

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1976

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

Assent reported by Mr. Speaker.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF LOCKYER

BY-ELECTION DATES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the dates in connection with the issue of a writ for the election of a member to serve in this House for the electoral district of Lockyer will be as follows:—

Issue of writ—10 September 1976;

Date of nomination—17 September 1976;

Polling day—16 October 1976;

Return of writ—15 November 1976.

PETITIONS

AMENDMENT OF LIQUOR ACT

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) presented a petition from 213 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.

[A similar petition was presented by Mr. Byrne (146 signatories), and this petition was read and received.]

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES LEVY

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

(1) Has the Under Secretary of the Premier's Department written to the United Graziers' Association advising that there would be a delay of approximately two years until July 1978 in implementing the decision to lift the burden of paying a 47½ per cent fire services levy from country residents without access to fire brigades services?

(2) Was one of the reasons given for this lengthy delay the fact that all insurance companies were not computerised?

(3) How many companies fall in this category?

(4) How many such policies would be covered by these companies?

(5) As country residents expected this levy to be removed immediately, will he ensure that all levies paid owing to this administrative foul-up are refunded and that every step is taken to stop what is seen by country residents as delaying tactics and double-talk by this Government and the insurance industry?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2 to 4) Whether insurance companies are computerised or not has no bearing on the time necessary to implement the change under which policyholders outside fire brigade districts will not pay a fire service levy. A full 12 months' statistics are necessary on the new basis of contribution to fire brigade boards passed by the last Parliament and the insurance industry can only keep such statistics of sums insured from next January. On the basis of 1977 statistics, the contribution to fire brigade boards for 1978-79 will be assessed. The number of companies and policies are not known.

(5) Insurance premiums are not now subject to control as to maximum rates. The fire service levy paid has been utilised by companies to meet their contributions to fire brigade services. It is not possible for the contribution system to be altered until 1978. At present, the insurance industry is giving consideration to the amount of the fire service levy which will be necessary to meet the contribution required for fire brigade maintenance in 1976-77.

2. JUVENILE SHOPLIFTERS

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

(1) Are some teenage shoplifters being prosecuted regardless of the nature of the theft, as reported in the "Sunday Mail" of 29 August, while other juveniles are being given a chance under what a Queensland University lecturer called a dual policy of the State Government?

(2) Does the fate and future of these shoplifters rest on whether he or she is referred to the Juvenile Aid Bureau or the Police Department's Education Liaison Unit?

(3) Does the Police Force administration implement a policy of charging all offenders in a court of law, irrespective of the seriousness of the offence or the number of offences committed, as reported in the article?

(4) Does the Juvenile Aid Bureau aim at rehabilitation by cautioning and counselling?

(5) How many juvenile shoplifters were brought before the courts in 1975-76 as a result of complaints to (a) the Juvenile Aid Bureau and (b) the Police Department's Education Liaison Unit?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) No.

(3) No.

(4) Yes.

(5) (a) In 1975-76, 93 children were brought before the court by the Juvenile Aid Bureau on stealing charges. (b) This information will be given in the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Police.

3. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR RAILWAY STATION MISTRESSES

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

(1) How many women are placed in a similar position to Mrs. May Holt, who, as reported in "The Courier-Mail" of 27 August, works 16 hours per day, 13 days per fortnight for the Railway Department without any overtime?

(2) Is Mrs. Holt supplied with an old house to which water and power are not connected and which has a lavatory in the back yard and which is within the Brisbane electorate of the Deputy Liberal Leader and Labour Relations Minister?

(3) What arrangements are made for female gatekeepers and station mistresses to have regular week-ends off?

Answers:—

(1) Mrs. Holt is one of five female employees employed to tend gates at level crossings between Caboolture and Nundah.

(2) The hours of duty of these employees vary and have been determined in the light of the volume and frequency of traffic requiring passage over the railway at each crossing.

(3) The need for the provision of a gatekeeper at the level crossing in Beams Road, Zillmere, where Mrs. Holt is employed, will cease with the installation of boom gates expected to be operational in November of this year.

4. HORMONE WEEDICIDE 2,4,5-T

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

As concern has been expressed by health authorities in the United States of America over the effect of the hormone weedicide 2,4,5-T on the human foetus and in view of the large amount of this spray being used by local government and forestry workers, do health authorities in this State share the same concern?

Answer:—

There have been many claims regarding the ill effects of 2,4,5-T, particularly in respect of contaminants which have occurred in some supplies. All these claims have been carefully considered by the State Health Department and in this consideration the department has taken note of the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

5. SEAT-BELTS FOR CHILDREN

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

(1) Is he aware of legislation recently introduced into the Victorian Parliament prohibiting the carrying of children under 11 years of age in the front seats of motor vehicles without proper seat-belt or safety restraint?

(2) As this legislation was prompted by the large number of injuries and deaths occurring to children in this age group as a result of road accidents in which it was found that children so injured or killed did not wear any of this safety equipment and in view of the necessity to preserve these young lives, will he consider introducing similar legislation into this State?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Yes, as far as I am aware from a perusal of the Victorian legislation, the prohibition is in respect of children under eight years of age.

As I have indicated at all times any action which is directed towards the saving of lives in the road safety area, particularly where young children are involved, will have my earnest consideration. As the honourable member will be aware, an integral part of the ongoing educational activities of the Queensland Road Safety Council involves emphasis on the effectiveness of suitable restraints for children. State-wide campaigns have concentrated and will continue to concentrate on educating the parents of young children about the danger of children being unrestrained in motor vehicles.

I would also refer the honourable member to my answer to a question addressed to me by the honourable member for Cairns on 21 November 1975. As indicated at that time, the results of the Victorian legislation will continue to be kept under observation; however, it is my understanding that the legislation has been mainly "educational" up to the present time.

6. SOFTWOODS AGREEMENT FUNDS

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

(1) Has there been a cutback in funds from the Commonwealth Government under the Softwoods Agreement?

(2) What amount of money was made available for this financial year?

(3) How does this amount compare with the previous year?

(4) Are any jobs in jeopardy in forestry areas?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. The Softwood Forestry Agreement Act expired on 30 June 1976. It is understood that the Commonwealth Government will introduce legislation to provide funds for the current financial year, but at a reduced level.

(2) It is anticipated that \$1,520,000 will be made available this financial year, but finality has not been reached as yet.

(3) Funds provided under the Softwood Forestry Agreement Act in 1975-76 totalled \$2,250,000. If the Act had been extended beyond June 1976 under the same conditions as those of the previous Act, it is estimated that funds available in 1976-77 would have been \$2,700,000.

(4) Because of advice of reduced fund allocation, about 50 wages employees were retrenched early in August 1976. At this stage no further retrenchments are being considered.

7 and 8. MATHEMATICAL AIDS IN CLASSROOMS

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

(1) With reference to a newspaper article of 31 August concerning mathematical aids and calculators for use in classrooms, does he agree that chalk and talk is still the most effective visual and aural aid?

(2) Does his department accept that the more visual aids put into a classroom the more chalk and talk lessons are downgraded and that there will be less time for teaching, reading and writing as the teacher and other school staff will be kept busy using all the facilities and apparatus to justify the expenditure on them?

Answers:—

(1) No. Aids and teaching methods are used in the classroom to serve a wide variety of educational purposes. The effectiveness of a particular aid or method depends on the purposes for which it is enlisted. It is therefore misleading to claim that any one aid or method is the most effective one.

(2) While the chalk and talk approach remains a useful strategy for teaching large groups, audio-visual aids are particularly valuable for small group and individual learning. Therefore audio-visual aids and materials free the teacher to meet the needs of individual students, and, in particular,

the teacher may then concentrate on those pupils in need of remedial help. As a result, those pupils experiencing reading and writing difficulties are more likely to receive the individual help they require. I have full confidence in the competence of teachers to utilise aids to serve educational purposes rather than simply use them to justify expenditure on them.

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

(1) With reference to the "Education Abstract" issue No. 236 published by his department in March, in which there appears an abstract on the use of calculators in classrooms and which presents arguments in favour of the use of calculators in schools, how relevant to learning basic mathematical facts are the arguments presented that pupils learn to use calculators easily, pupils compute better with calculators than without and pupils enjoy using calculators?

(2) What is meant by "pupils are able to tackle more real life problems."?

(3) Is it not evident that the statement that children compute better with calculators than without is an indication that pen to paper computational ability is lacking?

(4) How can the statement that children suffer no loss in pen to paper computational ability be reconciled with the earlier admission in the same document that research has not yet told us whether heavy use of calculators, begun early, interferes with the development of computational skills?

(5) Does he believe that the use of calculators in place of pen to paper computation by students will not affect computational skills?

(6) To what extent are calculators permitted in Queensland schools and are there any plans to extend their use?

Answers:—

(1) The questions raised by the honourable member refer to an article in Education Abstract No. 236. It should be pointed out that this publication is mainly used for reporting research collected from a wide variety of educational publications, to help keep departmental officers abreast of current developments. Therefore the statements in the Education Abstract do not necessarily reflect departmental policy. The article in question refers mainly to the use of calculators in the classroom as an integral part of a total mathematics programme. Student learning of basic mathematical facts is only one aspect of the total programme. Present research seems to indicate that calculators are best used in a supportive, rather than a developmental, role. Therefore the relevance to

the learning of basic mathematical facts of the three statements reported in the question is minimal.

(2) Mathematical problems from the environment are often simplified for classroom use by making any calculations necessary for solution of the problem easily computed. On the other hand, real-life problems are such that students often encounter difficulty in handling the complexity of the computations involved. By using calculators, however, these problems can be introduced more readily into the classroom.

(3) No. The statement that children compute better with calculators than without does not imply that their competence in pen to paper computation is deficient.

(4) I agree that longitudinal studies have not been completed to indicate whether or not the early introduction of calculators interferes with the development of mathematical skills. This does not conflict with the first statement quoted in the question, which refers only to the loss of established computational skills.

(5) In the light of the evidence available, I believe it would be unwise to replace pen and paper computations with the use of calculators. If calculators are used to complement computational skill development, however, then children's learning should be enhanced.

(6) Some schools do allow students to use calculators to assist them in mathematics. However, students in these schools still utilise pen and paper computations. At present the department does not plan to direct schools in the extent to which they use calculators. However, officers of the Curriculum Branch of my department are investigating this matter in some depth. A publication, "Calculators in Mathematics", reflects one aspect of their research in this area. This has been circulated to all State secondary schools.

9. TEACHER TRAINING

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

(1) With reference to the numerous statements by him and his senior departmental officers that today's teachers are teaching for life and not just for jobs, what is meant by teaching for life?

(2) Is he aware that such a policy leaves the door wide open for some teachers to try to mould students into becoming creatures of a chosen social philosophy?

(3) How important does his department believe it is for teachers to teach for jobs, that is, prepare students with a basic body of knowledge to equip them to compete on the employment market and hope to perform well enough to hold a position of employment?

(4) Which college of advanced education in Queensland purports to be the wondrous establishment which can take students at the age of 18 and in three years qualify them for the awesome task of teaching for life?

(5) Does he accept that if teachers' colleges would accept the role of preparing teachers for the somewhat less glamorous but highly effective task of ensuring that the student leaves school with a basic body of knowledge, then we would have better trained teachers and fewer frustrated social engineers?

Answers:—

(1) The statement referred to by the honourable member is highly relevant when considered in context. As an important social agency, the school aims to develop well-balanced individuals through the growth of their physical, emotional, aesthetic and intellectual abilities, all of which are related to the total life situation.

(2) Yes. Indeed, schools have traditionally been used by society to mould students according to a chosen social philosophy. The problem in today's pluralistic society is that more and more people are questioning the traditional social philosophy. As far as my department is concerned, while students are encouraged to think for themselves, the educational policies upon which curricula and methods are constructed are based upon the social philosophy which embraces our recognised way of life.

(3) This is an important but not the only aim of our schools.

(4) No college of advanced education has made such a claim to me.

(5) I am aware that some critics are exhorting teacher education institutions to devote a greater proportion of the available time to professional preparation as against general education. However, the matter is not a simple one of emphasis, because research into teacher effectiveness clearly shows that the quality of teaching is related more to the personal attributes of the individual teacher than to his training. I am advised that the Board of Teacher Education currently has a committee reviewing teacher education courses.

