

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 1976**

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

### PAPERS

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

#### Reports—

Operations of the Sub-Departments of the Department of Health—“Eventide” (Sandgate), “Eventide” (Rockhampton) and “Eventide” (Charters Towers), for the year 1975-76.

Trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery, for the year 1975-76.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

#### Orders in Council under—

Industrial Development Act 1963-1975.  
Harbours Act 1955-1976.

#### Regulations under—

Queensland Marine Act 1958-1975.  
Health Act 1937-1976.

By-laws under the Optometrists Act 1974.

### PETITIONS

#### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND UNION

Mr. GYGAR (Stafford) presented a petition from 71 students of the University of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend the University of Queensland Act so as to ensure that students may freely and without coercion choose whether they will financially support the University of Queensland Union.

Petition read and received.

#### REORGANISATION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) presented a petition from 52 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will reject the legislation for the reorganisation of the electricity supply industry in Queensland, which is not in the interests of this State or its economic development, and immediately appoint an independent group to investigate the electricity supply industry and to report its findings to Parliament.

Petition read and received.

#### AMENDMENT OF LIQUOR ACT

Mr. LINDSAY (Everton) presented a petition from 94 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend the Liquor Act so as to allow golf and bowls clubs to sell take-away bottled liquor to their members.

Petition read and received.

## QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

### 1. SHIP-REPAIR CHARGES

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

(1) With reference to an advertisement in "The Courier-Mail" of 16 October by the Department of Harbours and Marine regarding the proposed amendment to the Port of Brisbane Dockyard Cairncross By-laws, does the new amendment specify that every man who is not employed by the department and who works in harbours and marine areas at the dock on behalf of contractors will cost the contractor \$5 per day in ship-repair charges levied by the department?

(2) What will be the cost per year to the ship-repair industry of this charge and what effect will this have on the number of ships entering the Cairncross Dock?

(3) What charges are levied on ship-repair activities at the dock to cover interest and redemption charges?

(4) Does the State Government of Victoria provide dry-dock facilities free of interest for use by contractors?

(5) Is he aware that workers involved in the industry are concerned that this new charge will break the back of the ship-repair industry in this State at a time when all concerned are fighting for its survival?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Cairncross Dock by-law requires every ship repair contractor to obtain a permit from the Director, Department of Harbours and Marine, to allow him to carry out repair work in the dockyard. To date no permit fee has been required. The by-law amendment proposes a permit fee of \$5 per man-day for the contractor's use of the dockyard facilities which have been provided by the port authority at a cost exceeding \$10,000,000. At the present time contractors using the dockyard facilities do not make any contribution to my department to cover dockyard overheads.

(2) The estimated return to the port authority is \$40,000 per year on a value of work done by contracts of \$5,000,000 per year. The extra cost to the industry is less than 1 per cent of the turnover. The figures I have mentioned earlier would suggest that the effect on dock usage will be negligible.

(3) Dockyard charges are designed to cover all dockyard costs, including interest and redemption payments, but income over recent years has not been sufficient to meet these costs.

(4) Yes.

(5) It is heartening to hear that dockyard workers are concerned with the profitability of the industry, although their irrational behaviour in industrial matters does not give any credibility to this expression of concern.

### 2. RATIFICATION OF I.L.O. CONVENTION ON INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL POPULATIONS

**Mr. Marginson** for **Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Is it true, as stated by the Acting Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations in a letter to the Commonwealth Leader of the Opposition on 5 October and in answer to a question in the House of Representatives on 21 September, that the International Labour Organisation convention on Indigenous and Tribal Populations, which is relevant to the land rights of Australian Aborigines, cannot yet be ratified by Australia because Queensland has not yet agreed to the ratification of Convention No. 107?

(2) Is it true, as stated in the letter, that following correspondence on this matter at the Prime Minister-Premier level, the Queensland Premier's Department advised the Prime Minister earlier this year that Queensland was examining the question of the necessity for changes in State law to permit agreement to ratification of the convention?

(3) As this convention was passed by the I.L.O. in 1957, would it be possible to end the 19-year delay that has been created by a lack of interest in this matter or a lack of concern for Aboriginal land rights by the Queensland Government?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) There is used in International Labour Organisation convention 107 an expression the meaning of which has been the subject of continuing correspondence between State and Commonwealth authorities. That expression is "ownership of land". Until the meaning of the term "ownership" is established with reasonable clarity, it is not possible to know what amendment (if any) should be made to Queensland law so as to enable the terms of the convention to be implemented. The latest information from the Right Honourable the Prime Minister has been submitted for legal advice and when this has been received the matter will be considered further. The clearest indication that can be given at this stage is that there is no law of Queensland which would debar any person, by reason of his race or colour, from acquiring and holding freehold or leasehold land in Queensland.

## 3. MOTOR-CYCLIST SAFETY HELMETS

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

(1) Are motor-cyclists' safety helmets that are faulty or not in conformity with safety standards approved by the Standards Association of Australia on sale in Queensland?

(2) Did the Commonwealth Government in November last pass a regulation prohibiting the import of non-approved helmets?

(3) Do South Australia and New South Wales already have legislation banning the sale of non-approved helmets and is the introduction of similar legislation imminent in Victoria?

(4) As reports indicate that deaths of motor-cyclists in Queensland was the only road-fatality statistic to increase in recently released figures, is there a reason why Queensland allows potentially dangerous helmets to be sold?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) I would invite the honourable member's attention to my reply to a similar question from the honourable member for Belmont on 26 November last year. If the honourable member has any evidence of the sale of motor-cycle safety helmets which do not meet the approved standards and this is supplied to me, I will have the matter investigated. However, the Queensland Road Safety Council carries out a continuing educational campaign to advise motor-cycle riders as to the correct helmet to be worn and, if any rider has a doubt, this can readily be resolved by contacting the Secretary, Queensland Road Safety Council.

## 4. GRANTS FOR FORESTRY PROJECTS

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

As large amounts of money are being paid out in unemployment benefits in Queensland and as this money is of no benefit to the productivity of this State, will he approach the Commonwealth Government with a view to obtaining larger amounts of money for forestry projects and thus enable the department to engage numbers of unemployed and at the same time greatly benefit our timber industry?

*Answer:—*

On 30 September last I wrote to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister conveying the concern of my Government that steps were not being proposed to reduce

unemployment through the relaxation of the existing limitations on spending under State capital works programmes. Forestry is but one area where such work could be provided if funds were available. I am awaiting a reply from the Prime Minister but I assure the honourable member that we will continue to press our views to the Commonwealth Government in this regard.

## 5. LAIDLEY DENTAL CLINIC

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

As the Laidley Shire, which has a population of 5,000, does not have a private dentist and people who are not eligible for treatment at the Government Dental Clinic in Laidley have to travel 30 to 70 miles for treatment and as the dental clinic, which was built at a cost of \$70,000 and only operates for two days per week, could be used to full advantage by treating these patients at normal dental rates, thus making full use of an expensive Government asset and at the same time relieving the hardship being experienced in the Laidley Shire, will he give favourable consideration to this proposal?

*Answer:—*

The primary purpose of the Laidley Dental Clinic is to provide a full dental service for those persons who are, as determined by a means test, unable to afford private dental fees.

As Laidley is situated only 12 miles from Gatton, where two private dentists practise, private dental care is reasonably available to those persons who do not satisfy the requirements of the means test. This does not, however, preclude any person from seeking treatment for the relief of pain during such times as the dental clinic is in operation.

I cannot, therefore, at this time, accede to the honourable member's request. As I am sure the honourable member would support the concept of encouragement of private practitioners where possible, I would suggest that he might like to have discussions with the private dentists in Gatton to try to encourage them to set up a branch surgery at Laidley.

## 6. CUT-PRICE PETROL

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

(1) With regard to the current cut-price petrol controversy, does Ampol sell petrol to A.C.T.U./Solo at 10.8c per litre but charge Ampol service stations 13.77c per litre?

(2) Is the A.C.T.U./Solo recommended retail price 13.9c per litre and is the Ampol recommended retail price 16.9c per litre?

(3) If these figures are correct, how is Ampol able to sell petrol to A.C.T.U./Solo for 2.97c cheaper than to its own garages, particularly in view of recent applications to the Prices Justification Tribunal for petrol price increases?

(4) Why does Ampol subsidise A.C.T.U./Solo in this way and yet refuse to offer the same prices to its own dealers?

(5) How does Ampol expect ordinary service stations to stay open when A.C.T.U./Solo can sell petrol for less than its competitors can buy it and still make over 25 per cent profit?

(6) Is Ampol leasing service station sites to A.C.T.U./Solo?

(7) What does Ampol hope to gain by engaging in policies which will drive its own service stations out of business?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 7) I share with the honourable member his concern at the tragic consequences that can result from the present petrol price war which has extended from other States. In Victoria it has caused severe economic consequences and in New South Wales it has split the trade union movement. It is beyond my comprehension that the Labor Party should on the one hand profess concern for small businesses and yet its Federal President, Hawke, should negotiate a preferred deal with big business which has precipitated a chaotic marketing situation for petrol retailers in Brisbane. I would be interested to know how the Leader of the Opposition views this dubious deal. The present crisis in petrol-retailing is a simple example of what can occur when a departure is made from orderly marketing. There is no official information in the departments under my control as to the wholesale prices being charged by oil companies which I can quote authentically. I am at present having discussions with industry organisations on this matter and feel it would be undesirable at this stage to make any comments as to the reasonableness or otherwise of wholesale and retail prices or the leasing arrangements entered into.

#### 7. KIDNEY DAMAGE FROM ANALGESICS

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

(1) Is he aware of recent medical reports indicating that overconsumption of analgesics can lead to severe kidney damage?

(2) If these reports are correct, will he take steps to ensure that analgesics are removed from supermarket shelves and

made prescription drugs, thereby restricting the circulation of these psychologically addictive and apparently damaging concoctions?

*Answers:—*

(1) The medical profession has accepted the relationship between the consumption of analgesics and kidney damage. In fact, a lot of this research work was done in Queensland, as the honourable member would know.

(2) Some steps have already been taken in this matter. Phenacetin, a common analgesic previously freely available, can now be obtained only on a doctor's prescription and analgesics containing salicylic acid and its derivatives and paracetamol must be labelled with a warning regarding the dangers of long usage.

Whilst I believe that further restrictions are indicated—and I would advise the honourable member that I have taken steps to look at the possibility of these restrictions—I would not be in favour of depriving the public of all forms of analgesics for the treatment of some minor ailments.

#### 8. FIRE HAZARD OF GRASS AND UNDERGROWTH ON CREEK BANKS, BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware that fire officers are expressing concern about the presence of grass and undergrowth on the unkempt banks of creeks within the Brisbane metropolitan area?

(2) In view of the grave fire risk which the areas present to local home owners, will he intercede with the Brisbane City Council to have the areas cleared before a major fire breaks out and causes injury or loss of life?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) There have been many occasions in Brisbane where, in response to requests, fire brigade officers have taken action for the removal of fire hazards. It is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board to take this matter up with the owners of the property. However, I will draw the matter to the board's notice.

