

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1976**

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**WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1976**

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

**ADDRESS IN REPLY****PRESENTATION**

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I propose to present to the Deputy Governor, at Government House, tomorrow morning at 9.30 o'clock, the Address in Reply to the Opening Speech of His Excellency the Governor agreed to on 14 September, and I shall be glad to be accompanied by the mover and the seconder and such other honourable members as care to be present.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Audit Acts Amendment Act 1926–1971.

Industrial Development Act 1963–1975.

Ambulance Services Act 1967–1975.

By-law under the Dental Act 1971–1973.

**QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE****1. BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST CHARGES**

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

Have there been any alterations in the last two months to the permissible interest rates chargeable by building societies on funds loaned or money borrowed? If so, what were the charges?

Answer:—

No.

**2. MEDIBANK LEVY ON REPATRIATION PENSIONERS**

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

With respect to my question of 9 September regarding repatriation pensions and Medibank, has he any direct knowledge arising from Commonwealth-State Medibank discussions as to whether any action is being considered to remove the imposition of the 2.5 per cent levy from general-rate repatriation pensioners?

Answer:—

I am aware of the honourable member's very real concern for ex-service members of the community, especially those in his electorate. This, however, is a Commonwealth responsibility and I assure the honourable member that the Federal Minister of Health is aware of this problem.

The honourable member will no doubt appreciate that any correction of this anomaly must come from the Federal sphere.

**3. REPORT OF MORETON REGION GROWTH STRATEGY INVESTIGATION**

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

Now that the final report of the Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigation has been released containing a preferred strategy for the development of the Moreton Region, is it intended to give any legislative standing to the final recommendations made under this study?

Answer:—

This report is being treated very seriously. In the first instance, copies have been distributed to all concerned Government departments, to all of the local authorities in the region and to the Moreton Regional Co-ordination Council. Comments have been invited from these bodies.

At the same time, an inter-departmental committee comprising representatives of Co-ordinator-General's Department, Treasury, Land Administration Commission, Local Government, Main Roads, Primary Industries, Railways, Transport, and Mapping and Surveying Departments has been established "to consider the project team's suggestions on further actions and to prepare further advice for the consideration of Cabinet." This committee's advice will no doubt take account of any comments received from the departments and the other bodies mentioned above. No further action is envisaged until this advice is received.

**4. LIZARD AND FROG RACES AT FESTIVALS**

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

(1) Did he see the TDT television programme on Channel 2 on 13 September wherein it was reported that it will now be illegal to race lizards and frogs, etc., at festivals such as the Cunnamulla and Eulo Festival of Opals?

(2) Did the banning of such races emanate from the National Parks and Wildlife Service?

(3) Is he aware that the Cunnamulla and Eulo Festival has been operating for ten years and that the major attraction for drawing tourists is the lizard race?

(4) Is he aware that the lizards are not hurt or ill-treated in any way and that they are released into their natural bush environment after the race?

(5) If this ban is to remain, will he give an indication when it is intended to ban the keeping of birds and animals in

cages and fish in aquariums, all of which are imprisoned away from their natural environment?

(6) Will consideration be given to banning trotting and dog, pigeon and horse-racing?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes, I heard of the ban announcement.

(2) There is no ban and the announcement did not emanate from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes, I understand that is the case. Lizard races do create a lot of good-humoured interest. It was my privilege to attend the recent lizard races at the Min Min Festival at Bouliá. I saw no evidence whatsoever of ill-treatment of the lizards. The organisers took steps to release them after the race.

(5) As stated in my answer to (2) above there is no ban, but in future a permit will be required for this type of activity. It is not intended to ban the keeping of birds and animals in cages.

(6) Certainly not so far as I am concerned.

#### 5. PRIMARY PRODUCER LAND RENTALS

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

(1) What steps are being taken or will be taken to assist primary producers to meet land rental payments and when will the review of cattle-land rentals be brought down?

(2) When does he consider that the findings will take effect?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Early in 1975 the Government approved of deferment of land rents and freeholding instalments on necessitous beef industry cases with prescribed interest rates being reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent to be effective until 31 December 1975. The effective date of the concession has since been extended to 31 December 1976.

Rentals on blocks used predominantly for cattle have been reduced from the 1970 level to the lower 1960 standard.

Where a primary producer can demonstrate hardship, outstanding land rents, freeholding instalments, or loan repayments under schemes such as the Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme or the Fitzroy River Basin Land Development Scheme are being deferred and the interest rate payable during such deferment also reduced from the statutory 10 per cent down to 5 per cent.

Substantial reconstruction funds at 4 per cent interest have been made available to beef producers for carry-on needs, including rates and land rental.

I understand that the recommendations of Mr. D. J. Barry, member of the Land Court, following completion of his inquiry into cattle rent standards are imminent and when received will be considered by the Government. Mr. Barry was requested to inquire into and recommend in respect of each land agent's district of the State the maximum net rate per beast which, having regard to the present state of the cattle industry, could reasonably be charged by way of rent for the best-quality Crown lands held under grazing selection or pastoral tenure in each such district for a rental period commencing 1 January 1976.

#### 6. KANGAROO TAGS

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

In view of the good season in Western Queensland in the early part of the year and the size of the kangaroo population, and as many graziers are only surviving financially through revenue earned from shooting kangaroos and this industry provides a significant financial boost to western towns, will additional kangaroo tags be allocated to western areas?

*Answer:—*

The succession of good seasons has caused kangaroo numbers to increase greatly. The disruption to the kangaroo export industry caused by the previous Federal Government's ban on their export meant low harvests in 1973 and 1974, thus accelerating this build up in numbers.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is taking action to increase the number of tags to help the industry harvest the excess. The first batch of these tags is expected shortly. They will be distributed immediately by the wildlife rangers at Rockhampton and Charleville. I have also taken action to allow licensed shooters to continue operations pending their receipt of tags and I issued a Press statement this morning.

#### 7. PLAY AREA AT WONDALL HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Does he recall my many submissions for additional covered play area at Wondall Heights State School?

(2) Is he aware that the existing covered play area is so small that it is completely inadequate and offers shelter for only a small section of the children attending the school?

(3) As the shortage of covered area will again cause a major problem in the forthcoming wet season, will he, as a matter of urgency, give consideration and approval to this proposal?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) Funds are not available at the present for the provision of additional covered play areas at this school. The honourable member will recall my letter to him dated 6 July 1976 in this regard.

8. MARINE INSURANCE RATES

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

(1) Is he aware that the rates charged for marine insurance premiums on fishing boats is far in excess of the marine insurance premiums charged for privately owned vessels?

(2) Can owners of privately owned vessels obtain comprehensive marine insurance on their vessels for as low as 2.5 per cent and are comprehensive marine insurance premiums on fishing boats at a minimum of 5 per cent with an average rate in excess of 7 per cent?

(3) As the estuary and bay fishermen are an important section of our primary producers and frequently experience financial hardship, will he investigate the rates and see what can be done to relieve the problem?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. The rates for private pleasure craft are usually considerably lower than those for trawlers and line and net fishing vessels. Private pleasure craft are generally used only on week-ends or for limited periods whereas commercial craft are constantly in use and are thus exposed to greater hazards. Underwriters recognise this and determine premiums according to their claims experience.

(2) I am advised that, providing vessels are not older than 15 years, premium rates can be obtained much lower than those quoted. For vessels older than 15 years or vessels of a value below \$40,000 the rates quoted may be relevant.

Competitive premium rates for fishing vessels not older than 15 years and of a value in excess of \$40,000 would generally range between 2.65 per cent and 5.5 per cent.

(3) See answers to (1) and (2).

9. BAN ON VISITS BY PUBLIC SERVANTS TO RUSSIA

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

(1) Has his Government in any way stopped any Public Service employees from participating in a cultural and scientific

programme in Russia? If so, in what field were they employed and why was the opportunity to obtain some knowledge from Russia denied these officers?

(2) Were their places taken by public servants from other States and, if so, which States?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The Government was approached in June to permit an entomologist from the Department of Primary Industries to visit Russia for an eight-week study tour. This was not approved. At the time arrangements were well under way for this officer to proceed to America to undertake a three-year Ph.D. course at the University of California, and the officer is now in America. He will learn more there. Another officer was also under consideration for a possible visit to Russia, but this matter was not pursued.

No information is available regarding visits to Russia by public servants of other States. The honourable member should ask his colleagues there; they will tell him.

10. SALES OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS TO RUSSIA AND CHINA

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

(1) What primary products produced in Queensland have been sold to (a) Russia and (b) China over the last two years?

(2) What was the approximate value of each of the products for the latest available 12-months period?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The major rural products exported to Russia from Queensland in the last two years were beef and veal, wheat, barley, sugar, and wool. The major rural product exported to China was sugar.

The values of these rural exports to Russia in 1975-1976 were—

	\$m.
Beef and veal .. .. .	7.4
Wheat .. .. .	24.6
Barley .. .. .	21.1
Wool .. .. .	2.2

The value of sugar exported to China in 1975-76 was \$23.9m.

These figures have been provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

11. DEGREE COURSES AT UNIVERSITIES  
AND COLLEGES OF ADVANCED  
EDUCATION

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

(1) Which of the degree courses are available now or will next year be available at both a university and a college of advanced education?

(2) Is there any difference or likely to be any difference in the qualification value of a degree at a university and a college of advanced education? If so, what is the higher standard and why?

*Answers:—*

(1) I refer the honourable member to the publication "Queensland Tertiary Courses 1977", which I recently forwarded personally to every member of the Parliament. It contains details of existing and proposed courses in the 10 colleges of advanced education and three universities and its production is a co-operative effort amongst Queensland's 13 institutions of tertiary education.

(2) Degrees bearing the same title, though equivalent in standard, typically vary in orientation. The general position is that professional bodies as well as State and Commonwealth Governments regard degrees from colleges and from universities as equivalent for employment purposes.

The focus of college degrees tends to be vocational and practical; university degrees are more frequently included to emphasise theoretical and research orientations. The appropriateness of a degree from a college or university as a qualification for a specific purpose depends largely on the requirements of that purpose. The same applies to degrees in the same field as between particular institutions.

12. SOUTHERN TRADESMEN FOR  
QUEENSLAND NICKEL CONSORTIUM,  
YABULU

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

Is he aware that the Queensland Nickel consortium at Yabulu is bringing tradesmen by plane from southern cities, and providing them with first-class accommodation at Townsville, to do work that can be and should be done by local tradesmen and, if so, does he propose to take any action directed at stopping this practice that has such a deleterious effect on northern progress and prosperity?

*Answer:—*

Queensland Nickel has a good record of letting work out to local contractors but in the instant case referred to by the honourable member the work involved in the

annual maintenance programme was of such a nature and extent that I am informed it was necessary to engage a specific contractor, Eglo Engineering, a Sydney-based company which specialises in the modification and maintenance of this type of plant.

I am informed the total work-force employed by Eglo on the Yabulu gas plant operation was approximately 114 men. Many of these were drawn from other projects being carried out by Eglo in Queensland in areas such as Mackay and Brisbane. The work-force included eight pressure welders who were involved in pipe work modifications and replacement. The gas production plant operates at reasonably high pressures and I am advised that persons experienced in pipe-welding for pressure service would be necessary to carry out the work effectively, bearing in mind that repairs would extend the shut-down period and thus create a production loss.

In a similar manner, the opening of pressure vessels for inspection and the resealing of joints after inspection require some expertise.

It is understood that the permanent maintenance staff employed by Queensland Nickel Pty. Ltd. is sufficient to cope with day-by-day operations but this work-force would not be large enough to cope with a major shut-down of the type referred to here. I am informed that this practice is adopted in oil refineries and large chemical works around Brisbane.

