borne the brunt more than any other, as a result of not only the brief period of a socialist regime in Canberra but also the effects of diminishing markets and an inability to compete because of a high cost of production resulting from factors outside the control of cattlemen. I am very pleased that the present Federal coalition Government is showing some signs of introducing proposals that will, in the near future, help to restore the viability of many of our industries, more particularly our rural industries.

However, I believe that the State Government must maintain its representations and bring pressure upon our Federal colleagues to ensure that such measures are put into effect. Perhaps we feel that some things should be done more quickly. Reference has already been made in this debate to those matters. We expect our Federal colleagues to acknowledge our requirements and wishes, and I know that our Government will not cease in its efforts to press those measures which are necessary to bring about relief.

I might use as an example the implementation of brucellosis and T.B. eradication schemes in the cattle industry. We in Queensland have enacted the necessary legislation and have provided the mechanics for these processes to be carried out. We are now waiting for action from our Federal colleagues, which I am sure will be forthcoming.

Many ills in industry are a legacy of the brief reign of socialism in Canberra. They will not be cured overnight. I believe that there must be a continuation of pressure by all responsible people, not only in the State Government but also in private industry, to maintain the efforts to beat inflation and restore confidence in the private sector. I know that in many cases the dismay and demoralisation that resulted from the brief period of the socialist regime in Canberra is now inclined to turn to impatience. Unless there is an implementation of decisions already made by the Federal Government, it will be necessary, in many sectors, for some form of backing to be given by the State to meet the necessary requirements of industry. I know that the State Government, through the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development and through the Treasury, will do everything that it is possible to do to bring about these results, without placing an undue burden on the taxpayers of this State.

Unfortunately there are still many organisations and industrial pressure groups that work against the implementation of measures that are necessary in the short term to bring about long-term stability in this State and nation. There are strikers, demonstrators, political activists and extremists of every type who, in my opinion, are gaining far too much publicity and prominence in our society. In my opinion they are cancers in the bowels of the nation. I believe that they are undermining confidence and development.

A typical example of this kind of thing is what I like to refer to as the disaster lobby. There are people who set themselves up as experts in the fields of environment, ecology and sociology. They constantly cry that the nation is headed for destruction because of the non-academic approach of many practical people to what they claim to be the important affairs of the nation. As you will be aware, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I never cease in my contributions in this House to try to warn these extremists of their inevitable self-destruction. Unfortunately they could take the whole system down with them.

A classic example of the point I am making is the cry of dismay from the so-called environmentalists at the economic measures taken by the present Federal Government. A group of people based in Townsville, in the vicinity of my electorate, claim the entire responsibility for the preservation of the environment in North

Queensland. They are led by a person who can be described only as a dishevelled, long-haired nondescript who gains publicity from time to time in the media and sets himself up as the saviour of North Queensland. This person and his followers are nothing but a group of social drop-outs and rat-bags. They are bringing pressure to bear on people who should know better, and the normal development and industrial progress of commercial enterprises are being frustrated and jeopardised by the activities of these people. I feel that it is quite wrong that they should receive so much publicity.

The leader of this environmental group in North Queensland is in fact nothing more than a puppet. He appeared recently from nowhere. I do not think he is even a Queenslander. He was spawned by the former Whitlam Government. He crawled to Senator Jim Keeffe in Townsville, who is well known as a stirrer and a person who thrives on creating racial disharmony, especially in relation to Aborigines. These people obtained large amounts of money from the Federal Government, mainly to pay their own salaries. They set themselves up as experts in a field which had very little application.

I have the same sort of situation in my electorate in the area of Aboriginal affairs. An organisation to cater for Aborigines was set up by the Whitlam administration and vast sums of money were made available to people who have no standing in the community. These people irresponsibly throw this money around, create a great deal of anticipation and then find that their plans are not feasible. This, of course, leads to dismay and disappointment among the social groups for whom they pretend to be doing so much good, and we as a State Government are left with the responsibility, as we always have been, of seeing that justice is done amongst these various groups. This wastage of funds has, of course, led to the curtailment of spending by the present Government. It should never have been allowed in the first place and I hope that these people will eventually be dealt with by the present Government, that expenditure will be rationalised and that these social groups will be properly managed so that radicals are not able to create disharmony amongst the people of Queensland.

I would like to refer now to the privilege I had of being included in the parliamentary delegation to Asia this year. The group was very ably led by our very worthy Minister for Health and very capably administered by the secretary to the Cabinet, Mr. Graham Swan. I wish to acknowledge the leadership and the management abilities of those two people, who made the tour such a success. The few short air hours involved in travelling to the heart of Asia makes one aware of how close it really is to this country. The first impression I gained was that we have next-door neighbours who

have existed as developed societies for probably a lot longer than this country has been privileged to be considered a developed country.

I wonder whether we in Australia are just a little too unaware of the implications of having so close to us so many people who have gone through the processes of war, rehabilitation and social change, things that this country has never known or that our younger generation has never known, and I sometimes wonder if we in Australia are not a little too arrogant and a little too complacent about our situation in relation to our near neighbours. I suppose it could be said that a similar situation existed for many generations when we had no real need to be aware of these countries or of their proximity. Originally, of course, this country was developed within the long arms of the British Empire, which stretched from Europe right round the world.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Is it true that the sun never set on the outposts of the British Empire?

Mr. ROW: I think that is a philosophy which probably was adopted by people at a certain stage in the development of the British Empire. I hope that the sun will never set on the spirit of unity that did in fact develop the British Empire, and I hope that the spirit of unity and the hand of friendship can be extended by those relics of the British Empire that appreciate the fact that they have evolved from a system that has stood the test of time. I hope that Australians will realise that the hand of friendship needs to be extended to countries to our very near north.

Some aspects of the situation in Asia are quite encouraging; in another sense, others are quite alarming. From the point of view of the impressions that delegations visiting Asian countries might receive, I should say that South Korea would be the area that impressed me most. It certainly gave me the most cause for serious contemplation.

Recent events at Panmunjom, on the border between North and South Korea, are an unfortunate example of the results of social and economic conflict eventuating from extremist philosophies being imposed on the stringent social and economic circumstances prevailing there. Sometimes I wonder whether the Australians who believe themselves to be the best, who believe that this is a fully developed nation, who believe that we can afford to be independent, are living in a fool's paradise.

The example of Panmunjom is not only the result of a civil war in an eastern country; I think it is one of the focal points of the division between the two philosophies that are in conflict almost everywhere in the world today—that is, those commonly described as Left and Right. On the one hand, there is a socialist system, which, of course, in many places is aligned with Communism.

I make that qualification only to the extent that I believe that Communism is in vogue only because of a particular situation or the density of population in a particular country.

In sparsely populated countries such as Australia, we tend to believe that socialism is different from Communism. But I assure honourable members that socialism and Communism are based on the same philosophy and it is only numerical strength that turns socialism into out-and-out Communism. In a country such as Korea, the division is quite alarming, and the end result, of course, cannot be predicted.

I only wish that more Australians could have the opportunity to contemplate the situation. From my observations—and I am not particularly qualified in any direction; I am simply a fairly normal, responsible Australian—I found that the demarcation between the North and the South and the success of the South in the continuing struggle and the lack of success of the North under Communism are most marked. In the Communist theatre there is a large population of propagandized people who are obviously failing to achieve the social and economic prospects which they believed were offering under Communism. There are regular defections to the South, whereas in the South there is a shining example of recent rehabilitation and industrial development.

In a few years the Korean shipyards have achieved more progress than any other shipyards in the world. All the other heavy industries that are being developed are making great inroads into the markets of the traditional producers. There is only one reason for this. The Korean people have been right through the mill. They have seen the effects of Communism; they have seen the ill effects of industrial collapse and degradation. They now have a singleness of purpose which, in a very short time, has put them in the forefront of industrial development.

Unless people like us, who are so close to and dependent on relationships with those countries, become very quickly aware of the damage that our radical and irresponsible industrial trade union leaders and promoters of strikes and inflation are doing to this country, we will soon become the poor relations in the great Asian complex that is to take the place of what used to be the international trading theatre in which Australia traditionally operated. That is now rapidly diminishing because of the setting up of the European Common Market and other factors. Unless we come into line with the affairs of our own geographical region, we will not survive. The Asian countries are willing and keen to have substantial trade relationships with Australia. We have many raw materials which would promote their progress. They are willing to enter into reciprocal arrangements with us which would eventually put

this country in a much more substantial position for the development of trade relations.