10. WOOL TOPS FACTORY FOR CHARLEVILLE

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

What is the present situation in relation to proposals to institute a feasibility study into the prospects of establishing a wool-tops-making factory in Charleville?

Answer:—

A number of tenders have been received from consulting engineers for carrying out an investigation into the possibilities of

establishing a wool-processing plant in Western Queensland. These are at present under consideration.

11. ALLEGED STANDOVER TACTICS OF MR. HUGH WILLIAMS, UNION REPRESENTATIVE

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

(1) Is he aware that Mr. Hugh Williams, one of Mr. Arch Bevis's stand-over union representatives, is threatening a company named Shepherd, Green and White Transport by not allowing Mr. Fred Mackay, a financial director of Shepherd Gold Coast Transport, to load or unload goods at their depot called "City Transport Depot", Montague Road, Brisbane?

(2) Is he aware that one of the directors is a relative of the late Cec. Carey?

(3) Is he aware that Mr. Hugh Williams has refused to sell Mr. Fred Mackay a union ticket and has told him he is only carrying out Joh. Bjelke-Petersen's laws?

(4) In view of these facts, will he arrange the necessary investigation and advise this House if the union action has any political motivation and take whatever action is necessary to restrain these stand-over tactics by Mr. Hugh Williams?

(5) In view of the continuing threats by unions on small businesses, will he consider urgent legislation with a view to overcoming this problem?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) Inquiries into the matter raised by the honourable member reveal that the Transport Workers' Union is threatening the business of several transport firms in its endeavours to prevent an employer from carrying out work he is lawfully entitled to carry out.

I am informed that the situation is that Mr. F. Mackay, a shareholder in the private company of Shepherd, Green and White Transport, and its Brisbane manager has agreed to employ an employee to assist him in the loading operations being carried out at the depot being used by that company at South Brisbane. No union ban on delivery of goods to or from that depot has since been imposed.

However, in view of the union's interest in the provisions of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, I suggest it might also study closely sections 359 and 534 of the Criminal Code, which deal with the intimidation of workmen and employers. In particular, section 359 refers to threats designed to prevent persons from performing work which they may legally perform.

I am getting rather concerned about information coming to me from various quarters along similar lines. If that is

going to be the trend of events as far as certain union people are concerned, then this Government will take a very close look to see where we can still further deal with those persons who attempt to interfere with the legitimate rights of the citizens of this State.

12. BURGLARY AND BREAKING AND ENTERING OFFENCES

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

How many burglary and breaking and entering offences were reported for each of the last three years and what number of cases was solved?

Answer:—

Statistics for three years ended 30-6-75 are set out hereunder. The statistics for the year ended 30-6-76 will be included in the Commissioner's Annual Report to be tabled in this House.

The word "solved" as used in the question has no clear definition in so far as police statistics are concerned within the Commonwealth of Australia. The term used is "cleared up", which does not have such a wide definition as the term "solved"; for example, the police may know that a particular person committed an offence but there is insufficient evidence upon which to base prosecution action against the offender. In such a case, although it could be said that the offence was solved, it is not regarded as "cleared up" for the purpose of police statistics.

For the purpose of statistics within the Police Department, burglary offences are included under the heading of "house-breaking".

	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Housebreaking—			
Number reported ..	5,602	5,788	6,348
Number cleared ..	1,012	1,197	1,459
Other Breakings—			
Number reported ..	8,025	8,120	7,936
Number cleared ..	1,650	1,647	1,806

13. TEACHING STAFF, KELVIN GROVE COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

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

(1) In view of an apparent deterioration in the personal and professional standards of some of our recently trained teachers and in particular with reference to the training of teachers at the Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, who selected the academic teacher-training staff?

(2) What criteria formed the basis for staff selection?

(3) How many are on the academic staff?

(4) How many have successfully taught in Queensland schools?

(5) How many academic staff are graduates of the Kelvin Grove College or the Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne, Oxford, Cambridge or Cornell (U.S.A.) universities?

(6) What special curricula does an otherwise insignificant university like Cornell have which makes its graduates so highly desirable as instructors, teachers and administrators at Queensland teacher-training institutions?

(7) From what universities did the three senior staff graduate?

Answers:—

(1) I know of no evidence suggesting a deterioration in the personal and professional standards of recent graduates from courses in teacher education at Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education. Prior to 1973 academic staff at the college were appointed by the Department of Education under whose control the college operated. Since 1973 staff have been appointed by the college council.

(2) In keeping with practices in other tertiary education institutions throughout Australia, and elsewhere, academic staff are appointed following world-wide advertisement. Criteria for selection include academic qualifications of a high order, successful professional experience in schools, and general personal suitability.

(3) There are 156 full-time academic staff members.

(4) 114 have taught in Queensland schools; others have taught in other systems.

(5) Since many staff hold degrees from more than one university, it is not possible to give a precise answer to this question. Details of academic staff qualifications are published by the college in its Students' Handbook.

(6) The prestigious Carnegie Commission on Higher Education in the United States cites information about the ranking of separate institutions of higher education in that country. This information includes that assembled by a number of authorities including The American Council on Education, which places Cornell ninth, along with such other distinguished universities as Harvard, Yale and Princeton, in the top ten American institutions of higher education.

(7) The director of the college holds bachelors degrees in commerce and education from the University of Melbourne, a masters degree from Monash University and a doctorate from Cornell University. The deputy-director holds bachelor degrees

in science and education from the university of Queensland and a masters degree from San Diego. The person at present holding the position of head of department has undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from the universities of New York, Cornell and Columbia.

14. APPROVALS OF BUILDING PLANS

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

(1) Do applications for approval for some kinds of buildings to be erected in the Hervey Bay Shire have to be forwarded to Nambour for approval?

(2) Do applications for approval for some kinds of buildings to be erected in the Woongarra and Isis Shires have to be forwarded to Biloela for approval?

(3) If either is true, will he take immediate steps to return sanity to the situation and have the plans approved by the Chief Fire Officers at Hervey Bay and Bundaberg respectively?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) An assurance was given to the House when the Fire Safety Act was introduced that regional offices would be established throughout the State and that only experienced officers specially trained by the State Fire Services Council would be approved for appointment as fire safety officers, and officers have been appointed by the council to the following regional headquarters—Atherton, Barcaldine, Biloela, Bowen, Charleville, Dalby, Nambour and Nanango.

Under the Fire Safety Act a fire safety officer employed by a fire brigade board has responsibility only for his particular fire brigade district. The State Fire Services Council is the fire authority for those parts of the State not included in a fire brigade district and also for those fire brigade boards that do not employ fire safety officers. It is of course economically impracticable for all fire brigade boards to employ fire safety officers, and in fact only the 15 main fire brigade boards do so.

The Woongarra and Isis Shires are not included in fire brigade districts and the Hervey Bay Fire Brigade Board does not have an approved fire safety officer. Consequently, applications under the Fire Safety Act in the Isis and Woongarra Shires and in the Hervey Bay Fire Brigade District have to be made respectively to the State Fire Services Council's nearest regional fire safety officers, who are located at Biloela and Nambour. Of course, if the Woongarra Shire were included in the Bundaberg Fire Brigade District and the Hervey Bay Fire Brigade was absorbed into the Maryborough Fire Brigade, then these approvals could be given in Bundaberg and Maryborough by the respective boards.

15. BRISBANE DETERRENDS TO DEMONSTRATORS

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

In view of the lack of protesters at the function attended by the Governor-General in the electorate of Brisbane on 27 August, does this indicate that the hard core of permanent demonstrators in Brisbane has finally got the message that any unlawful attempt to prevent the free and peaceful movement of visiting dignitaries to our State will not be tolerated?

Answer:—

I can assure the honourable member and the people of Queensland that the Queensland Police Force will take all appropriate action to ensure the free movement of public figures who visit this State in the course of their public duties. It was pleasing to see that the reputation of Queensland and its citizens was not contaminated last week-end by the type of loud and unruly demonstrations that have accompanied the Governor-General's visits to some other parts of Australia.

I cannot explain the absence of the hard-core demonstrators during Sir John Kerr's recent visit except to suggest that these people appear, at last, to have outworn their welcome with their fellows and with the general public. Their clenched fists, abuse and attempts at unlawful confrontation have been over-exposed. They do their demonstrating from the cowardly protection of a crowd. Now it seems they cannot muster enough enthusiasm to tempt their supporters out of bed on a cold night. These people have abused the democratic right of protest. They do not want peaceful protest; they want confrontation and the publicity it attracts. Their right to demonstrate does not imply the right to break the law.

Thankfully, those who are set on this course of confrontation are a small minority; but this minority should not think that by taking part in a demonstration they attain some sort of immunity from the law. There is no such immunity. I assure this House that this minority will not be allowed to step outside the law and prevent public figures from going about their normal duties when visiting Queensland.

16. MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON NORTH; PUBLICITY FOR FIRE-SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

(1) Did the honourable member for Rockhampton North receive wide publicity for unsubstantiated claims concerning fire-safety legislation?

(2) Did he use national figures as a base for his opinion, once again unsubstantiated, that some recent fires in Brisbane and provincial areas were due to lack of adequate fire-safety laws?

(3) Did the Minister make a statement in the public interest in order to allay any fears that may have resulted from the rash and unworthy statements of the honourable member for Rockhampton North?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Yes, I did make a public statement—and for the purpose the honourable member mentioned. Unfortunately, it did not receive wide publicity. But I would like to set the record straight for members of this House and for the public so that the misconception created by the honourable member can be seen in proper perspective.

The member for Rockhampton North apparently does not know what the requirements of the law are. Queensland's regulations in relation to flammable and combustible materials, to which the honourable member for Rockhampton North referred particularly, are comprehensive. Local authorities are responsible for licensing of premises, and fire brigades have right of entry to any premises, except private homes, to obtain information which might assist in extinguishing and controlling fires. Brigades also have access to any premises on suspicion that flammable, dangerous or combustible material is stored contrary to any legislation or by-law. The Fire Services Council's constant advice to fire brigade boards has been to prepare cards listing risks in buildings and any other information necessary to familiarise staff with hazards likely to be encountered in fire-fighting.

As all honourable members know (except, apparently, the honourable member for Rockhampton North), the latest Government move in the cause of public safety has been to introduce the Fire Safety Act. It has been proclaimed and will come into force on November 1. It requires certificates of approval for fire safety provisions at planning and after construction levels for any new or substantially altered building, except private homes.

Incidentally, the honourable member for Rockhampton North may be interested to know that in his annual report to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board on Monday, the chief officer, Mr. Dowling, said there had been a decrease in fire calls last financial year of 7.7 per cent and that major fires caused the lowest loss for many years.

17. MEDIBANK RECOUPMENT OF PENSIONERS' REPEAT PRESCRIPTION FEES

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

With reference to his answer to my question on 7 April regarding doctors charging pensioners with full medical entitlement cards \$1 or more for repeat prescriptions under the National Health and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and as some doctors are still charging for repeat prescriptions, will he confer with the Commonwealth Minister for Health to either stop this illegal charge or allow pensioners to claim the amount under Medibank?

Answer:—

As indicated in my answer to the honourable member on 7 April 1976, this matter comes under the control of the Commonwealth Department of Health. I suggest it would be far more expeditious if he gives full details to the Commonwealth Minister for Health in order that the matter might be investigated.

18. HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, COTTELL STREET, NORTH BUNDABERG

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

What is the present position with regard to the five houses under construction for the Queensland Housing Commission in Cottell Street, North Bundaberg?

Answer:—

One house 80 per cent complete; two houses, 60 per cent; one house, 50 per cent; and one house, 20 per cent.

19. DRIVING LICENCE RENEWALS FOR PERSONS OVER 70

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

(1) With reference to persons over the age of 70 years applying for renewal of drivers' licences, is he aware that they are required to pay an annual renewal fee of \$1.00 at the place of re-issue in addition to the \$2.00 charge made with their motor vehicle registration, plus a consultant fee to their doctor in order to obtain the necessary medical certificate attesting to their sound state of health?

(2) In view of the financial burden these charges place on pensioners and persons on fixed incomes, will he endeavour to devise some way of giving relief to persons over 70 years of age?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) In view of the honourable member's representations and concern, I will have the matter examined in the light of forthcoming budgetary provisions.