When plans were being drawn for the Yabulu plant, my Department of Commercial and Industrial Development entered into discussion with Queensland Nickel urging it to use local fabricators as much as possible. I feel sure the honourable member would be aware how the company responded to this request.

13. COMMONWEALTH GAMES, BRISBANE,  
1982

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

(1) How much does the State Government propose to give towards the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982?

(2) How much of this money will be spent on buildings and the like that, after the games, will remain and become the property of the city of Brisbane?

(3) As much of the money will have come from areas of the State outside Brisbane, will any provision be made for the Brisbane City Council to reimburse the country areas or will the arenas and buildings constructed with their money become a reluctant gift from the country areas to Brisbane?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) No decision will be made by the State Government as to any contribution which might be made towards the cost of the staging of the 1982 Commonwealth Games until a firm estimate of cost is received. The details of costs would need to be made available by the Brisbane City Council and the Commonwealth Games Foundation. I can assure the honourable member that any proposals submitted will be closely scrutinised.

Should the games be proceeded with, it is anticipated that any such facilities will be available for use by the general public including many country competitors in the various sports of their choice when they travel to Brisbane for State championships and other similar events.

The question of the provision of sporting facilities throughout the State has received the attention of my Government since 1972, when Queensland was the first State to provide financial assistance towards the capital cost of the erection and establishment of sporting facilities.

In the intervening years to date, over \$2,900,000 has been paid to a great number of sporting associations and clubs throughout the State to provide new and additional sporting venues and to provide the opportunity for coaching of juniors in the sport of their choice. This distribution has not been confined to one area and I am sure that if the honourable member travels throughout the State he will now see evidence in many country areas as well as in Brisbane of the effect of our progressive policy in this regard.

14. SABBATICAL LEAVE, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

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

(1) Has the James Cook University granted or does it propose to grant sabbatical leave, with all its attendant expenses and privileges, to certain members of the administrative and clerical staff and, if so, what are the names of the staff members concerned and what will be the estimated cost per year?

(2) As the sole argument advanced by universities to justify the granting of sabbatical leave in the past has been that it enables academics to travel away from their university to enlarge and increase their knowledge of university subjects and the teaching of them, what justification now exists for the extension of this valuable and succulent perquisite to the clerical staff?

(3) Has any line of demarcation been drawn to indicate where the perquisite will end? For instance, will it extend to the junior office staff?

(4) Will any other employees such as manual workers and tradesmen on the university staff, many of whom perform much useful work at the university, also be included in the perk and, if not, what is the reason?

(5) In view of the present atmosphere of economy in educational affairs, how can this exceedingly expensive and unnecessary privilege be justified?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) I am informed that the Registrar, Bursar, Controller and Deputy Registrar are eligible for study leave on the same basis as academic staff, except that the period of such leave is half that allowed to academic staff. As only four officers are involved, there will not be an annual cost. The estimated average cost per occasion when such leave is taken is \$3,000 to \$4,000.

(3 to 5) No other non-academic staff are entitled to study leave.

15. SPARKES HILL RESERVOIR AREA

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

Can he bring some pressure to bear on the Brisbane City Council, on behalf of the many concerned residents of the Everton electorate, in order that the ecological destruction of the Sparkes Hill Reservoir area by the council may be repaired to some extent by a comprehensive and well-planned reforestation programme?

*Answer:—*

I am informed that the Brisbane City Council proposes to construct a new water supply reservoir at Sparkes Hill and that preliminary work, including cleaning of the area concerned, has already been undertaken by the council.

I am further informed that it is the intention of the Brisbane City Council, once the new reservoir is completed, to beautify the surrounding area, in much the same manner as has been done at recently completed reservoirs at Green Hill and Ekibin.

16. MULTIPLE-LISTING BUREAU

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

(1) What is the total number of licensed real estate agents, members of the R.E.I.Q. and real estate agents who are members of the multiple-listing bureau?

(2) Do members of the R.E.I.Q. automatically become members of the multiple listing bureau?

(3) How does an independent real estate agent join the multiple-listing bureau?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) The total number of licensed real estate agents is 2,783.

The other information sought by the honourable member is not held by the Registrar of Auctioneers and Agents. This information would be held by the secretary of the Real Estate Institute of Queensland.

#### 17. RETENTION OF DUAL SYSTEM OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

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

(1) With regard to the funding of the community kindergarten movement, where at present combined State and Commonwealth funding covers 100 per cent of teachers' and assistants' salaries, can he give an assurance that our Government will continue to support the dual system of pre-school education and, if so, will he give consideration to positive recognition of community kindergartens as providing a similar service to State pre-schools, by exempting the community kindergartens from the Children's Services Day-Care Regulations 1972 and further exempting these organisations from State tax on fund-raising activities, in line with recent initiatives in this regard with school parents and citizens' organisations?

(2) Should there be any cutback in Commonwealth funding, can he give an assurance that there will be no cutback in the combined existing levels of assistance?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The State Government is continuing to support both the community-sponsored and State-Government-provided pre-school facilities.

I am informed that community kindergarten organisations are to be treated in identical manner to school parents and citizens' associations as regards exemption from taxation on funds raised for educational purposes.

As regards the honourable member's reference to exemption from requirements under the Children's Services Act, community kindergartens are specially required by the relevant regulations to maintain certain minimum standards. The Creche and Kindergarten Association insists on these standards as a requirement for affiliation and consequent Government funding.

I am sure the honourable member and all parents would agree that enforcement of at least a minimum standard of facilities is necessary and desirable in the interests of the children concerned.

I am aware that there is concern regarding the future funding of kindergartens and I can add that this concern has

arisen from the lack of any firm commitment on the part of the Commonwealth Government to any continuing specific level of financing of pre-school services whether Government-operated or community-sponsored. It is unfortunate that there is such a degree of uncertainty as to the availability of Commonwealth funds for this purpose after 31 December 1976 and the State Minister for Education has been pressing the Commonwealth Government to provide a clear indication of its intentions.

For the State Government's part, our commitment is and always has been clear and unequivocal. We will continue to provide assistance to the community kindergarten movement on the basis of a subsidy up to an amount per unit which represents the annual salary of a three-year-trained school-teacher in the first year of teaching plus \$500, at present, \$9,340, subject to the combined State and Commonwealth subsidies not exceeding the total salary costs of approved teachers.

The amount equal to the salary of a three-year-trained teacher in the first year of teaching plus \$500 is therefore the minimum assistance of which a qualifying kindergarten is assured. The availability of Commonwealth funds would add to this.

The State will, of course, also continue to fund its own pre-schools irrespective of the availability of Commonwealth funds for this purpose.

The State does not have the financial resources necessary to provide funds to fully compensate for withdrawals of support by the Commonwealth in areas where that Government is cutting back its expenditure. The level of combined assistance to community kindergartens will therefore largely depend on the extent, if any, to which the Commonwealth Government withdraws its support in this particular area.

I can assure the honourable member that the State Government is ready to enter into negotiations with the Commonwealth as soon as there is a proposition to discuss, and that the kindergarten movement will be promptly advised when agreement is reached.

#### 18. METHADONE FOR HEROIN ADDICTS

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

(1) May heroin addicts approach a State hospital and be given methadone as a substitute free of charge?

(2) Is this drug a recognised substitute which, if administered under supervision, can be used to help sufferers defeat drug habits?

(3) If so, how long does the treatment take?

(4) Can the addicts be forced to remain in hospital or custody until such time as they are cured?

*Answers:—*

(1) To enter a methadone maintenance programme a patient must first be assessed by a psychiatrist and an authority issued by the Director-General of Health and Medical Services. Arrangements may be made through a State hospital for the patient to receive supplies of the drug.

(2) A methadone maintenance programme is widely recognised as a desirable substitute for heroin addicts.

(3) Treatment with methadone is an individual process. The value of such treatment is that it enables the addict to stabilise his social situation, avoid undesirable influences, come to terms with himself and thereby become a useful member of society. When these changes have been achieved it is much easier for the patient to live without drugs. There is no fixed period of treatment and in some cases the maintenance may go on for a considerable time.

(4) It is desirable that addicts be treated in the community and this is generally the case. Where the patient is a danger to himself or others, appropriate measures of control are available.

19. EXTRA STAFF AND FACILITIES FOR HERVEY BAY HOSPITAL

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

(1) What approaches have been made by the Maryborough Hospitals Board to his department for extra staff and facilities at the Hervey Bay Hospital?

(2) If a request for extra staff has been made, when will approval be given for the advertising of the positions?

*Answers:—*

(1) On acceptance by the Maryborough Hospitals Board of a proposal for the construction of a 40-bed nursing home and a new outpatients department at the Hervey Bay Hospital and on representations by the honourable member, approval was given to the hospitals board for the necessary planning to proceed for these facilities. Staffing requirements for the new facilities will be determined as the buildings approach completion.

(2) The hospitals board has sought approval for an additional seven trained nursing shifts per week for the Hervey Bay Hospital. The board is being advised that approval would be given for an additional trained nurse in lieu of an existing position for an untrained nurse. On this basis the board could proceed to fill the additional position for a trained nurse.

20. SAFETY STANDARDS FOR GRANDSTANDS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the collapse of a stand at a football match in Maryborough on 12 September?

(2) Does his department have any regulations concerning the safety standards of such structures?

(3) If not, will he consider introducing regulations concerning safety standards of stands, pavilions, etc., which are used by the public on only a few days each year and fall into disrepair?

*Answer:—*

This is not a matter coming within my Ministerial responsibilities, and I suggest that the honourable member re-direct his question to my colleague the Honourable R. J. Hinze, M.L.A., Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

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

21. CATTLE YARDS, OAKHURST

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

(1) What is the present position regarding the construction of the cattle yards at Oakhurst?

(2) What tenders have been accepted and what tenders remain to be called?

(3) What work has been done and when will the yards be in use?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) Following on strong and extensive representations by the honourable member for Maryborough and his deep concern about the existing cattle-trucking yards being adjacent to the residential area of the city of Maryborough, the relocation of this facility at Oakhurst was approved. The contract for the earthworks was awarded to Byrne Brothers Pty. Ltd., Pialba, for the sum of \$19,111.00, and for the construction of the trucking yards the contract was awarded to Stansbie Investments Pty. Ltd., Roma, for the amount of \$18,233.00.

Earthworks for the cattle-yard siding, the loop extension and the loading bank virtually have been completed by the contractor. With the completion of the contract recently awarded for the construction of the trucking yards, it is hoped to make limited use of the new facilities by the end of December of this year. The work then remaining—the construction of the signal cabin and the provision of the required interlocking—is expected to be completed by June 1977.



22. STRIKES OVER NON-INDUSTRIAL MATTERS

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

(1) Are statistics or estimates available on what workers' strikes on non-industrial matters have added to costs in this country over the last three years?

(2) What would these quite unnecessary costs have added to the Consumer Price Index?

(3) Should strikes on non-industrial matters be outlawed with appropriate legislation to help combat the Communists and other Left-wing socialists and anarchists who are striving to break this country economically and bring anarchy into the streets as well as into industry?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) No accurate statistics or estimates are available on the cost to the country of workers' strikes on non-industrial matters. The Australian Bureau of Statistics bulletin on industrial disputes indicates that during 1973 approximately 133,000 working days were lost through strikes on non-industrial matters or 5.04 per cent of all time lost through industrial disputes; in 1974, 140,000 working days (2.22 per cent); and in 1975, 201,400 working days (5.74 per cent).

The Consumer Price Index is based on the cost of a range of selected items so that it is impossible to apportion the increased cost of items attributable to strikes on non-industrial issues.

I am in agreement with the remarks attributed to Sir Mark Oliphant as reported in yesterday's "Courier-Mail" on the ruthless use of power. The exercise of strike tactics in pursuit of political aims, or to increase the industrial muscle of a union, is unforgivable and quite contrary to the freedoms we cherish.

23. RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AGAINST CREDIT-REPORTING AGENCIES

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

(1) What rights has a private citizen to inspect the list of names at a credit-reporting agency if he is informed that his name has been listed?

(2) Can a person obtain the name of the firm that had him listed if he desires to rectify an injustice against him?

*Answers:—*

(1) A private citizen has no such rights in these circumstances.

(2) Yes. When credit is refused to a consumer for personal, family or household purposes on the basis of a credit report, the user of the credit report must

notify the consumer of the refusal. Within 14 days after receiving advice of such refusal, the consumer can request in writing the user of the credit report to disclose to him the name and address of the credit-reporting agent who or which made the credit report.

24. WATER ALLOCATIONS, ANDERSON MEAT PACKING COMPANY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the article in "The Stanthorpe Border Post" of 5 August headlined "Deadline set for water decision"?

(2) Has any settlement been reached between the Stanthorpe Shire Council and Anderson Meat Packing Company?

(3) As the deadlock between the council and the company over water allocations could cause a serious threat to the employment of meatworkers and loss to the cattle industry, what action does his Government intend to take to settle the dispute and so assist this decentralised industry to continue?

*Answers:—*

(1) Of course my attention has been drawn to the article—by the capable member for Carnarvon, in whose electorate the Anderson Meat Packing Company is established. I am surprised at the honourable member for Bundaberg for having asked the question. He would not know where the Anderson Meat Company was. I have grave doubts as to whether he would even know where Stanthorpe was. But as I say, my attention has been drawn to the article by the member for Carnarvon, who has spoken to me on a number of occasions in relation to this matter. He is concerned for his electors and is trying to get water for the company. I am trying to do it also.

**Mr. Jensen:** He asked me to ask you because he couldn't get a reply from you.

**Mr. HINZE:** The honourable member for Bundaberg wouldn't know where the Anderson Meat Company was, and I doubt whether he knows where Stanthorpe is.

**Mr. Knox:** He doesn't even know where he is himself.

**Mr. HINZE:** He certainly won't know where he is after the next election—from the way I heard it last night.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I warn honourable members that if they continue in this way a few of them won't know where they are. I warn honourable members that I will not tolerate persistent interjections while a Minister is on his feet.

**Mr. Melloy:** He might be on his feet, but he's off the track.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Nudgee that if he continues with persistent interjections I shall have to deal with him.

*Answers (contd.):—*

(2) I understand no settlement has been reached, and the the Anderson Meat Company wrote to the council on 28 August, expressing concern because of council's intention to restrict supply.

(3) The council has indicated that it is not prepared to commit its ratepayers to 40-year loans to finance a water supply augmentation scheme required to satisfy the water supply demands of Anderson's meat-works, without certain financial guarantees from the company.

The council has prepared an augmentation scheme estimated to cost \$516,500 in 1973, and \$700,000 in 1975. The scheme would be capable of supplying 112,000,000 gallons per annum, of which the company would use 75,000,000 gallons. The council has made several propositions to the company to assist in financing the scheme by way of capital contribution or a guaranteed annual contribution to interest and redemption on loans and operating costs. The company has not given any indication of its intentions.

Because of the current dry spell and possible worsening of weather conditions, it appears that the council may have to restrict supply to ensure that the storage and the existing dam will last through the spring and early summer.

I am informed that the council is still anxious to assist the meat industry and reach agreement on arrangements for water supply augmentation. However, this is a matter between the council and the company.

25. IRRIGATION CHANNEL, MONDURAN DAM

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

(1) When will the channel necessary to allow water from the Monduran Dam to be fully used for irrigation in the Bundaberg sugar area be completed?

(2) How much will the channel project cost?

(3) What proportion of the funds will come from (a) the Commonwealth and (b) the State Government?

(4) How much will be spent on the channel project in 1976-77 and what is the breakdown of this funding from the two levels of government?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am unable to indicate when the channel from the Monduran Dam across to the Burnett River will be completed. The completion date will depend entirely upon the availability of funds in future years.

(2) At the start of the current financial year it was estimated that an additional \$7,500,000 would be required to complete the pumping station and channel. Actual expenditure to 30 June 1976 on Monduran Dam, Monduran Dam pumping station and Gin Gin main channel was some \$17,200,000, all of which was from Commonwealth grants.

(3) In regard to the funds required to complete the channel, the Commonwealth Government refused a request for additional financial assistance in the 1976-77 year and it is not possible at this stage to indicate where the funds required will come from. The State Government has requested the Commonwealth to reconsider its decision not to make funds available for this work in the 1976-77 year, but has not had any response in regard to this request. In the light of the Commonwealth Government's previous refusal, it is proposed that up to \$1,200,000 will be able to be provided from the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission's loan allocation for 1976-77 for a continuation of work on the channel. The State will continue to seek Commonwealth assistance to complete the channel, but it is not possible to say what funds, if any, will be made available by them in future years.

(4) Apart from a small carry-over of Commonwealth funds of some \$11,000, all money expended on this project in 1976-77 year will be provided by the State. In addition to funds for Monduran Dam pumping station and Gin Gin main channel, the State will provide an additional \$2,645,000 for area works in the immediate vicinity of Bundaberg, making a total planned expenditure of \$3,845,000 from State funds in the year 1976-77.

26. NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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

(1) What are the projects that are currently listed by the State Government with the Commonwealth for financial assistance under the National Water Resources Development Programme and what is the current estimated cost of each?

(2) How many projects are currently under construction, which are they, what is the extent of the Commonwealth contribution and when will they be completed?

(3) Has the recent Commonwealth Budget cut back the allocation of finance to any of these projects and, if so, to what extent and what effect will the cut have on their construction programmes?

Answers:—

(1) The National Water Resources Development Programme as such was suspended by the former Commonwealth Government early in its period of office. In suspending the programme, the then Prime Minister asked each State to submit a list of urgent water resources projects for which financial assistance to implement was sought. In response to this request, the Government submitted the following projects for consideration. The projects in each of the two categories, rural and urban, are listed in order of priority determined by the State:—

#### RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

##### 1. Bundaberg Irrigation Project

(A) Additional costs Phase 1 (Monduran Dam, Monduran Dam pumping station and Gin Gin main channel).

(B) Phase 2 works.

##### 2. Leslie Dam Stage 2.

##### 3. Burdekin Extension Scheme

(A) Clare Weir and associated development.

(B) Urannah Dam and associated works.

#### URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

##### 1. Karumba water supply.

##### 2. Mount Isa Water Board.

##### 3. Wivenhoe Dam.

##### 4. Advancetown Dam.

##### 5. Gladstone Water Board (Awoonga Dam).

In November 1975 the State requested that additional funds be also made available for the completion of Kinchant Dam, for which a grant of \$5,000,000 was made available during 1973. The same request also sought extra funds to meet additional costs for the Monduran Dam pumping station, the Gin Gin main channel and the Clare Weir.

The latest estimates of cost to complete for the various projects in the rural water supply category are as follows:—

##### (I) Bundaberg Irrigation Project

(A) Additional costs Phase 1—\$7,524,000.

(B) Phase 2 Works—\$49,920,000.

##### (II) Leslie Dam Stage 2—\$4,350,000.

##### (III) Burdekin Extension Scheme

(A) Clare Weir and associated development—\$10,657,000.

(B) Urannah Dam and associated works—\$52,300,000.

##### (IV) Kinchant Dam—\$9,175,000.

(2) Construction is currently in hand on three of the rural water supply projects, namely, Bundaberg Irrigation Project (Monduran Dam pumping station and Gin Gin main channel), Kinchant Dam and

Clare Weir. Completion date on these projects will depend on finance available in the years ahead.

(3) The funds provided in the Commonwealth Government 1976-77 Budget for the Bundaberg project and Kinchant Dam represent the balance of previously approved grants, but are insufficient to make any significant progress on either job. Because of this the State hopes to provide some funds from its own loan allocation to ensure continuity of work on these two schemes. In the case of Clare Weir the funds available also represent the balance of the approved grant, but in this case will ensure reasonable progress on this job during 1976-77.

#### 27. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS OF MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

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

(1) Are details from reports of accidents to which police have been called made available to solicitors, insurance companies, damage assessors and other interested parties and, if so, what information may be released and under what conditions?

(2) Are details from reports of accidents involving (a) State Government departmental vehicles and (b) police vehicles made available under similar conditions and, if not, what are the reasons?

Answers:—

(1) Yes—time, date and location of accident; weather visibility and road conditions; description of vehicles or property involved and estimated value of damage; names and addresses of (a) owners and drivers of vehicles or property, (b) passengers in vehicles, (c) pedestrians involved, (d) persons killed or injured and nature of injury, and (e) witnesses; positions of vehicles or persons prior to accident; versions of driver and/or pedestrians as given to police (version of police as to cause will not be given); and nature of court proceedings against any party involved.

The information is supplied after the payment of a prescribed fee of \$15, either by way of a written extract or as a result of a personal interview. At a personal interview, the person seeking the interview may peruse a plan or photograph which is in the police file and which illustrates some matter of interest in relation to the accident in question. The information is supplied only in respect of traffic accidents occurring on roads, and then only to persons having a bona fide interest after all police action has been finalised.

(2) (a) Yes. (b) No. If this information were supplied to other parties, it would only serve to negate the insurance policy held by the Police Department.

28. NEW WARD BLOCK, MACKAY BASE HOSPITAL

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

As almost \$2,000,000 in loan funds are now available towards an estimated cost of \$8,000,000 for the construction of the new ward block at the Mackay Base Hospital and as it is estimated that the project will take almost 2½ years from the date of calling tenders to completion of construction, can this project now proceed to the stage where tenders can be called?

*Answer:—*

Whilst it is true that the Mackay Hospitals Board has substantial funds on hand for the construction of a new ward block at Mackay, it is essential to ensure that funds can be made available to meet contractual commitments in succeeding years once a contract has been accepted.

Following strong representations by my colleagues the Honourable R. E. Camm, Minister for Mines and Energy, and the Honourable T. G. Newbery, the Minister for Police, an in-depth examination is presently being undertaken of total loan fund commitments for the major hospital capital works programme in an endeavour to permit commencement of this project at the earliest possible date.

29. WOMEN'S SHELTERS, BRISBANE

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

How many homes, refuges or shelters for women operate in Brisbane and which bodies or charities run those institutions?

*Answer:—*

There are seven such institutions operated by church groups and voluntary organisations in the Brisbane area. For obvious reasons, I do not intend to publish the names and addresses of these institutions. However, I would say that there are also alternative State institutions if a problem of accommodation arises.

30. AFTER-HOURS CRISIS SERVICE FOR WOMEN

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

(1) Has an inter-departmental committee been set up to investigate the need for an after-hours crisis service for women and is that committee now functioning?

(2) Which departments are represented on the committee and by whom are they represented?

(3) When will the findings of the committee be made public?

*Answers:—*

(1) No. There is no inter-departmental committee established within my department to investigate the need for an after-hours crisis service for women. A research project is, however, currently being undertaken to investigate the need for an after-hours crisis service for all sections of the community. This research project is being undertaken under the auspices of the inter-departmental committee for welfare within my department.

(2) The representatives of the departments on the committee are as follows:—

Mr. C. L. Johnson, Under Secretary, Department of Community and Welfare Services and Sport, Brisbane.

Mr. F. R. Plummer, Director, Department of Children's Services, Brisbane.

Mr. P. Briody, Director, Special Education Section, Department of Education, Brisbane.

Chief Superintendent D. M. Becker, Police Department, 43 Makerston Street, Brisbane.

Mr. S. F. Hall, Assistant Commissioner of Housing, Queensland Housing Commission, Brisbane.

Mr. J. Burlless, Inspector (Training and Liaison), Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, Brisbane.