I can only hope that the situation in Australia will be rectified by the wise decisions of the present Federal Government in an endeavour to curtail the cost of production and inflation so that our exporting industries can compete. I am sure honourable members opposite would not deny that the population of Australia is not large enough to sustain commercial development without participation in overseas export of our raw materials and reciprocal trade. We have tariff protection for industries in this country that can produce some of the necessities of life in Australia, but some of those industries are rapidly pricing themselves out of business. That has already been said during this debate today. I can only reiterate that that is so. It will be said in reply to statements such as I have made that we in this country cannot accept the standards of the low-wage countries; that we cannot expect our people to accept the low wages and standards of the developing nations. Be that as it may, our trading competitors will not disappear simply because, in some respects, their standards may not be akin to ours. Unless we are prepared in some way to try to attain their standard of productivity, we cannot hope to compete with them.

Our Asian neighbours are very willing to co-operate with us. In fact they are bending over backwards to accommodate Australia. We have seen this particularly in relation to our sugar and coal exports to Japan. The Japanese are prepared to enter into long-term contracts with us simply because for many years we have been a reliable producer. But unless we maintain our reliability we will feel the brunt of changing circumstances in which we will no longer be called upon to meet the needs of those nations.

I wish to touch briefly on other aspects of our tour. As we were led by a medical man, it was only natural that we were brought into contact with many aspects of social services in Asian countries. Despite the fact that many of their social services are not of the same standard as ours, their endeavours to provide social amenities and to improve health standards far exceed ours. They do more than many Australians are prepared to do in this direction. Again I say that Australians would do well to witness the efforts of our Asian neighbours.

Finally, I assure the House that my constituents will continue to play their part in maintaining the stability of our State. I am proud to be a representative of North Queensland, where the major industries of the State are continuing to prosper under the good management of this coalition Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): I call the honourable member for Port Curtis. I remind the House that this

is the honourable member's maiden speech and I therefore ask that he be extended the usual courtesies.

Mr. PREST (Port Curtis) (3.43 p.m.): At the outset. I reaffirm my loyalty and that of the electors of Port Curtis to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As the Leader of the party I represent, the Australian Labor Party, spoke so forcefully this morning on the Federal Budget and the effects it will have on the people of Queensland, I will speak this afternoon on the needs of the people of Port Curtis.

I was somewhat disappointed at the fact that the sum of \$37,000,000 is to be refunded to Mitsui-Peabody and Utah; in my opinion it would have been far better to give that money to the primary producers of the State.

Again I express my sorrow at the tragic circumstances that caused the vacancy I have been chosen to fill. It is with the utmost humility that I accept the responsibility with which I have been entrusted by both the party of which I have been a member for many years and, just as importantly, the electors of Port Curtis, who gave me a substantial majority over my three opponents. I sincerely hope that as the representative of Port Curtis I will do nothing that will in any way disappoint the electors who put their faith in me and my party on 29 May. I reassure those who chose otherwise that I recognise and accept the duty I have to serve their interest as well and as diligently as if they had voted for me.

I thank all those people who assisted me during the campaign, in particular, Bob Gibbs, my campaign director. Perhaps it is sufficient for me to say that I will endeavour to follow the precedent set by my predecessor. As Martin Hanson was a great person, a man who did much for the people of Port Curtis, he will be long remembered, and those who were fortunate enough to enjoy his company and his friendliness join with Mrs. Hanson and the family in their great loss.

Geographically, Port Curtis may not be a large electorate but it comprises a large number of electors who follow a remarkably wide variety of callings—so many, in fact, that it would be much easier to enumerate those it does not have than those that it does. Physically, of course, its greatest natural asset is the wonderful port of Gladstone and its beautiful harbour. I think honourable members will forgive me for reminding them that our port is unrivalled in Australia. The development and success of the port was brought about by the foresight and faith of the past chairman and past secretary, namely, Martin Hanson and Alec Hooper, and the follow-up work by the present chairman, Mr. Bill Golding, and the board's officers, Reg Tanna and Bryan Jordan. It would be wrong if I did not

acknowledge the fact—and draw it to the attention of honourable members—that Mr. Bill Golding, after serving 50 years in local government and 17 years as chairman of the Gladstone Harbour Board, still has as much vigour as most young people and makes a big contribution to the progress of the Gladstone region, and in fact the central region, while still being the harbour board chairman.

The volume of trade in the Port of Gladstone exceeds that of any other port in the State. This is true as well of its depth, its safety and the extent of its anchorage. In the opinion of experts it is criminal folly that much more use is not made of its resources.

In this context, I refer particularly to the undue and unnecessary cost presently being incurred in the export of meat from Central Queensland. Every school-child in the electorate of Port Curtis is aware of the hardships suffered today by the meat producers as a result of the limited demands and the low prices being paid for beef to those in this unfortunate section of the community. Even the Premier must know that it is economically impossible to produce beef at the paltry price being paid to producers today and, for that matter, for the past three years. But what has this Government done to improve the situation for the beef producer?

Some 12 months ago, the Premier announced that, unless the Japanese bought more of our beef, they would get less of our coal. However, on his return from his latest trip to Japan he expressed little hope for the meat industry but was elated by the prospect of greatly increased orders for coal and uranium. I will have much more to say on coal should time permit. In the limited time at my disposal I do not propose to go into the details of the Premier's trips to Japan.

I am concerned immediately about the mishandling of the meat industry. I wonder how many honourable members are aware how this once great industry has been sabotaged in recent years. Central Queensland is the main meat-producing part of the State and the Lakes Creek meatworks at Rockhampton is reported to be the largest in Australia. Another large meatworks operates in the area. The combined killings of the works would be well over 1,000 head a day, with a much higher capacity available if required. The greater part of the output is exported. Anyone with an elementary knowledge of shipping knows that large container-type ships are more economic for this purpose. As I have previously stated, Gladstone Harbour is ideally suited for this purpose. It already caters for a regular service through the port from great cargo vessels carrying bauxite and alumina into and out of the giant alumina works situated at Gladstone.

In passing, I mention that the Gladstone port handles the greatest quantity of cargo of all ports in Queensland. It employs only 10 waterside workers, a fraction of 1 per cent of those employed in Brisbane, its nearest rival. That illustrates its efficiency as well as its suitability yet, unbelievable as it may seem, 95 per cent of the beef produced for export in Central Queensland is railed past Gladstone on its long journey of 400 miles for export through the port of Brisbane. I do not know what this added and unnecessary expense amounts to, but one would not have to be an economist to realise that it is substantial. What I do know is that it comes from no-one but the unfortunate cattle producer. It would be interesting to compare the ton-mile rail freight of meat and coal. I ask the Minister to give serious consideration to establishing a container port in Central Queensland and, when he does, I have no doubt that Gladstone is the ideal place geographically and financially.

In the past few years this Government has implemented far too many decisions before considering the full impact of them. Later in my speech I will speak about some resultant impositions. The area of Port Curtis has many problems, which were acknowledged by Government members who visited the area during the by-election. Some members of the Liberal and National Parties said that certain things would be done in Port Curtis, but only if a candidate from their parties was elected. That was a form of blackmail. The people of Port Curtis did not fall for it and they now want to know what this Government intends to do for Port Curtis.

We need improved roads. Roads in Port Curtis have been neglected for far too long. We have heard the old story that this was brought about by the Federal Labor Government. The roads in Port Curtis were in a very bad condition not only three years ago but many years ago. Indeed, the roads have been neglected for so long that many accidents and fatalities would not have occurred if this Government had given fair consideration to country areas in the allocation of funds.

The Bruce Highway between Iveragh and Rockhampton is described by truck drivers who use the highway regularly as the worst section of what is called a State major highway that they have ever travelled over.

The Burnett Highway, from Rockhampton to Mt. Morgan and up the range, and the highway between Mt. Morgan and Dululu are in a terrible condition. Tourists who have travelled in that area express the wish never to have to travel over them again.