#### 9. SPRAYING OF INSECTICIDE AT PRIMARY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

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

(1) As there is obvious dissatisfaction among the teachers at the Primary Correspondence School over the spraying of their

work areas, will he acquaint the members of this House with the details of this situation, for example, why is the place being sprayed, when did the spraying start and what has the frequency been since?

(2) Is any spraying being done just prior to or while teachers are at their place of work?

(3) Is any action being taken by any teachers to have the spraying discontinued and, if so, what is that action and where does the Education Department stand with regard to any action taken?

(4) If any work being carried out is in any way interfering with the welfare of the teachers or if the spraying is causing any inconvenience, why has alternative accommodation not been provided?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Primary Correspondence School reported an infestation of vermin that was suspected of being bird lice. The State Department of Works was requested to investigate and take any necessary action. That department hired a private contractor to spray for bird lice on 29 September. Following more complaints, further spraying was carried out by the State Department of Works on 1 October. The interior of the building was subsequently fogged on Saturday, 16 October.

(2) All precautions were taken to prevent any discomfort to teachers.

(3) It is believed that the private contractor was contacted by a firm of solicitors to attempt to restrain him from further action. The State Department of Works spoke with teachers, who voted 80 to 11 to have the fogging carried out. The action in contacting solicitors by one or more teachers delayed the fogging by one week. The State Department of Works and not the Department of Education is responsible for the prevention and removal of any infestation. The responsibility of the Department of Education is focused on providing a service to isolated children and it has a professional responsibility to see that the contact with pupils flows smoothly.

(4) Teachers were given the option of moving to an adjoining building if they suspected discomfort. One teacher took advantage of this offer.

#### 10. WORKERS' COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

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

(1) To what extent is the S.G.I.O. kept informed of wage movements so that persons who are on compensation payments receive the correct entitlement?

(2) What is the time delay between a change in wage entitlement and compensation payment?

*Answer:—*

I ask the honourable member to repeat this question tomorrow.

**Mr. Houston:** I give notice accordingly.

#### 11. QUEENSLAND MEDDLING IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

With reference to his comments in relation to East Timor Indonesia, as section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution provides that Foreign Affairs is the exclusive jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government, is his Government considering acquiring external affairs power and appointing ambassadors not only to overseas countries but also to other States of Australia?

*Answer:—*

The honourable member's question discloses his lack of knowledge of the purpose and meaning of the Commonwealth Constitution—a characteristic he shares in common with the last Labor Prime Minister. It was Mr. Whitlam who sought, invalidly, illegally and with destructive intent, to so interpret Section 51 (xxix) of the Constitution as to gather to his Government all sorts of powers which are the constitutional province of the States. The people of Australia did not fall for his confidence trick; they rejected it and him. Similarly, the people of Queensland will not fall for the weak attempt by the honourable member to imply that a State Premier has not the right to comment on international affairs. Like many of my predecessors, including, I think, some Labor Premiers, I will not hesitate to alert the people of Queensland and Australia to what I see as threats and dangers to their welfare and safety.

#### 12. BARGE RAMPS FOR MORETON BAY ISLANDS

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

(1) Is he aware of difficulties being experienced by residents of the Moreton Bay islands of Karragarra, Lamb, Russell and Macleay in getting building materials delivered from the mainland because of lack of suitable barge-landing facilities?

(2) What plans has the Government to overcome these problems?

(3) When will moneys be made available to provide barge ramps for these islands?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2 and 3) I am advised that an offer of a special loan allocation to the Redland Shire Council for these works has been

made through my colleague the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, to whom the honourable member's question should be directed.

### 13. MORE PENSIONER ACCOMMODATION FOR TOWNSVILLE

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

Is it proposed to erect more units for pensioner accommodation in Townsville and, if so, in view of the shortage of this type of accommodation and the distress thus caused, what is the possibility of early construction?

*Answer:—*

Because of the honourable member's good looks and good representations, yes, I accepted a contract for eight more units yesterday.

### 14. POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS OF WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY

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

As members of the Women's Electoral Lobby in Townsville actively and at times venomously advocate A.L.P. policies and some actually contest elections under the A.L.P. banner, is there any provision in any law that will compel them to disclose their political affiliations when making representations to the Government on matters of public concern, instead of as at present skulking behind the frowzy facade of the W.E.L. and posing as being non-political?

*Answer:—*

There is no such provision in the law. However, I do not think anyone has the impression that the Townsville branch of the organisation or the organisation itself is non-political.

In its representations and activities, it has frequently demonstrated its close affiliation and sympathy with the Australian Labor Party, and even worse than that at times.

### 15. PRESS FORECAST ON NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE

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

(1) Has he seen an article in the "Sunday Sun" of 10 October in which it was stated that the Senior Puisne Judge, Mr. Justice Wanstall, was to be passed over for appointment to the position of Chief

Justice when the present incumbent retires in a short time and a younger man appointed and, if so, is this gross perversion of tradition contemplated and, in view of Mr. Justice Wanstall's long and honourable service on the bench, for what reasons?

(2) As the younger man whose name is being widely bruited about as the new Chief Justice is notorious for his judicial sympathy in the imposition of penalties on vicious criminals and his callous disregard for the feelings of the victims, was the Law Society, the Bar Association and the Law Reform Commission, which hold similar sympathetic attitudes to criminals as the proposed appointee, consulted in the matter and, if so, did they eagerly express their concurrence?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I have read the article. The Honourable the Chief Justice is not due for retirement at present and at the appropriate time the name of his successor will be submitted for the approval of the Governor in Council.

### 16. DOUBTFUL RELIGIOUS SECTS; CHILDREN OF GOD

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

(1) Has he seen a report in "The Australian" of 11 October headed "Sects lured away 200 kids"?

(2) Has any move been made in this State to set up a select committee to report on the aims, objects and practices of the Children of God and similar organisations?

(3) Can the police take any action against members of such sects for handing out pamphlets to children in the streets?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) Any action by members of this sect in contravention of the laws of this State will receive appropriate police attention.

### 17. WOODCHIP INDUSTRY

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

With reference to alarming reports in "The Courier-Mail" of 14 October that a major woodchip enterprise is to be set up in Queensland—

(1) What plans have been approved by the Government and with whom were the plans made?

- (2) What forests are under threat?
- (3) What environmental impact studies were undertaken?
- (4) Which companies have been granted licences under the Sawmills Licensing Act for the purposes of a woodchip export industry?

*Answers:—*

(1) The alarmist Press article in question contained a number of quite inaccurate statements and assertions. The issue of licences covering the export of woodchips is the province of the Commonwealth, but the Queensland Government has approved in principle the establishment of a woodchip export industry at Brisbane, based solely on sawmill residue from South Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

This Government has supported an application by Sawmillers Wood Chips (Qld) Pty. Ltd. on the grounds of substantial equity held by local sawmillers and an acceptable environmental impact study, but no export licence has been issued by the Commonwealth.

(2) No Queensland forests, Crown or private, are under threat as the proposal concerns sawmill residue only, which is presently being burnt or dumped.

(3) As in the case mentioned in the answer to question (1), an environmental impact study was undertaken by the firm being supported, and this has been closely examined.

(4) No licences have been granted under the Queensland Sawmills Licensing Act for woodchip export. Such licences would not be required for the processing of sawmill residue.

#### 18. CUT-PRICE PETROL

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

(1) Has the introduction of cut-price petrol into Brisbane caused a loss of jobs for service station attendants in spite of the assurance by Mr. Hawke that it would not cause further unemployment?

(2) Why are capital-city citizens favoured by oil companies with cut-price petrol when country people with fewer amenities have to pay much higher prices for petrol than the standard price in Brisbane?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I have dealt rather fully with the principles involved in this matter in my answer today to the honourable member for Stafford and I refer the honourable member to that answer.

I am not aware that the introduction into Brisbane of cut-price petrol has caused a loss of jobs for service station attendants but do not doubt that this would be an economic consequence of the squeezing of retailers' profit margins.

At the present time I am having discussions with industry organisations regarding the current petrol price war in Brisbane and do not propose to make any further comment on this matter.

As to the honourable member's claim that country people have to pay a much higher price for petrol than the standard price in Brisbane, it is clearly understood by all that this unhappy situation was caused by the withdrawal by the Whitlam Government of the petrol subsidy—a policy issue in which I played some part and which was promoted by my party's rural committee over 15 years ago—which had done so much to equalise petrol prices in the country vis-a-vis the city.

#### 19. SECONDARY SCHOOL FACILITIES, COLLINSVILLE AND CLERMONT

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

In view of the new Cabinet decision to reduce school secondary numbers from 200 to 150 before schools qualify for full secondary school facilities, will he ensure that the needy towns of Collinsville and Clermont are given top priority?

*Answer:—*

I thank the honourable member for his continued interest in the education of the young people of his electorate. I advise him that predicted enrolments at Clermont for the years 1977-81 are 130, 125, 115, 120 and 130. Hence, under the new formula, the school does not qualify for senior facilities.

The cases of all schools qualifying for senior facilities will now be examined with a view to establishing grade 11 classes wherever practicable in 1978. I assure the honourable member that Collinsville will receive careful consideration.

#### 20. FREEZING OF UNREGISTERED CLAIMS ON GEM-FIELDS

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

What is his reaction to a motion from a public meeting convened by the new United Sapphire Miners' Association on 17 October at the gem-fields that all



unregistered claims be frozen forthwith and held that way until a special Act for the gem-fields be implemented?

*Answer:—*

I can understand the honourable member's concern about the reaction of many people on the gem-fields, and I, too, thank him for the interest he has shown in the matter and the representations that he has made on behalf of the people there. I assure him that all unregistered claims on the Anakie gem-field, as well as elsewhere in the State, will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Mining Act 1968–1976. It is not my intention to introduce a special Act for gem-fields.

## 21. QUEENSLAND TEACHERS' UNION SECRET BALLOTS

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

(1) Will he check the legality of secret ballots currently being conducted by the executive of the Queensland Teachers' Union in connection with the rolling-strike question?

(2) Will he take all steps necessary to enforce existing industrial legislation in relation to strike ballots?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) There are a number of undesirable features about the secret ballots currently being conducted by the Queensland Teachers' Union, but I am advised that the ballot as such would not necessarily be in conflict with the secret ballot provision in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

As to what action the Government may take with respect to the undesirable features I have referred to—this is not a matter which I am prepared to disclose at this stage.

## 22. ATTACKS ON MEAT-MARKETING REFORMS

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

(1) Is he aware of an article on page 4 of the "Australian Financial Review" of 14 October entitled "Exporters outlaw move for producer control"?

(2) Will he investigate the massive campaign by meat exporters to torpedo current moves by State and Commonwealth Governments towards meat-marketing

reform that will provide future protection of the interests of producers and consumers?