Dr. P. Livingstone, Deputy Director-General of Health and Medical Services, Department of Health, Brisbane.

Mr. K. Hamburger, Senior Inspector, Department of the Public Service Board, Brisbane.

Mr. J. Watts, Assistant Under Secretary (Administration), Treasury Department, Brisbane.

Mr. S. Schubert, Deputy Co-ordinator-General, Co-ordinator-General's Department, Brisbane.

Ms A. Quinnell, Acting Secretary, Inter-Departmental Committee for Welfare, Brisbane.

(3) Because of the extent of inquiries required, it is not possible at this stage to give an indication as to when the result of the research project will be made public, but it is anticipated that it will at least be some months before this work is completed.

31. TRAFFIC PROBLEM AT MUSGRAVE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware of the traffic problems being experienced at the Musgrave Hill Primary School and that these problems will be increased with the opening of the pre-school?

(2) Will he have an urgent inspection made by an officer of his department with a view to overcoming this problem and,

if so, will he keep me advised of any recommendations made as a result of the inspection?

*Answers:—*

(1) No. The provision of vehicular parking outside the schoolgrounds is a matter for the local authority.

(2) Departmental officers could be made available for an on-site inspection with council officers.

32. FERAL PIGS

**Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) As the feral pig has become a nuisance within the Thuringowa Shire, what steps may be taken to eradicate it under existing legislation?

(2) If there is no legislation enabling the eradication of this pest, will he take immediate steps to introduce same?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) There is no legislation within my department which enables the eradication or control of feral pigs. This matter is under the control of my colleague the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and I suggest that the honourable member re-direct his question to him.

33. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF TOWNVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) Will he ascertain if the Townsville City Council takes a tape or wire-recording of council meetings and, if so, will he secure, for the information and edification of members, the record of a council meeting held on 13 September at which Aldermen Keeffe and Reynolds made charges and threatened that they intend to organise mass action against two members of this House?

(2) May this tape be handed over to the Privileges Committee for a ruling as to whether this irresponsible action by these aldermen constitutes an attempt to intimidate and silence members of this House?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am informed that it is the practice of the Townsville City Council to tape-record proceedings at meetings of the council.

Under the Local Government Act 1936–1976 the minute book of a local authority is open to inspection for the making of a copy or extract at the office of the local authority at all reasonable times during office hours by any elector of the area

or creditor or any person acting on behalf of an elector or creditor without payment of any fee.

(2) If Aldermen Keeffe and Reynolds are aggrieved, they can take action against anybody through the courts. If, on the other hand, they set out deliberately to obstruct a member of this Parliament in the course of his duties, they could be brought before the Bar of this Parliament or charged. I ask the honourable member to discuss this matter with either Mr. Speaker or the Privileges Committee so that everybody understands clearly that they do not have the right to threaten members of this Parliament acting in the course of their duties.

34. LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT  
RESCISSION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

(1) May the Local Government Department rescind decisions of democratically elected councils?

(2) Have threats been issued to any council that action would be taken under section 4, subsection 5, to rescind its decisions?

(3) On how many occasions has this section and subsection been used to threaten councils or override decisions and which councils were involved?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Local Government Act 1936–1976 contains a provision that the Governor in Council may at any time suspend or rescind any resolution or order of a local authority. This is a reserve power of central government and would be exercised only in very special circumstances.

(2) No.

(3) See Answer to (2).

35. MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON RESERVES  
OF QUEENSLAND MAPLE

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

With reference to Mr. Campbell's statement at the opening of the Queensland Timber Board's annual meeting that Queensland would run out of its valuable maple timber in five years and to statements by Forestry Department officers that there was no chance of natural timber disappearing, will he set the record straight as a large number of officers took this statement as a slur on the Forestry Department's activities?

*Answer:—*

I am not aware of the text of the statement attributed to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer

Affairs, but a Press report on the matter indicated that this was based on information supplied by a Queensland cabinet-maker.

The Department of Forestry has been unable to grow Queensland maple in plantation formation, but relies on natural regeneration, coupled with some enrichment planting, for continuing supply where this species grows naturally in North Queensland.

Tree-marking rules for harvesting and silviculture treatment methods on State Forest areas are specifically designed to increase the sustainable yield of valuable species, of which Queensland maple is the fastest grower. Even so this is, of course, a long-term exercise.

The annual cut of Queensland maple from Crown land in North Queensland has been remarkably constant at about 8 per cent to 10 per cent over the last 10 years, and this species should be available in these quantities indefinitely, provided that State Forests in North Queensland remain available for productive forestry.

36. LABELLING OF FRUIT JUICES AND DRINKS

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

(1) Is he aware of a ruling by the Trade Practices Commission, in relation to fruit juices and fruit-juice drinks which are reconstituted from concentrate, that a product using concentrate which is reconstituted to normal fruit juice standards should indicate quite clearly (not in fine print) on its label and other promotional material that it has been reconstituted and the country of its origin?

(2) In view of the commission's excellent attitude in relation to this question, will he consider amending the Food and Drug Regulations to cover this subject so that there is thereby avoided an unnecessary duplication in this important area?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. The Director of the Trade Practices Commission in Queensland consulted the Director-General of Health and Medical Services on this matter. I understand that the director is of the opinion that the Queensland Food and Drug Regulations regarding this matter are some of the best in Australia.

(2) Amendments to the Food and Drug Regulations of this State are usually made on the recommendation of the National Health and Medical Research Council. I feel sure that that council will be reconsidering the action of the Trade Practices Commission. Should any new recommendation result from the council's consideration, Queensland will examine the recommendation closely with a view to implementing it.

37. SCHOOL DENTAL HEALTH VISITS TO MT. GARNET, RAVENSHOE AND HERBERTON

**Mrs. Kippin**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Since January 1970 how many visits have school dental health teams paid to schools in the towns of Mt. Garnet, Ravenshoe and Herberton?

(2) When were the visits made?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I am advised that school dental officers have visited the Ravenshoe State Primary School during the periods June-July 1972, March 1974 and March-April 1975; the Ravenshoe Convent School during the periods July 1972, March 1974 and March 1975; the Mount Garnet State Primary School during the periods May-June 1972 and October-November 1974; and the Herberton State Primary School during the periods March-May 1972 and November-December 1974.

38. LEGAL REDRESS FOR LOSS OF EARNINGS THROUGH STRIKES

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

(1) In view of lost wages and profits incurred in strikes similar to the Collinsville blackmail, is it possible to introduce legislation to allow those who lose wages, salaries, crops and profits, to issue writs on those strikers who have deliberately and without thought for their fellow workers caused these losses?

(2) If so, will he do everything in his power to introduce this legislation as soon as possible so that the people of this State cannot be held to blackmail like the people of the North have been over the past two weeks by the Collinsville blackmailers?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Sections 70, 71 and 72 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1974 preclude actions against trade unions, including industrial unions, their members and officials for any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the union. However, in 1974 a new section 72A was inserted in the Act whereby the Governor in Council by Order in Council may suspend the operations of the aforesaid sections 70, 71 and 72. An aggrieved person would then be able to commence civil action in tort for damages against unions and union officials.

While I appreciate that most strikes cause loss and inconvenience to the public all efforts to settle disputes by process of conciliation are made before consideration is given to the suspension of the sections mentioned.

The honourable member's question also presupposes that employees who go on strike are completely at fault. This is a matter that would need to be proved in each instance.

### 39. CENTRALISATION OF COUNTRY MEDICAL SERVICES IN BASE HOSPITALS

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

(1) Did a conference of medical superintendents in Charleville recently carry a resolution to the effect that medical officers and facilities be centralised in base hospitals, with all services radiating from the base hospitals to the small country hospitals?

(2) If so, what authority would this conference have with respect to the provision of health services to the country areas of this State?

(3) Is such a decision in line with Government policy?

(4) If not, will he state the true position to allay the fears of many country people that their small country hospitals will be turned into cottage hospitals and that they will lose the services of their resident medical superintendents?

*Answers:—*

(1) No. The relevant resolution recommended the upgrading of quite a number of Western Queensland hospitals. It made no mention of radiation of services.

(2) The conference may make recommendations in relation to provision of health services for consideration by the department.

(3 and 4) Government policy on such matters has not yet been determined.

### 40. UNITED SAVINGS PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

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

(1) Did the United Savings Permanent Building Society for the year ended 30 June 1974 reveal a loss of \$140,779 which was written off against unrealised assets revaluation reserves, when the actual loss exceeded \$169,000?

(2) Did the United Savings Permanent Building Society for the period 1 July 1974 to 16 January 1975, when it merged with Great Australian Permanent Building Society, reveal a loss of \$139,727 which was written off against the unrealised asset account?

(3) Was this society's unrealised asset revaluation yearly increased on only one asset, namely, United Savings House, 117 Queen Street, Brisbane?

(4) At the date of the merger with the Great Australian Permanent Building Society, what was the amount shown as being United Savings unrealised assets and the amount shown in the balance sheet for the value of the land and building located at 117 Queen Street?

(5) For what amount was the asset 117 Queen Street, Brisbane, sold by Great Australian Permanent Building Society and what was the loss between balance sheet figure and the sale figure?

(6) What action has been initiated against all of the directors of United Savings after such obvious mismanagement and skulduggery has occurred?

*Answers:—*

(1) No. The operating profit for the year ended 30 June 1974 was \$99,628. After the payment of dividends amounting to \$241,283 and the carry forward of retained profits of \$876 from previous years, the society's accounts showed a deficit of \$149,779, which was written off against the Asset Revaluation Reserve Account.

(2) Information obtained as a result of a special audit reveals that the society incurred a loss of \$154,453 during the period from 1 July 1974 to 16 January 1975, and that this was written off against the Asset Revaluation Reserve Fund.

(3) Yes. Asset Revaluation Reserve Account was increased yearly on one asset, namely, United Savings House, 117 Queen Street, Brisbane.

(4) This information is not held in the records in the office of the Registrar of Building Societies. From information lodged with the Registrar in connection with the merger, the accounts of United Savings Permanent Building Society as at 30 June 1974 show the balance of Asset Revaluation Reserve Account as \$218,187 and the value of land and buildings at 117 Queen Street, Brisbane as \$875,000.

(5) From information received from the administrator of Great Australian Permanent Building Society, the sale price was \$525,000, which resulted in a loss of \$350,000 between balance sheet figure of \$875,000 as at 30 June 1974 and sale price. However, the honourable member will be aware that the recent amendments to the Building Societies Act prevents societies from applying amounts shown in an Asset Revaluation Reserve Account unless the amount has actually been realised through the sale or disposal of these assets.

(6) The special auditors appointed by the Government in their report on the investigations into the affairs of United Savings Permanent Building Society stated, inter alia, "The general standard of the accounting and records of the society has been acceptable and no evidence of defalcations has been located".

41 and 42. WORLD BY NIGHT  
RESTAURANT

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

What are the names and addresses of the partners or shareholders of the World by Night night-club, Queen Street, Brisbane?

*Answer:—*

According to the records in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the names and addresses of the proprietors of the registered business name, "World by Night" are—

Antonio Bellino—30 Lewisham Street, Annerley;

Wendy Bellino—30 Lewisham Street, Annerley;

Geraldo Bellino—24 Marquis Street, Annerley; and

Densyl Bellino—24 Marquis Street, Annerley.

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

(1) Is the World by Night night-club, Brisbane, a strip club and does full frontal nudity occur there?

(2) Is there a massage parlour in the building and is it associated with the World by Night night-club?

(3) Have the police had occasion to investigate either the World by Night night-club or the massage parlour?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) A massage parlour known as Brisbane Health Centre is situated in the same building as the World by Night Restaurant. I understand that one person has a lease over the space occupied by the restaurant and the parlour but that the parlour is subtle and independently operated.