20. TENDERS FOR ELECTRICAL SUPPLY
FOR CLASSROOM BUILDINGS

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

(1) With reference to specifications numbered R.S.46, 47 and 48/76 calling for tenders to be submitted for nominated sub-contractors for works for the electrical supply to a total of 52 modular classroom buildings Type 76 at various schools throughout the State, by what criteria were the schools divided into the groupings specified, so that each of the three successful tenderers will be required to carry out work from one end of the State to the other rather than in geographical groups?

(2) Is it considered that the method referred to of ignoring the diverse geographic locations of the schools listed in each of the three specifications will give an advantage to large electrical contracting firms rather than the small local firms?

(3) What guarantee is given to ensure payment of the successful electrical contractors in these instances, as they must tender for the jobs without any knowledge of the identity of the principal contractor for whom they must work?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) The approach adopted is the more effective and efficient method of carrying out a multiplicity of standard industrialised buildings in groups within the time available to the commencement of the 1977 school year. Internal electrical wiring and fittings are integrated in the building modules in the factory. External electrical connections only are covered by the specifications referred to by the honourable member. The call for quotations is compatible with that of the groupings of the buildings, and the method adopted provides the head contractor with the ability to carry out a co-ordinated programme.

(3) The honourable member is referred to the Subcontractors' Charges Act, which is designed to protect the interests of subcontractors. In addition there are provisions in the head contract for direct payment to approved subcontractors subject to certain conditions and restrictions.

21. DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS,
MACDONALD HAMILTON WHARF,
BRISBANE

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

(1) With reference to the disastrous fire which occurred in the shed on the Macdonald Hamilton wharf at the corner of Mary and Eagle Streets, Brisbane, in recent days and to the fact that this shed is adjacent to the jetty used by the Golden Mile Ferry Service for the picking up and setting down of ferry passengers, including

a large number of interstate and international tourists who come to this city, will his department take urgent action to ensure that the partly burnt-out shed, which was only improved in appearance by the fire but which is still an eyesore, is demolished?

(2) Will he also take this ideal opportunity to clear away the other unsightly shed and building which stand on the river bank in this area?

Answers:—

(1) I understand that the sheds damaged by the recent fire at the corner of Mary and Eagle Streets, are situated above high-water mark on land leased to Macdonald Hamilton and Co. Pty. Limited by the Brisbane City Council and it is suggested that the honourable member refer to that authority for information relative to the future status of these structures.

(2) Other sheds in the area are part of the wharf complex used for the berthing of river tugs and other vessels and incorporate car-parking facilities.

22. PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC LIGHTS,
PIMLICO HIGH SCHOOL, TOWNSVILLE

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

As last year the Main Roads Department stated that pedestrian traffic lights would be installed in front of the Pimlico High School in Townsville and as this school has the highest number of secondary school students in Queensland and is located at two of the busiest arterial roads in Townsville, when will work commence on the installation of the pedestrian traffic lights?

Answer:—

Townsville City Council intends to channelise the intersection of Fulham Road and Hugh Street from loan funds this financial year. Ducting for traffic signals will be installed as part of these works. It is expected that moneys will be made available to the council from the Traffic Engineering Trust Fund to allow the installation of signals to follow on from the loan works.

23. CENTRAL POLICE STATION BUILDING,
TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Is he aware of the condition of the obsolete and overcrowded Central Police Station premises in Townsville and of the repeated requests made in recent years for the erection of new premises for the efficient operation of the Police Department in Townsville?

(2) Will funds be made available this financial year for the erection of a new building?

(3) If not, will he come to Townsville in the near future to inspect the existing building?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) The requirements for the erection of new premises at Townsville have been fully investigated. Following an unsuccessful endeavour to purchase an alternative site in Townsville, the present policy is on the basis of erection of a new building on the existing site. Finance for police building works is fully committed to urgent projects for some years and the time when the new building will be erected cannot be definitely stated at this stage.

(3) As I have previously indicated that I am arranging a series of inspections of all police activity throughout the State, it is my intention to inspect police facilities and activities at Townsville during the first week of October.

24. LAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PARK, CAPE CLEVELAND

Mr. M. D. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

As I am led to believe that the recent Commonwealth Government Budget allocated funds for the purchase of land at Cape Cleveland adjacent to the Australian Institute of Marine Science for the purpose of an environmental park, has the State Government yet prepared an agreement for the acquisition of land jointly with the Commonwealth Government, so that Messrs. H. Riley and others can be paid for their land, which has been frozen for more than two years?

Answer:—

An agreement is now being prepared by the Federal Government for submission to the Queensland Government to cover proposed purchases in the Cape Cleveland area for national park purposes and not environmental park purposes.

25. NOISE NUISANCE, OXLEY BRICKWORKS

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

(1) Has he and the Department of Local Government received complaints by way of individual letters and even a petition signed by 42 residents in the area surrounding the brickworks in Douglas Street, Oxley, complaining of the noise emanating from the brickworks, particularly at night-time?

(2) What action has his department taken to have the engine noise eliminated or at least reduced so that the residents may live in their homes with some degree of comfort and freedom from this excessive noise?

(3) What approaches have or will be made by his department to the management to prevent the happenings continuing?

(4) When may the residents expect some relief from this almost unbearable situation?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2 to 4) An approach was made to the management of the brickworks concerned to reduce the noise caused by a diesel engine driving an oil pump and air compressor. Steps have subsequently been taken by the management to insulate the engine room and to muffle an air bleed. I understand that this has resulted in an improvement in the situation recently.

26. GOVERNMENT POLICY ON UNION MEMBERSHIP

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

As the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities stated on 6 April last in answer to a question that it is Government policy that Crown employees should be members of a registered industrial union and that new employees are advised that they should join a registered industrial union within one month of taking up duty, why is such policy and practice not carried out within the Railway Department?

Answer:—

Employees of the Railway Department are called upon at six-monthly intervals—usually April and October each year—to show evidence of union membership. A list compiled of employees who fail to produce such evidence is made available for inspection on request to accredited union officials and any follow-up action is then a matter for the unions concerned.

27. EXPORTS OF COAL, PHOSPHATE AND NICKEL

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

(1) What was the total tonnage of coal exported from Queensland for the year ended 30 June and what was the financial return to the Queensland Government from such export by way of rail charges, levies, etc.?

(2) What was the total tonnage of phosphate and nickel exported from Queensland for the year ended 30 June and what was the financial return to the Queensland State Government from such export by way of rail charges, levies, etc.?

Answers:—

(1) 16 388 252 tonnes. My department is not responsible for collecting rail freights and no levy on coal is imposed by the State. Royalty in returns received to date totals \$19,720,124.

(2) 170 848 tonnes of phosphate were exported, on which royalty paid to date totals \$10,166. 17 649 tonnes of contained nickel were exported as sulphide and oxide of nickel. Royalty paid on the ore mined to produce these products was \$187,017.

28. AERIAL SPRAYING OF HORMONES

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

(1) To what companies or individuals were permits issued for the aerial spraying of hormones during April, May, June and July in the electorate of Murrumba?

(2) Were any permits issued for the spraying of 2,4,5-T and, if so, to whom?

(3) Is he aware that damage was caused to crops in the Upper Caboolture area on 11 May by the hormone 2,4,5-T sprayed from an aircraft and what action does his department propose to take?

Answers:—

(1) Permits were issued to Cropair Aviation Pty. Ltd., Archerfield.

(2) Permits were issued to Cropair Aviation Pty. Ltd. for the aerial distribution of 2,4,5-T. Permits were also issued to Messrs. P. J. Sexton and L. V. Fogg for the ground distribution of a mixture containing 2,4,5-T.

(3) I am aware of the lodgment of a Notification of Damage alleged to have occurred on 11 May. A residue of 2,4,5-T was found in a plant sample taken but the investigations are not finalised. There is no record of 2,4,5-T having been applied from an aircraft on or about 11 May.

29. BUILDING STANDARDS

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

(1) Is he aware of a statement made recently by the Chairman of the Caboolture Shire Council that the council's efforts over the years to raise building standards have been negated simply because the people who drafted the Building Act did not consult the councils which would be affected?

(2) Did the Local Government Association meet with officers of his department to discuss amendments to the Act and were they satisfied?

Answers:—

(1) It is incorrect to say that standards have been negated because those who drafted the Building Act did not consult with the councils which would be affected. All local authorities within the State are affected by the provisions of the Building Act and the Standard Building By-laws and, in order to ensure that the views of these authorities are made known to the Building Advisory Committee constituted under the Act, the Local Government Association is represented on the committee on a permanent basis. The association was also represented on the consultative committee that drafted the Standard Building By-laws.

(2) It is assumed that the statement of the Chairman of the Caboolture Shire Council refers to one matter only, namely, the minimum allowable area for a class I building—in other words, a single family residence. Such a minimum was not included in the Standard Building By-laws forming the schedule to the Act when passed by Parliament. The inclusion of a minimum was sought by and discussed with the Local Government Association, but it was not possible for the representatives of the association to agree upon a specific minimum. The Building Advisory Committee recommended 60 m², and the figure was incorporated in the Standard Building By-laws by Order in Council in March this year. This matter is being reconsidered by the Building Advisory Committee at my request and it will be making a recommendation to me in due course.

30. WARANA FESTIVAL KING AND QUEEN

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

(1) What steps can he take to reverse the ridiculous decision of the Warana organisers to invite the stars of a rather dull television show to be the King and Queen of Warana?

(2) Does he not believe that there are many Queenslanders worthy of this honour and does he not consider that the choice of these people is an insult to all cultural organisations in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) The matter of the choice of personalities who attend the Warana Festival is the responsibility of the Warana Board in association with possible sponsors. The chairman of the Warana Board informs me that Pat McDonald and Ron Shand will participate in the Warana procession under the total sponsorship of television Channel 0 and they will not be described as the King and Queen of Warana.

(2) These two persons are winners of four gold Logie awards and, because of their national television popularity, it was

thought that their presence in the Warana procession would be an attraction to spectators just as other national personalities have been in previous years.

31. CRITICISM OF ROAD-ACCIDENT PREVENTION ORGANISATIONS

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

With reference to a letter which appeared under "People's Forum" in the "Telegraph" newspaper of 26 August, which was highly critical of various organisations involved in road-accident prevention, particularly the Queensland Road Safety Council, of which the Minister is chairman, will he comment on the contents of the letter?

Answer:—

I am aware of the letter concerned written by a person who signed as "S.T., Keperra." I have forwarded an appropriate reply to the "Telegraph" and I hope it will be printed.

S.T. of Keperra made critical reference to some minor activities of the Queensland Road Safety Council, but ignored its major programmes, which include the defensive driving course, learner driver course, motor cycle training programme, schools advisory service, advertising and media promotion, distribution of printed material and co-ordination of public activities in road-accident prevention.

The writer also made derogatory remarks about council members, claiming they draw attendance fees and operate from an ivory tower. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Queensland Road Safety Council is a voluntary body representing a wide cross-section of industry and the community. They are experts in their particular fields, which are closely allied to road safety. They donate their valuable time regularly to the council and at no cost to the council. They do not get any fees whatsoever, or lavish morning teas or lunches as most inaccurately stated by the writer. However, they do get a cup of tea and a biscuit. In most cases the time given so freely to the council is at a personal financial loss from their own places of business or employment but their contribution is of immeasurable benefit to the council.

Both the Queensland Road Safety Council and myself, as chairman, receive many letters from the public on all aspects of road safety and we are very grateful for the public interest. However, unlike that of S.T. of Keperra, most of these letters are not just criticisms of known problems but contain helpful suggestions as to how road safety in this State may be improved.

32. AUSTRALIA-WIDE MINIMUM BEEF PRICE SCHEME

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

(1) What efforts have been undertaken by this Government to introduce an Australia-wide minimum beef price scheme?