The Mt. Morgan to Archer road, unfortunately, is unusable at certain times. It should be made trafficable all year round. The time is long overdue for State funds to be made available for upgrading and sealing the Boyne Valley road. The residents

of that area of my electorate have been very tolerant. They have worked hard and for long hours, suffering bad seasons and low prices, but they are forced to travel to town over dirt roads for supplies or with their produce, encountering hazards that cause damage to their vehicles—damage that proves very costly to repair.

The Boyne Valley road and the Mt. Morgan to Archer road are both unsealed. They are not all-weather roads. However, they will now have to be used by bulk-milk trucks that are expected to give a service to dairy farmers in all weather conditions. This is just one case where the cart has been put before the horse. Those two roads should have been upgraded to an acceptable standard for the purposes of hygiene, and an assurance given to the dairy producers that their product would be delivered to the factory on time without deterioration.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask the Minister for Main Roads to give priority to roads in Port Curtis—roads that are long overdue for attention. All we ask is that our roads be equal to those in the area south of Gympie. Let us give fair consideration to the people in country areas. It is no wonder that money is not available for country areas when we see the amounts being spent on freeways for the improvement of traffic flow in the city.

Mt. Morgan could have a gloomy future with a closure of the mine after 94 years of operation. The sacking of 600-odd men presently employed in one small town will cause great hardship, not only to the men and their families but also to the business people and the organisations in this wonderful, historic town. Mt. Morgan has assisted the Government no end with taxes paid over a long period of time. Now it is the turn of Governments, both State and Federal, to do everything possible to ensure that no stone is left unturned in an effort to keep the mine working. I realise that, once ore has been extracted, it cannot be extracted again. However, what I am suggesting is that we ensure that every drillhole has been fully explored to see whether still more ore can be found. I would hate to think that these 600 men will be thrown out of work because every possible effort was not made to find ore, or for some other reason. We must be sure of the cause of the closure. If all possible efforts are made to save Mt. Morgan and they fail, we will have to find money to assist these families to find alternative employment in Mt. Morgan and district or to bring industry to Mt. Morgan. This will be difficult as other areas have so much more to offer, such as port facilities, water, power and a rail service and are much closer to other industries. If a first-class road giving quick travel facilities between Mt. Morgan and Rockhampton were available, these families could remain in Mt. Morgan while their menfolk worked in Rockhampton.

However, it must be remembered that Rockhampton has an unemployment problem and it is only reasonable to think that obtaining employment for these men would not be easy at this late stage. Steps should have been taken by the Government over a long period of time in preparation for the eventual happening. My predecessor warned the Government many times of the possible closure of the mine during the 13 years in which he represented Port Curtis. The Government should make money available to the Mount Morgan local authority so that men could be employed doing work that the local authority itself cannot afford to do. This would be only temporary employment but it would at least tide some men over till they were able to make arrangements for the future.

In the course of my travels throughout the electorate both before and after my election as its representative, and no doubt because of the tragedy that may occur at Mt. Morgan shortly, I have been informed that Mount Isa Mines Ltd. has extensive leases of mineral-bearing land in what is known as Dawes Range. These leases embrace three old mines within a few miles of each other that were worked for short periods earlier in the present century when copper and gold prices were \$60 to \$80 a ton and \$8 an ounce respectively. There were then no roads, railways or electricity within 70 miles and the methods of mining and extraction were primitive. Each was worked by different interests for short periods of time and produced copper, which was transported by horse or bullock teams to Gladstone for shipment to Port Kembla for refining. The largest of the three was owned by an enterprising railway-construction contractor who introduced steam-driven tractors to haul the product to the railhead. However, none was viable in those days.

Some 20 years later Mount Isa Mines Ltd. became interested and, to its credit, spent substantial sums of money in drilling to prove the extent and value of the mines. It must have been satisfied as it has retained the leases ever since. I am not a geologist or a mining engineer, nor do I claim any qualifications as an economist, but I am greatly impressed with the possibility of the re-opening of these mines. One of my informants who has a mining background is a former member of this Assembly who represented the electorate of Port Curtis for a record period. I am happy to inform those who remember Jim Burrows that he is in reasonably good health.

I am convinced that there is a strong possibility that some benefit may be accorded the miners of Mt. Morgan by working these leases. Exact information, of course, is not available to me but it could be in the hands of the Mines Department. These three mines are known as Mt. Cannendo, Mt. Glassford and Mt. Hector and they are situated in a straight line. They could be close enough

to each other to warrant one treatment plant. The fact that Mount Isa Mines Ltd. holds these leases is not a serious impediment to their being worked. The Mines Department can insist on this being done under pain of forfeiture. Basically the Mining Act is opposed to the holding of mining leases for investment or for a long inactive period.

In the short period in which the mines were worked the methods of mining and treatment were, as I said before, primitive compared with modern methods. There is ample limestone available in the area and Moura could supply the necessary coking coal. The proposition that these mines be worked appeals to me. I believe that at least a feasibility study should be undertaken by the Government.

It has been explained to me that difficulty may be encountered with the large mining companies which have a wonderful organisation with a code similar to that of professional men. This code debars a member company from entering into territory occupied or held by another member company without agreement with, or permission from, that company. It is referred to as "intruding into another sphere of influence" or "unethical practice", but in the lingo of the trade union the crude word "scabbing" is used. However, I do not see why Mount Isa would not co-operate and reopen these mines, or alternatively, surrender the lease. It would be a dog in the manger attitude if neither was done and I ask the Minister to have this matter investigated.

Education is a very important part of our life and deficiencies in education should be attended to and rectified as quickly as possible. To me, far too much attention is paid to the big city schools and not enough thought given to country areas. We find that people in the country send their children away to boarding schools because school facilities are not available in the country. Where these facilities are available, children have to spend long hours each day travelling to and from school over unsealed roads. Calliope is a growing town, and to save children from that area having to travel to Gladstone to attend a high school I request that the Minister consider the building of a high school at Calliope.

Mt. Morgan High School has an enrolment of 300 pupils at present. It is a very old building except for one wing and the toilet block. I am sure if the interior of this school were upgraded with a little paint, covers on the old pine floorboards, better lighting and more modern classroom furniture, it would be all right and we might be able to remove the feeling that the Mt. Morgan High School is just a forgotten place. The Minister might even be able to provide better staff rooms and then the laundry can be used for the purpose for which it was built.

In other parts of my electorate we find many problems in schools—ones that should not exist in 1976. Surely this Government should give hygiene a high priority, yet many schools have earth closets, and after repeated requests we have been told that septic systems cannot be provided. This is not in keeping with a Government which claims to be progressive. The Government is so progressive that it considers that a septic system in a country school is unwarranted. Many schools in the Port Curtis electorate have made requests for septic systems and have been refused. It is said that no money is available, yet the Treasury can end the year with a surplus of \$700,000.

The Boyne Island School is situated adjacent to a refuse tip and, although repeated requests have been made by my predecessor and, more recently, by the leader of my party, no action has been taken to overcome this health problem. I ask the Minister to give urgent attention to this complaint. I would like to see this problem removed before the Minister for Water Resources arrives to open the Boyne Island School in the near future.

Pre-school centres originated from Australian Labor Party policy and have proven to be a wonderful and popular scheme. Unfortunately, they are not being provided as quickly as we had hoped they would and I request the Minister to provide Gladstone with some of these centres. I believe Gladstone Central School is to receive a centre and I am of the opinion that one should be provided urgently at the Gladstone West School as it is the largest primary school in the electorate. The idea is that children who attend pre-schools attend the same primary school, so it is only logical that the smaller children attend the same school as their older brothers and sisters and thus large schools must have a pre-school centre.

For many years a technical college for Gladstone has been talked about, but unfortunately nothing has been done. The land has been set aside and a technical college should be built without further delay. At present apprentices are sent away from home for seven weeks at a time each year in order to attend college. Besides this being a great inconvenience, it is not in the best interests of all. It must be remembered that first-year apprentices could be as young as 16 and could easily be led astray as they are not under parental or guardian control after college hours. For many reasons, employers are reluctant to employ apprentices at the moment. No doubt one is that an employer takes great interest in his apprentices and looks after them when they are under his control. But if an apprentice is away from his employment for weeks at a time the employer tends to lose touch. When one considers that an apprentice spends seven weeks attending college and one takes into account his annual leave, this makes it almost uneconomical for an employer to

employ an apprentice. There is certainly a need for a college in Gladstone at present, and the need will be even greater in the near future.