(3) Will he check the apparent inaccuracies in the article and provide the House with relevant corrections based on the facts?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes, I have seen the article in the "Australian Financial Review" to which the honourable member refers.

(2) I note with interest the honourable member's reference to "a massive campaign by meat exporters to torpedo moves by State and Federal Governments towards meat marketing reform". I believe there is an overwhelming desire for orderly marketing of meat—and especially beef—by the great majority of people. I am confident that when it becomes clear to all concerned that orderly and stable marketing is the aim of Governments, support will be forthcoming from all responsible sections of the industry. The chaotic alternatives must be regarded as unacceptable in our society.

(3) The article in question contains several inaccuracies and half-truths—a result of either careless reporting or a calculated desire to misrepresent the facts. To illustrate—the article states, "The exporters claim, with justification, that Mr. Sinclair and the livestock producers are hell-bent to impose total control of the meat industry by livestock producers."

No details are supplied, but in the general context of the article, one must conclude that the reference, although obviously ill-informed, is to Mr. Sinclair's proposal for reorganisation of the Australian Meat Board into an Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation.

As outlined by Mr. Sinclair himself at a symposium entitled "Survival of the Beef Industry in the Australian Economy", held in Brisbane on 4 August 1976, his proposals for the new corporation comprise a chairman, four representatives of meat producers, three representatives with special qualifications and a Commonwealth representative. He has also proposed the formation of an exporter/abattoir operators' consultative group, which would be consulted in the appointment of the members with special qualifications. Further, provision for consultation between the corporation chairman and the chairman of the exporter/abattoir consultative group to take place as required was envisaged by Mr. Sinclair. He also projected the formation of a meat industry conference, representative of all sections of the meat and livestock industries. To my mind, these are clearly not the actions of a man "hell-bent to impose total control of the meat industry". The reference to what I am

supposed to have said on 9 October is also inaccurate but I do not propose to go through any more detail other than to make an accurate quotation from my statement of that day. I said—

“If we do not implement a scheme such as Queensland has proposed, one which I believe will benefit both producer and consumer, a shortage of beef is inevitable in Australia and prices will increase substantially”.

23. WAREHOUSE DIVISION'S CRICKET WICKETS, MARCHANT PARK, TINGALPA AND VICTORIA PARK

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

(1) In view of the Brisbane City Council's enthusiasm for the 1982 Commonwealth Games, as evidenced by Alderman Sleeman's indication that the council would be prepared to contribute up to \$10,000,000 to a matched fund, will he investigate urgently the refusal by the council to prepare the cricket warehouse division's wickets at Marchant Park, Tingalpa and Victoria Park?

(2) Will he publicly expose this act of hypocrisy by the council which is forcing hundreds of cricketers into a most difficult situation?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I am aware of the difficulties placed on cricketers by the decision of the Brisbane City Council to withdraw its labour for the preparation of cricket wickets at various grounds throughout Brisbane. Brisbane is the only capital city in Australia now where the local authority does not provide all or a high proportion of the cost of this service.

I am informed that the council not only took the decision without proper consideration of its consequences but also did not have the decency to officially advise the Queensland Cricket Association of the decision until a few days before the start of a new season. This was only done after the association had approached the council following speculation in the Press.

In my view, this is despicable treatment of voluntary workers in the area of amateur sport.

I would have thought that the council would have given some months' notice of intention to at least provide the cricketing community with time to make alternative preparations. This surely must be considered as another step by the socialists to wreck our way of life by striking at the grass-roots level of amateur sport.

However, the State Government is playing its part in assisting amateur sport and shortly the Queensland Cricket Association will be receiving a letter from me advising it of the substantial financial assistance we are rendering the sport of cricket under the guide-lines for assistance and encouragement to sport generally.

24. ADMINISTRATION BLOCK, WYNNUM NORTH STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware of my many submissions and questions in the House concerning the building of an administration block at the Wynnum North State School?

(2) As the school has an attendance of some 950 pupils and the teaching and administration staff are working under difficulties, will he view this need as a matter of urgency and advise what action has been taken and when some positive development of this administration block will take place?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Because of the honourable member's persistent representations, preliminary planning of this project has been carried out so that it may be considered later in the financial year in relation to funds then available and after essential classroom and other higher priority needs for educational facilities have been met.

I am not in a position to give any more positive information.

25. COMMONWEALTH GRANTS FOR DESERTED WIVES

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

With reference to moneys received by the State Government from the Commonwealth under the State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act for the purpose of contributing to the family assistance allowance for deserted wives and certain other women having the custody, care and control of children—

(1) What amount was received by the Treasury from the Commonwealth Government for this purpose for 1975-76, how much did the State spend for this purpose for that year and how much has been allocated for 1976-77?

(2) What amount was directed to the Department of Community and Welfare Services by the Treasury for this purpose for 1975-76 and 1976-77?

(3) How much was directed to the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible women living on Aboriginal and Islander reserves for 1975-76 and 1976-77?

*Answers:—*

(1) The amount received from the Commonwealth Government for assistance to deserted wives in 1975-76 was \$1,934,484. Collections from the Commonwealth on a \$ for \$ basis are a quarter behind expenditure.

(2) Expenditure for this purpose in 1975-76 was \$4,441,476. Estimated expenditure for 1976-77 is \$6,100,000, against which receipts from the Commonwealth are estimated at \$3,015,000.

(3) All of this expenditure is incurred by the Department of Community and Welfare Services and Sport. No funds are allocated to the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement for this particular purpose.

## 26. OPIUM GROWN IN QUEENSLAND

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

(1) In each of the years 1971 to 1975 and in the period from 1 January to 1 October 1976, how many people have been convicted for growing opium in Queensland?

(2) What acreage of opium plants did the convictions involve in each period?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Statistics of this kind are not kept by the Police Department. However, officers of this department cannot remember any such convictions during the period under review. Perhaps records of this nature are kept by the Health Department and/or the Department of Justice.

## 27. SPRAYING OF INSECTICIDE AT PRIMARY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

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

(1) With reference to a recent report that the Primary Correspondence School, Brisbane, was sprayed with insecticide, what chemicals and poisons were used and in what quantities?

(2) By whom were they used and for what purpose?

**Mr. LEE:** As there are some tongue-twisting names used in this answer, and I am sure that the honourable member will

be no wiser after hearing them, I table the answer and ask that it be included in "Hansard".

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Spraying was carried out on Wednesday 29 September, to the inside ceilings and under eaves by R. A. Dibbs & Son using one gallon of synogised pyrethrum with a deodorised mineral oil base.

Further spraying was undertaken by departmental labour late on the afternoon of Friday 1 October after all staff had vacated the building. The whole of the office areas were sprayed with a mixture of Vapona and Aldrex—60 (1 part to 120 parts of water), a total of four gallons of mixture being used.

Fogging the whole building was also carried out by R. A. Dibbs & Son on Saturday 16 October using pyrethrine organic phosphate as a dry fog.

This work was undertaken to eradicate bird lice.

## 28 and 29. CURRENT VALUE ACCOUNTING

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

(1) Is he aware of a move by the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Australian Society of Accountants to introduce a new system of accounting known as current cost accounting?

(2) Does the proposed new method conform with Queensland company law?

(3) As it has been alleged that the change-over could prove to be hugely inflationary, will Queensland companies be given the option of retaining the present system of conventional accounting methods?

(4) What changes will have to be effected at the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs to enable it to accept the change?

(5) Will the bodies responsible for the change be obliged to meet the cost of educating company shareholders and the community generally to enable them to understand the new method?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) The proposed new method is not prohibited by present company legislation.

(3) The proposal has been released as a provisional standard by the Australian accounting bodies. Consequently it is not mandatory for companies in Queensland

to adopt this accounting principle and companies may retain the present system of historical cost accounting.

(4) In the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs it will be necessary for staff to be familiar with the new procedure and its method of application. In this regard copies of the provisional standard have been made available to the staff in the Accounts Examination Branch.

(5) No. It is anticipated that the accounting bodies will publish the usual information in respect of new accounting standards. Additionally, I would expect the financial press to report fully on this matter.

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

Will the proposed change from conventional accounting methods to the newly recommended current cost accounting system have any effect on revenue obtained by the State by way of (a) the share of Commonwealth taxation and (b) indirect taxation on those companies which adopt it and, if so, in what way?

*Answer:—*

The accounting profession has recommended that current value accounting be adopted by businesses so that profit and loss accounts and balance sheets will reflect more realistic concepts of profitability and wealth based on today's costs and values.

The adoption of current value accounting is not expected to have any effect on the revenue derived by the State from its own taxing sources or the share of personal income tax collections payable to the State by the Commonwealth under the new Federal-State financial arrangements.

I would point out to the honourable member that this method of accounting has yet to be accepted by the Commonwealth Taxation Department for general income tax purposes, although the principles of current value accounting have been embodied in the recent changes to the method of valuing stock for income tax purposes, which were announced by the Federal Treasurer in the Budget. Income tax revenue will be reduced as a result of these changes to the method of valuing stock but it is not possible to indicate the likely amount of the reduction in the State's share of income tax. I would point out that the share of income tax revenue received by the State under the new Federal-State financial arrangements is determined as a percentage of personal income tax collections only and company income tax collections are not taken into account.

### 30. SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

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

(1) Has a request been received from the relevant Iranian authorities by the Queensland Sugar Board or its agents CSR Limited to provide advice on the design and installation of suitable bulk raw sugar receiving and handling facilities in Iran?

(2) Has any invitation been recently extended by the Queensland Government or any other authority in Australia to the relevant Iranian authorities to visit Australia to examine bulk raw sugar handling facilities and, if so, when and by whom?

(3) Have any of these actions led to the commencement of negotiations to enter into a sugar agreement between Australia and Iran and, if so, with what result?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Queensland Government and the Sugar Board have been examining the potential of the Iranian sugar market for some years. I myself had discussions with the relevant authorities during my visit to Iran as leader of the Queensland Trade Mission in 1975.

Subsequently, and as recently as July 1976, the Premier visited Teheran and, during the course of that visit, reaffirmed an interest in expanding trading links with Iran, including the export of raw sugar in bulk from Queensland and the provision of expertise to assist Iran to receive sugar in bulk.

Following that visit, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Right Honourable J. D. Anthony, visited Iran in August and supported the Premier's remarks to the Iranian sugar authorities.

Subsequent to both visits, the Australian sugar industry's interest in this matter was expressed in the following terms in the 3 September issue of the journal, "Overseas Trading", reporting on the discussions during Mr. Anthony's visit to Teheran:—

"Sugar:

"The Australian side expressed a strong interest in developing trade in bulk raw sugar. As a preliminary measure to facilitate such trade, Australia reaffirmed the willingness of CSR Limited, sole export marketing agents for Australian sugar, to participate on a commercial basis with relevant Iranian authorities in advising on the design and installation of suitable bulk raw sugar receiving and handling facilities.

"It was agreed that further discussions should take place between CSR Limited and the relevant Iranian authorities. The Australian side indicated it would extend an invitation to the relevant Iranian authorities to visit Australia to examine bulk raw sugar handling facilities."