(2) What is the state of play with respect to this Government's efforts and when does he expect some nation-wide stabilisation scheme to be implemented?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) For the last 12 months the State Beef Industry Committee, of which I am chairman, has been working on a stabilisation scheme that should provide a measure of assistance to our hard hit beef producers. Early in our deliberations we realised that any scheme had to be applied on an Australia-wide basis if it was to succeed. In recognition of this, in September of last year I presented a stabilisation scheme to the Australian Agricultural Council. This scheme featured a "consumer" levy to assist graziers in this present period of depressed prices as well as a restraint on prices when the market recovered. To our disappointment, the support of the council was not forthcoming. The then Federal Minister (Senator Wriedt) was opposed to it, as was my counterpart in Victoria. Other Ministers were not prepared to support our proposals. However, we were not deterred and a working party of the full Beef Industry Committee was established with the objective of devising an acceptable stabilisation scheme. We believe that such a scheme has now been worked out and at a meeting of the Committee on last Thursday (26 August) a new scheme was endorsed.

It is my intention to take this scheme to Cabinet next week. Without revealing details of it I can mention some of the more important features.

(a) Firstly, its prime objective is to bring stability back into the beef industry; stability, that is, for producers and consumers alike.

(b) At this time of very depressed prices for producers the scheme would establish a minimum price for beef that would give producers a chance of surviving until the market recovers. In other words, we live with the times.

(c) In future years after prices recover, a stabilisation price is envisaged above which graziers would be levied on export sales. The effect of this on the domestic market would be that consumers would pay less than they would have to if there were no scheme.

(d) This levy would be the means by which the scheme would be financed should any future slumps occur.

I have noted that even the Leader of the Opposition got on the band wagon, in response to a Press statement made by me, agreeing with what we propose.

I believe that it is a scheme which incorporates the good points of proposals made by many other groups and I am optimistic that members of the Australian Agricultural Council will accept it when it is put to them on 8 October. Drought conditions prevail in much of southern Australia at present and other States are now more receptive to stabilisation arrangements than they were a year ago. Assuming that the Australian Agricultural Council does accept our proposals I believe that we could see the implementation of the scheme next year, and hopefully early in the year.

I should also mention that the Beef Industry Committee has made it clear that there are two prerequisites before such a scheme can be introduced—

- (i) the restructuring of the Australian Meat Board to exclude exporters and the granting to it of extended powers and functions; and
- (ii) the adoption of an objective beef classification scheme.

33. COLLAPSE OF BEEF INDUSTRY

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

As in the Flinders electorate alone some 450 jobs have gone out of existence because of the collapse of the beef industry and also as this State has as many full-time beef producers as the rest of Australia put together, what percentage of Queensland's unemployment figures is directly attributable to the collapse of this industry?

Answer:—

I acknowledge the honourable member's vital interest in this problem and appreciate the circumstances that have prompted him to ask this question regarding the problems of the beef industry, which are caused by both overseas and local economic influences, but regret to say that there are no statistical data available that would enable any valid conclusions as a percentage to be drawn on this matter.

34. MEDICAL SERVICES, ST. GEORGE AND DIRRANBANDI

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

(1) With reference to the shortage of medical practitioners in rural areas throughout Australia and, in particular, to the problem in the St. George-Dirranbandi area where the St. George medical superintendent will soon be going on leave, what steps has he taken to continue to

provide medical services to both St. George and Dirranbandi during the period of leave?

(2) Will he give an assurance that my representations to him in this matter will be fully considered?

Answers:—

(1) A relieving medical officer from the Royal Brisbane Hospital has been directed to serve the Balonne Hospitals Board and approaches have been made to the private practitioners in St. George.

(2) Yes. I am well aware of the strong representations of the honourable member in this important matter, and I assure him that his representations will be fully considered.

35. PARTHENIUM WEED

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

As wheat harvesting will commence in Central Queensland in the near future and contract harvesters commence operations in that area, moving south as far as Victoria in some cases as the crops ripen, what measures are being taken to control the spread of parthenium weed by contractors who may have come in contact with the weed?

Answer:—

An initial treatment of the verges of all parthenium-infested roads in Queensland has been completed by local authorities, financed by Government funds and assisted by technical advice and equipment of the Department of Lands.

Further spraying of these areas has been planned so that this major source of seed dispersal may be contained.

Complete supervision and policing of the transference of the seed by vehicles and machinery would be impractical and costly. However, I have instructed the Co-ordinating Board to liaise with other bodies such as the Grain Growers' Association with a view to devising a method of identifying harvesting machinery so that such machinery may be suitably treated before leaving the locality of operation.

I have publicised as widely as possible the dangers of this method of dispersal of the seed and believe that in the short term the Government has done all that is humanly possible to prevent the spread of parthenium weed.

In the long term, significant measures involving overseas research have been initiated designed to biologically control and/or eradicate the weed.

36. STREET LIGHT POLES IN MEDIAN STRIP, CREEK ROAD, CARINA

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

(1) Is he aware of the present installation of street lights in the centre of the median strip in Creek Road, Carina?

(2) In view of the large number of poles that are being installed and the probability that they increase the possibility of a serious road accident should a vehicle go out of control and mount the median strip, colliding with them, will he ascertain whether the poles are so constructed as to decrease the possibility of serious injury or death should a vehicle strike them?

Answers:—

(1) This road is under the control of the Brisbane City Council, but I am advised that street lights are being erected in the median strip.

(2) It is understood that the poles have no special safety features, but poles with break-away devices as used on the South-east Freeway would not normally be used in the restricted-width medians on Creek Road. Currently the speed limit on this road is 60 k.p.h., as for built-up areas.

37. PROFITS AND LOSSES OF RAILWAY DIVISIONS

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

(1) What profit and/or loss was made by the South-eastern Division of the railways for each year since 1970?

(2) What portion of this profit and/or loss was made by the Brisbane suburban passenger rail service in each year?

(3) What profit and/or loss was made by (a) the Central Division and (b) the Northern Division in each of the same years?

Answer:—

I would refer the honourable member to Table No. 10 which appears each year in the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Railways. The Commissioner's report for the financial year ended 30 June 1976 has not yet been tabled. The details sought in respect of the Brisbane suburban passenger service are not separately recorded.

38. PROFIT OR LOSS, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

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

What was the profit or loss incurred by the Brisbane City Council public transport system for each of the years from 1970 to the present time?

Answer:—

This information is not available to me.

39. BLACKWATER POLICE STATION

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

Will a police station be built at Blackwater, a town of over 7,000 people, to replace the demountable building which is used at present?

Answer:—

Forward planning is being undertaken to provide a future replacement police station for Blackwater. Finance for police buildings works is fully committed to urgent projects for some years and it is not possible to predict when funds will become available for the erection of a new building. However, in view of the urgent need for such improvements, I intend to have a close look at the matter in my department.

40. CHILD-BASHING AND CHILD ABUSE

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

(1) Is he aware of reports that New South Wales intends to introduce legislation similar to that introduced in South Australia three years ago requiring doctors and social workers to report cases of baby-bashing and child abuse, with protection from legal action?

(2) What is the current legislative situation in Queensland in regard to this most distressing problem?

(3) How many cases of child-bashing and abuse were reported in the last three years?

(4) How many prosecutions resulted in convictions?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) A co-ordinating committee on child abuse is considering the whole aspect.

(3 and 4) These are matters which do not come within my jurisdiction.

41. CHILD MOLESTERS

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

What reason does the Government use to justify the protection given to child molesters, rapists, etc., who have been found guilty of despicable acts against girls and boys in their care, as outlined on the front page of "Sunday Sun" of 29 August 1976?

Answer:—

The honourable member's attention is drawn to the terms of section 138 of the Children's Services Act. It will be observed that the obvious intention of the section is to preserve the anonymity of a child involved in a case either as an offender or a complainant. In effect, section 138 prohibits, without the court's order, any publication of any material which would lead to the discovery of the identity of a child who is involved, one way or another, in any criminal proceedings, except as a witness only. The court may give special permission to publish material which would identify the child.

It will be seen that the emphasis is upon protection of the child, and any incidental protection of an abused person is only because of that fundamental purpose. Whether there should be any publication and whether any identifying particulars of the child should be published are entirely matters within the discretion of the court.

42. NATURISM AND MIXED NUDE BATHING

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

(1) Are any locations available in Queensland for mixed nude bathing?

(2) Do naturists, who believe that nudity is natural, have nudist colonies in Queensland and, if so, at what locations?

(3) Has there been any approach to the Government to declare particular beaches or locations as areas where people can get their gear off and swim together?

Answers:—

(1) I would draw attention to section 4 (1) (viii) (d) of the Vagrants, Gaming, and Other Offences Act, which states that any person who without lawful excuse wilfully exposes his person in view of any person in any public place shall be deemed to be a vagrant, and shall be liable to a penalty of \$100 or to imprisonment for six months. Section 7 of the same Act relates to indecent behaviour, with a similar penalty. I am not aware of any power of exemption from these provisions.

(2) I am not aware of the location of any nudist colonies that may have been established on private land.

(3) Not to my knowledge, and in this regard attention is drawn to the answer to (1).

43. MEDICAL SERVICES, OGMORE AND BANANA

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

(1) In view of the isolation of the township of Ogmore, will he consider

extending the medical clinic now visiting Marlborough on a fortnightly basis to include the township of Ogmore?

(2) Will he consider the appointment of a medical officer to the Banana Hospitals Board when a vacancy occurs?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that representations have been made to the Rockhampton Hospitals Board to extend the clinics conducted by that board to Ogmore. I am further advised that the hospitals board is seeking further information so that a decision may be made.

(2) I wish to advise that the Government's policy is to appoint a medical practitioner where possible to hospitals boards, and the representations of the honourable member will be considered in any future appointments when a vacancy occurs.

44. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, YEPPOON, EMU PARK, BILOELA AND THANGOOL

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

(1) Will he consider the construction of more Housing Commission houses at Yeppoon and has the department any available land for this purpose?

(2) Have any plans been made for an aged-persons home complex at Emu Park, where such a facility is much needed?

(3) What provision has been made for more Housing Commission houses this financial year at Biloea and Thangool?

Answers:—

(1) I am always happy to consider the provision of houses where there is a demonstrated demand shown by waiting lists of applicants. The commission owns no land at Yeppoon.

(2) No, but the suggestion will be kept in mind in future planning.

(3) Five houses are planned for Biloea.

45. TRAFFIC COUNTS AND ROAD WORKS, ROCKHAMPTON AND GLADSTONE DISTRICTS

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

(1) What are the latest traffic counts for the previous twelve months of (a) the Biloea-Gladstone road, (b) the Rockhampton-Emu Park road, (c) the Rockhampton-Yeppoon road and (d) the Dululu-Mt. Morgan section of the Biloea-Rockhampton road?

(2) When will the construction of the new bridge commence at Bondoola on the Yeppoon road?

(3) When will work on a permanent construction of the Rainbow Range section of the Gladstone-Biloela road take place?

Answers:—

(1) The average annual daily traffic counts for the calendar year 1975 are as follows:—

- (a) Biloela–Gladstone road, 183;
- (b) Rockhampton–Emu Park, 1,266;
- (c) Rockhampton–Yeppoon, 2,257; and
- (d) Dululu–Mt. Morgan, 1,355.

(2) Works will commence in October when the steel piles on order are expected to be available on the site.

(3) Earthworks on the Rainbow Range section will commence late this financial year to be followed by bridging, pavement and surfacing.

46. CHARGES AGAINST DIRECTORS OF QUEENSLAND GROCERIES LTD.

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

(1) Did the Crown not proceed with the action against two directors of Queensland Groceries Ltd. who were charged with embezzlement of company funds because the prosecution file had been lost?

(2) If not, what was the reason for the Crown withdrawing after three years of costly investigation?

(3) What are the names of the two directors who were charged with embezzlement?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) Because important documentary evidence was unlawfully removed from a locked receptacle in police custody by a person or persons unknown, the prosecution could not proceed on the charges originally laid.

(3) Four persons were charged with conspiracy to defraud (not embezzlement), two of them being former directors of Queensland Groceries Ltd., namely, Paul Simpson McGuire and Henry Thomas Hong Choy.

47. UNITED SAVINGS PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

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

Further to my question of 11 September 1975 when he agreed that the auditor's report for the year ended 30 June 1974 stated that the directors of the United Savings Permanent Building Society had used unrealised asset revaluation reserves to the extent of \$140,799 and that dividends had been paid out of capital and that in their opinion, but subject to professional

opinion, the action was unlawful, what action has been taken against all of the then directors of the society?

Answer:—

The auditor's report given by Arthur Young and Company stated that the action by the directors in using unrealised asset revaluation reserves to the extent of \$140,799 was, subject to professional opinion, "improper". The report did not say it was "unlawful", although the practice is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in relation to building societies.