With a little consideration from this Government, industrialists will come to the area because it has the potential to be a major industrial area of Australia. In Port Curtis, or in close proximity to it, we have all the natural assets necessary to encourage industry to come to Gladstone.

The power station, which is expected to cost \$500,000,000 to complete, is now almost ready for the first turbine to put power onto line. It is well past the expected date of completion, but I have been told that this delay and the increase in cost was not due entirely to the construction force. Management must take a fair share of the blame, because right from the outset not enough time was allowed for the construction, and the estimate was well under what the actual cost could have been.

Unfortunately, the consumers are called on to make a considerable contribution to the building of this powerhouse, as steep increases in electricity charges are being made by the boards on instructions from the Commissioner for Electricity Supply. Any person who thinks that the people in close range of the power station will receive cheap power is being fooled. People in my area will be paying as much as, if not more than, consumers in other areas. Still, we are happy to have the power station in the area, as it was the correct position for the plant, and we should keep politics out of consideration when a study is being made of future planning for power stations.

We are geared to receive further extensions to power stations in the area, and I am quite certain that this plant, which will be operating shortly, will have some extensions made to it in the future. At present there is a construction force well settled in the area, a force that does good work and that is made up of first-class citizens.

We sincerely hope to see very positive action by Comalco on the construction of a smelter on Boyne Island. I was fortunate enough to be afforded the opportunity of seeing for myself the smelter in Southern New Zealand, and I was very impressed with its workings. I look forward to a plant being built in my electorate. It is certainly needed, and the Government should do everything possible to encourage the company to treat alumina at Gladstone, with the plant being operable when power comes on line in full.

The smelting of alumina is the final process in the making of aluminium, and we all know what a wonderful difference the treatment of bauxite at the Queensland Alumina plant has made for the people in my electorate. It not only brought an increase in population; it also provided job opportunities. Many people who were rural

or primary producers have found employment with Q.A.L., as well as men who previously were meat workers and men from many other walks of life. Q.A.L. also employs a great number of apprentices and turns out first-class tradesmen. It is a very good employer, and I would be wrong if I did not speak of the assistance it has given to the town and, in particular, of its grant of \$200,000 a year to assist the Gladstone Sports and Parks Committee, which is building sporting fields and amenities and not forgetting beautification. Unfortunately, some people do not appreciate what is being done, because vandalism does occur on these projects.

The Minister for Transport must be sure that the railways are equal to the task of carrying all the coal that is to come to Gladstone for export and to supply the powerhouse, which will burn in excess of 3 500 000 tonnes. With B.H.P. shipping additional millions of tonnes, this will tax to capacity the present railway system and the present diesel and wagon numbers will have to be increased greatly. I am sure that the Commissioner for Railways is equal to the task and that he has knowledge of the requirements for handling this quantity of coal. If the Minister listens to and acts on his advice, the railways will be able to fulfil all contracts.

At present, we find that when coal contracts with certain people are not fulfilled, they seem to cry, "The railways were to blame. They did not supply the trains we ordered." This is not good to hear. In fact, it is true that when a coal company is allowed to say this, it saves the company huge sums of money that it rightly should be paying under the agreement that it has entered into.

The railways have done a terrific job in our area, when one thinks of the huge tonnages that are moved. Unfortunately, not enough of the earnings from freight come back into the Central Division. Far better accommodation is needed for single men, and the bondwood huts and other accommodation supplied to migratory gangs can be improved. It was very disturbing to read in last week's "Sunday Sun" of the difficulties of fettlers in North Queensland. That applies also to fettlers in general.

Gladstone needs a new railway station. The existing one has had money spent on it to convert various sections to different uses, but the building of a new station is long overdue. Mt. Morgan also has an old building which could well do with some form of modernising. I remember that in the 1950s, when Queen Elizabeth was coming to Queensland, railway buildings were given a coat of paint. I sincerely hope that that action is taken again.

I should like to see the Minister for Transport agree to the Railway Award being upgraded and brought into line with other

outside awards and agreements. That award is so far behind other awards that it is almost impossible for the department to attract suitable staff who will remain in the job. Therefore the department has had to introduce crash courses or schools to train or qualify staff to fill positions. I am not opposed to that as I believe it is good to have schools where staff can be instructed and given the encouragement to qualify, but I do not believe that the system should be abused. I am of the opinion that if the award was upgraded the Railway Department would have no difficulty in attracting staff, assuming that the incentive was worth while or equal to that of outside awards and conditions.

It must be remembered that railway employees work long hours, that they are sometimes away from their families for long periods, and that they perform shift work under all sorts of conditions. The men do a wonderful job. Those who work the hardest when floods cause washaways or there are derailments are the fettlers, yet they receive the least pay and the least consideration. This section of railway employees could cause havoc if they ever decided to strike for better award conditions, as it would be only a matter of days before a section of track needed repairs. They are very conscientious men and should be given better conditions. I will have much more to say about the railways when the Act comes up for discussion.

The Government must realise that local government has almost reached its end. It is only a matter of time before it will be put right out of business. Local authorities must receive greater Government assistance rather than greater responsibility, with the Government passing the buck to local government to administer new Acts without due consideration of the impositions brought about with the enforcement of that legislation. The Litter Act has to be administered by local authorities. That piece of legislation is merely a laugh as all it has done is provide an excuse for a person in authority to impose a fine on somebody he does not like. Only one litter offence has ever been proceeded with in my area since the inception of the Act. And it must be remembered that the greatest litter offenders are Government departments.

What about pig-swill? Just imagine the extra cost involved to local authorities when scraps usually fed to pigs have to be buried. If big establishments such as hospitals, supermarkets and hotels put in food grinders so that the material can be treated in sewerage systems we will have the problem of the systems not being able to take it all, or even part of it in some cases, because treatment works are working to their full capacity. The over-all sewerage cost must go up so that treatment works can be doubled in capacity. There will also be a considerable increase in the use of water. Therefore reservoirs and

storage capacities may have to be increased, which would mean increased water charges to ratepayers. The capacity of the ratepayer to pay further increases in rates and charges has long passed. That is why today local authorities have huge amounts of unpaid rates. Believe me, it is not only in the rural shires where this problem exists.

When the Labor Government was in power in the Federal sphere substantial assistance was given to local government, but unfortunately that assistance has been withdrawn and no other schemes are to be introduced. This will mean that progress on certain projects in some areas will cease. Progress was achieved on schemes which local authorities, because of shortage of funds, could never have attempted until assistance was forthcoming from the Federal Labor Government.

I know quite well that in Gladstone, Mt. Morgan and Calliope—in fact throughout the Fitzroy Regional Council area—we appreciated the assistance given, but unfortunately some members never realised how well off they were until Labor was defeated and Fraser and company came to power. They regret it now.

Rates and charges in my area have gone up this year far beyond the 13 per cent inflation rate. One instance is the Calliope sewerage rate which has gone up from \$80 to \$200. Gladstone rates rose from 2.5c to 3.5c in the dollar, and water charges in Gladstone climbed from \$45 to \$85. This increase in water charges also applies in areas in the Calliope Shire and has been brought about by the establishment of the Gladstone Area Water Board.

The board was formed at the request of the Government following a study by Professor Harris of the James Cook University for the Gladstone Town Council. On the estimates given by the various Government departments it was quite obvious that money had to be provided to the local authority by way of loan if the needs of the area were to be met. The council approached the State Government for assistance, but this was refused. From this study the Government could see that the cost of water for the future was beyond the capacity of the Gladstone Town Council, so it formed the board to supply the area with water at a reasonable cost, and a cost that was to be comparable with that paid by the ratepayers and industry at that time. We now find an enormous increase in water charges to the ratepayers. As I have said, in Gladstone the charge rose from \$45 to \$85. In the next two years there will be a further 50 per cent increase, and after that it will be an open house. Heaven only knows what water charges will be imposed on us in our area.

The water board will drive every resident and industry away from the Port Curtis area. As it is the Government that will reap the benefit of the anticipated development of the

area, it should finance the scheme and make money available so that the Government can have water available when it attracts industry to the area. It should not charge existing residents and industry additional rates to pay for the scheme in the hope that one day other residents and industries will be in the area to help meet some of the cost of the wastage that is going on at the present time.