(2) In recent years, representatives of the Iranian Government and the Iranian sugar industry have visited Australia and the opportunity has been taken to show them the Queensland bulk sugar handling facilities. It is expected that there will be further visits, specifically by Iranian sugar technologists, resulting from an invitation issued via the Australian Trade Commissioner in Teheran, with the knowledge and support of the Queensland Sugar Board.

(3) Since Iran presently cannot receive raw sugar in bulk, the conversion from bag to bulk receiving is a prerequisite for the export of any Queensland raw sugar to Iran.

31 and 32. NOISE NUISANCE AND AIR POLLUTION FROM SPEEDWAY MEETING AT EXHIBITION GROUNDS, BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware of the pollution of the air by dust and exhaust fumes over an area of some square miles, including the suburbs of Bowen Hills, Newstead, Albion and Hamilton and others on both sides of the river and extending to Moreton Bay, and of the noise pollution radiating over a distance of more than five miles emanating from the speedway meeting at the Exhibition Grounds on 16 October?

(2) Will he take steps to ensure that such air and noise pollution will not re-occur?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The emission of dust and exhaust fumes from the speedway meeting does not contravene the Clean Air Act 1963–1972 in any way, and is insignificant by comparison with the emissions from the daily peak hour traffic in Bowen Bridge Road.

With regard to that part of the honourable member's question dealing with noise emanating from the speedway, provision is made in the noise abatement legislation, presently being prepared, to enable control to be exercised over the emission of excessive noise from premises of this type. In the meantime, the matter would appear to be one for consideration by the Brisbane City Council under its ordinances or for civil action by an aggrieved person.

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to numerous complaints by the patients and staff of the Royal Brisbane Hospital of the distress and nuisance caused by the speedway meeting held at the Royal National Association Exhibition Grounds on 16 October, which continued until after 11.00 p.m.?

(2) Will he take steps to restrain the R.N.A. and the occupiers of the Exhibition Grounds from continuing this nuisance?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I am not aware of the complaint referred to by the honourable member, but should he give me further detail I will have the matter investigated.

33. STATE TRADING BANK

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

(1) As adequate finance is of vital importance to primary and secondary production for the provision of adequate housing and for a solution of unemployment, all so vital to our welfare, does the Commonwealth Constitution give Queensland the right to have a State bank and to create financial credit for use in Queensland?

(2) As at present we have no such bank and are entirely dependent upon the Reserve Bank and therefore could at some future date have the destiny of this State dictated by a socialist Government in Canberra, is he prepared to submit to this session of Parliament legislation which will convert the Agricultural Bank to a general trading bank and bank of issue, to ensure the freedom and sovereignty of the Parliament of Queensland?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) This whole question of creating additional bank facilities in Queensland was referred to in my 1974 policy speech. It has received Cabinet consideration and recently I requested the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries to bring a submission to Cabinet concerning the possible establishment of such a bank. I expect that the matter will therefore be receiving further Cabinet consideration in the near future.

34. TELEPHONE AT POLICE RESIDENCE, THANGOOL

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

(1) Has the constable living at Thangool had his telephone disconnected?

(2) As Thangool is eight miles from Biloela, will he take immediate action to have the telephone reconnected to the police residence at Thangool?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. A request was made on 8 October 1976 for disconnection of the telephone in the police officer's residence at Thangool. This officer, a sergeant of police, is stationed at Biloela.

(2) No. When Thangool station was closed, the telephone was retained to allow out-of-hours calls to be referred by the exchange to the police officer residing at Thangool when necessary. At that time, the Biloela exchange was manually operated. This telephone exchange has now been converted to automatic operation. As a result, the telephone at Thangool had little value for Biloela police operations and its retention is not considered necessary. Out-of-hours contact with Biloela police is adequately provided for by telephones in the residence of the officer in charge and the single men's quarters. A single man has been recently transferred to Biloela.

### 35. DINGO AND DOG BAITS A HAZARD TO CHILDREN

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

(1) Is he aware of several recent Press reports concerning dingo and dog baits?

(2) How many Queensland children have died following ingestion of baits containing arsenic, phosphorus, strychnine or organophosphate poisons set for foxes and dingoes or set maliciously for suburban dogs?

(3) How many children have died following ingestion of the same poisons direct from their container or mixing apparatus?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) The Australian Bureau of Statistics has advised that the only deaths of children from poisoning are listed as follows:—

1973—1 death in a male two years old from corrosives and caustics not otherwise classified.

1974—Nil.

1975—1 death in a male two years old from pesticide, fertiliser and plant food.

### 36. RAILWAY DEPARTMENT CARE OF PASSENGERS IN DELAYED TRAINS

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

(1) What are the Railway Department's routine procedures that are adopted in the event of passengers being delayed in trains for 12, 24, 36 and 48 hours by natural disaster, breakdown or strike?

(2) Were any of these procedures brought into operation for the benefit of tourists stranded for 44 hours in Proserpine from 12 to 14 October?

(3) Is it true that carriage toilets flowed sewage onto lines at the Proserpine Station, showers overflowed into corridors, garbage overflowed, attracting cockroaches, skimpy half-size meals were sold for the full price of \$2 each, tourists ran out of cash and a bus convoy was arranged but cancelled by the proprietors, who feared industrial blackmail?

(4) What will happen to luckless tourists who are similarly trapped in the future?

*Answers:—*

(1) Inconvenience suffered by passengers from occurrences of the nature cited by the honourable member is a matter for deep regret to the Railway Department but, as I am sure the honourable member would be aware, these eventualities are completely beyond the control of the department. In such instances the efforts of the railway staff are directed towards ensuring that the best possible arrangements, in the exceptional circumstances obtaining, are made to minimise inconvenience to passengers and to provide for their needs and comfort, including the making of adequate catering arrangements. Toilets on trains are locked and provision made for the use of toilets on the platform. Air-conditioning is maintained and a locomotive is kept running to ensure the availability of air necessary for the operation of showers. Attention is also given to the cleanliness of the train and the disposal of garbage.

(2) Yes.

(3) Reports disclose that on arrival of the train at Proserpine at 12.46 p.m. on 12 October, toilets on the train were locked and passengers requested to use the toilets on the platform. The blockage of an outlet pipe which caused one shower to overflow into the corridor of a carriage was rectified, I am advised, in a matter of a few minutes by the conductor. Refuse bins on the train were emptied as often as required. Eight bins were placed on the platform for the receipt of the garbage and special clearance services were arranged by the Proserpine Shire Council. Frequent inspections of the train were undertaken by the station master on duty and the conductor and the cleanliness of the train was maintained. The dining room staff maintain that there was no shortage of food supplies, that fresh meat, fruit, vegetables and eggs were obtained at Proserpine and that normal-sized meals were served. It is reported that generally the passengers were in good spirits and complimentary of the arrangements made and nothing is known of any passenger having been embarrassed through a lack of

money. Buses were not engaged and cancelled as suggested. Inquiries in an endeavour to obtain the required number of buses for the transport of passengers to Rockhampton were unsuccessfully made at Proserpine, Bowen, Ayr and Townsville.

(4) I can only conclude from my inquiries that the information on which the honourable member based his question did not accurately portray the situation. Further support of this conclusion is given by the advice conveyed to the department by a lady passenger who, on reading of a complaint in Saturday's Brisbane "Telegraph" attributed to a male passenger on the train, telephoned to the department to express her disagreement with the views expressed in the Press article. Her account of the circumstances encountered at Proserpine generally conforms to that furnished by departmental officers and which is embodied in this reply.

### 37. POLICE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AT PROSERPINE

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

(1) What police protection is offered to residents, travellers and tourists in Proserpine in the hours of darkness?

(2) Did the police refuse to attend civil disturbances on the Proserpine Railway Station and refuse to investigate allegations of theft when the "Sunlander" was strike-bound there from 12 to 14 October?

(3) If police do not attend civil disturbances or theft in Proserpine at night, for what emergencies or offences can they be called on duty?

*Answers:—*

(1) Police perform duty at Proserpine as follows:—

Monday to Thursday inclusive—8 a.m.—1 a.m.

Fridays to Saturdays—8 a.m.—3 a.m.

Sundays—8 a.m.—12 midnight.

Apart from this coverage, telephone services are connected to the residence of the officer in charge, and also to the single men's quarters. Where complaints are received requiring immediate attention, that attention is given to the complaint by the working of overtime by members attached to the station, including the detective sergeant, if warranted.

(2) I have no evidence that this statement is correct. However, if the honourable member has evidence to support this statement I request him to supply me with details to enable me to have it investigated.

My information indicates that at 8 a.m. on 13 October 1976 a complaint was received of theft of property from a passenger on the "Sunlander" and police arrived at the scene at 8.30 a.m. on the same date.

(3) See answer to (1).

### 38. POLLUTION OF QUEENSLAND WATERWAYS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the fine of \$13,200,000 imposed by an American court on the Allied Chemical Corporation for pollution of James River, Virginia, U.S.A.?

(2) What are the names of the companies that this Government has charged with pollution of Queensland rivers and waterways in the last 12 months and what were the fines?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) Up to the present, there have been no prosecutions for breaches of the Clean Waters Act. Licences to discharge have been issued and effluent standards have been set. Licensees have been given time to comply with licence conditions.

The Government's policy of co-operation rather than confrontation is proving to be effective in minimising pollution.

### 39. BLOCKING OF BOUNDARY ROAD, COOPERS PLAINS, BY RAILWAY SHUNTING

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

(1) Is Boundary Road, Coopers Plains, one of Brisbane's busiest arterial roads, being blocked at peak hours for periods of up to 20 minutes at a time by trains shunting from the Acacia Ridge goods yard?

(2) Will he issue instructions that shunting across Boundary Road is not to be carried out in peak hours and so relieve the congestion in the already overcrowded Coopers Plains-Archerfield road system?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Every endeavour will be made to minimise the extent of shunting operations across Boundary Road from the Acacia Ridge goods yards.

40. BACKDATED INCREASE IN SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS

**Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Powell**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Have people receiving superannuation benefits received an increase backdated to 28 September and, if so, why is not the payment backdated to 1 July, as is the situation with students and members' secretaries and others whose salary is dependent on the Budget?

*Answer:—*

State Service superannuation pension rates were increased from 28 September 1976 in accordance with the provisions of the State Service Superannuation Act. Under the Act there is an annual adjustment to pensions commensurate with the percentage variation between the Consumer Price Index figures for the June quarter of the current year and of the immediately preceding year. The Act also provides that such variation is to operate from and including the commencement of the first pay period occurring in the month of October each year.

41. APPEARANCE OF WORK AREA, BRUNSWICK STREET RAILWAY BRIDGE, FORTITUDE VALLEY

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

With reference to the temporary closure of Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, to facilitate construction of the railway underpass, can something be done to improve the appearance outside the 7 ft. hoarding surrounding the work by insisting that no cranes, trucks or tractors be parked in Brunswick Street outside the working area and by placing some decorative plants and potted shrubs around the hoarding and where the road is blocked near the Wickham Street intersection?