The 1976 amendment to the Building Societies Act in section 33D specifically provides that it shall not be lawful for a society to use for any purpose an amount shown in an asset revaluation reserve account (by whatever name it may be called) unless the amount has been actually realised through the sale or disposal of those assets.

In the circumstances, no action will be taken against any or all of the then directors concerning this matter.

48. GREAT AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

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

Further to parts 5 and 6 of my question of 11 September 1975 referring to lending procedures and the use of management service companies by the Great Australian Permanent Building Society, when he informed the House that he would convey to me, in writing, full details of the inquiry, and as, despite his promise and the fact that almost 12 months have elapsed, no details have been forthcoming, has this investigation been completed and, if so, when will he honour his promise?

Answer:—

I am most disappointed that the honourable member should think that I do not honour my promises.

I suggest that he check his files as I replied to him by letter on 3 October 1975. However, should he be unable to find this letter, I will supply him with a copy.

49. FIRE AT CONSOLIDATED FERTILISERS

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

(1) With reference to the recent fire which occurred at Consolidated Fertilisers known as Chemtrans, Ipswich Road, on 23 August, was the cause of the fire located?

(2) What chemicals were involved, are they dangerous under conditions of exposure to heat and water and, if so, what toxic gases were given off?

(3) Could any of the chemicals constitute a hazard to life or health either individually or combined with any of the other chemicals contained in the building?

(4) Was the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board aware of the chemicals kept in storage and, if not, what is the reason?

(5) Would he consider it essential that it be mandatory for all firms storing and/or transporting chemicals with hazardous potential to notify the local fire brigade?

Answers:—

(1) Possible cause of the fire was carelessly discarded lighted smoking material which ignited waste paper which in turn spread to office furniture.

(2) Original everyday-used fertilisers which are not considered dangerous under conditions of exposure to heat and water. However, fire brigade personnel used breathing apparatus as a precautionary measure.

(3) No.

(4 and 5) No, there is no requirement for the fire brigade to be notified of fertilisers in storage. It is mentioned that the fertiliser in the premises involved was in a transit shed. These materials could be stored for only a few hours and it is considered impracticable and unreasonable to have the fire brigade notified of such instances. The Government has a committee examining the question of storage of dangerous goods.

50. EXPORTS OF COAL, PHOSPHATE AND NICKEL

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

(1) What was the total tonnage of coal exported from Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1976 and what was the financial return to the Government from such exports by way of rail charges, levies, etc.?

(2) What was the total tonnage of phosphate and nickel exported from Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1976 and what was the financial return to the Government from such exports by way of rail charges, levies, etc.?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The supply of statistical information in regard to the level of Queensland exports and the revenues derived from such exports is not a matter coming within my ministerial responsibility.

51. STATE SERVICE SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

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

(1) With reference to advice I have received from the State Public Service Board regarding the formation of a committee to examine the possibilities of allowing Crown employees to contribute to and participate in the superannuation scheme even at a later date and older age than has normally been accepted, how long has the committee been functioning?

(2) Has any progress report been made to the board?

(3) When will the committee finalise its investigation and a decision be reached?

Answers:—

(1) The committee to which the honourable member refers was set up on 3 August 1976 to review and report upon a number of matters relating to the State Service Superannuation Scheme. These matters include consideration of whether those employees who have not exercised their option to become contributors to the fund within the prescribed time should be given a further opportunity to do so.

(2) No.

(3) It is impossible to forecast when the report will be completed.

52. QUARRY BLASTING

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

(1) Is he aware that following the recent earth tremors in Brisbane certain members of the public have been concerned about quarry blasting?

(2) What are considered to be the acceptable safety blasting levels?

(3) What safeguards are placed upon the blasting levels at the Pine Mountain quarry and at the Belmont quarries in the interest of the residents living nearby?

Answers:—

(1) Periodically concern is expressed by members of the public on the effects of quarry blasting.

(2) When investigating complaints regarding blasting in quarries under the jurisdiction of the department, the Standards Association of Australia Blasting Code (CA 23) is used as a guide by inspectors of mines.

(3) Under the Mines Regulation Act, the manager of a gazetted quarry is responsible for the safe working of the quarry, including the use of explosives. Any complaint to the Inspector of Mines regarding blasting effects is investigated, using special equipment if necessary, and the inspector may then issue appropriate instructions.

53. RADIOLOGISTS AND X-RAY READINGS

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

(1) Is it correct that, except in the city of Ipswich, private radiologists are not reading the X-rays of private patients in public hospitals and that the work is carried out by hospital staff?

(2) Has this situation arisen because the State Government has not been prepared to come to any satisfactory arrangements with private radiologists regarding payment for such work?

(3) Has financial assistance been forthcoming from the Commonwealth Government to meet this cost but not been used for that purpose?

(4) What special arrangements have been made at the Ipswich Hospital and why have not similar arrangements been made at other public hospitals?

Answers:—

(1) No, it is not correct.

(2) The problem arose as a result of the Health Insurance Act 1973 introduced by the former Commonwealth Labor Government in which section 18 precluded the payment of any benefits in respect of fees which might be charged by private radiologists for X-rays taken at public hospitals.

(3) No.

(4) No special arrangements have been made at the Ipswich Hospital. The radiologist who is still reading X-rays has been prepared to honour a professional responsibility in respect of patient care.

54. LANGUAGE STUDIES

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

(1) What measures are proposed to arrest the present serious decline in language study at secondary school level?

(2) What measures are proposed to foster the teaching of (a) community languages and (b) Asian languages?

(3) When is it proposed to introduce the universal teaching of second languages at primary school level and what steps are proposed to ensure the availability of syllabuses, materials and well-trained teachers?

(4) What action is proposed for the retraining of language teachers and for the provision of teachers fluent in languages other than French and German?

(5) What measures are proposed to improve language-teaching methods in the schools and to improve teachers' language skills?

(6) Does the Government recognise the vital importance of second-language study in Queensland schools and, if so, what steps is it prepared to take to encourage language teachers during their training and in subsequent years to spend at least one year at regular intervals in the country where the language originates, as is standard practice in Britain, Europe and the United States?

Answers:—

(1) That there has been a serious decline in language study at secondary and tertiary levels must be accepted. This is not restricted to Queensland. Even in countries such as Holland, which had a minimum language requirement of three modern languages at the less academically oriented schools and a compulsory component of Latin, Greek, French, German and English at schools leading to matriculation, there has been a reduction in these requirements.

There appears to be a variety of reasons for the lack of numbers of students taking modern languages in the schools—

(a) It appears to be unfashionable to take subjects which require hard, continuous effort. Modern languages have this in common with physics and maths II, where numbers also appear to have dropped.

(b) Upheaval has been caused by the many theories on methodologies and the variety of textbooks based on these theories over the last 10 years. In the rapid change from one methodology to another in a short period of time it seems we have been incapable of adapting and incorporating new ideas without abandoning the advantages of existing thought and established practices.

(c) The removal of the requirement of a modern language for matriculation purposes has obviously resulted in a lowering of appreciation and status of language teaching in the eyes of students, parents and school principals.

The answer to the problems of maintaining and improving an interest in language teaching appears to be—

(a) A balanced, realistic approach towards the teaching skills to be acquired by teachers during their pre-service training.

(b) A realistic review of objectives of our syllabuses in the light of the Queensland situation. Although the listening and speaking skills should obviously not be neglected, the student satisfaction in achieving the skills of reading, in particular, and writing should be given greater emphasis.

(c) The reintroduction of the language requirement for matriculation purposes.

(2) The education system has not failed at secondary level to face up to its role in a pluralist society and the changing need in the Asian-Pacific region. Hence—

(a) Japanese and Indonesian have been introduced to schools.

(b) The introduction of Chinese is under consideration.

(c) Progress is being made in training teachers for these languages.

(d) There is a need to be realistic in making a great variety of languages available as staffing and continuity of courses are based on the demand for the subjects.

(3) At the present time there are no plans for the introduction of a second language in primary schools, although some primary schools with secondary departments, which contain the necessary teachers, have introduced a second language as an experiment.

(4 and 5) While in-service training can produce some beneficial results, much of the problem of declining numbers is attributable to the apparent trend of pre-service educators to propound the latest theory of language teaching. There is a need to return to giving the prospective teacher of languages a thorough grounding in the "trade skills" needed for successful classroom teaching. There is the need for caution in adopting the latest theory without adjusting it to specific local needs. There is a need for Australian-designed materials to meet Australian needs, but also a need for this material to be prepared by competent, experienced and successful teachers aware of the variety of personalities of teachers who may be using the material. Such material should be designed in such a way that a variety of techniques appropriate for any teacher and his students can be supplied.

Further, if we are to regain lost ground, there is the need for language teachers to sell their subject to students and, by their very methods, make it so interesting that students will be attracted to the subject.

(6) Many teachers now take leave for a year to travel overseas, where they take the opportunity to visit countries whose languages are taught in Queensland. Again, scholarships are offered by the French Government, the Goethe Institute and societies within Australia. Some teachers are sponsored each year by my department to attend a course in French at Noumea, while teachers from France and Germany have by arrangement come to Queensland for a year or two years to act as advisory teachers. Arrangements have been made with the Director of the International Pedagogic Centre in France to tailor a course to suit the requirements of any Queensland teacher visiting the country with a special course in mind.

The Asian Studies Co-ordinating Committee has fostered a locally initiated programme which has produced suitable teaching aids for the teaching of Japanese which have been supplied to all schools. This committee is also developing a new textbook suitable for the teaching of Japanese. The committee also provides travel grants for teachers to visit South-east Asian countries such as Japan and Indonesia.

55. PUBLICATION OF COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST CHILD MOLESTERS

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

(1) With regard to recent public allegations that section 138 of the Children's Services Act is protecting some of the State's worst child molesters in that it prohibits the publication of any court proceeding which involves a child under 17 years of age without court approval and to the comments attributed to him that the law was not designed to protect the guilty, have newspapers not been able to publish the name of a man who drugged and then raped a child patient at the Wacol Mental Hospital because the judge has refused to give permission for such publication?

(2) Is he aware of a recent statement attributed to Judge B. M. McLoughlin in the "Telegraph" of 27 August in which he stated that it was undesirable that there should be a complete blackout of news in cases in which children were concerned and that it is desirable in certain respects that some publicity be given as to the punishment imposed in regard to cases of this nature so that the community can see that offences involving children are regarded seriously by the courts?

(3) Does section 138 protect the wrong person and, if so, is he now prepared to amend the law as suggested by Judge McLoughlin and by "Sunday Sun"?

(4) With regard to his stated assumption that the law as it stood was acceptable to the newspapers, is it not correct that only within the last twelve months he was approached by the chief of staff of the "Telegraph" and a staff reporter recommending that the law be changed?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I am aware of the recent publicity given to section 138 of the Children's Services Act. The honourable member is referred to my answer to a similar question by the honourable member for Sandgate. The section leaves the matter entirely up to the discretion of the court but insists that a special order be made by the court if particulars are likely to lead to identification of the child. Accordingly, it is incorrect to suggest that no publication

at all may be made or that the legislation necessarily protects "beasts". It may be, of course, that the identity of the "beast" is so closely related to the identity of the child that the court considers it appropriate not to allow publication of his name.

56. MORNINGSIDE RAILWAY LEVEL
CROSSING

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

Will he investigate the possibility of installing an audible warning system at the Morningside railway level crossing as there is a short visual distance available to motorists and at certain hours of the day the angle of the sun interferes with the driver's normal vision?

Answer:—

Yes.

57. VEHICLES FOR TRAINING MOTOR
TRADE APPRENTICES

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

(1) As it is necessary for apprentices to the motor trade to have vehicles to work on during their college training, in particular such trades requiring panel work and spray painting, from where are the vehicles obtained for such purposes?

(2) Has there been any change in policy this year and, if so, what is the change and why was it made?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The honourable member should redirect his question to my colleague the Minister for Education, who is responsible for trade training within technical colleges.

Mr. HOUSTON: I do so accordingly.

58. SPORTING AREAS, BULIMBA STATE
SCHOOL

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

Following my previous inquiries regarding the provision of adequate recreation and sporting areas for children attending the Bulimba State School, what is the latest position?