It was interesting to learn that a contract worth in excess of \$700,000 was let for the construction of roads in the Calliope Shire for the Gladstone Water Board and that no tenders were called. I am of the opinion that tenders should have been called so that the best price possible could have been obtained for such a large job. I cannot imagine any Government department spending so much money without calling tenders. I have been told that no roads will be left after the wet season. This is a reflection not on the work-force but on the engineer who performed the design work. The roads are of substandard design and from the beginning were not satisfactory. Maintenance will prove to be very costly.

I ask the Premier to ensure that the Co-ordinator-General's Department looks closely at the board and gives its officers some guidance. I have in mind particularly the chairman and the manager of the board. The department should keep a firm hand on the project to ascertain where the money is going and when it will be a paying proposition.

Throughout the State there are many projects worthy of financial assistance from the Government. A scheme should be implemented to assist cultural committees, sporting bodies and agricultural show committees, as well as the many other organisations that cater for the community by providing entertainment or recreational facilities. However, we now find that the Justice Department will be imposing hardships on these organisations by requiring them to pay a tax of either 3 per cent or 6 per cent. These clubs, organisations, committees and p. and c. associations consist of people who work voluntarily in raising funds to provide entertainment or to allow people to profit from cultural activities or be taught handicrafts. Fancy church groups, hospital auxiliaries, the Red Cross and the C.W.A. having to pay such a tax!

Many teachers who are dedicated to their profession acknowledge the work done by those people who give not only their time and energy but also goods that may be disposed of so that the p. and c. associations can raise funds to provide items for schools. These items should rightly be supplied by the Government. After all, immediately they are placed in the schools they are claimed by the Government as its property. As I have said before, these p. and c. associations are asked to pay the tax.

These taxes will be such a heavy burden that eventually many committees will

fade from existence. People on the committees will realise that they are only honorary workers raising finance that should be forthcoming from the Government and they will refuse to work any longer.

The Gladstone Harbour Festival, which is controlled by only a small committee, provides 80 various functions over an 8-day period during the Easter break. Last year the cost of the festival to the committee was \$25,522.45. I must say that the committee received only \$150 by way of Government assistance. The sum should have been more in the vicinity of \$5,000. The Government would be better off spending money on festivals such as this rather wasting it on propaganda or TV shows.

The Premier was present at one of these functions in my electorate. I am sure that he would have been impressed and proud to be associated with the festival in such a small way! I ask the Government not to kill these festivals, but to encourage the committees and organisations.

At the same time, I should like to see assistance given to agricultural shows. District shows bring together town and country people. At show-time each year people of the town and country get together, forget their worries and appreciate one another's efforts. No doubt the Gladstone Show Society deserves assistance to obtain a new showground or to improve the existing facilities on the present showground. A very small committee does a very good job, and no-one works harder than the president.

I now raise a very important point that concerns my electorate and could concern the electors of any electorate at any time. When a vacancy occurs in electoral representation through unforeseen circumstances it should be filled by a by-election within a certain time. No electorate should be unrepresented for any great length of time, but the Port Curtis electorate was unrepresented from 20 February until 29 May, which is in excess of three months. I believe that there was no real need for that delay. Irrespective of the reason, I believe the electors should have been given first consideration. I am sure that in this instance, the only reason was that the National and Liberal Parties had to get onto the big companies to make money available to them so that they could try to whitewash a couple of candidates in an attempt to win the seat of Port Curtis. I believe that the National Party wasted \$44,000—and it was wasted in Port Curtis. I ask the Premier to call by-elections without unnecessary delays because delays cause great concern and worry to electors who need assistance, and they are to be found in all walks of life.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and members of the House and staff who have offered me assistance from the outset.

Mr. LESTER: (Belyando) (4.23 p.m.): I congratulate the honourable member who

preceded me on his maiden speech. He performed his duty very well. He spoke of the problems that concern Central Queensland and his electorate, and put them forward in a sensible manner. I wish him well.

Today I intend to put before the House a few of the achievements, problems and needs of the people in the mining town of Blackwater. It is the largest town in the Belyando electorate, which covers about 33,000 square miles and contains some 30,000 men, women and children. The people of Blackwater are good people. They certainly cry out for things that they need, but they are prepared to put their shoulders to the wheel. They do not sit back and allow the Government or other organisations to do everything for them. They are prepared to make a worth-while contribution themselves and that is why this town is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best self-help towns in Queensland.

The people of this town, with their mining interests and through their keen efforts, are making a magnificent contribution to the State. Queensland and, indeed, the Commonwealth would be a lot poorer without this magnificent work-force and its tremendous contribution.

Blackwater is situated about 120 miles west of Rockhampton. It is in the Duaringa Shire and is the base town for the coal-mines of Queensland Coal, Thiess Bros. and Utah. It is hoped that at some time in the future the Clutha mine will again start production. Both open-cut and underground coal-mining are undertaken.

The town was first settled by Henry Crew and Richard Layten back in April 1882, when those two gentlemen took up land in the Blackwater area. It was surveyed as a town by A. F. Wood in May 1886. What makes it so important and famous today—its coal—was discovered by Ludwig Leichhardt when he made his first expedition into the area in 1845. In fact, he discovered an outcrop of coal on the Mackenzie River, some 17 miles north of the present location of Blackwater.

In the 1900s the town consisted of a string of hotels and shops and was a stop-over point for the gold-mining areas of Clermont and beyond. It was not until 1960 that coal-mining really started to gain momentum. Before then there had been several attempts to mine coal in the area, but they were largely unsuccessful.

Of course, I do not have to tell honourable members now what has grown from those humble beginnings. Today the town has a population of some 6,500 to 7,000 people, and 26 sporting bodies. Whilst I am on that subject, I might say that the Blackwater Rugby League team has made the grand final this year. At this stage it is considered to be favourite to win the premiership. Time will tell.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. LESTER: I would hope that honourable members on both sides of the House would refrain from showing their ignorance by interjecting when I am trying to put forward the views of the country people.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. LESTER: There they go. The members of the Labor Party cannot help it. They are trying to stop me from putting forward the point of view of the country people.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. LESTER: If you come to Blackwater, don't start saying what you are doing to stick up for the people of Blackwater, when you are interjecting on me, taking up my valuable time, and not allowing me to put forward their point of view. You ought to be utterly ashamed of yourself.

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

Mr. LESTER: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but he has bad manners, and I was just telling him so.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You've got no brains. You're a dill.

Mr. LESTER: Now he calls me a dill because I am sticking up for the people of Blackwater. I know who the dill is.

There are 26 general organisations in the town and four service clubs—Rotary, Lions, Apex and Rotoract.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr. LESTER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for your assistance and for trying to control some of the members on my left.

Mr. Casey: It's your right!

Mr. LESTER: I am sorry, on my right.

The people of Blackwater are very proud of many of their achievements. Perhaps their proudest achievement is the huge array of flags flown in the town to depict the native countries of the people who have worked in the town. As I understand it, it is the only area outside the United Nations that has so many national flags flying.

The town has some eight churches, a children's playgroup, a pre-school centre and kindergarten, a primary school and a high school. At the moment there are some 900 students at the primary school, and the stage has been reached where another State school could well be established in North Blackwater.

I will now list some of the achievements of the town so far. It has a 14-bed hospital, a fire brigade, an ambulance, a miners' rescue station—it was my pleasure to be at its opening the other day—and continuing school extensions. Let us not forget the wonderful

efforts of the parents and citizens who have not sat back and relied on the Government to do everything. They got stuck into the job and helped the Government. The mining companies have made machinery available. I thank all of the people involved. Their spirit of co-operation in a self-help project is in keeping with the general spirit of the people of Blackwater.

Recently I attended the opening of a pre-school at Blackwater to accommodate 100 children. A court-house has been completed recently and a new railway station was finished not long ago. Some of the other amenities of the district are the Bedford Weir north of Blackwater and a daily coach service to Rockhampton. A much-needed community centre will be started in the near future.

Some of the other achievements in the area have been the magnificent efforts made in road-building. Only a few years ago the roads were little better than tracks. A considerable amount of work has been done on improving roads, and it will not be very long before we have a double-lane bitumen highway between Blackwater and Rockhampton. In addition, the Dawson River bridge will shortly be completed. At times, the Dawson River has virtually cut off the people of Blackwater from the outside coastal world, and we are hopeful that it will not be too long before an announcement is made about the Comet River Bridge.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministers who have visited my area. I see the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries sitting on the front bench and listening intently to what I am saying. I thank him for his visit to Blackwater when he was visiting the Duaranga Shire. He took a profound interest in the matters put to him and he dealt with them very efficiently. I am further pleased to hear that he will be returning to my electorate.