*Answer:—*

To minimise inconvenience to Valley business people, the area enclosed by hoardings has been reduced to the maximum extent possible. At certain times it is necessary for some items of contractor's plant which cannot be accommodated within the hoardings to be temporarily parked in the street adjacent to the site. In the negotiations which led up to the closure of the street, the Valley Business Council was advised this would occur.

The Brunswick Street bridge reconstruction is being carried out under difficult conditions and to an extremely tight schedule. Every endeavour is being made to restore the street surface before Christmas trading commences.

Efforts to obtain some suitable form of vegetation to disguise the construction site have proved unsuccessful. However, we will continue to endeavour to obtain the necessary flora.

42. EDUCATION WORKS PRIORITIES

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

(1) What is the level of progress with the planned establishment of pre-school centres compared with the provision of improved accommodation in classrooms, libraries and other essentials to general education?

(2) Will general education requirements be given adequate priority over special education requirements?

*Answers:—*

(1) In determining priorities in the overall works programme, every effort is made to meet as equitably as possible needs in the pre-school, primary, special, secondary and technical areas. Because of restrictions of funds and cost increases, no programme is adequate to meet all perceived needs.

(2) Pre-school education, though not compulsory, is viewed as an essential component of education in this State. However, because of the greater needs in primary and secondary schools there has been some reduction this year in capital funding for pre-schools and a corresponding increase in the other areas.

43. CHANGED CONTAINERS FOR OXYGEN FOR USE IN AMBULANCES

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

Is he aware that the suppliers of clinical oxygen have changed the type of container used for supplying oxygen to ambulance centres in Queensland, and what action has the council of the Q.A.T.B. taken to ensure that all ambulance vehicles can couple their oxygen equipment to the new type of container?

*Answer:—*

I am advised that the supplier of oxygen cylinders for use in the oxy-viva equipment carried by ambulances has not as yet officially approached the State Council of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade concerning a proposed change in the type of oxygen cylinder to be supplied.

From inquiries made by State council officers it is learned that in fact a new type of cylinder is about to be supplied, which is lighter in weight and differing in shape from the present type. It will be



necessary to modify the oxy-viva equipment to take the new cylinder, and this will necessitate the return of the equipment to the company for modification. The matter was discussed with the company, which indicated that it did not propose to distribute the new type of cylinder until it has had the opportunity to discuss with officers of the State council the best method of phasing in the new type of cylinder with the least effect on ambulance services. It is anticipated that these discussions will be held within the next three weeks.

I have since learnt that, because of a misunderstanding, a new-type cylinder was recently issued to a far northern ambulance centre by the local distributor. The matter is being pursued by the State council.

44. ALLOCATION FOR MAINTENANCE  
WORK ON ROADS FROM WINTON  
TO LONGREACH AND BOULIA

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

With reference to his ministerial statement concerning the employment of Main Roads Department gangs in Western Queensland, how much money has been allocated for special maintenance works on (a) the Winton-Longreach road and (b) the Winton-Boulia road?

*Answer:—*

The following special maintenance allocation has been made for 1976-77 to date:—

	\$
(a) Winton-Longreach ..	50,000
(b) Winton-Boulia ..	135,000
	<hr/>
Total .. .. .	185,000

Of course, this will give the answer to our friend the Leader of the Opposition, who yesterday indicated that we are spending all the funds in the seaside areas. He just does not know.

45. RURAL ELECTRICITY EXTENSIONS  
IN ISISFORD SHIRE

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

(1) What is the present position regarding Stage II rural extensions in the Isisford Shire?

(2) What Government subsidy will be forthcoming to assist consumers in this scheme with their connections?

*Answers:—*

(1) Field investigations of the Stage II Isisford Rural Extensions were completed in September and negotiations are currently in hand with Telecom to co-ordinate the power and communications networks.

It is expected that these will be completed shortly and offers of supply made before Christmas.

(2) Supply will be offered under Rural Subsidy Scheme conditions and subsidy to a maximum of \$3,000 per property will be provided by the State Government.

46. PERSONAL ASSETS OF DIRECTORS  
OF FAILED COMPANIES

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

(1) Has he seen the report that the Commonwealth Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs is to study ways of tightening company legislation to cover the personal assets of directors of failed companies?

(2) Is it true that in the United States of America, when a company fails, it is possible for the liquidator to include in the funds from which creditors are paid the personal assets of people who had set up the company?

(3) What provisions are contained in the Companies Act to allow action for recovery against company directors' personal assets?

*Answers:—*

(1) I have seen the statement by the Honourable the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs reported in Commonwealth "Hansard" on Tuesday, 5 October 1976, where he stated that he would be happy to consider suggestions for amendments to company law when the Commonwealth reaches agreement with the States with respect to a co-operative scheme for regulation of the securities market and companies generally.

Mr. Howard did not say that it was his present intention to amend company legislation to cover the personal assets of directors of failed companies.

(2) I am not aware of the provisions of the United States law with respect to this matter. I have requested the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs to make an inquiry as to the provisions in the United States.

(3) I refer the honourable member to section 374D of the Queensland Companies Act, which provides for the circumstances in which a person may be made personally responsible without any limitation of liability for the debts of a company.

47. APPRENTICE JOCKEYS

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

(1) Is he aware that apprentice jockeys are not covered by the Apprenticeship Act but are under the control of the Queensland Turf Club?

(2) Is he also aware that an apprentice jockey after serving four years of an apprenticeship is entitled to a wage of only \$39.07 per week compared to that of an apprentice fitter, who receives \$125.07 in the fourth year?

(3) In view of these anomalies and the innumerable other bad features of the living and working conditions of apprentices in the racing industry, will he give favourable consideration to revising the present terms and conditions of employment of apprentice jockeys?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) This is not a matter which falls within my ministerial responsibility, but for the edification of the honourable member I advise that the Queensland Turf Club, as the principal club in South-east Queensland, controls the apprentice jockey situation in its area and that 83 boys are presently indentured under the Queensland Turf Club scheme.

Each boy is kept and clothed by the person to whom he is indentured. The term involved is five years and the remuneration is \$20 per week for the first year with \$5 rises per year thereafter. Furthermore, money received by each apprentice jockey for race rides is paid into a separate trust account in his name. The boys are paid \$16 per ride and 5 per cent of prize-money for win or place rides. Sums ranging up to \$25,000 are involved in those trust accounts. These sums are paid over to the boys after the completion of their apprenticeship or at the age of 21 years.

The indenture papers are signed by the trainer, the boy and the boy's parents or legal guardians. If a lad comes to the conclusion that he is not suited to the work, his papers can be cancelled.

The stipendiary stewards make inspections of premises and living conditions of the boys concerned to ensure that reasonable standards are met and maintained.

It may be worthy of note that there is no lack of lads who wish to become apprentice jockeys.

#### 48. ADMINISTRATION OF ROCKHAMPTON FIRE BRIGADE BOARD

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

What is the present position regarding the administration of the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board and are any plans in hand to establish some permanent form of administration?

*Answer:—*

The administration of the fire brigade district is still under the control of the State Fire Services Council. The Government intends to restore local administration as soon as current problems have been resolved.

#### 49. BENEFITS FLOWING FROM GLENLYON DAM

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

What beneficial effect does he feel that the Glenlyon Dam will have on areas in and adjacent to the Carnarvon electorate and, in particular, does he feel that the populations of the Texas and the Goondiwindi districts will increase?

*Answer:—*

Beneficial effects resulting from the construction of Glenlyon Dam were assessed in detail in July 1969. It is expected that these benefits would still apply if not be enhanced, and they are summarised as follows:—

Queensland's half share of the water from Glenlyon Dam would provide for the expansion of irrigation downstream to Goondiwindi from 3,200 acres at present to 20,700 acres. This would result in annual gross value of production of \$1,875,000. It will provide the opportunity for existing landholders to stabilise and increase their annual production on a sound basis.

Based on experience at St. George, the project would arrest loss of population from the area and should result in an increase in farm work-force.

#### 50. JUVENILE AID BUREAU AND EDUCATION LIAISON UNIT

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

(1) In view of the obvious differences in the aims and methods of the Juvenile Aid Bureau and the Education Liaison Unit, why was Sgt. Doutel, the head of the Education Liaison Unit, relieved by a higher-ranking officer who is presently responsible for the Juvenile Aid Bureau?

(2) Is this part of a further attempt by the commissioner to downgrade and disband the Juvenile Aid Bureau?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Commissioner of Police has informed me that, in accordance with the authority vested in him under the Police Rules, he selected the senior sergeant to temporarily replace the head of the Education Liaison Unit to promote greater efficiency of the force.

(2) No.

## 51. TENDERS FOR MT. GRAVATT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

(1) Have tenders been called for the Mt. Gravatt Technical College?

(2) Have any of these tenders been let and, if so, who has been awarded the tenders and for what aspects of the construction?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) No. Tenders will be called so that earthworks may possibly begin early in January.

## 52. RURAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY LIMITED

**Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

As some persons are heavily committed financially in the liquidated firm Rural Co-operative Development Society Ltd., what progress has been made in the investigations into this firm and when can the public expect some notification of finality?

*Answer:—*

This co-operative is one of the many organisations being investigated by Mr. Macrossan, Q.C. It is anticipated that the public hearings with respect to this matter will be completed this year. Mr. Macrossan will present his report to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

## 53. FUNDS FOR WORKS ON MAIN ROADS IN TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT

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

What moneys, both Commonwealth and State, were allocated for the upgrading and maintenance of main roads in the Townsville district and its approaches in 1974-75 and 1975-76?

*Answer:—*

The expenditures on roads declared under the Main Roads Act in the local authority areas of Townsville City and Thuringowa Shire, which would cover the city and the approaches were—

	1974-75	1975-76
	\$	\$
Permanent Works ..	1,655,824	1,499,213
Maintenance Works ..	581,231	772,351
Total ..	\$2,237,055	\$2,271,564

## 54. RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUE OF DRIVERS' LICENCES TO THE DISABLED

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

(1) Does he intend to introduce legislation on the renewal and issuing of drivers' licences aimed at singling out persons with certain disabilities and, if so, when will the legislation be introduced?

(2) Will the proposed legislation require physiotherapists, optometrists and doctors to report to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles any licence holder whose unaided vision is poor or who is otherwise physically or mentally handicapped?

(3) Will proposed legislation be so drafted that the confidential relationship between doctor and client will not be honoured?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) This matter is not presently under consideration. However the honourable member is apparently referring to legislation current in South Australia. Section 148 of the Motor Vehicles Act of that State provides:

“148. (1) Where a legally qualified medical practitioner, a registered optician, or a registered physiotherapist has reasonable cause to believe that—

(a) a person whom he has examined holds a driver's license or a learner's permit and

(b) that person is suffering from a physical or mental illness, disability or deficiency such that, if he drove a motor vehicle, he would be likely to endanger the public,

the medical practitioner, registered optician or registered physiotherapist is under a duty to inform the Registrar in writing of the name and address of that person, and of the nature of the illness, disability or deficiency from which he is believed to be suffering.