Answer:—

The position has not changed from that advised to the honourable member in my letter of 15 May 1975. In that communication I advised that the Department of Works had reported that, while the area is large enough to accommodate a playing field, costs to place this land in a suitable condition, even at that date, were estimated

at \$80,000. It would then be a matter for the parents and citizens' association to undertake the construction of a playing field at considerable additional cost. At the present juncture funds are not available for this project, but the matter will be kept in mind for future planning.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted to questions has now expired. Questions remaining unanswered will appear on tomorrow's Business Paper.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

NORTH PINE DAM CATCHMENT AREA LAND
USE STUDY

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (12.8 p.m.): Today I wish to speak about the North Pine Dam Catchment Area Land Use Study. The area, of course, is my electorate. This should interest not only the people affected by the study but also every person who lives in the catchment area of any existing or proposed dam.

For the benefit of those honourable members who may not be familiar with the North Pine Dam catchment area—and I have no doubt that many do not even know where the North Pine River is—I point out that the dam site is approximately 30 km north of Brisbane and 4.8 km upstream from Petrie. The catchment area covers 347 sq km and is mostly in the Pine Rivers Shire. The main residential and business area is the town of Dayboro which is 45 km from Brisbane. It has a population of approximately 600 people.

In my opinion, the recommendations contained in this report prepared by the Department of Local Government show little regard for the rights of the people living in the catchment area, that is, the people living in and about the town of Dayboro. The population of the catchment area is approximately 1,000. The main land use is dairy farming and beef production, with pineapple-growing being the principal form of horticulture.

At a public meeting held in Dayboro recently, which was attended by 230 people, including myself, a unanimous motion was passed rejecting the recommendations in the land use study.

One of the most iniquitous recommendations is that no compensation be paid to a landowner or landholder after a catchment area has been proclaimed and conditions imposed on the use of land. For example, it is recommended that compensation should not be paid in respect of an order directing a change from a present land use which, in the opinion of some public servant, is destroying the versatility of that land for a number of other uses.

If this recommendation is adopted, some farmers could have their livelihood taken away from them. The dairy industry in this area could be endangered by any restrictions

placed on it regarding future expansion. If farmers are to survive, they must have the right to expand, and many dairy farms in my electorate have ceased production over the past two years.

Another recommendation in the report is that a new Government department be formed and given responsibility for the formulation of plans for land use. This department would be known as the "Resources and Conservation Department", and would take over other existing Government agencies, such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Queensland Fisheries Service and the Urban and Environmental Geology Section of the Main Roads Department.

This department would control not only the North Pine Dam catchment area but also the catchment areas of all existing or proposed dams in Queensland. The powers of this department would be enormous. We would be creating another monster like the S.G.I.O.

The people of Pine Rivers who have already had land resumed by the Brisbane City Council for the North Pine Dam have suffered enough. The takeover methods adopted by the Brisbane City Council and its valuers should never have been tolerated by the Government. People were virtually forced off their land by intimidation and threats of long-drawn-out court cases. Since 1962, when the Brisbane City Council became the constructing authority, a vicious, ruthless campaign was conducted by the Brisbane City Council against landholders in North Pine. People had their land resumed, their fences torn down and their sheds and barns dismantled, and thousands of yards of gravel were sold from their properties whilst the Brisbane City Council ducked and twisted and did not even pay compensation for as long as two years. Under the Acquisition of Land Act the council was supposed to pay within 90 days.

In fact, in 1972 the Brisbane City Council had the sum of \$3,762,000 in the fund to pay for land resumptions but that money was used to purchase Lennons Hotel. This was typical of some of the shocking deals carried out by the then Lord Mayor, Clem Jones, and his cohorts in the Brisbane City Council. People could not get access to correspondence and they could not even gain access to council officers to discuss their problems. The Brisbane City Council relied on expensive court actions to deter people from seeking justice in the matter of compensation for any land resumed. I mentioned this matter in the House in 1973 and I received a threatening letter from the then Lord Mayor, Clem Jones.

Mr. Jensen: Why?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Because he was frightened I would expose him and his council for some of the rotten actions that they had taken against the people of North Pine. The council used tough, ruthless men, who had little regard or sympathy for the people of North

Pine. The Brisbane City Council will never be forgotten in that area by the people who were denied justice by the rotten, unprincipled, inhumane actions of the council.

Now there is a danger once again to the residents of North Pine if the recommendations in this study are accepted. If this land-use study is accepted, the pineapple industry, which supports 52 families and their employees, would cease to exist. The report recommends that pineapple-growing be restricted to planting on slopes with a gradient no steeper than 1 in 8, with no compensation payable to people whose livelihood is curtailed. The pineapple industry is described in the report as the greatest hazard to water quality because of fertiliser and chemical run-off, yet no evidence has been offered to support that opinion. The estimated nitrogen from the pineapple areas is 4 per cent of the total dam loading, and phosphorus is only 5 per cent, yet the estimated loading from visitors attracted to the dam is 8 per cent. The total value of the pineapple and dairying industries in the North Pine Dam catchment area is \$2,500,000 a year and any restriction imposed on those industries would be disastrous.

One of the recommendations in this land-use study is that the catchment area become a recreational reserve for the people of Brisbane. That is most commendable but it is hardly fair to expect the people residing in the catchment area to supply amenities without receiving any compensation and suffer the probable loss of their own livelihood. Many people are upset because the study lists no fewer than 46 properties recommended for investigation with a view to acquisition for environmental parks and camping and recreation reserves. The first these people heard of this was when they read it in the report. This is typical of the operations of many Government departments. They do not give a hoot for the average person; they simply go ahead and prepare reports without any consideration for the people who will be affected by them.

This report reeks of socialism, especially the section referring to a land bank policy under which land would be taken or frozen for the betterment of the masses. In fact, one could almost imagine this report being prepared by the Whitlam Government.

Mr. Turner: Won't they be paid compensation?

Mr. FRAWLEY: One recommendation in the report is that no compensation be paid. The report is in the Parliamentary Library and I ask all members to read it.

Mr. Houston: Who drew up the report?

Mr. FRAWLEY: The Local Government Department.

Mr. Houston: Your Government?

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is right. There is a copy of the report in the Parliamentary Library and I suggest that before any decision is made concerning the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report all members should receive a copy from the Minister for Local Government and study it carefully.

Mr. Houston: Have you mentioned this to the Minister? What did he say about it?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have not mentioned it to him yet. The report is biased against the pineapple industry particularly, and this requires careful consideration.

The Pine Rivers Shire Council is also in danger of having its control over the catchment area taken away. Forty-five per cent of the shire of Pine Rivers is in the catchment area of the North Pine Dam and any department set up as proposed in this report would exercise control over that area without being required to refer in any way to the Pine Rivers Shire Council.

In conclusion, I feel that recommendations in the report completely disregard the rights of the people living in the catchment area of the North Pine Dam, and I trust that this Government considers those rights when making a firm decision on this report.

WHITE-COLLAR CRIME IN RURAL SECTOR

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.15 p.m.): In recent months considerable public comment has been made on white-collar crime in this State. Most people tend to think that white-collar crime occurs only in the cities with the major companies, but a case that has been passed on to me as the Opposition spokesman on Justice by the Leader of the Opposition shows that it occurs even in the rural sector.

The case that I refer to specifically relates to the illegal action taken by Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited against one Mr. John Fullerton Smith, a grazier in the Roma district, action which is aimed at obtaining commission for a property sale which Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited had nothing to do with, and the company's subsequent threats to make an example of Mr. Fullerton Smith because he refused to pay this commission.

The circumstances of the case are as follows:—

Mr. Fullerton Smith is the owner and manager of certain cattle properties north-west of Roma. On 26 May 1975 approval for an advance was made to Mr. and Mrs. J. Fullerton Smith by the Rural Reconstruction Board. This assistance consisted of \$45,000 in reduction of a debt to Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited, of G.P.O. Box 1400, Brisbane, Queensland, payment of unsecured creditors and carry-on finance. There were certain mortgages over land and stock to Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited and the National Bank of Australia. Carry-on finance was distributed through Elder Smith

Goldsbrough Mort Limited with full interest set off in accordance with a monthly budget to be submitted and acceptable to Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited and the Rural Reconstruction Board.

In the second week of June 1976, the general manager of Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited in Roma, a Mr. Tony Elliott, advised Mr. Fullerton Smith by telephone that he had received a letter from the National Bank of Australia asking for written advice that Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited would pay a bank interest debt which was due on 30 September 1976. Mr. Elliott indicated that the head office of Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited would not be prepared to pay this debt. On 15 June 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith met with his branch of the National Bank of Australia and was informed that if Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited did not pay the interest debt then the bank would most likely call up the mortgage. On 16 June 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith discussed the situation with his accountants, Statham, Cheesman and Co. of Roma, and his solicitor, Mr. C. J. Mansfield of Roma. Mr. Fullerton Smith took the view that if Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited was not willing to pay the interest then he would have no alternative but to sell some of his land.

On 17 June 1976 Mr. John Molony, a land agent, explained to Mr. Fullerton Smith the role that Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited played in the carry-on finance provided under the B.A.F. scheme by the State and set up by the Commonwealth Government. Mr. Fullerton Smith sought advice as to the feasibility of selling part of his land, leaving him a block of sufficient size that something could be done with. On 18 June 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith went with Mr. Elliott to Brisbane for an interview with the State management of Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited. He had a discussion with Mr. Laurie Davies, the finance superintendent, who told him that the company would not pay the National Bank of Australia interest, but if the bank pressed the matter it would be prepared to speak to the bank on his behalf.

Mr. Fullerton Smith proposed that he would sell two blocks of his land to reduce his over-all debts and to break down the interest burden. He pointed out that neither Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited nor he had a chance of reducing his account, because of the high 13½ per cent interest rate charged monthly. He suggested that this was unworkable. He also put to Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited the proposition that he be allowed to sell all his cattle—breeders, calves, weaners and bulls—at an opportune time in spring. In Mr. Fullerton Smith's submission, this proposal would have reduced the account and broken down the interest load. He put forward a scheme whereby if the company let him buy 500 to 600 head of fat cattle prior to Christmas and have them slaughtered as soon as the

meatworks commenced operations in January, when fat cattle prices were high, he could expect a good profit. Mr. Fullerton Smith suggested that he would then buy cheap cattle in June at around \$15 per head and sell them later. Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited agreed to this proposed scheme.

There was definitely at no time in this or any other discussion any mention of a commission or involvement by Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited if any land was sold. A Mr. Pyman, who is the Roma area finance officer, and who was also present in these discussions, indicated to Mr. Fullerton Smith prior to his leaving Brisbane for Roma that Mr. Smart, the Queensland manager of Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited, had given his blessing to the proposed scheme.

On 19 June 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith contacted Mr. Molony and asked him to go ahead and sell two blocks of his land. On 21 June 1976 Mr. Molony produced a buyer. On 22 June 1976 a contract for the sale of 1,430 acres of land to a Mr. Latmore and his wife was signed.

On 12 July 1976 a contract for the sale of 2,200 acres of land was signed by a Mr. Pickard.

On 23 June 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith received a letter from the Roma Branch of the National Bank giving notice of intention to call up a mortgage on the land.

On 24 June 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith advised Mr. Elliott that a block of land on "scattering plains" was sold.

On 27 June 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith sent a letter to Mr. Davies telling him that he had received a notice of intention to call up a mortgage from the National Bank of Australia and had sold one block of land.

On 1 July 1976 Mr. Elliott rang Mr. Fullerton Smith to say that Mr. Davies had been in touch with him. He said that Mr. Fullerton Smith had let the company down by not including it in the sale and that it was up to Mr. Fullerton Smith and his wife to see that it got its commission by putting pressure on Mr. Molony. Mr. Elliott indicated that if this was not done the arrangements made with Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited on 18 June 1976 in Brisbane would be cancelled and that the company would consider more serious action.

On 15 July 1976 there were further phone calls from Mr. Elliott regarding the commission and further threats were made.