We were honoured last year with a visit by the Premier of Queensland. Some 500 people were at the airport to meet him. It was a magnificent effort by the people of Blackwater in greeting the leader of their State. The Premier went over particularly well in the town by visiting and meeting the people. Indeed, almost all Ministers have visited Blackwater during my term as member for Belyando, and at all times they have tried very hard to help the people. The people of Blackwater appreciate the attention they have been given. They realise, too, that, by comparison, Labor Party members of Parliament have not visited the area.

Mr. Casey: What about churches?

Mr. LESTER: If the honourable member for Mackay had been listening he would have heard me say that there are six denominations offering church services in Blackwater. I suggest that he listen to what I have to say and, instead of going on as he does,

make a meaningful contribution to the debate. When he has something to say, let him make sure that it is sensible and in the interests of the Blackwater people.

I should like to point out that Blackwater also needs a new police station. After all, it is a town of 6,500 people, and I am not prepared to wait much longer for the programming of a new police station for this centre. I appreciate, of course, that a good deal of money has been spent on facilities for which I have asked. However, if anyone can help me obtain these needs I should appreciate it very much.

Obtaining housing for private citizens not employed by mining companies but who also make a meaningful contribution to the district is a problem. While they are not adequately housed there are problems with the infrastructure of the town. I was pleased to hear that the Minister for Works and Housing has allocated six more Housing Commission homes to Blackwater. Tenders have been called for them and it will not be long before they are built. However, I remind the Minister that many more than six are required.

A maternal and child welfare centre is needed. A sister visits the town each week and checks the health of small children. She has to work from a church hall and I do not think that is good enough in a town the size of Blackwater. I will continue to fight hard for a maternal and child welfare centre. The average age of the people in Blackwater is between 10 and 11 years. There are very many young people in the town. It is in fact a young people's town.

I have mentioned before that a new school in Blackwater North, an opportunity school and also a school offering some technical assistance to apprentices would be very much appreciated. These are badly needed.

Hospital extensions are needed. As it is, we are getting by with a 14-bed hospital. I have spoken to the Minister for Health about this matter and he has assured me that he will do all he can.

It would be in the interests of Blackwater if the fire brigade were to operate through its own board and forget altogether about being tied up with the Rockhampton Fire Brigades Board. I have yet to be convinced that the Rockhampton board is interested in the people of Blackwater, and I think the whole thing needs to be scrapped and replaced by a board in Blackwater, or perhaps a co-ordinated board covering towns in the Central Highlands. That would be much more beneficial to the area.

I want to look at miners' problems in general. A thought has occurred to me to which I do not know the answer. It is worth airing on the floor of this House, which is the highest forum to which I can put it because, after all, this is what I am here for today—to put forward the problems of the Blackwater people. When

a miner arrives in Blackwater with his family, they are supplied with a house. What concerns me is that when they terminate their employment with the company they then lose their entitlement to that house. I would like the Government, the mining companies and, indeed, anybody who can do so to try to see if we can solve this problem. Perhaps we can come up with a scheme whereby houses will be built for retired people to allow them to remain in Blackwater. At present Blackwater is different from most towns in that it has no elderly people, and most people have no relatives such as grandparents residing there. Young families come from all over Australia and are thrown together, and a wife with young children has no mother there to leave them with.

This is, of course, only one problem but I think we should look at this question of houses for miners who retire in years to come. It is no use waiting for this to happen; now is the time to start. This would tend to give Blackwater a more closely knit community that it has at present. I ask people in authority to have a look at this problem and I would welcome suggestions from the unions or anybody else in Blackwater on how to solve this problem.

I have also noticed that lack of work opportunities for children leaving school is going to be a problem in Blackwater in view of the abnormally high number of young children living in Blackwater now. In my opinion we would solve this problem by creating more industry. More industry breeds even more industry. I can say without fear of contradiction that we are in an area which can prosper greatly and, indeed, could become one of the great industrial areas of the world, such as the Ruhr Valley in Germany.

From time to time I have tried to put across the idea of the twin steel mills complex as a way of solving this problem. We would bring iron ore from Western Australia and ship coal from Queensland to Western Australia. The two steel mills would be linked by a great railway line. Of course, some people—even some of my political opponents in Blackwater—have laughed at me and have dared to say that I am not talking sense when I say this. However, I stick by my guns religiously and I will not back down.

I believe everything we do towards the betterment of this State, whether it be an improvement in defence capability or anything else, is a step in the right direction. I believe our engineers should look at ways and means of overcoming the problems facing the establishment of a twin steel mills complex. Again I stick hard and fast to my idea of a twin steel mills complex. It would be good for Queensland, good for Western Australia and, indeed, good for the defence of Australia as a whole in times of peril.

I have tried hard to ensure that the new super powerhouse, when it comes into being, will be in my area. Again I am not going to give up. After all, the know-how, the technical knowledge and the coal are there; everything is in its favour. I hope that no political decision takes the powerhouse away from the area.

It has concerned me a little that I have been criticised—again by some of my political opponents in the Blackwater area—for daring to suggest that other industries could be attracted to the area once the twin steel mills complex is completed. Those who have criticised me have tried to tell me that it is not possible to attract industry to the area, that the freight will be too high and that the area is too far away from the coast. All I say to them is that the coal is in the area, and I do not see why it cannot be used to provide power for, say, the motor industry and all sorts of other industries. The argument of my critics does not hold water. Motor vehicle plants are dotted from one end of the United States to the other. One sees huge cities and diversified industry all over the United States, not only on the coast.

I am sure that if my suggestion is considered seriously and people in the area do not knock it, it can be implemented, and people living there can be given the very best. Again I say emphatically that I am going to fight for its implementation, and I hope that the small minority of people in Blackwater who oppose me politically will get behind me instead of writing rubbishing, irresponsible letters to the Press. Nothing happens if one says, "It can't be done." No matter what one tries to do in life, there are always obstacles; but the people who are most successful in life have had enough guts to overcome those obstacles. Those who have said, "It can be done", have made certain areas the best in Queensland, and, indeed, the best in Australia. I am very pleased that other groups in Blackwater are backing me all the way, and I intend to go ahead and try to do what I can.

The Premier has given a lead in this direction. He has been to the area recently and has been through the coal-mines and seen them for himself. He has also been overseas; he has spoken to Lang Hancock and others, and he is in favour of the proposal. Of course, money is needed and many things have to be done, but we are making a positive approach and are not pooh-poohing the idea. We intend to fight for the betterment and for the future of the people of Blackwater and their children.

The Federal Government is to be commended for taking a step towards the phasing out of the coal levy. This will provide security of employment for those who are already employed at Blackwater. Honourable members should not think for one moment that the jobs of these people were completely secure when that obnoxious levy

was imposed by the Labor Government when it was in power in Canberra. At least the present Federal Government is taking a positive step to try to give security to the families in Blackwater and other mining towns.

One problem that concerns me particularly—and I feel it my duty to mention this on the floor of the Chamber—is inflation. It does not need me to tell honourable members, and, indeed, everyone else in Queensland, that inflation is likely to destroy us all. Do you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if you borrow \$25,000 at an interest rate of, say, 10½ per cent, you are paying interest of about \$50 a week? That is what inflation does. It takes away our spending money; more tax is taken from our take-home pay, and our smaller take-home pay buys less. These are the problems we must face, and until the inflationary spiral that has been in existence in Australia for some time is controlled, we definitely are heading for disaster and nobody can say that we are not. I am not having a go at anybody when I say that; I am just making a point. Anybody with any degree of common sense will have to agree with me.

Of course, as all honourable members are aware, since coming to Parliament I have always fought for the rights of country people. I have fought for them through thick and thin. In doing so at times I have trodden on people's toes—the toes of all sorts of people. If it means getting a better deal for country people I will continue to tread on toes.

I am very pleased at the backing I am getting from the people in my electorate. They come to me and say, "Thank you very much, Vince. You are putting our case forward and sticking up for us." That is what I am going to continue to do.