(2) Where a medical practitioner, registered optician, or registered physiotherapist furnishes information to the Registrar in pursuance of sub-section (1) of this section, he must notify the person to whom the information relates of that fact and of the nature of the information furnished.

(3) A person incurs no civil or criminal liability in carrying out his duty under sub-section (1) of this section.”

I understand this question is currently under consideration by the Australian Medical Association following a proposal by the Australian Automobile Association that legislation be introduced to preclude from driving persons suffering from temporary or permanent disorders and requiring compulsory notification by doctors of potentially dangerous drivers.

55. THEFTS FROM BOATS

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

(1) Is he aware of the growing concern expressed by large numbers of Queensland's boating fraternity at the increasing number of thefts from boats?

(2) Are records kept of these thefts in the categories of boats and trailers, out-board motors and ships' chandlery and gear from moored vessels? If so, what is the value of goods stolen and recovered in each category?

(3) Is there any special police squad to handle boating thefts, such as has been recently established in New South Wales?

(4) How many water police stations are located throughout Queensland, what are their locations, are they fully manned at all hours and are all staffs up to establishment?

(5) Are water police stationed at each boat harbour in the State and, if not, which boat harbours do not have water police stations and why?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 5) The honourable member should refer his five questions to my colleague the Minister for Police.

56. AIR POLLUTION FROM THE CHEMICAL T.D.I.

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

(1) Is he aware of the National Health and Medical Research Council Atmospheric Contaminants Report in 1975, which warned of the danger of a chemical known as T.D.I.?

(2) As T.D.I. is widely used in the manufacture of moulded furniture, paints, inks, adhesives and enamelled products, what action has the State Government taken to inform industry of the possible dangers and regulate the use of the chemical?

*Answers:—*

(1) Toluene-diisocyanate has been the subject of discussion at National Health and Medical Research Council committees.

(2) The Division of Industrial Medicine has made numerous inspections of the various firms using this substance and given appropriate advice. The substance has been listed in the appropriate schedule of the Poisons Regulations according to the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council and must be labelled accordingly.

57. CRITICISM OF GRANTS ALLOCATED TO SUNSHINE COAST LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to Press reports in "The Sunshine Coast Weekly Advertiser" by a councillor of the Landsborough Shire which were highly critical of the basis of disbursement of funds to the Sunshine Coast local authorities and, in particular, the Landsborough Shire?

(2) What opportunities were offered to members to represent their local authorities' needs to the grants committee and the Government?

(3) Was the criticism of the scheme justified?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I would refer the honourable member to the answer which he received from the Minister for Local Government to his question on 29 September 1976 and to the answer which I gave to the honourable member for Hinchinbrook on the same day.

It was pointed out in those answers that it was not practicable for the interim committee which recommended the distribution of the funds to local authorities to make the type of investigation previously made by the Commonwealth Grants Commission due to time constrictions.

At the same time, it was stressed that the arrangements made for the distribution this year were of an interim nature and that more thorough examinations of the needs of individual authorities would be possible for the purposes of future distributions following the establishment of a State Grants Commission.

58 and 59. FAMILY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE

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

(1) With reference to assistance given by the Children's Services Department for the purpose of contributing to the family assistance allowance for deserted wives and certain other women having the custody, care and control of children, what form of assistance is given by his department?

(2) For the financial year 1975-76, how many eligible women were receiving assistance and how much money was paid out?

(3) Are deserted wives and certain other women having the custody, care and control of children living on Aboriginal and Islander reserves eligible to receive family assistance allowance from the Children's Services Department and, if so, at what rate?

(4) How much money was paid out for the financial year 1975-76?

(5) Are Aboriginal and Islander women living away from the reserves eligible to receive family assistance allowance and, if so, at what rate?

(6) How much was paid out for the financial year 1975-76?

*Answers:—*

(1) Assistance is paid by the Department of Children's Services to deserted wives, deserted de facto wives and de facto wives of prisoners and to unmarried mothers pending their eligibility for supporting mother's benefit or widow's pension from the Department of Social Security. This assistance is paid at rates up to the equivalent of the class "A" widow's pension.

(2) The number of families for whom assistance of this nature was being paid at 30 June 1976 was 1,775, whilst expenditure on this type of assistance for the year 1975-76 was \$4,441,476.

(3 and 4) Deserted wives and other women having the custody, care and control of children living on Aboriginal reserves (as distinct from Aboriginal Communities) are eligible to receive family assistance allowance from the Department of Children's Services at the prescribed rates. As we are not a racist Government, the Department of Children's Services does not distinguish Aboriginal recipients from other recipients and consequently the amount paid out to Aboriginal recipients for the financial year 1975-76 cannot be stated.

Aborigines residing in communities conducted by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement are the responsibility of that department and any questions concerning them should be directed to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries.

(5 and 6) Aboriginal and Islander women living away from reserves are eligible to receive family assistance allowance at the prescribed rates, but, as stated previously, it is not possible to ascertain the amount paid to this type of recipient.

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

(1) For the financial year 1975-76 what moneys were set aside for the provision of family assistance by his department for deserted wives and certain other women having the custody, care and control of children living on Aboriginal and Islander reserves?

(2) For the financial year 1975-76 how many applications for such assistance by deserted wives and certain other women having the custody, care and control of children were submitted by women living on these reserves?

(3) Other than cash payments, what other form of assistance is given to these women living on the reserves?

(4) For the financial year 1975-76 how much money was given to the applicants for the foregoing purposes and what was the value of any other assistance given to them for the same period?

(5) On what grounds is money and assistance granted to these women?

(6) Is there any difference between the assistance given to eligible women living on Aboriginal and Islander reserves and to eligible Aboriginal and Islander women living off the reserves and, if so, what is the difference?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 6) The detailed information sought by the honourable member is not readily available and the time and cost involved in necessary research does not appear justified at this stage. However, I can inform the honourable member that in keeping with the Government's policy of ensuring that the Aboriginal people of this State, whether on or off reserves, are not disadvantaged, my department for many years has provided to deserted wives, and others in the category mentioned, an equivalent average standard of living. This support and assistance is based on need of the particular case equated to current social security benefits but, in addition, other benefits available to reserve residents only in fact increase the total value.

When the person becomes eligible to receive the standard deserted wives' allowance or other social security benefit the department's support is either withdrawn or reduced based on particular and individual need.

Where the individuals continued to seek the departmental assistance, I understand they were not eligible to receive alternative, or duplicate, assistance. However, my officers have been consulting with the appropriate State department with a view to terminating the current departmental general assistance and transferring the cases to the appropriate welfare organisation, thus enabling the beneficiary to receive a total cash component rather than cash and kind as presently applies.

Any apparent difference between the assistance given to reserve residents and those living away from reserves would be only in the methods of disbursement.

60. FINDINGS OF MINES DEPARTMENT  
SURVEYORS ON CEDAR BAY  
LAND TENURE

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

(1) In view of the fact that two Mines Department surveyors left for Cedar Bay on 21 September, but as yet the public have heard nothing of their findings, can the silence of the department be seen as an admission that the people arrested in the Cedar Bay raid were residents of the perpetual miners' lease of Bill Evans?

(2) What were the findings of the two surveyors?

*Answers:—*

(1) The question is unintelligible, but as the function of surveyors of the department does not involve the production of a guest list of any lessee, the answer is "No".

(2) The findings of the surveyors are embodied in their plan of the miners' homestead lease in the Cedar Bay area.

61. POLICE RAID ON CEDAR BAY

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

(1) Why was there no person qualified to act as a stipendiary magistrate in Cooktown on 30 August after a highly organised, large and extensive police raid on Cedar Bay?

(2) Why were the eight people arrested on vagrancy charges on 29 August re-arrested?

(3) Were some of these people interviewed recently by police conducting a departmental inquiry?

(4) Can these people be re-arrested at some time in the future or is the Minister willing to make a statement to the effect that these eight people will not be re-arrested?

*Answers:—*

(1) The clerk of the court and acting stipendiary magistrate, Mr. W. J. Randall, was absent on leave on 30 August. Mr. M. R. Arrowsmith was appointed by notification in the Government Gazette of 31 July 1976, to act as clerk of the court, Cooktown and mining registrar, Cooktown, also acting warden, Cooktown and high bailiff, Cooktown, also land agent and deputy land commissioner, Cooktown, on and from 2 August 1976, to and including 3 September 1976, during the absence of Mr. Randall. Due to an omission, he was not appointed as acting stipendiary magistrate.

On 9 September 1976, I became aware that Mr. Arrowsmith did not have jurisdiction to deal with the offences and as soon as practicable I made a statement

in the House which resulted in the persons in prison being released forthwith. I refer the honourable member to page 362 of "Hansard" for 9 September 1976.

(2 to 4) These questions should be directed to the Honourable the Minister for Police.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

FOOD BARNES

**Dr. LOCKWOOD:** I ask the Minister for Health: Is he aware of a statement by the member for Rockhampton, reported in "The Courier-Mail" of today's date, that established retail food chains are using back-door tactics to wipe out competition from food barns? Does he feel that that statement, which implies that food hygiene regulations should be abandoned, is in conflict with the principles of consumer protection, a subject in which the honourable member claims to have an interest?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** My attention was drawn to the article in this morning's "Courier-Mail" referring to statements allegedly made by the honourable member for Rockhampton outside Parliament House yesterday. I noted the implication that the honourable member was concerned mainly with economics in consumer protection and was not prepared to accept the recommendations of health authorities, which I believe are a vital part of consumer protection. If that was his implication as chairman of the Queensland Council of Consumer Affairs, I feel he should resign. I do not think that such remarks help to protect the interests of his consumer members.

This Government has been extremely dedicated in its work to protect the consumer in the community. We feel very strongly about consumer protection and it is my belief that the community has expressed support for measures we as a Government are taking in the field of health legislation.

**Mr. Wright:** Are you backing big business and the retail chains?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** We are not backing anybody. I notice the honourable member is very sensitive on this matter, but I am aware of his mental stress at the present time. The deputy leadership of his party is to be decided very shortly, and that is concerning him greatly.

I remind the honourable member for Rockhampton that this Government will take into account every aspect of consumer protection. We will consider not only the economics of the situation—prices and so forth—but also the right of the community to have good, healthful foods provided. We will continue to make every effort to ensure that that is done. If the honourable member's views are correctly stated in this morning's Press, I again call upon him to resign from his office as chairman of the council.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### EDUCATION AND PROBLEMS OF STUDENTS IN QUEENSLAND

**Mr. WARNER** (Toowoomba South) (12.7 p.m.): The matter of public interest on which I wish to speak relates to the disquiet in the community about the system of education in Queensland and the way in which a third of our Budget is spent, plus the 20.5 per cent that has been added to the allocation for education this year.