(3) Members of the Queensland Police Force have regularly visited these premises and court action has been commenced against several persons found in both places.

43. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES  
OF AGE PENSIONERS

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

(1) In view of the confusion and inconvenience experienced by age pensioners regarding vehicle registration and their entitlements for same, will he give consideration to revising the system of registration fees as they apply to pensioners?

(2) In doing so, will he develop a stereotype coverage for all pensioners at a reasonable rate of payment and a much simpler form of identification of these persons?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The registration system is under regular review and I will forward the honourable member's request regarding pension identification to my officers for investigation. Simplification of pensioner registration fees has only recently been completed.

44. CLASSROOMS FOR GLENMORE STATE  
SCHOOL

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

(1) With reference to the urgent need for additional permanent classroom space at Glenmore State Primary School, North Rockhampton, have tenders been called for the construction of four permanent classrooms at the school and, if so, when were tenders called and when do they close?

(2) Is there any requirement on the successful tenderers as to a final construction date?

(3) Can the parents and citizens' association of the school look forward with certainty to having the classrooms functional for the commencement of the 1977 school year?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. Tenders were called on 28 August 1976, and will close on 21 September 1976.

(2) Yes.

(3) A satisfactory tender has first to be obtained.

45. SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC FOR  
BERSERKER STREET STATE  
SCHOOL

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

With reference to an early decision to establish a school dental clinic at the Berserker Street State Primary School, is his department continuing with the plans to establish this clinic and, if so, when will a start be made on construction and when might the facility be in use?

*Answer:—*

I am advised that plans and specifications for the establishment of a school dental clinic in the grounds of the Berserker Street State Primary School have been prepared by the Department of Works.



The time at which the construction of this clinic can commence is dependent on the approval of the Commonwealth Government for the project and on the availability of finance. The honourable member can rest assured, however, that it is the firm intention of the Government to expand this most important dental health care programme within the limits of available finance and manpower resources throughout the whole of the State.

#### 46. TEACHER ACCOMMODATION IN GLADSTONE

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

- (1) Is he aware of the acute shortage of teacher accommodation in Gladstone?
- (2) Will more teacher accommodation be built and, if so, when will a start be made on it?

*Answers:—*

- (1) No.
- (2) Tenders have been invited closing 5 October 1976 for the erection of a residence for teacher accommodation at this centre. A satisfactory tender has first to be obtained.

#### 47. TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR GLADSTONE

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

- (1) As there are 239 apprentices in the Gladstone area at present and as industrial development is anticipated in the area in the near future, will he consider the building of a technical college at Gladstone?
- (2) When could a start be made on the building of a technical college?

*Answers:—*

- (1) Administration of the Apprenticeship Office is not within the ambit of my control.
- (2) There is no provision in my department's draft estimates for such a project.

#### 48. SEPTIC SYSTEM FOR BUILYAN STATE SCHOOL

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

As the Calliope Shire Council plans to install a septic system in the township of Builyan, will a septic system be installed at the Builyan State School?

*Answer:—*

Yes, when funds are available.

#### 49. FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY TO SUNSHINE COAST

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

Will he ensure that a four-lane highway will be built to the Sunshine Coast before more than four lanes are provided to the Gold Coast?

*Answer:—*

The simple answer is that there is no conflict of priorities between the four-lane highway to the Gold Coast and the four-lane highway to the Sunshine Coast. The honourable member would be well aware, of course, that the Burpengary bypass, costing some millions of dollars, has recently been opened. It is proposed to have a further four-lane section open at the end of next year, with work proceeding for a four-lane highway to the Bribie Island turn-off, where about 23 per cent of the traffic turns off.

I accept the honourable member's question in the spirit in which it is asked, because he has to look after his electorate. However, let me say to all honourable members that yesterday I received a deputation from people living in the area between the Kingston turn-off and Beenleigh, which is now referred to as "Death Alley". Someone is killed on that stretch of road every week, and the Government cannot allow that situation to continue. Although it is a four-lane highway, because of the traffic density and the increase in population in the northern part of the Albert Shire (80,000 people now live in the Albert Shire) it is necessary to expend funds on that highway also, and I am saddled with the expenditure of about \$5,000,000 between the end of the South-east Freeway and Beenleigh within the next five years. If that work is not carried out, the Government will be criticised for allowing people to be killed on the State's highways. There is no conflict of priorities.

#### 50. LABELLING OF VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

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

Will he investigate the labelling of veterinary and agricultural chemicals to ensure that the print size is readily readable, as some labels now have fine print making instructions difficult, misleading and dangerous?

*Answer:—*

The Poisons Regulations of 1973 specify various type sizes for the labelling of poisons. No labelling shall be written in bold faced letters with a face depth of less than 1.5 mm. If the honourable

member has any particular label which he would like investigated, departmental officers will be pleased to do so.

51. OPPORTUNITIES FOR APPRENTICES IN STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

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

(1) In view of the concern he has expressed at the lack of apprenticeship opportunities available in Queensland, what were the numbers of apprentices indentured by the various State Government departments during the last five years?

(2) Is it correct that no apprentices have been taken on by the Rockhampton Division of the Main Roads Department for the last seven years and, if not, how many apprentices were indentured during this period?

*Answer:—*

As it is not possible to supply this information immediately, I would ask the honourable member to resubmit his question for next Tuesday, 21 September.

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

52. FUNDING OF KINDERGARTENS

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

(1) Is he aware of the growing concern being expressed by all sections of the community over the future funding of Queensland kindergartens?

(2) As the administration of the Creche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland has said that Government statements relating to kindergartens had left the association with no idea of direction for the future and as the Queensland Director of Pre-school Education has said that he was concerned about the fate of Commonwealth kindergartens, what action has he taken, after consultation with kindergarten authorities and the Commonwealth Government, to resolve the dilemma faced by the many citizens involved in the kindergarten movement?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I would refer the honourable member to the answer which I gave to the question asked by the honourable member for Everton dealing with the uncertainties associated with the funding of community kindergartens by the Commonwealth. The reference to Commonwealth kindergartens made by the honourable member for Rockhampton in his question is apparently based on a misunderstanding. While the Commonwealth has been assisting the

State in the funding of State and community pre-schools, none of them could be in any way termed Commonwealth kindergartens.

53. FUNDING OF URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

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

(1) What is the present position relative to reports that the Commonwealth Government had approved funding for all States and that Queensland's urban public transport programme was not included in the allocations?

(2) Was an application not forthcoming from Queensland for the funds or was the submission inadvertently delayed?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The report was based on a misunderstanding. Queensland has not missed out on Federal funds for urban public transport programmes. It is likely that the honourable member became concerned about a two-paragraph story on page 8 of "The Courier-Mail" of Friday, 10 September. If the honourable member had read "The Courier-Mail" the following day, he would have seen my reply on page 11.

Likewise, the honourable member for Lytton could have saved himself the time and effort of trying to embarrass the State Government on this very matter at Commonwealth Engineering's plant last Monday.

The story in last Friday's "Courier-Mail" was quite misleading to say the least. It resulted from a statement by the Federal Minister for Transport (the Honourable P. Nixon), who was introducing a Bill in Federal Parliament to provide \$20,000,000 to be distributed among the States for escalation costs on approved urban public transport projects. Queensland's share of this \$20,000,000 will be spent on the cross-river rail link and other projects.

The Federal Minister also tabled a document indicating that all the States except Queensland had put forward cases for money to be transferred from previously approved projects to alternative projects. The Queensland Government has announced its plans of implementing the programme of electrification originally agreed to by the Commonwealth and so far has not found it necessary to request the reallocation of Federal funds to other projects.

Let me stress for the benefit of the honourable member for Lytton and other honourable members opposite that our forward planning has been so thorough that we have not had to change our urban public transport projects willy-nilly like the other States.

We know where we are heading in this important field and we are on the right track. Claims that Queensland has missed out on funds or that Queensland has not applied for funds are absolute nonsense.

54. PSYCHIATRIST FOR CAIRNS BASE HOSPITAL

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

With reference to the establishment of a psychiatric unit at Cairns Base Hospital in 1973 and the lack of appointment of a psychiatrist and further to his advice of 29 July, in response to my representations, indicating that the closing date for the position advertised was 16 August, when will the appointment be made and the appointee take up the position?

*Answer:—*

An appointment was made but the applicant has advised that owing to family commitments he cannot accept the position. The position is being readvertised.

55. IMPROVEMENTS TO CAIRNS WATCH-HOUSE

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

(1) Has priority been granted to recommendations for work to be undertaken at the Cairns Police Station for the eradication of vermin in the watch-house cells, including rodents, cockroaches and lice, and the installation of push-button flushing toilets within the cells?

(2) If not, what was the outcome of the deputations of concerned citizens to both the Minister for Police and the Minister for Mines and Energy recently, seeking the necessary attention to the aforementioned and for alterations to be made in the watch-house, including the relocation of the present office, the conversion of extra space for women prisoners' accommodation and the provision of an interview room where people on remand can conduct private conversations?

(3) Has the work been set down for inclusion in the current works programme and, if not, have estimates been prepared and when will the work be approved and commenced?

*Answers:—*

(1) Pest-control measures were carried out by my department earlier this year. Funds are not available for a more recent costly proposal. It is not the practice, for reasons which should be obvious to the the honourable member, to install toilet cisterns of the type mentioned within a cell.

(2 and 3) See (1) re pest control measures. Funds are not available for proposed alterations.

56. CO-ORDINATOR OF MORETON REGION GROWTH STRATEGY INVESTIGATIONS

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

Who is the co-ordinator of the Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigations, what are his formal qualifications and what are the details of the previous positions he has held?

*Answer:—*

It is not clear what was meant by "co-ordinator". The Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigations were generally supervised by a steering committee. This steering committee was supplemented by an advisory committee.

The steering committee was chaired by D. G. Young, Regional Co-ordinator (Southern), Co-ordinator-General's Department. The advisory committee was chaired by Mr. R. Skeates, Director (Planning and Development), Co-ordinator-General's Department.

Mr. Young has engineering and economics degrees from the University of Queensland.

Mr. Skeates has a Bachelor degree in engineering from the University of Queensland, a Masters degree in engineering from the same university, and a Masters degree in engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.

Mr. Young has been Regional Co-ordinator (Southern) in the Co-ordinator-General's Department for about the last three years. Immediately prior to that he was a senior member of Blain, Bremner and Williams, consulting engineers; and previous to that he was Assistant Commissioner, Central Queensland in the Main Roads Department.

Mr. Skeates has been Director (Planning and Development) in the Co-ordinator-General's Department for about the last three years. Before that he was a project engineer with the Asian Development Bank, headquartered in Manila; chief transportation engineer on a United Nations sponsored planning study of Singapore; and previously an engineer in the Main Roads Department.

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

AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

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

"That the Resolution of this House concerning the Australian Constitutional Convention adopted on April 24, 1975 and

altered by Resolutions on September 4, 1975 and March 30, 1976 be further altered by—

(i) deleting from Clause (1) (b) the words 'the Honourable Sir Gordon Chalk, K.B.E., LL.D., M.L.A.,' and the words 'Mr. J. W. Greenwood, M.L.A.,' and inserting therein after the words 'the Honourable W. E. Knox, M.L.A.,' the words 'the Honourable W. D. Lickiss, Q.G.M., M.L.A., the Honourable J. W. Greenwood, M.L.A.,';

(ii) deleting from Clause (3) the words 'Sir Gordon Chalk, K.B.E., LL.D.,' and substituting the words 'W. E. Knox,';

(iii) deleting from Clause (4) the words 'the Honourable W. D. Lickiss, M.L.A.,' and inserting therein after the words 'Mr. W. A. M. Gunn, M.L.A.,' the words 'Mr. T. J. Gygar, M.L.A.,'.