The story goes on and on, but it is obvious that I will not have time now to relate all the details. What has happened is that threats have been made to this man that he will in fact have his mortgage foreclosed unless he pays a commission to a company that had no part in the sale. I

believe that this matter comes within section 415 of the Criminal Code, the relevant part of which says—

"Any person who, with intent to . . . gain anything from any person—

(2) Orally demands anything from . . . any person without reasonable or probable cause, with threats of any injury or detriment of any kind to be caused to any person, either by the offender or any other person, if the demand is not complied with; is guilty of a crime and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for fourteen years."

I believe that the company's action also contravenes the provisions of the Auctioneers and Agents Act, under which no agent can ask for money when he had no part in the sale. I am glad to see a few Government members agreeing with me.

In this instance a threat has been made—and that is borne out by a letter from Mr. Mansfield, who is the solicitor involved—that the company intends to make an example of this man. I believe that the Government has a responsibility to protect the small grazier against pastoral companies that are placing financial chains around small primary producers. If anyone is to be made an example of in this instance, it should be Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort. In my opinion, this matter should be pursued by the Minister for Justice both through the section of the Auctioneers and Agents Act and also—and to a greater degree—through the Criminal Code.

It is all very well for the Government to say at election-time that it will assist the primary producers. At the last Federal election the National Party at the Federal level said, "We will establish a rural bank and arrange for long-term finance for graziers." That has not yet been done. Instead, many types of problems have arisen and people have been forced into massive debts—debts that they can never repay.

I have here figures showing that on 1 January 1976 Mr. Fullerton Smith's debt was \$49,521.51. He has not borrowed any more, but with the accumulation of interest the debt is now \$55,323.49. He has no way out of his dilemma. Now he has imposed upon him not only the threat relative to the additional commission—half the commission on the sale in question—but also the threat of having his mortgage foreclosed. He faces the dilemma of being sold up simply because this company believes it can twist and turn him and his wife. That is wrong, and I believe that the Government has a responsibility to clean up the villains who are creating a landlord-and-serf relationship with many of the graziers in this State. There is no better time than now to begin and no worse example to begin with than Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort.

WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (12.24 p.m.): Some time ago I read a book by a man named Thurman Arnold titled "Symbols of Government" in which he stated that the best government one could find in any area was in the asylum for the insane. It would appear that the role of psychiatrists in Arnold's form of government is to make the inmates as comfortable as possible but not to agree with the soundness or unsoundness of their ideas. The role of the psychiatrist in that set-up is a sort of benevolent despotism. Mr. Arnold apparently believed that only when we learn to regard the mass of citizens as patients in need of psychiatric therapy can we make real progress towards a solution of our social and economic problems. This asylum theme almost became a reality in 1972 to 1975 when the welfare State or asylum-like State was forced on this country by a coterie of psychiatrists—the Whitlam socialist Labor Government.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to give an opinion of psychiatrists in general. It would appear that the general attitude of the medical profession to psychiatrists is that they are a group of medically trained people who have the so-called modern hang-ups or problems, and they endeavour to rationalise their problems and hang-ups with their patients. That is a sort of simple explanation, and most probably a kind one, of psychiatrists.

The socialist A.L.P. Government set up some 40 commissions and committees to organise the inmates of its asylum and to organise welfare and amusement projects for those people. Whitlam asked for suggestions as to how to go about funding welfare for women. He never knew the folly of asking a woman for a suggestion. He ended up with a whole cartload of suggestions. One rather interesting one was that there was a need in the community for women's shelters. I think this is basically an excellent idea, but unfortunately it gave free rein to a lot of radicals, both male and female. Those radicals offered advice, again in cartloads, and set about spending money in cartloads. One of these shelters was set up in Brisbane. It was offered to the public as a place where women who had been maltreated by their husbands could find succour for themselves and their children. The Brisbane shelter became a centre for Marxist propaganda, the home of the lesbian movement in Queensland, and a women's abortion active campaign group. Let me quote some of their "lovely" literature! One of them is titled "Shelta". I apologise to the House for using such words. The article commences—

"The women who worked to open shelters saw themselves as a radical new method to work for justice and freedom for beaten and ——— over sisters. With Government funding has come a series of intense pressures towards respectability,

to handle money 'responsibly', to adapt our tactics so that the government won't cut off funding."

Later in that magnificent piece of literature it is stated—

"We are already being forced to allocate priorities—do we choose continued funding or the freedom to discuss lesbianism as (among other things) a preferable life-style to being shat on by a man? Do we run the risk of closure by the Health Department or get authoritarian with a woman who doesn't get around to cleaning up her kid's shit?

"Do we use government money for a purpose we believe important, when the government has said no money is to be used for that purpose?"

That is the kind of filthy literature that is put out. Some of it doesn't even make good English.

Those are the people who are running this shelter in Brisbane. Fortunately for some people, but unfortunately for the Government, one of those shelters was set up in Townsville. Exactly the same sort of fringe lunatics have come in to take charge of that one. The people who were motivated by a love for their fellow man and a love of God and who went there to help people in distress have been gradually forced out by the lunatic fringe of W.E.L. (Women's Electoral Lobby) and its various associated activists. The Townsville shelter has come to as sorry a state as the Brisbane one, except that it is making much more song about finance. The reports that have come into my office have been rather interesting. There have been reports about misuse of funds, unjustified expenditures, non-production of balance sheets, wasted food, incidents of baby-bashing on the premises, the police being called to keep order, counselling behind closed bedroom doors, and claims of lesbian practices.

Voluntary workers say that they have been left with babies while the so-called battered mothers decked themselves out, hired cabs and went off to the notorious Mandarin Night-club to solicit. Evidently that was to add a little to their social service payments. Long-stay people have been there for up to seven months. One woman who was living there with her children drew \$200 a fortnight without paying one cent for maintenance and left the kids to be looked after by the good people who went there as voluntary workers.

A large number of Aborigines seem to be flooding the doorstep. The main problem is that they simply will not pay their rent and come down to the shelter and demand sustenance and lodging.

Before any further funding is made the Minister should look very carefully into what is happening. I recommend that he call for a public inquiry into past and present management of the shelter; ask the public and

former voluntary workers to make submissions; cease all funding in bulk; remove the W.E.L. and the lunatic fringe from the management of this shelter; attach the shelter to the Townsville General Hospital (it will be another headache for the Minister for Health or the Division of Community Health); staff it on a roster system with nurses from the Townsville General Hospital or the Division of Community Health and with R.M.O.s or senior doctors from the Townsville General Hospital so that counselling can be given by trained welfare workers attached to the Townsville General Hospital rather than some lesbian-oriented person; place all administration under Government audit; and have all properties vested in the Crown.

Only when we take a firm stand on the so-called shelters will we get any benefit from them. At present they are a hot-bed of Marxist propaganda with way-out schemes. The one in Brisbane is run by the Women's Community Aid group and is a base for Children by Choice (which is nothing but an abortionist group), the Women's Health Centre, the Women's Electoral Lobby, the Lesbian Movement of Queensland—I suppose that is a registered company—Shelta and the Social Shop.

Dr. Edwards: The Queensland Government has stopped all funding.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: I am very pleased to hear that. I only wish that the Commonwealth would stop its funding. It gives funds in lump sums and no accounting is necessary. Money can be handed out indiscriminately. The Townsville group said that its books had been audited, but it is not sufficient to merely balance one side with the other. Investigations should be undertaken into where and how the money is spent because it is taxpayers' money—irrespective of what the women who run the shelter think about it. They talk about handling money responsibly, but they forget that the money they are handling belongs to the taxpayer—to me, you and everybody else who pays taxes.

I commend those suggestions to the Minister for Community and Welfare Services.

ATTITUDE OF QUEENSLAND TEACHERS' UNION EXECUTIVE TO SACKING OF MEMBERS

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (12.33 p.m.): To quote—

"Teachers have a large and inescapable responsibility in fashioning the ideals of children and youth;

"Such responsibility requires the services of men and women of high ideals, broad education and profound human understanding;"

Those are the words at the start of the "Code of Ethics" printed inside the cover of the "Queensland Teachers Journal". That is the code of ethics that all teachers in Queensland, and probably most people, would think teachers should aspire to. But what

is happening today in the current dispute that the Queensland Teachers' Union is drumming up between itself and the Government? Four Queensland teachers who have been convicted of smoking marijuana—which is an indictable offence—have been sacked by the Education Department, and the Queensland Teachers' Union has the hide and gall to say to the people of Queensland, "You must put those teachers back in front of the classes. You have sacked four of our members. Why don't you put them back?"

I am sure that most parents in the State would very happily tell the teachers' union why they would not want them back—if only the executive of the teachers' union would listen.

On looking further at the teachers' code of ethics we find—

"Such responsibility requires the services of men and women of high ideals."

I wonder if the smoking of pot is one of the high ideals to which members of the Queensland Teachers' Union should aspire.

Mr. Turner: At least they get high on it.

Mr. POWELL: Quite so.

The code of ethics goes on with six tenets, and I will take the time to read them. They are—

"1. A teacher's responsibility to each student shall take precedence over all other professional responsibilities.

"2. A teacher shall seek to establish and maintain such relationships between home and school as will contribute to the development of each student.

"3. A teacher shall maintain standards of professional conduct and display attitudes towards his fellow teachers which create mutual respect."

How can any person respect another who is high on drugs for most of the weekend, if not while in front of a class?

"4. A teacher shall assert his personal, professional and civil rights and support his colleagues in defending these rights.

"5. When called upon to speak on a matter of fact, a teacher shall speak what he believes to be the truth irrespective of its effect on his own interests, the interests of other teachers, or other sectional interests."

The sixth is a critical one—

"6. A teacher shall act within the community in a manner which enhances the prestige of his profession."

That is the code of ethics that the Teachers' Union maintains its members should live by, yet in "The Courier-Mail" of 18 August 1976 we see these words written—

"The union's annual conference yesterday condemned overwhelmingly the sackings and called for the teachers' reinstatement by next Tuesday.

"But the decision to back this with industrial action if necessary was taken on the narrowest possible majority—the chairman's casting vote."

Of course, we all know who the chairman of that meeting was—Mr. Costello, the president of the union.

However, a document entitled "News Flash" has been circulated to all schools, where it would have been received the day the teachers returned from their August vacation. If the report appearing in "The Courier-Mail" is to be believed, then we cannot believe the circular that has been sent out from the office of the Teachers' Union, because it says—

"The dismissal of four teachers convicted on marihuana charges was condemned overwhelmingly by the Annual Conference of the Union meeting in Brisbane last week."

That agrees with "The Courier-Mail", but it continues—

"Conference then carried a resolution directing members to refuse to take the places of the dismissed teachers."

That indicates that by an overwhelming majority the conference agreed that industrial action should be taken. In fact, that action was taken only because one person at that conference was able to vote twice—the president. He has a casting as well as a deliberative vote. This is the action of the Teachers' Union.

Mr. Lane: He is A.L.P.

Mr. POWELL: I doubt whether he is even that. I think he is even further away from the centre than the A.L.P.

The action presently being taken by some members of the Queensland Teachers' Union executive is deplorable. They cannot even adhere to the code of ethics by which they maintain teachers should live.

However, I can go much further than that. One of the members of the executive is a fellow named White—Mr. R. E. P. White, who is a teacher somewhere in the Brisbane area. He is reported in "The Courier-Mail" as saying that teachers were denied the basic principle of equality before the law; yet in its code of ethics that is exactly what the Teachers' Union is asking be done—that teachers not be given equality before the law. The code of ethics says—

"A teacher shall act within the community in a manner which enhances the prestige of his profession."

He has to be a person of "high ideals, broad education and profound understanding".

Another member of the executive of the Queensland Teachers' Union is Mr. Hamish Linacre. I have the misfortune of knowing this fellow, and how he was ever elected to that body is beyond my comprehension. He happened to be a teacher in agricultural subjects at the Noosa District High School.

During the last State election, that gentleman wrote a letter to the Bundaberg "News Mail" quoting me as having said something in the main street of Childers at 2.30 one afternoon, when Mr. Linacre should have been at his school at Noosa. He should not have been anywhere near Childers. I questioned why he made accusations of that sort, but naturally he has not replied. The report of "The Courier-Mail" is—

"Mr. Hamish Linacre told the conference it was unfair that public servants should receive double punishment for an offence which had nothing to do with their professional ability."

What absolute and complete poppycock!