**Mr. Jensen:** You read my speech, didn't you? This is what I said in my speech.

**Mr. WARNER:** These words are my own. I am worried about the way in which these funds are being used, as are industrialists, educators and parents and scholars.

Many questions are being asked. Are we providing too many aids that cannot be used in schools? Are we providing teachers who can use them? Do they bring out the best in their pupils? Are they bringing to the plodder the things that he needs, or is he being sacrificed to the aids? There is such a welter of confusion that it begs the question whether we are educating our children better now than we were 50 years ago. Is the finished product able to cope with the exigencies of today's life? I question whether it is. In the higher tertiary levels, are our graduates able to obtain positions when they leave the universities and other institutions of learning? I believe they are finding it harder and harder each year. It has been freely acknowledged that many employers are just as happy to engage a graduate of a college of advanced education as a university graduate.

Never has the education system in Queensland been subjected to such scrutiny and debate as it has in the last year or so. Who is to assume the burden of the delegation of responsibility? Who should be advising on how our funds should be spent this year and in the years to come? Who should be the critics and what should be the criteria? Should the State Government be the adviser, or should it be a university or an outside body or organisation? In the final result, as it eventually has to find the funds, should it be the Commonwealth Government? Until this muddled situation is clarified, we will be compounding the errors and mistakes in our education system from year to year.

The specific problems that I wish to bring to the notice of the House with great urgency are those of accommodation and allowances for students. I emphasise especially the problems that confront students at the Darling Downs College of Advanced Education in Toowoomba. It is a magnificent

institute and is probably unequalled in any other provincial city in Australia. And it is in my electorate.

It caters for 3,000 students, of whom 2,000 are on the campus. The balance are external students. Unfortunately the living quarters are inadequate in terms of the number that can be accommodated. Last year, more than 800 students had to seek alternative lodgings off the campus. The two accommodation complexes are McGregor College, which houses 136 students, and the A. H. Davis Hall, which accommodates 74 students. The deficiency in accommodation is therefore readily discernible to anybody who looks into this matter.

There is a shortage of all types of accommodation in Toowoomba. Almost as soon as houses, flats and rented rooms become available, they are taken up by members of the Armed Forces. There are many servicemen living in Toowoomba. Also, the rents charged for what is available are certainly beyond the means of most students.

In this already depressing and congested situation another great obstacle arises which, on the surface, seems insurmountable. It is that in 1977 a further 600 students, in addition to the 800 already unaccommodated, will be seeking accommodation in this already overcrowded area. It will be readily seen that in the coming years students who are looking for accommodation will be in an impossible situation. Provision was made for the housing of only a couple of hundred students on the campus itself and I do not believe that anybody who really ponders this problem would find it difficult to appreciate that no Federal Government provision has been made for other students.

Some people will argue that the students of yester-year paid their own way through colleges, did not depend on hand-outs to sustain them, and found their own accommodation, and that there is far too much pandering to the students of today. I believe that that contention is purely academic. This is another day and another year and the fact is that the student allowance is not yet adequate. It is not related to the cost of living and certainly not to the level of rents demanded in Toowoomba.

My contention is, and I state it emphatically, that it is the responsibility of tertiary education authorities, through the Commonwealth Government, to ensure that there is adequate accommodation for all students who need it, preferably within the precincts of the campus. Certainly the council of the Darling Downs tertiary institution has tried consistently to have allocations made for extra accommodation but funding is not, and will not be, forthcoming in the next year. All students—and I speak particularly of Queenslanders—should have the right as citizens to adequate living conditions. Some recognition should be given to the inclusion of students in a general

housing scheme under an authority such as a housing commission. The State Government must not wash its hands of the problem and say that it is not its responsibility. I believe it is. The students are Queenslanders and we must do something to help them. It is a drastic situation and it calls for drastic action.

If Federal or State Government finance is not available, consideration must be given to the entry of private enterprise to this field, as has happened in other places in Queensland and in other States. We must do everything possible to help subsidise companies or persons who are prepared to erect accommodation of the kind needed. There is a whole field of possibilities, such as private caravan parks and buildings especially for student accommodation. The possibilities are legion. We must make some constructive response to an appalling situation, and it must be made very soon.

The impasse that we are facing, and will continue to face if we do not do something about it, must not be allowed to continue. It is the height of absurdity for a tertiary institution such as the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education to continue to grow, with additional buildings to meet the ever-expanding demands of the various faculties, without there being any commensurate expansion of accommodation facilities. The students' future should not be placed in jeopardy, nor should students be caught in a situation not of their own making but caused by forces completely outside their control.

The Federal Government has increased the student allowance to be paid in 1977. The allowance of \$32 a week was unrealistic and inadequate to meet student needs. The amount that remained after paying for board, etc., irrespective of where and how it was obtained, was painfully small, and in many cases nothing at all was left over. The increase to \$42 from 1 January 1977 is, of course, desirable but long overdue, and when the poverty level is assessed at \$52 a week it can readily be seen that the allowance, even at the higher level, is certainly no bonanza. The continued prosperity of Toowoomba in particular, and Queensland in general, brought about by the spending power of those who attend the institute must be obvious to all. If one takes into consideration the fact that the wages staff at the institute numbers almost 300 and that some of the professional staff receive salaries of up to \$20,000 per annum, one sees that the benefits that accrue to the city of Toowoomba from the institute must be very high.

From both the education and monetary points of view, I would hope that local authorities take heed of what I am saying and recognise that in this field private enterprise has to be helped all the way, and that by helping private enterprise the local authorities will be helping themselves. In summing up, I believe that in bringing this

matter to the attention of the House and the public I might in some way help to ease a problem that is becoming more difficult every year in all institutions of education in Queensland.

#### BRISBANE-DARWIN TRANSPORT SERVICES

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (12.17 p.m.): The recent Knox Budget further phased out road permit fees, a matter the coalition parties, especially the National Party, attempted to exploit in the recent Lockyer by-election—I might add, without very much success.

While the Government has been making a big song and dance about eliminating these things, it has, however, turned a blind eye to a gigantic rip-off perpetrated by prime contractors operating transport services on the Brisbane-Darwin line. It is quite obvious that in this Government's eyes business deals appear to be sacrosanct no matter who is harmed in the process. In this case, in which consumers and the general public are ripped off, other businesses also suffer.

It can generally be said that the firms which conduct this service have a ruthless business approach. They want huge profits, but they do not want the problems that go with making them and they attempt to pass them on to the poor old subcontractor. They have managed to establish their business ventures in some cases without purchasing even one road train and, in the style of Idi Amin, they have developed a curious system of penalising subcontractors who suffer breakdowns. They do this by fining subcontractors who, because of misfortune, fail to keep the company informed of the progress of the breakdown repairs. They then place a levy on these subcontractors, who, through financial circumstances, are unable to wait for payment after signed manifests reach the company office by mail. I might add, too, that contracts and freight rates on the Brisbane-Darwin service are such that an urgent investigation by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs is long overdue.

Three main companies operate this service. They are: North Australian Road Express, which is a recent amalgamation of North Australian Freight Distributors and Darwin Road Express, based at Coopers Plains, Brisbane; TNT Alltrans, of Salisbury, and Brambles Long Distance Division, of Acacia Ridge. These firms use subcontractors exclusively, and in one case the company sets up subcontractors with minimum deposits into road trains. There are two other companies which operate on the service—Simon Transport of Toowoomba, which has five road trains of its own but which also uses subcontractors from time to time, and a Mayne Nickless subsidiary, East Coast, which uses some of the old McIntyre Freight Lines equipment plus subcontractors.



In the case of Alltrans, Brambles and North Australian Express, all transport is done by owner-drivers. These subcontractors are paid in tonnage rates or cubic rates, whichever are higher. This method of compiling freight charges ensures that the cost to the consumer is the highest possible and that the return to the subcontractor is the lowest possible.

Let me give honourable members an example. It is not unusual for a trailer to carry up to 11 cubic tonnes of light freight on top of heavy loading on the Darwin trip. At present, the prime contractors charge customers \$160 per cubic tonne; but this cubic freight may weigh, say, up to 4 tonnes. The subcontractor is then paid only between \$70 and \$80 a tonne for the four tonnes, leaving the prime contractor with a profit of more than 450 per cent, which he uses to pay for his bookwork. It certainly is a hell of a good profit for doing virtually nothing.

Because the owner-operators have the rigs, the companies need outlay little more than the cost of hiring a couple of typists, salesmen and a fork-lift driver. Each train consists of two trailers, so this is a clear indication of profiteering at the expense of consumers in distant areas, who, in the end, are the ones who foot the bill.

The subcontractor who hauls two trailers 2,500 miles to Darwin must deliver heavy goods to individual destinations, then mail delivery dockets back to Brisbane. From the time these manifests arrive in Brisbane, he must wait 30 days to be paid. As all honourable members are aware, if a small businessman has to wait 30 days to be paid, he does not need many setbacks to send him to the wall financially. However, if he wants to be paid within 14 days, some companies deduct a further 2½ per cent from his fee; if he needs money within seven days, they deduct 5 per cent of the money due to him. In addition, some companies deduct either \$20 per trailer or 1½ per cent of money due for an item they euphemistically refer to as "insurance".

**Mr. Frawley:** Who told you all this?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** As I said yesterday to the honourable member for Barron River, I have only a couple of cartridges; I do not want to waste them on a tom-tit like the honourable member for Murrumba.

Although the transportation contracts place the onus for insurance on the business or person consigning the goods, subcontractors who fail to keep the company notified by telegram at least once every two days are fined \$10 a day. In my opinion, that reeks of Hitler tactics.

In addition, contracts are worded in such a way that if a breakdown occurs, the company has the right to have the subcontractor's load picked up by another subcontractor. Although it debits him with all

the cost involved, it does not pay him pro rata for distance travelled.

One of the conditions of transportation shown to me was from a company that required a subcontractor to acknowledge that the company could charge him a penalty of \$100 if it considered that the conditions it imposed on him were not observed—in other words, the company was law-maker, law-enforcement officer, prosecutor, judge and jury. That company was Darwin Road Express, which bought out North Australian Freight Distributors to form North Australian Road Express.

I might add, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that trade discounts from oil companies are not passed on to the subcontractors. Even though the companies do not own any rigs, one company that I know of requires owner-drivers and subcontractors to hand in fuel dockets before they are paid out and the company then collects the rebate. The company also charges the subcontractors an administration fee of 2c a gallon, which is a gigantic rip-off for these huge multinational companies. It is a shocking indictment of the so-called Bjelke-Petersen-Knox Government, which is administered dictatorially by the Premier, that operations of this type are allowed to go unchecked.

I regret that the Minister for Transport is not in the Chamber. Yesterday I paid him a tribute by saying that he is the only Liberal Minister in Cabinet who has had the guts to support three-cornered contests in the coming State election. I ask him to prove his bona fides and to show his new-found intestinal fortitude by ordering his department to pay particular heed to my comments today and to prevent the poor old subcontractors from being ripped off by the prime contractors.