Motion agreed to.

## PORT OF BRISBANE AUTHORITY BILL

### INITIATION

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Tourism and Marine Services): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Port of Brisbane Authority and its powers and functions; to provide for vesting in the Authority of assets and assumption by the Authority of liabilities and obligations, the establishment of a Compensation Reference Tribunal and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

### REFERRAL OF SUB JUDICE RULE

**Mr. AHERN** (Landsborough): I move—

"That the matter of the sub judice rule as it affects statements of members in the House be referred to the Select Committee of Privileges for consideration and report."

Motion agreed to.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE FOOTWEAR, LEATHER AND METAL INDUSTRIES

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.6 p.m.): I enter this debate to raise a matter of grave public concern, namely, the threat of unemployment in the footwear and leather industries and in the

metal industry as a result of State and Federal Government policies. I refer specifically to an Industries Assistance Commission report released last Friday concerning the footwear industry. I refer honourable members to these two paragraphs from section 10, on the effect of recommendations—

"Commencing in the second year, import quotas will be progressively increased. The Commission expects that this will produce a decrease in the size of the industry and a reduction in the number of jobs available. By the end of the scheme the Commission believes that the industry could have decreased by up to one-third of its current size."

That is virtually a recommendation to reduce the footwear industry in Australia to one-third of its current size. There is also another recommendation to reduce the number of jobs available by 1,150 a year for six years. The commission referred to some increase in the volume of imports and then said—

"The commission does not expect that this change will have any significant effect on the size of the industry although it is possible that some manufacturers will anticipate further reductions in the domestic industry and elect to leave."

That is a major threat to a number of footwear manufacturers in Queensland.

I see that the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs is laughing. I am sorry about that. Many people in this State will lose their jobs if this recommendation is put into effect. I know that in the past the Minister has expressed concern about tariff protection and decisions by the Whitlam Government.

In the past few days the Prime Minister of Australia has made statements about ASEAN pressure on him to change his attitude to tariffs. He said that while he was standing by his current decisions, he would be prepared to move in the future. If he does move on this report, I suggest that Thomas Dixon, M.B. Footwear, Bana Marcia, Vital Footwear, Orchard Footwear and many, many others could all be adversely affected. If that takes place, many hundreds of Queensland men and women in the footwear industry will be out of jobs. In addition, tannery employees employed in Donald Dixon's tannery, and others who make shoe boxes and shoe components such as soles, fillings and textiles for shoes will be affected. I am told that 30,000 to 35,000 people are associated with the footwear industry, although only 15,000 work in shoe-manufacturing establishments. People who work in leather and other trades increase the total to 35,000.

The report suggests that 1,150 persons a year, for the next six years, will lose their jobs. For the benefit of those honourable members who like to talk about the past, I

point out that the report states that the highest number of retrenchments in one year in the footwear industry took place in 1972, which was before Mr. Whitlam came onto the scene, so we cannot blame him for that. The main point is that we should not act on the I.A.C. report. We must protect our own workers. We should put Australians first.

The other day the Federal Minister for Consumer Affairs told retailers in Australia to get out and sell. Anyone wandering through the footwear sections of big department stores today will see that most of the shoes are made in Taiwan, Japan and other Asian countries—the cheap labour countries. It is useless for Government members to blame anybody else. The Government has been in power for a long time. Very little notice is taken of the slogan “Buy Queensland Made”, although the campaign is still current.

The “Buy Queensland Made” campaign reminds me of the situation at Commonwealth Engineering. This morning, the Minister for Transport, in reply to a question, referred to my statements on this matter. That engineering shop is recognised by the Minister’s department as an excellent shop. The management has said that the present work-force is the best the company has ever had. Obviously the company’s tenders have been good because on the last occasion it tendered for a job it was nearly \$1,000,000 below the other tenders.

Management has told the staff that the 308 employees will be reduced to 167 by Christmas. The 34 employees in press shop E7 will be reduced to nil by Christmas and the 35 employees in shop E4 will be reduced to one. These men do not want to be on the dole. In the words of their boss, they are the best work-force he has ever had. Some of them have been there for 23 years. They are worried about their future. They want public money spent on jobs; they do not want the dole. Further, the 96 boiler-makers at this works will be reduced to 38 in December. The last available figures (as at 30 July) indicate that 172 Queensland boiler-makers were out of work, and that only 22 jobs were available. In Brisbane 74 were out of work, with two jobs available. No wonder they are worried—no wonder they want action, not words.

The Minister for Industrial Development suggests that we ought to make them gypsies; that we ought to shift them from one town to another, sell them up and move them around. He suggests that every time there is a new job, we shift them off until they finish that job. Then we sell them up again and shift them somewhere else. That is not my idea of how the problem should be handled.

This applies not just to Commonwealth Engineering. At Bradford Kendall 16 employees—11 ironworkers and five moulders—were retrenched in the last two months.

At Clyde Engineering nine men were dismissed two months ago.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** Clyde Engineering has plenty of work.

**Mr. BURNS:** Only until about November or December. That is not very far off.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** They are O.K.

**Mr. BURNS:** We will accept the Minister’s assurance that they have plenty of work. So let us worry about Commonwealth Engineering. It made an offer to the Minister to reduce the price on its last quote—

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** No, it didn’t.

**Mr. BURNS:** It told the men on the job that it had done this. If the Minister denies it, then I accept that denial that it has not offered to reduce the price.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** I have not heard from Commonwealth Engineering.

**Mr. BURNS:** It must have been said to the Commissioner for Railways.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** It might have been to the department.

**Mr. BURNS:** If the Minister is dodging around the issue—

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** I am not dodging around it.

**Mr. BURNS:** The Minister is the person responsible. Commonwealth Engineering says it has made an offer to the Railway Department to reduce the price on 50 QLX wagons and 100 GO wagons and to build them now, with no payment expected until July next year and no interest charges.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** That is nothing new. That is done all the time.

**Mr. BURNS:** It is making the offer now to keep the men in their jobs. The railways always need wagons.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. BURNS:** The Minister can make his own 10-minute contribution later on. I have only about a minute left.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** Do you want me to go outside the tendering system?

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

**Mr. BURNS:** Could I just have the opportunity to make my own submission in my last minute or two, and then the Minister can make his?

The engineering workshops also suffer from the threat of imports. The Minister himself knows that when the electrification scheme tenders were called—and they will close in November this year—the department invited people from India, Sweden and from all around the world—

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** I rise to a point of order. Tenders have been called in Australia, but not outside Australia.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I would ask the honourable gentleman to accept that denial.

**Mr. BURNS:** I accept the denial.

I turn to G.E.C., where 47 men were sacked this week. They were given a week's wages and sent home. They were sent home because the company has no orders. I am told by workers at G.E.C. that switch gear is coming in from India, transformers from South Africa and electric motors from Japan and Taiwan while our people are being sacked. We could help them, through the Railway Department again, with tenders for track-side substations and booster units for the rail electrification. It could be done if the Government wanted to do it.

I believe that the new Fraser federalism has ended up as dole conscription. Today this Fraser Federal Government is importing unemployment through tariff reductions—importing foreign equipment and exporting our employment to Japan in the building of ships. Let Liberal and National members get out and explain to the Australians at G.E.C. who lost their jobs on Monday (while cheap foreign goods are pouring in) how Tory federalism works. Tell it to the young school-leavers who plan to be apprentices. Tell it to the young school-leavers who wanted jobs in the Federal Public Service that have been cut out by Fraser. Tell it to the shipyard workers who are confronted with the sack while ships are going to be built overseas. Explain to them what is being done.

**Mr. Campbell** interjected.

**Mr. BURNS:** And here is the Minister for Industrial Development interjecting! He bumbled along yesterday trying to explain a scheme, which he takes credit for, to shift our workers out of country towns into the cities, away from their own areas—to sell up their houses and turn them into gypsy-like persons, moving around from job to job, selling their homes, and moving from town to town. That is his scheme. Yesterday he accepted the credit for it, and he will have to live with it, because I do not think the work-force will accept it. They want jobs—not dole. They want action—not short-term palliatives.

The Minister is doing nothing at all about the problems that face us. Six out of 10 school-leavers will be in the dole queues. They are figures produced by his Federal colleagues. What we are getting from Fraser at present is a system to change the way we publish the numbers of people out of work. We are only going to get raw figures now. We are not going to get seasonally adjusted figures. Why? Is this the way to face the problem of people and their jobs—of kids out of work and of people who are losing their jobs? Men who have spent 23 years at Commonwealth Engineering and served the industry well want to work. They

are not dole bludgers. They are not interested in losing their jobs. Falsifying the figures won't help.

(Time expired.)

#### WOMEN'S SHELTERS

**Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (12.15 p.m.):** I wish to speak today on a matter of vital interest to the whole State and one which is of serious interest to the people in my electorate. I refer to the matter of women's refuges or shelters, as well as shelters for women and their children. I am particularly concerned about this problem because Woodridge and Kingston are in my electorate and a great deal of business comes to the shelters in Brisbane from that area, together with Inala.

In this day and age there should be no discussion on whether shelters are necessary, although occasionally I detect an element of reactionary opposition, particularly from uninformed pockets of the Far Right Wing in this society. Of course, in this Chamber, there has been a great deal of trenchant criticism of women's shelters and I do not intend to defend them today.

However, the incidence of child-battering is severely on the increase. I am extremely worried about it particularly as pressures in society are increasing, and the greatest pressure of all, I believe, is unemployment. No matter what anyone says, unemployment is of great consequence to women because when husbands are unemployed, the pressures upon women are even greater.

The reasons for child-battering are many and varied and I do not intend to go into them today. However, I am concerned that when people desert the family home—and I am talking particularly about women who are forced to—the greatest pressures are on them. Physical abuse is not all that they suffer.

In many cases, of course, they are emotionally deprived, too. I have become annoyed with certain people who say that marriages should be kept intact at any cost. I do not hold with that view at all. I am not downing social workers; they do a wonderful job. But I have seen women who have been beaten severely. They have had lengths of skin stripped from them; they have been bleeding, and they have had portions of their anatomy deformed severely. Some of those women have been advised to stay within the family home. I believe that the doctor who attended them should have immediately initiated, or helped the women to initiate, charges against their husbands or the men with whom they were living and should have said, "Don't go back to the family home; it is obviously unsafe for you."

This morning I asked a question of the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and he assured me that there is enough

accommodation in the seven refuges available in Brisbane for battered wives and children. In fact, I personally know of and have visited quite a few homes that are running a wonderful service.

Child endowment is now in the hands of women. In some families, it is a considerable amount of money. I do hope that many women are now making adequate use of their child endowment by at least putting away a few dollars a week for themselves, because in many cases the women who desert have absolutely no money—not a single cent. I find extremely indictable the actions of the husbands to whom they are in tow, because those men should have seen to it that these women had at least a few dollars.

To me, it is an extreme consequence of societal breakdown that in so many families the men can afford their beer, investments in the soccer pools and whatever, but the women, as I read in this morning's paper, are going without their basic daily necessities to feed their families, and that should not be so. On behalf of all women, I thank the Federal Government for placing child endowment in the hands of women.

Of course, voluntarily funded and manned shelters are the best of all, because the women who run them are extremely dedicated. The particular shelter to which I wish to refer today is Women's Shelter, which is run by the Community Aid Association. The trenchant criticism of that shelter has been most obvious in this House over the past few weeks. I do not intend to defend that shelter. I realise that it is run by a group of women who have at least tried to do something. No matter what anyone may say, they have not sat back on their derrières and let the world go by while other women sip tea and make decisions on nothing of any consequence at all, which is what a lot of conservative groups do; there is no doubt about that; neither they nor the so-called Marxist women do anything.