That statement also is opposed to the code of ethics of the Queensland Teachers' Union that all teachers should adhere to. He also says that it is unfair that these public servants should receive double punishment. Since my appointment as a teacher (and that goes back some years) and I have spent six years on the State council of the Teachers' Union, for ever and a day, at successive conferences and council meetings, motions were carried that teachers would have nothing to do with the Public Service and that we should be a commission apart from the Public Service. Yet, in this dispute, the Teachers' Union is doing a back somersault and is saying that its members belong to the Public Service and that something should be done about the situation.

The code of ethics states also that teachers are to be people of high ideals. I am blown if I can see how a pot-smoking teacher could be a person of high ideals. There is no way in the world that I want my children to be taught by the type of teacher whom the union is trying to look after at the moment—the pot smokers, the Left-wingers and the fellows who have funny social attitudes that are opposed to the attitudes of the majority of the people in the community. I do not want them teaching my children, so I do not see why they should be teaching other children.

We might ask what is the A.L.P. attitude. A.L.P. members have been deafeningly silent on the matter, because they are not game to decide which way to jump. On the one hand, they want the Queensland Teachers' Union to affiliate with the Queensland Trades and Labor Council so that it can get some money out of the union for election campaigns. But that suggestion has been defeated at conference about six times that I know of and it will be continually defeated. But Mr. Costello says that it will come up again. It will come up again because he, Mr. Linacre, Mr. White, and some of their fellow-travellers will bring it up.

The A.L.P. is remarkably silent on the matter for the simple reason that it does not know which way to jump. If it jumps on the side of all of the people in the community who do not want pot-smoking teachers in front of classes, it knows that it

will be undermining the attitude of its friend, Mr. Costello. If, on the other hand, it comes out on Mr. Costello's side, it knows that the people will see it in its true light and will not vote Labor ever again.

A couple more things interest me greatly in this dispute. We even had an inspector of secondary schools entering the argument. I am astounded that a person of this calibre, whom I know and have always respected, would come in and say—

"I feel that the manner in which the teachers convicted of drug offences came to be dismissed from the Education Department was abhorrent to a sense of fair play."

I believe it is abhorrent to a sense of fair play for these teachers to be placed in front of my children. Again I go back to the code of ethics. In the first place it says that teachers have a large and inescapable responsibility in fashioning the ideals of children and youth. Do we want people of this type fashioning the ideals of our children and the youth in our community? Obviously the answer is "No". We cannot have them at all. Yet an inspector of secondary schools, some principals and, thankfully, a very small minority of teachers are saying that they are the type of teacher wanted. I believe that the Teachers' Union is selling out the teachers and the public.

(Time expired.)

FOOD ADDITIVES AND COLOURING MATERIAL

Mr. YEWDALÉ (Rockhampton North) (12.43 p.m.): The subject I wish to raise this afternoon concerns the whole community in this State and, for that matter, the whole country. In layman's terms I can only describe what is happening as technicolour poisoning. This poisoning is affecting not only the general community, but, more importantly, children, particularly babies.

As a Government we should be taking immediate steps to prohibit the use of many additives and colouring materials that are used constantly in our everyday consumer food lines. I further consider that particular attention should be given to the ingredients of many products for babies. Governments of the day spend untold millions of dollars in protecting the community from many and varied types of accidents and injuries, particularly in industry and in restricting pollution of the environment in its many forms but we ignore the continued camouflaged contamination of the whole community by additives in immeasurable forms and colours. I speak as a layman in this field but I have a personal concern with this aspect of our society. I have taken the trouble to acquire from people who are known to be experts in their fields some information that I propose to use in dealing with this subject.

It seems that in January of this year amaranth, a common red colouring in foods, was banned in the U.S.A. after a study suggested that it caused cancer in rats. Amaranth is the third most common synthetic food colouring and it gives a red colouring to a wide variety of products including jams, jellies, soft drinks, frankfurts, bottled red cabbage, salami, red icings and ice creams. It will be noted that many of those are foods commonly used by almost everyone each day of the week.

Alternatives, particularly natural colourings, are available and they should be used when there is any doubt about the health risk of an additive. It is suggested that these alternative additives are obviously more expensive, but the community will pay in the end if the cheaper additives cause cancer.

Early in August this year Professor Pound, a professor of experimental pathology at the University of Queensland, who may be known to some members, found that chemical nitro samines, a potent cancer-causing agent, could be formed in the stomach from eating cabbages that had been highly fertilised with nitrates which interact in the body with other items in the diet. Nitrates were added to some meats to impart a brighter red colour and to give bacon a cosmetic pink lift. When nitrates interact with certain tranquillisers and anti-depressant drugs nitro samines are generated.

A recent study by a Dr. Ward from the Australian National University showed that oysters accumulated dangerous levels of toxic cadmium, which is a heavy metal. These levels occurred when oysters were placed in water containing 10 micrograms of cadmium, which is the accepted level in Australia and the U.S.A. Excess cadmium in the body causes massive skin rashes and in Japan some babies have been born with extensive damage to the skin.

In July a cat in Tasmania was detected as having Minamata disease. Mercury poison from fish killed at least 40 people and crippled many hundreds in the Japanese town of Minamata, which has given its name to the disease. Few people of that town thought that industrial pollution in the adjoining sea would over 20 years cause a build-up of mercury in the bodies of the people of Minamata. A Federal survey by the National Health and Medical Research Council showed that 40 per cent of fish sampled in commercial fish shops contained more than the internationally recommended limits of mercury.

Mr. Doumany interjected.

Mr. YEWDALÉ: I heard someone make an interjection, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It would appear that he is not interested in the health of the community, particularly young children. If he is concerned, he should take some interest in this problem in his own electorate and in the community generally.

What action has been taken on a report released in May 1974 that showed that at least 16 per cent of Australian women are risking kidney damage by taking too many aspirin tablets and other analgesics? It was stated in the report that 32 of the 250 women surveyed took at least two analgesics a day. This report was undertaken at the antenatal clinic at our own Royal Brisbane Hospital by Ms Finnigan, Dr. Burry and Mr. Smith. Pain-killers are readily available at corner stores, cafes and supermarkets.

Australia is the leading country in the world for addiction by women to pain-killers, laxatives and other mood-affecting drugs available over the counter and without prescription. Until a satisfactory code of advertising is worked out, these over-the-counter sales should be restricted. Kidney researchers feel that putting the sale of risk pain-killers under the direct supervision of a chemist would reduce kidney disease caused by excessive use of pain-killers. I emphasise that if any action is to be taken on advertising, it will have to be taken by the Queensland Government. We are responsible for this State and this is where such action should start. The present position is best described by a report of the Australian Drug Education Committee in August 1973. The report listed adverse reactions to commonly available drugs. It stated—

"The cause and effect cannot be proved beyond doubt. However, for the purposes of an early warning system it is essential that such adverse experiences be reported and knowledge disseminated."

Our real problem is the fragmentation of the authorities concerned and the varied tone of their reports. Early this year the State Government established an interdepartmental committee to keep a close watch on chemical contaminants in Queensland foods. I support such a move, but the Federal and State Governments should co-operate under one body to regulate food additives throughout the entire Commonwealth. It would be absurd to ban a chemical in New South Wales but have it freely available in Queensland. Packaging and labelling laws should be uniform. I think this is very important. I feel that the Government, in consultation with the Federal Government, should legislate to require that manufacturers—

(1) Clearly mark the additive on the packet using its generic and common and functional name (that is if it is a preservative, emulsifier or whatever).

(2) For analgesics, give clear and complete directions for use and care of the product.

(3) Display a prominent warning of hazards associated with the use, storage, maintenance or disposal of the product and a description of the necessary treatment or antidote if the warning is ignored or misunderstood.

(4) Give clear and complete directions for the use and care of the product.

(5) State the nutrient value.

Some concern about this problem is being expressed by authorities throughout the world and in our own State.

As I said earlier, the State Government has taken some action on this problem but I do not think it has gone far enough. It is quite unrealistic to suggest that we can do away with the present provisions regarding labelling and packaging. It is unrealistic to suggest that overnight we can overcome this problem, but I feel that in the interest of the community the authorities—I suggest both the State and Commonwealth authorities—should move very quickly because, as I said earlier, we are gravely concerned about a number of things happening in the community such as accidents and sickness in all forms but we do not look at this camouflaged form of poisoning. It is happening not only to the younger generation, about whom I am concerned, but it is happening to you and me and every other adult in the community. Perhaps we might be ignorant in some respects but I do not believe that the average layman in the street can really be expected to know about this problem unless he is warned at least by the packaging, and the problem will continue unless some action is taken by the Government, whose responsibility it is to protect the community.

PROTECTION AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.53 p.m.): I wish to address myself this afternoon to a matter of great concern to the public, and that is the safety of the community from the organised criminal element in society.

I would like to begin by complimenting the Premier for recently appointing the Hon. T. G. Newbery Minister for Police. I, along with a number of other persons interested in police administration, am very pleased about this appointment, and we look forward to great things from the new Minister. We look forward to consistency in policy and hope that in the future the police administration will find a new sense of direction, because one thing that does concern every man, particularly in our urban society these days, is that he and his wife and children should be safe from the thugs and professional criminals who prey upon society. I think that now we have a better chance of achieving that aim.

I hope that the new Minister will apply himself and his department to carrying out the primary function of a Police Force, and that is catching the thieves in our society. While it is perfectly proper to have forms of in-service training to bring policemen up to standard and equip them with some knowledge of new developments in their area or in society, it is more important that emphasis be placed on catching thieves. I believe that this is what society expects from the Police

Force, that primarily they produce results in keeping the crime rate down and keeping inside goals those people who would prey upon society.

I know that a lot of pretty statistics have been produced in recent times—a lot of cute figures that have been manipulated and put about by specialists in this field who are employed within the police administration system—in an attempt to explain away the present alarming crime rate, but I believe that they have been quite misleading. These statistics have been boosted recently by the application to them of arrests and prosecutions of juveniles and simple offences under the Traffic Act and the like, so that they read better than each of us knows to be the case. One only has to go into the suburbs of Brisbane and ask people whether they feel as safe in their homes today, whether they believe their property is as safe today, whether they can walk down Queen Street today as safely as they could five years ago, to find that virtually every resident of this city would say that he does not feel as safe as he did five years ago. I know and you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the situation is just not the same as it was a few years ago.

In my opinion, the Minister will have to step in very quickly and lay down some very strong policies, particularly on the issue that has been receiving coverage in the Press recently—the so-called decentralisation of certain sections of the Police Force in this city. Personally, I would be opposed to the total “decentralisation”—and I use that term in inverted commas—that appears to be proposed now by the administration.

It certainly is desirable that teams of detectives—I shall deal first with the C.I. Branch—who are responsible for general plainclothes work and general investigation work be sent out to the suburbs, so that they are nearer to the problems, have some local knowledge and can specialise in a locality. However, it is essential that specialist squads be kept together as cohesive units at some central place.

One such squad that appears to be being abandoned is the very important Consorting Squad, which has the responsibility of keeping a day-to-day check on the movements of criminals and their associates—the primary intelligence work of the Police Force. It is the squad that has been asked to deal with the hardened criminals, the organised criminals, since a Police Force has existed in this State. Any suggestion that it be broken up or abolished in the name of glorious “decentralisation” is a fraud, and I am sure that the new Minister would recognise that. Similarly, I think it is necessary that there be a specialist squad to deal with motor thefts, and the Motor Squad should not be broken up, either.

There is also a need for a specialist squad—perhaps a smaller one—to be concerned primarily and exclusively with burglary and house-breaking, because the criminals who

specialise in that activity need at least a small unit of detectives to keep an eye on their field of activity.

I would hope that the Dealers Squad would continue to keep track of the receivers of stolen property and maintain supervision over the dealers in second-hand property in this city, to make it more difficult for a criminal to sell the wares that he has acquired dishonestly.

It has already been conceded, I think, that the Homicide Squad, the Fraud Squad and the Drug Squad will be retained. It goes without saying that they, too, are essential.

The suggestion that there should be a breaking up of the Traffic Branch also concerns me. There are a number of good reasons why the Traffic Branch should be retained as a cohesive unit, not the least of which is that that branch maintains uniformity of policy. Government policy and the interpretation of that policy then come under the supervision of the Superintendent of Traffic.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order previously agreed to by the House, the time allotted to the debate on Matters of Public Interest has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.