I have been criticised by union officials in Brisbane (who should be looking after the interests of country people) because of my stand on electricity charges. I am going to do everything possible to see that the price of electricity for private consumers is rationalised throughout Queensland so that people in Brisbane will be paying the same price for it as people in Blackwater, Longreach, Dirranbandi or anywhere else. After all, that is a fair thing. For too long city people have had things too easy.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. LESTER: If I get many more interjections from city members I will try to have them pay fully for their suburban train services and everything else. Then we will know who is on the right side of the ledger.

Mr. Casey: Why shouldn't they pay for them?

Mr. LESTER: I thank the honourable member for his interjection. I am not saying for one moment that they should pay for them, but if anyone starts to get obnoxious

about this electricity deal he will have a fight on his hands. I would hope that the people of Blackwater are behind me on this.

It has been a matter of great disappointment to me since entering Parliament that the Leader of the Opposition, who is not interested enough to listen to what I have to say about Blackwater, has continued to flog the dead horse of one vote, one value. He would not know how hard it is to look after our people in country areas. One vote, one value sounds good in principle but it just doesn't work. Is it fair that an electorate in Brisbane covering an area of, say, four to 10 square miles should contain the same number of people as an electorate such as the one I represent? If the principle of one vote, one value were accepted I would not be representing 33,000 square miles but probably 50,000 square miles. I do not believe that I can do the job now as well as I would like to, but I could certainly not do it as well as I do if I had to put up with the hypocrisy of one vote, one value that the Labor Party seems hell-bent on bringing in. I am not going to back down on that one. I have committed myself publicly on that matter on many occasions. I do so again on the floor of the House.

In conclusion—I again remind the people of Blackwater that I am available to them at any time to put forward their views. I thank those people in Blackwater—members of the Chamber of Commerce, members of the hospital committee, members of other committees, trade-unionists and others—who have helped me considerably while I have held the Belyando seat. I am trying to represent each and every person in the community, irrespective of his colour, religion or politics. I am pleased that so many people are uniting behind me as one and supporting what I am trying to do for a better deal for country people.

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (4.49 p.m.): I wish to reaffirm my own personal loyalty and that of the constituents of the electorate of Warrego to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and also to her representative in this State, Sir Colin Hannah.

Sir Colin Hannah has a very hard task to perform in this day and age, particularly in these political times. I congratulate him on his dignity and decorum and generally in the manner in which he carries out his duties. He travels widely throughout the State, and only recently he visited western areas, where he was very well received.

I extend my congratulations to the new leader of the Liberal Party, Bill Knox, on his appointment to that position and to the Treasury portfolio. I also congratulate Mr. Greenwood on his appointment to ministerial rank. I am quite sure that he will add something to the portfolio that he now holds.

I wish to extend congratulations also to our two new members—Mr. Brown (Clayfield) and Mr. Prest (Port Curtis). I was

very sorry to see John Murray leave Parliament. He was quite a friendly chap and one with whom I got along quite well. I extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Brown.

Mr. Prest replaces a man who was very popular on both sides of the Chamber, Marty Hanson. I express my condolences to his family. All honourable members were saddened by his passing.

It was refreshing to me to hear Mr. Prest in his maiden speech talk of support for rural industries. Most Labor parliamentarians do not go along with that. I can well recall that in the previous session the honourable member for Nudgee and the honourable member for Bundaberg, in a debate on lands legislation, commented that western members such as the member for Gregory and I were only representing the wool and beef barons of Queensland. It is pleasing to hear a different view expressed by the new Opposition member. I hope that he maintains that view and keeps up the good work.

Before lunch the Leader of the Opposition, in his Address-in-Reply speech, quoted from "Hansard" and from various newspapers in rubbishing the Federal Government and the State Government. At the same time he pledged his personal loyalty and that of the Australian Labor Party to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I do not know what his own personal loyalty is; that would be known only to himself. We all know, however, where the loyalties of the Australian Labor Party lie in relation to the Queen and her representative. The Australian Labor Party's policy is to further the cause of socialism. I ask members of the Australian Labor Party: why be hypocrites?

Recently Mr. Whitlam was on an overseas tour during which he had audience with the Queen and spoke with her. The Labor Party does not want to have anything to do with the Queen, yet he spoke with her. He also received an award as the world's greatest socialist. At that time the Australian Labor Party was sacking one of its leaders, Jack Egerton, because he accepted a knighthood from the Queen. What hypocrisy from the A.L.P.! It says it supports the monarchy and the Queen.

Mr. Byrne: Ed Casey should be knighted.

Mr. TURNER: He is on the outer now. Let's not put him further on the outer.

Mr. Casey: Whatever you do, don't put me in the same category as Egerton.

Mr. TURNER: I won't be the one to do it; that will be up to someone else.

There is an old Indian saying, and I use it to describe the A.L.P. When it speaks of loyalty to the Queen it speaks with forked tongue. But at least the honourable member for Archerfield is not a hypocrite. I quote from his speech on 5 September 1974 when speaking to the Address-in-Reply debate. He referred to the Brisbane public transport system.

Mr. Lindsay: Did he read that one, too?

Mr. TURNER: It does not say in "Hansard" whether he read it, but undoubtedly he did. Mr. Moore interjected, asking, "Why don't you pledge your loyalty?" To that the honourable member for Archerfield replied—

"The honourable member for Windsor asks why I do not pledge my loyalty to the Crown. I repeat what I said in the Address-in-Reply debate last year. I am a republican, and the sooner Australia becomes a republic, the better.

"As far as I am concerned, the Monarchy and all its appendages, such as the offices of Governor and Governor-General, are political anachronisms and should be abolished."

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Hear, hear!

Mr. TURNER: The honourable member says, "Hear, hear!" We know his views. He has expressed truly, I believe, the inner feelings of every Australian Labor Party member.

Carrying on from there let us turn to the demonstrations against the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, and ask ourselves who is fostering these demonstrations. None other than the Australian Labor Party! All honourable members will recall some of Mr. Whitlam's most recent, infamous statements, such as, "Let us keep the rage boiling", and, "Well may we say, 'God Save the Queen', but who is going to save the Governor-General?"

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. TURNER: The honourable member for Archerfield would not say, "God Save the Queen", but he might say, "God Save Chairman Mao", or something similar.

Let us consider the recent Monash University riots against the Prime Minister incited by radicals, Communists and trade-unionists. I most certainly include trade-unionists because the Building Workers' Union had admitted its participation in this infamous display. When the Prime Minister of Australia cannot visit a centre for exceptional children at the university through fear of personal violence, when our cities are being brought to a standstill, our women and children subjected to filthy language and obscene gestures and our police insulted and spat on, it is time for the average, honest, decent citizen of Australia to wonder why these things are happening.

Mr. Whitlam and the Australian Labor Party say that it is because the Senate unconstitutionally rejected Supply. I shall now quote from a report of recent remarks made by Mr. Whitlam when talking about the Governor-General, in these terms—

"He said the real issue was not who should be Governor-General, but the problem of a Senate which claimed the power to cut off the money supply of an elected government."

He maintained that that should not happen.

I shall now examine Mr. Whitlam's record. In 1970 Mr. Whitlam and the Labor Party attempted to block Supply to defeat the Gorton Government. But for the D.L.P. senators voting with the Government at that time—the Labor Party tried to win them over to its way of thinking but it failed to do so and they voted with the Government—Labor would have withheld Supply at the time. The vote went through by only two votes; the voting was 24 to 22. As so many people in the community are unaware of this or have not heard of it, I repeat it for the benefit of anyone who may care to think about it. Had the D.L.P. supported Mr. Whitlam, Labor would have defeated the Budget and destroyed the Gorton Government. Mr. Whitlam used the letter of the law and was not inhibited by convention. On 12 June 1970, he stated his interpretation of the duty of a Government in the position in which he was to ultimately find himself. This quotation is to be found in the "Hansard" of 12 June 1970, at pages 3945 and 3946—

"Any government which is defeated by the Parliament on a major taxation bill should resign... This bill will be defeated in another place (i.e. the Senate). The Government should then resign."

A fortnight later Mr. Whitlam was even more forthright when he said—

"Let me make it clear at the outset that our opposition to this Budget is no mere formality. We intend to press our opposition by all available means on all related measures in both houses.

"If the motion is defeated, we will vote against the (Appropriation) Bills here and in the Senate."