Last year, Women's Shelter received \$60,000 from the previous Federal Government. That amount was expended largely on wages. I was forced to agree with the cessation of certain fundings on grounds to which I shall refer. I realise that that shelter has been criticised because it is a hot-bed of Marxist women, a lurid enclave of lesbians or whatever. As I said before, at least they have tried to do something. However, in such an organisation books must be kept in which all expenditure is shown. Money should not be funnelled off by the workers there, who are largely untrained. It is as simple as that.

The days must also be structured for the women who go there. When I visited this shelter I saw women who unfortunately did not seem to be occupied. I believe that women who go to women's shelters should be asked to do small tasks such as cleaning

the bath, sweeping the floor or mowing the lawn, because work is occasionally a panacea for emotional pain.

I also believe that women who go to shelters should in fact be asked to pay a small amount if they are able to do so. I read in the Press last week that those concerned with this shelter feel that a price cannot be put on their services and therefore they should not ask women to pay for them. What rubbish! If a woman can afford to smoke, with cigarettes costing about 80c a packet, she can jolly well afford to contribute towards the cost of food in the shelter. I believe that smoking and drinking should be the last items of expenditure for women who are in a serious emotional crisis.

I also think that days in women's shelters should be quite severely structured. There should be no time for sitting round thinking and chewing fingernails. The women in such places have to be organised. They have to be kept moving and they have to be made to help themselves. That is the only solution to their problems. When a woman is told, "We are going to organise your life for you. First, you need a Housing Commission home. Then you need to see a doctor and then a solicitor" and is then trundled all over the city, she never gets out of the sloppy depression in which she never does anything for herself. To my mind one of the greatest ills in our society is the way some people say to others, women in particular, "We are going to run your lives for you." Women must be told to take responsibility for their own actions, and that includes the responsibility of rearing their children, on their own if necessary.

I can make many comparisons with women's shelters in Sydney and Melbourne. They are structured in their operations and the funds that go into them are well spent. The women there are extremely organised and volunteers work on a rotating daily basis. They have trained staff, social workers and female doctors.

While I was speaking recently with Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, she intimated to me that there might be further funding of the women's shelter under the Homeless Persons' Assistance Program. I believe she is considering incorporating the various fundings of her department and the Health Department in one Act. I point out that her department seems at last to have come to its senses and now realises that many homeless people are women. It now seems to appreciate that not all homeless people are alcoholic men who roll round the streets of South Brisbane and similar areas. I have seen in Brisbane many homeless Aboriginal women who have nowhere to go for short-term accommodation.

If the Federal Government is considering further funding of women's shelters it will have to look very carefully at the specific shelter to which I have been referring. I do not believe that any more money should

be put into that shelter; it is not run in a proper manner. I believe that voluntary groups, along with charitable organisations, are the only ones that should be allowed to staff women's shelters. Because of their dedication, they are the ones to whom money should be made available.

#### RAIL FREIGHTS FOR GRAIN

**Mr. ELLIOTT** (Cunningham) (12.24 p.m.): Following Press statements last week that the State Government was considering increasing rail freights by 13 per cent, I wish to bring certain facts to the notice of the public in relation to promises made by the then Treasurer and the Premier on behalf of this Government. At that time the Government regarded the 40 per cent increase as justifiable and both the Treasurer and Premier told deputations that there would be no reduction; but at those deputations led by Sir Leslie Price and Mr. Don Eather, both the Treasurer and the Premier indicated that, should the export price of A.S.W. wheat drop significantly, then the Government would give consideration to a reduction in grain freight rates.

What is the position today regarding the price of A.S.W. wheat? At the time of last year's Budget the export price for A.S.W. wheat was \$131 a tonne. Today it is \$102 a tonne, a decrease in value of 22.2 per cent. So surely if any consideration is to be given to freight rates, the only course of action which could be justified would be a slight reduction, and I therefore urge the Government to stand by its word and keep faith with the industry. Otherwise we will be seen as a Government which says something and then turns round and breaks its word.

While on this subject, let us have a very close look at some of the arguments that are put forward on rail freights. If we increase rail freights, we will see an increase in the already apparent trend towards the further use of road transport for the cartage of grain to export terminals. I refer honourable members to what is occurring right at this moment. The Wheat Board is moving grain from Boggabilla, which is just over the border, through to Pinkenba. The cost to the Wheat Board to move that grain is \$15 a tonne. The cost of rail freight from the border is just slightly over \$12 a tonne. In addition to that we have the cost of handling in the terminal and the cost of moving that wheat from on farm or from one of the three or four big storage terminals around the Boggabilla area. With all these factors, the over-all cost of landing wheat from that area at Pinkenba is around \$18 a tonne. I put it to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is obviously not economical to move wheat by rail under those circumstances, and so any freight increase we as a Government impose upon this industry will only further aggravate the position and result in more and more big trucks using the roads between the border and Pinkenba, which will cause even further damage to our

roads and result in further congestion to our road system. This is occurring while we are trying to overcome these problems.

I would also remind honourable members that in this year's Budget we are committed to a further one-third reduction in road permit fees, which will further increase the competitiveness of the road transport industry. So for goodness sake, do not let us cut off our nose to spite our face in handling this problem. If we do not look very seriously at the problem of grain freight rates we will only create further problems for ourselves as a Government. I therefore urge the Government to take a serious look at the situation and weigh up the facts.

I should also mention the argument used in the past by Sir Gordon Chalk that there has been tremendous capital outlay by the Railway Department on facilities for an industry that uses them only over a limited harvest period. That argument held water back in the late 1950s, when the only grain crop of any significance grown in Queensland was wheat. It is no longer true today, when sorghum is carted right through from February into the late winter and early spring, oil seeds are carted through the same period and wheat carting from the outer areas begins in October and continues through to February and March. Rail facilities are now utilised for virtually the whole year.

I stress that growers are levied through the Wheat Board to meet the costs of storages built throughout the State. There must not be any confusion about who pays for them. The wheat growers and the grain growers of Queensland pay for them, and they have expended a tremendous amount of capital in order to make use of rail facilities. If growers are pushed away from using them, an industry that has, of its own initiative, made additional practical use of Government facilities will be penalised.

I urge the Government to consider the position very carefully to avoid anything foolish being done, and I feel perfectly justified in demanding from it a statement on this matter before the Budget is brought down. I await a prompt response from the Treasurer.

#### THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE PEACEFULLY

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (12.32 p.m.): The matter of public importance that I desire to raise today is the right of people to demonstrate, and to demonstrate peacefully.

Let me say at the outset that I do not believe in people using protest as an excuse for violence. That, of course, ruins the democratic rights of others. For example, if the honourable member for Murrumba were to throw a stone through a window, spit on a policeman, or kick an old lady's dog, he would be charged—and rightly so. People just do not condone violence. But, at the same time, young women should be



able to seek better educational allowances without being belted with a police baton and left with no right of inquiry.

Throughout the history of English common law, from that great charter of freedom the Magna Carta of 1215 to the present-day Universal Declaration of Human Rights (of which Australia is a co-signatory), the rights of citizens to free speech and association have been guaranteed. However, here in Queensland we find that these rights are flouted, violated and laid waste by a Government that adopts two standards of justice—one for corporate criminals, white-collar crooks and its friends, and another for students and its political opponents. If anyone dares to defy the Premier and speak his mind, he is immediately slapped down. This applies not only to law-respecting citizens who differ with the Liberal-National Parties but also to Government officials, and even to Cabinet Ministers. It is not justice according to evidence; it is justice according to Bjelke-Petersen. In Queensland today, if one disagrees with the Premier, one can expect the sack, job intimidation or a smack over the head with a police baton.

Over the last month, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have witnessed such an incident. On 3 August of this year the Premier rode roughshod over well-established principles of justice and squashed a police inquiry into the brutal bashing of a little girl who only wanted to exercise her right of free speech.

**Mr. Hartwig:** Terrible!

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** Of course it is terrible. It is a shocking indictment of the Government.

**Mr. Hartwig** interjected.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** What I am saying is quite true. As a matter of fact, the incident was seen on national television by the people of Australia. One could almost feel the thud as the baton wielded by Police Inspector Mark Dougall Beattie crashed down with sickening force on that poor young woman's head.

As far as I am concerned, Inspector Beattie acted like a uniformed thug. He was reported in "The Courier-Mail" as explaining that he only wanted to deliver a glancing blow to the girl's knuckles. If that were so the girl must have been deformed. To deliver such a blow he would have had to use a horizontal stroke, whereas in the incident depicted on TV he used a vertical stroke, hitting the girl over the head. His action is a shocking indictment of this Government as well as of a certain element in the Queensland Police Force.

**Mr. Aikens** interjected.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I have only a few more minutes left, and I don't propose to take any interjections, particularly ones coming from a senile old man from Townsville South.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I think I should give the protection of the Chair to the member for Townsville South. The member for Archfield will withdraw that statement.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I withdraw the statement.

If any young man in Queensland today has a predilection towards violence or sadism, he should join the Queensland Police Force. He would then be able to dong demonstrators and hit hippies with impunity. As a matter of fact, if he did the job properly, he would probably be given a commendation by the Premier.

An illustrious person—none other than Professor Zelman Cowen, the Vice-Chancellor of the Queensland University—sought an inquiry into this matter, and his request was acceded to by the Minister for Police and the Police Commissioner. But what happened then? The Premier stepped in, without having seen the incident depicted on television and without having listened to the evidence, and smothered the inquiry. The then Minister for Police was sacked and the Commissioner of Police was similarly threatened with dismissal if he did not toe the Bjelke-Petersen line.

I should like to place in "Hansard" my appreciation of the efforts of the previous Minister for Police, Mr. Max Hodges, who, during the seven years in which he occupied that portfolio, showed that he is the best Police Minister this State has had since 1957. At least he made some attempt to try to clean up the corruption that exists at the present time in the Queensland Police Force.

**Mr. Marginson:** He wasn't a stooge for the Premier.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That is true, and of course that is the reason why he was sacked.

The Premier, by his actions, has violated the independence of the special and ancient office of the constabulary, he has destroyed the authority of the Commissioner of Police and reduced the Minister for Police to the position of nothing more than a rubber stamp.

I might add that a well-known Liberal Party lawyer and a Tory of long standing, Dr. Paul Gerber, appeared on the national broadcasting system as denouncing the legality of the Premier's action.

It is a well-established and sound principle of our system of justice and a tradition that is supported by all political parties in this State, that the results of investigations conducted by police are to be decided on the merits of the case, without political and other pressure. But what has happened? The Premier, by his actions, is treading the dangerous road towards Fascism in this State. I make no apology for saying that. He has set himself up as the godfather of the law-and-order system in this State. He

has taken unto himself the right to decide whether or not a complaint exists in relation to police activities and also whether any such complaint shall be investigated. It will be a shocking miscarriage of justice if this practice is allowed to continue. He has already shown that the basis for such decisions will be his own party-political prejudices rather than evidence and justice.

To his credit, the then Minister for Police publicly disapproved. And we all know what happened to him. To put it colloquially, he got the "big A".

**Mr. Moore:** What does that mean?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** Work it out for yourself.

The same thing will happen to his successor. I am pleased to see him sitting in the Chamber, because I want to warn him that if he attempts to go against the Premier or dares to attempt to exert the authority of his office, he, too, will be sacked.

Section 6 (1) of the Police Act 1937-1971 vests the superintendence of the Police Force in the commissioner, subject to the Minister. Under section 14 of the Act the commissioner is charged (as are all police) under solemn oath to discharge to the best of his power and to the best of his skill and knowledge all his duties legally imposed, without favour or affection, malice or ill-will. What a farce!

I remind the House of what happened during the Cabinet meeting after this bashing occurred. What was the then Attorney-General doing? Nothing! One newspaper report indicated that the then Minister for Justice, Mr. Knox, intervened saying, "It's not much good going any further if that is what it is going to be," to which the Premier replied, in effect, "Yes, that's what it's going to be," and called for next business. What a lovely democratic gentleman our Premier is; what a devout Christian! He's a hypocrite.

Our Premier voiced no objection when a group of dairy farmers recently blocked the streets of Sydney in protest against the milk quotas implemented by the Wran Labor Government. Likewise, he was silent in March 1974 when farmers in Western Australia pelted the then Labor Prime Minister (Gough Whitlam) with sandwiches, drink cans, tomatoes, pies and eggs. Incidentally, the honourable members for Albert and Ipswich West led demonstrations at that time, but nothing was said about them. It was quite O.K. then as it was against a Labor Government. The Minister for Local Government—the Gold Coast's Idi Amin (Mr. Russ Hinze)—when speaking in the House about that time supported the demonstrators. That indicates the Government's extreme double standards.

**Mr. HALES:** I rise to a point of order. A few moments ago I was spoken about callously. It was alleged that I led a

demonstration. I have never led a demonstration. I ask the honourable member for Archerfield to retract his statement.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt):** Order! The honourable member with withdraw the statement.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I withdraw it.

So far as the Premier is concerned, a student seeking better education conditions is liable to a belt over the skull. But it is O.K. to threaten violence against the Prime Minister—as long as he is a Labor Prime Minister. The Premier has conferred on the police a licence for brutality against anyone who opposes the Liberal and National Parties—a licence to engage in brutality without fear of an inquiry. I do not see the Minister for Police taking a point of order to deny what I am saying. He knows that it is true.

More and more Queenslanders are becoming fearful of the Premier's extremism. They are becoming afraid of the extremes to which he will resort to force his eccentric, "League of Rights tainted" political views on the public.

A ludicrous situation exists in respect of the desires expressed by the owner of the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary.

(Time expired.)

#### UNCONTROLLED USE OF PESTICIDES

**Mr. HARTWIG (Callide) (12.42 p.m.):** I wish to speak about the very important problem caused by pesticides and toxic chemicals being used by unqualified people in Queensland and Australia who are virtually murderers in their own right. I am concerned particularly about the reporting of inaccurate and/or misleading statements made by unqualified people relative to the use of toxic chemicals.

The term "pesticides" includes insecticides, fungicides, and weedicides, which are necessary for agricultural production. Pesticides are equally toxic chemicals; if they were not they would not kill the pest organism that they are designed to control. The problem with pesticides lies clearly in evaluating the hazards that they present. Most problems arising from their use can be attributed to their misuse. The real problem today lies in the fact that little, if any, control is exercised over the use (and frequently unauthorised use) of legally registered materials.

Queenslanders are being killed slowly by poisonous insecticides such as DDT and other materials which, according to a report to hand, are cancerous. A recent survey revealed that substantial levels of pesticides are present in the blood of many Queensland people. The exact effect of pesticides is unknown, but experiments with strains of rats and mice show that pesticides could cause tumours and have other serious effects

on the human brain and liver. The use of "1080" is tremendously dangerous. It is a poison that has no smell or taste and no known antidote. I was told the other day about a man who keeps a bottle of it in his refrigerator.

I move now to give a special warning on phostoxene. Five years ago my son, aged 19, entered a silo as a very strong, healthy lad. Four days later he passed away. The only defect found on autopsy was that his lung cells had collapsed. He entered a silo that had been sprayed by an unauthorised person—a careless, bloody murderer; that's all he was. He did not put any sign on the door to indicate that nobody was to enter the silo for from five to 10 days. I found out later that he used the phostoxene gas at double strength. The tree under which this poisonous gas was mixed died within a week. As I said, regrettably my son passed away four days after being in that silo. That is the sort of practice that is allowed in our State and our nation—unqualified people using dangerous materials.

What can we do about it? Before anyone else is killed, I suggest that all pesticides must be classified as general-use or restricted-use material. Classification into these categories should be on the basis of the hazard a particular pesticide presents to the farmer, the consumer or the environment. Let it be made unlawful to make restricted-use pesticides available to anyone not certified in their use, or to use pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labelling.

As a minimum requirement for certification, a private applicator must show that he possesses a practical knowledge of the pest problems and the pest-control practices associated with agricultural operation, the proper storage, use, handling and disposal of the pesticides and containers, and his related legal liability—and let us not forget that.

Advice that I received is that the gas phostoxene is a World War I gas and should never have been allowed to be used by any operator; yet people are entering properties and using it!

I wish to relate to honourable members two major points of United States law which are of relevance to Queensland and, indeed, to Australia—

"(1) In order to achieve certification, farmers should have to study basic pesticide theory and practice relative to their operation and pass a test of competency; and

"(2) Restricted pesticides can be purchased by certified applicators only, and no pesticide can be used by a person or persons not certified to use these hidden, murderous, toxic materials."

The threat of poisons and insecticides is not made fully known to the users or to the people who are employed by pest control

firms, which are allowed to run riot throughout the State. They enter people's homes and spray and dust toxic materials all over the place—in cupboards, next to foodstuffs and into silos. They are not required by any law to show that a building that has been treated should not be entered; that people should keep out or their lives will be endangered.

I draw to the attention not only of this House but also of the people of Queensland the dangers inherent in these toxic materials being in the hands of unqualified people—people not legally responsible for the rights and lives of other human beings.

#### INQUIRY INTO NORTH QUEENSLAND DRUG SCENE

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (12.49 p.m.): I rise today to demand on behalf of all decent, law-abiding citizens of North Queensland a complete and full inquiry into the rotten, putrid, grasping drug scene that has operated there for some time. I do not want an inquiry just into Cedar Bay, because that is a matter that is sub judice and is only peanuts. I want an inquiry on behalf of the people of North Queensland into the whole of the putrid drug scene there and the graft and corruption that is connected with it. Those who are in the graft and corruption associated with the North Queensland drug scene are very prominent members of the A.L.P., and I will list some of them as I proceed.

There is a huge pay-off by the people who handle drugs—those who take it there, peddle it, sell it and smoke it. It is no trouble for anyone who is heavily fined for anything connected with drugs to have his fine paid. It is paid by someone else, and paid in cash—no questions asked. If heavy bail requirements are imposed—sometimes amounting to \$1,000—the offender doesn't have to worry, because someone—a mysterious person, usually an A.L.P. man—comes and pays the bail money in cash.

Blackmail is practised. Quite recently in North Queensland a drug case was being heard by the court. Believe it or not, some prominent members of the A.L.P. in North Queensland were in the court. Three of them were barristers-at-law and one was the district secretary of the Queensland Teachers' Union (John Rockett). They were chicking and carrying on like louts at a street corner meeting.

Every time the prosecutor tried to put his case, these louts—the barristers and John Rockett—kept booing and hissing and cat-calling. It is amazing to me that the magistrate did not fine them or punish them in some other way for contempt of court, or that he did not close the court instead of repeatedly asking them to be quiet. Yet, when the barrister representing the drug offenders put his case, the barristers, Rockett and the rest of them were as silent as mice.

This sort of blackmail, graft and corruption is rampant in North Queensland and is closely associated with the A.L.P.

John Rockett is the northern secretary of the Queensland Teachers' Union. He is joining with his blood brother (Mr. Ray Costello) in all of the fanfare of publicity for the reinstatement of three teachers who were dismissed by the Education Department after having been fined in the Magistrates Court for drug offences. John Rockett is so prominent in the A.L.P. that he ran twice under the A.L.P. banner for the Federal seat of Herbert against Duke Bonnett. Of course he was defeated on each occasion. Rockett, together with Costello and a fellow they have up from Sydney, is advocating the reinstatement of the three teachers.

Those teachers were in Charters Towers. Each week-end they went to a dirty, squalid shack behind the incinerator. At Charters Towers the incinerator burns human excrement. That indicates the type of locality where the shack is. They took other people from Charters Towers with them. Each week-end they had a pot party and whatever else they cared to indulge in, until finally the residents of Charters Towers got tired of it, said something to the police and the police raided them.

They were brought before the magistrate and fined. One of them bolted back to the United States whence he came. The other two are being paraded by Rockett, Costello, the A.L.P., the A.B.C. and everyone else as paragons of virtue—simple children who made an honest little mistake.

The people are being told that the teachers should not be punished twice for the one offence. They are not. It would be just as ridiculous to say that about an employer if an employee took an action against him and had him fined or punished by the court and then he said to the employer, "I don't consider that you are a suitable person for me to work for, so I am leaving your employment."

The mere fact that the Education Department has said—and said quite rightly—that these men are not fit to be employed in the department or to be associated with young children provides no reason and no argument. The only argument put up is the specious, futile one that has been hawked around by the Queensland Teachers' Union, the A.B.C. and people connected with the A.L.P.

I want this inquiry conducted by the Fraud Squad of the C.I.B. because its members know all of the duckings and divings that can be indulged in, in the passage of money. They have had experience of it. Money is being passed by the pedlars of drugs, who are the men with thousands of dollars to pay fines, bail and expenses. Money is being passed from the drug pushers and pedlars to the A.L.P. I understand that the pay-off man is in Cairns and that he was

an alderman on the Cairns City Council until the last election. Those are allegations that have been made to me by reputable and responsible citizens. I want this problem cleaned up in one huge inquiry into the drug racket and drug scene in Queensland.

While the members of C.I.B. are on the job they may care to investigate a man named Doyle who is on the staff of the A.B.C. Let them investigate Doyle and let Parliament have his record, if he has one. Let us see what type of men are employed by the A.B.C. in order to build up all these cases against the Government and lawful authority in the drug scene.

One of the most significant aspects of the whole problem is that drug-taking is rife at universities. The position at the James Cook University may not be as bad as it is at the University of Queensland or some universities in the South, but there are drugs of all types to be picked up at the James Cook University by the person who knows his way about. Is it not more than a coincidence that when there is agitation by the A.L.P., the first people to march for them in the streets are from the universities? This morning the honourable member for Archerfield wept great tears over a poor little girl who was hit on the scone by a policeman's baton. She should have been given a kick in the seat as well. The honourable member for Archerfield believes that law and order is only for university students and drug takers, who unlawfully march down the streets and take charge of everything they think they should control. They mistake licence for liberty and, according to the honourable member, they should get away with it.

The drug situation in North Queensland is very serious. I repeat that graft and corruption are rampant. Unlimited money is available for drug pushers and drug takers. If they appear before the court, all their bails, fines and expenses are paid. Everything—even air fares—is paid for them. Surely to goodness we should turn our attention to places other than Cedar Bay, although there are things in connection with that raid with which I do not agree. But such incidents are only minor; they are only the froth on the top of the barrel. They are no more than peanuts. Let us get at the big men who are running the show in the North. They are planting hundreds of acres of cannabis. They are importing it from the South by trucks and they are bringing it in from the East. This is all going to the beaches of North Queensland. Of course, no money can be made from it unless there is a pedlar, a seller and a buyer. There are all those elements in North Queensland.

I suggest that this Parliament should immediately ask or, if necessary, force the Government to start a major inquiry into the drug scene in North Queensland. Let it be started with a detailed investigation by the top men in the Drug Squad of the Criminal Investigation Branch. Let them

investigate the books and affairs of the A.L.P. in North Queensland and various people connected with it. Let them start by examining the records of these people just as they would if they were suspected of fraudulent business activities.

After that investigation has been completed and the Government informed of the result, an inquiry should be thrown wide open. Until that is done there will be a continuation of little pettifogging raids and we will not get anywhere. We are not touching the big men. And, above all, we are not touching the A.L.P., which I honestly and sincerely believe, from information available to me, is stuffing its pockets with money obtained from drug pushers and pedlars.

The House adjourned at 12.59 p.m.

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