People should be made aware of this next statement by Mr. Whitlam—

"Our purpose is to destroy the Budget and to destroy the Government which has sponsored it."

That appears in the "Hansard" of 25 September 1970 at page 463. Three years prior to that, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Murphy), reiterated that Opposition Senators had every right to reject Supply. What hypocrites members of the Labor Party are on this issue!

I put it to honourable members and to all of the people in Queensland that the Australian Labor Party wants to destroy our system and to replace it with a socialist republic, as the honourable member for Archerfield has said on so many occasions.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: I didn't say "socialist republic". I said "republic".

Mr. TURNER: If I took the trouble to go to the library, I could quote the pages on which the honourable member has said he is a socialist and proud of it. However, I will not worry about that, because I do not have enough time to argue with him.

He had his argument on TV with the honourable member for Toowong last night. I am certainly glad it was telecast out in my area!

Mr. Young: They won't let him out of China next time. They'll keep him there.

Mr. TURNER: A plane leaves every hour for anyone who wishes to go to a socialist republic. It is a pity some of them would not catch one.

The system that those people want to destroy is one that has brought this country from a convict settlement to what is now known as the lucky country. They want to replace that with some other system, reducing us to the status of a socialist banana republic. It is not on for me, and I do not think it is on for many other Australians; the vote in the last State and Federal elections has shown that.

I now wish to talk briefly on the recent Federal Budget. Doubtless, many other honourable members will elaborate on it. When our Budget is brought down, there will be much debate on it. In the main, it is a responsible Budget. It has returned some incentive to business, to the mining industry, to oil exploration and to private industry. They were areas that were under direct attack by the former Labor Government. However, it must be realised that we have to get stability back into the economy and reduce inflation before this nation can get back to its feet.

Naturally, I would like to see more assistance given in rural areas, but in these economic times we have to be realistic. Federal aid to rural industries included a return of \$700,000 in subsidies to bush pilots and, I think it was, Connair. That was eliminated by the Labor Government. Assistance for the Royal Flying Doctor has been increased by \$800,000 to a total of \$2,000,000—an increase of almost 100 per cent. That will be well received in western areas. Carry-on finance for rural industries is up from \$11,000,000 to \$15,000,000-odd. Finance for rural reconstruction is to be continued.

One of the major facets of the Budget for rural industries is the income equalisation scheme. It is my genuine belief that, if that scheme had been introduced many years ago, a lot of people who are experiencing problems in western areas would not be in such difficulties today. I am hopeful that, if returns for producers in western areas increase, this scheme will get them out of their problems and allow them to carry on in adverse seasonal and economic conditions.

I am sorry that the fuel equalisation scheme was not reintroduced. I would also like to see interest rates reduced. It has been my contention that in western areas something should be done to assist all the people, not just graziers or workers or any other sectional interest. If the fuel equalisation had been

reintroduced, it would have assisted each and every individual, irrespective of whether he drove a motor vehicle. Local authorities, ratepayers—all would have benefited. I think, too, that there should be a more realistic upgrading of the zone allowance as a taxation incentive to people to live in western areas. That is particularly relevant in encouraging doctors, teachers, policemen and so on to go to the West.

The problems of the beef industry are great; there is no doubt about that. We pay something like \$395,000,00 in overseas aid to developing nations. My belief is—and this has been expounded elsewhere—that the Federal Government should purchase the over-supply of Australian beef, process it here—if necessary by working additional shifts at meatworks or even by employing people presently out of work—and send the meat as well as money to developing nations. I am not advocating for one moment that we send only meat. I realise that those countries have to improve their technology, buy farming equipment and so on. I do believe, however, that the Federal Government could use overseas aid to assist with the problems of the beef cattle industry.

I should now like to speak about some matters of concern in my electorate. As I have mentioned before, I represent an area that cannot diversify into sugar-cane, grain, dairy cattle or minerals. All that we have are wool and beef and unfortunately in the past these industries have been very depressed. We have a high level of unemployment. This is only natural because costs are so high that people cannot be employed in the rural industries. I should like to refer briefly to a few of the costs in the Cunnamulla district in 1976 and compare them with those of 1972. In 1972 wool was bringing an amount comparable with the present return and beef was returning possibly three times as much as it is in 1976. I quote these figures—

	1972	1976
	\$	\$
Super-grade petrol (drum)	20.06	34.86
Standard petrol (drum) ..	18.86	33.44
Dieseline (drum)	10.09	24.36
N-van (sheep) from Cunnamulla	182.80	270.20
K-wagon (cattle)	192.80	270.20
Contract rates on cartage of bale of wool to Brisbane	3.00	5.00
Wool pack	1.58	2.17
Lanoleen (used in sheep dipping) (gallon) ..	3.80	8.83
Siro Mark branding fluid (gallon)	3.50	7.54
Motor-cycle (100 cc) used in mustering	393.12	575.98
Station Hands Award rate (includes keep)	44.20	106.82

I quote those figures to give some idea of the increase in costs, which is one of the reasons why so many people are unemployed in rural areas. Because of the depressed state of the wool and beef industries, property owners just do not have the capacity to pay for labour.

I said that there are no industries in this area except wool and beef production. I have been endeavouring to have a feasibility study undertaken in my area and other western areas into the possibility of establishing a wool-top factory at Charleville or, if not there, some other western area. The wool-top factory at Orange in New South Wales employs approximately 100 people and is a great asset to that area. I hope most sincerely that something will be done in the near future to establish a similar facility in my area. Recently I had discussions along these lines with the Department of Primary Industries and I am hopeful that something will arise from them in the next couple of days.

Local authorities in my area are naturally experiencing problems, as are all local authorities throughout the entire State. With the new policy of Federal financing, I am hopeful that they will receive greater financial allocations from the Federal Government to assist them through the next financial year.

Electricity charges are tremendously high in western areas. Rural property owners are paying approximately \$8,000 for connection to the electricity supply and they then have to pay tariffs that are approximately four times those paid in the south-east corner of the State. The intention of the Government in this session is to introduce a Bill to bring about eventually the equalisation of electricity tariffs throughout Queensland. I commend to all people—parliamentarians, pressmen and the general public—a recognition that rural areas have played a vital part in the development of the nation and the prosperity of Brisbane and provincial cities. As the honourable member for Belyando has said, suburban train services are subsidised as well. I think we should get recognition of this and I am quite sure that this Bill will be passed during this session.

As has been said, we do face problems in education. The cost of educating children in remote areas is astronomical, but I would like to point out that something like 25 per cent of the State Budget has been spent on education and in my area in the last 12 or 18 months new pre-school centres, libraries, classrooms, home economics blocks and so on have been completed or are in the

process of construction at Mitchell, Cunnamulla, Tambo, Blackall and Barcardine. I can assure honourable members that this has been well received in that area. I am hopeful that further assistance will be given in the next Budget to the education of our children, particularly children from the more remote areas where there are no schools nearby and where the parents cannot always help them with their correspondence lessons, thus making it necessary that they be sent away to school. The Minister will be attending a conference of the Isolated Children and Parents Association in a couple of months' time, and I am quite sure that the members of the I.C.P.A. will be speaking with him about what can be done to help them with their problems.

We have heard quite a lot recently about the shipbuilding industry and the move by the Government to allow companies to purchase ships overseas. Most people should realise that the shipbuilding industry is one of the most heavily subsidised industries in Australia and I believe that the A.C.T.U. and the unions have adopted an ostrich-type attitude—they have put their heads in the sand—when they say that they will ban all ships built in some other country which they think could be constructed here. As far as I am concerned this attitude is unrealistic, because if we adopted it in regard to the motor vehicle industry, which is also heavily subsidised, and if the Australian Government or the unions said, "We will not allow any cars into Australia from America, Japan or Europe", I think it is fairly logical that those countries would respond by saying, "Well, we are trading with you and if you will not accept any of our commodities we will not accept yours." I do not think we should cut off our nose to spite our face. I think we have to look at what has caused a lot of our unemployment. We have to work in a united fashion to make Australia a better nation.

In conclusion I would like to say that the people in western areas will play their part in making this a great nation and I only hope that all other people, including the politicians and the Press, will recognise the part that the people in western areas have played and the hardships they have endured and that they also will play their part in making this nation the great nation that it can and should be.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Ahern, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.15 p.m.