#### BRISBANE TOWN PLAN

**Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (12.26 p.m.):** Within two weeks the people of Brisbane will no longer have the opportunity to object to the modified Brisbane Town Plan. I am concerned that people are not aware of the problems arising from the two statements of intent, the ordinances and the schedule to the Order in Council. It is in those documents that the problems lie.

People are flocking into the City Hall to view the modified town plan, but all they appear to be interested in is the plan itself, which is displayed on the walls. Today I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads to protect the people of Brisbane from certain aspects of the modified town plan that are not in the best interests of the people.

I pay due credit to the Brisbane City Council for having introduced modifications to the town plan. These go a long way towards achieving what the Liberal Party, as a member of this coalition Government, wanted to see embodied in the new town

plan. A number of aspects of the town plan, however, concern me and the people in my area.

Within the past two weeks two public meetings have been held in Ithaca, at both of which concern about the modified town plan was expressed by everyone in attendance. Among those present were quite a number of A.L.P. supporters. One of them, a man whom I know very well indeed, said that this matter should be brought to the attention of everyone in Brisbane. I cannot call public meetings in other electorates, so I am raising this matter today in the hope that through the news media the people of Brisbane will be made aware of some of the problems arising from the modified town plan.

First of all, I want to deal with parkland. The town plan contains two definitions, or two zonings, of parkland: open space, and sport and recreation.

To the average person in the community those terms do not imply that a stadium could be built on an area zoned either as open space or sport and recreation. Yet the definition of "sport and recreation" in the four books accompanying the plan clearly indicates that a huge stadium can be built in a suburb on an area that should be set aside as open space for the enjoyment of both children and adults. That is the first point I want to make.

The town plan makes provision for only two zones of parkland. The Minister should ask for at least three. The definition of "open space" is not as I would like it. I do not regard an open space as an area on which sport can be played. Yet under the modified town plan it is such an area. I would like to see three zones: open space; local parks, in which sport can be played; and district parks, in which organised sport can be played and in which even stadiums could be erected. The town plan should clearly define these various zones so that everyone is aware of what the definitions entail.

I refer in particular to Bowman Park in Bardon. It contains an area of 6.5 hectares. Under the modified town plan a district park should contain an area of from 10 to 20 hectares, yet Bowman Park has been zoned as sport and recreation. The council would want to set the whole of Bowman Park aside for sport and recreation. That means that a stadium could be built there.

Under the existing open space zone all sports can be played at Bowman Park without any problem whatever. A stadium, on the other hand, cannot be erected there.

The people of Bardon do not want stadiums built in their area, nor do they want high fences erected around parkland. But if Bowman Park is zoned as sport and recreation, that is what they will have to put up with. I want the Minister to assure the people of the Ithaca electorate that their parks will remain as open space. They

should be defined as local parks as distinct from district parks. The present circumstances cannot be allowed to continue.

Certain officers with the Brisbane City Council hold the view that a park occupied by a cricket club should be zoned as open space. That means that a stadium cannot be erected on the ground. But areas used for playing football, particularly in Bardon, are zoned sport and recreation. The four parks in the Ithaca electorate are Bowman Park with 6.5 hectares, zoned sport and recreation; Norman Buchan Park at Rainworth with 3.5 hectares, zoned open space. Jubilee Park, which is used for football, containing 2.2 hectares and zoned sport and recreation; and Moorlands Park, which is used for cricket, containing 1.6 hectares is zoned open space. The Norman Buchan Park is referred to on the map as Griffiths Park. An area of 3.5 hectares is used for the playing of cricket and is zoned as open space. Moorlands Park, with 1.6 hectares, is also used for cricket and is zoned as open space. Jubilee Park with 2.2 hectares is zoned as sport and recreation. These parks are in the middle of a residential A area. I want to know what the Brisbane City Council is trying to do.

About two years ago meetings were held in the area at which two former Brisbane City Council aldermen were told that we did not want organised sport in the area. The decisions made at the meetings were unanimous. The two aldermen took those messages back to the Brisbane City Council, yet the modified town plan discloses that the Brisbane City Council has again defined these areas as sport and recreation areas.

I shall now read to the House from the Statement of Intent Part A a passage under the heading "Confidence" to show how people can be misled—

"It is intended to ensure that all residents should be able to feel secure in the confident knowledge that the residential amenity of their locality will be protected or, alternatively, that they be aware of the nature of the likely future development and amenity of their area so that they can plan their future accordingly."

I say with confidence that the people of Bardon cannot plan their future accordingly. At some future time they could well have a stadium in their area.

No town planner would ever dream of putting a stadium in a residential A area. Can honourable members imagine Lang Park being situated in a small area of Bardon? I call on the Minister today to do something about this matter.

While talking about open space, I shall refer to Anzac Square. The present Lord Mayor has told the Save the Anzac Square Committee that he intends to go ahead with the original proposal made by former Lord Mayor Jones. In the modified town plan this area is designated as open space. Under the

old town plan part of it was open space and part was special uses A, which allowed the council to interfere with that sacred ground. Under the modified town plan it is open space. We know that the Lord Mayor has said that he intends to proceed with the alterations to Anzac Square. It is unbelievable that the Lord Mayor, after submitting the modified plan—it has not been passed by the Minister—in which this area is designated as open space, should have declared already to the Save the Anzac Square Committee that he intends to desecrate Anzac Square. To my mind the two things do not add up.

I am very concerned that there seem to be two standards. All the people of Brisbane are not aware of what is going on. A few people in the Save the Anzac Square Committee are aware of what the Lord Mayor said. The rest of the people do not know what he said. They do not know what is in the Statement of Intent. They do not know how it will affect their future. They go to the city hall and see a map showing an area zoned as residential A, but this, too, has been altered.

Whereas formerly only detached houses were allowed in residential A areas, under the Statement of Intent there can now be attached houses. This matter was raised at a public meeting but no-one in the area knew about it—not even those interested in politics. Under the plan, attached housing is to be allowed in a residential A area. Under the proposal, eight attached three-bedroom apartments are allowed to the acre, 10 two-bedroom attached apartments to the acre, or 15 one-bedroom attached apartments to the acre.

Under detached housing, we can have only five or six houses to the acre. In many cases the number is as low as four.

So the situation is that under the new modified town plan the population of a particular area may be increased by up to 100 per cent. In some areas the streets will just not be able to cope with the consequent increase in traffic movement. Where there are 15 single-bedroom apartments to the acre, there will be 15 cars instead of four. Frankly, the area of Bardon, which I am referring to, cannot possibly cope with that.

(Time expired.)

#### THE RADICAL LEFT AND RELIGIOUS FRONTS

**Mr. PORTER** (Toowong) (12.36 p.m.): I draw the attention of the House to what I see as a very vicious attack, under the guise of stating Christian doctrine, being made on this Government and on the Premier. I say "under the guise" because every action, every statement, every stance and every cause espoused by Action for World Development is identified in everything it does and everything it says with the extreme radical Left

Wing of the political spectrum. It is a product of the Australian Council of Churches, which in its turn is tied by its political umbilical cord to the World Council of Churches, which in its turn funds vicious, murderous international terrorist groups—a very strange activity for benign Christians indeed.

So the A.W.D., whatever some of its naive supporters may believe, is in fact acting as a Communist front with very skilled church activists leading it and directing it—people such as the Rev. Ray Bush, the Rev. Noel Preston, Father Dick Pascoe and a couple named Callinan (he a former Catholic priest and she a former sister, Joy Madigan, who still designates herself—and the media accept it—as Sister Joy Madigan). There are many others.

Ever since this Action for World Development was set up in 1969 jointly by the Australian Council of Churches and the Australian Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church, the A.W.D. has been very deeply involved in Left-wing anti-Christian activities. For instance, it very widely promoted the infamous faked Hanoi film "Prisoners of Vietnam". They have been anti school cadets—anti everything which would be involved in Australia's defences. Their aim is the total Communist aim of leaving Australia defenceless. They have been associated with the very extreme radical Aboriginal platforms. They have been hysterically pro-Fretlin and pro-Communist in East Timor. Father Pascoe was quoted in the Brisbane Press only a few days ago as saying—

"The Federal Government has betrayed democracy and Christianity by giving the seal of approval to Indonesia's invasion of Timor."

Christianity betrayed by stopping a Communist take-over? What sacrilegious gobbledegook!

Of course the A.W.D. received the great accolade when the Communist newspaper "Tribune" of 16 July 1974 said—

"A.W.D. has joined with other organisations in a permanent committee whose aims are to secure a number of Left-wing political objectives."

That is pretty plain language, isn't it? There can't be much doubt about that.

**A Government Member:** It's a Communist paper.

**Mr. PORTER:** The bible of the Communist Party in Australia.

In the South the A.W.D. has had public meetings—addressed by whom? Addressed by Mr. Whitlam when he was Prime Minister and by Mr. Hawke. I have always understood Mr. Hawke to state publicly that he has no religious beliefs at all. A strange fellow, isn't he, to be associated with the exposition of Christian doctrines? Then in

1974 the A.W.D. took part in a national peace liaison committee, which was organised in Canberra by the Communist Party. From that a consultative peace committee was set up—chaired by whom? Another great practising Christian—Dr. Cairns no less!

So there is no question about where this A.W.D. stands and what it is. It amazes me that men of the cloth should be prepared to have their names associated with a body which has these sorts of aims. I wonder whether these reverend gentlemen really do represent the community or even their own churches.

Certainly they have been massively rejected by the electorate because, with all the Left-wing attitudes that the A.L.P. represents here, what do we find? In the Clayfield by-election the Labor vote was up only 6 per cent. In the Lockyer by-election, on the raw figures of Saturday night, it is up only 4 per cent. I venture to say that when the minor parties go out and their preferences are distributed and when the three major parties are left looking at one another, the Labor Party will be lucky to have 25 per cent of that pool of vote. In other words, it will get 1 in 4. So if there is any suggestion that the community does not respect what this Government and its Premier stand for, look at the electoral results. That is the real test of it.

We are asked to believe that the A.W.D. clerics represent the churches. I wonder do they. There is Dr. Noel Preston, whose attachment to Left-wing causes here is well known, and it does not need any mention. He has been associated with literally every one of them down through the years. He has just left his church to become a full-time professional promoter for A.W.D.

Then there is Father Pascoe. He will be remembered as speaking at the Holy Spirit Hall in 1974, urging exactly the same causes and on the same platform as Geoff Goulet, who was then secretary of the Queensland Communist Party. A week ago, of course, he was speaking in King George Square on the Timor question and associated with—guess who? It does not take much guessing. It was Senator Georgie Georges, that darling of the Left.

Also there were Wally Stubbins of the Waterside Workers' Federation, a well-known Communist, and Joe Harris of the Building Workers' Industrial Union, an equally well-known dedicated Communist.

Then we have the Reverend Ray Bush of the Presbyterian Church. At these meetings he tells people privately—he will not say it publicly for publication—"You know, Jesus was a Communist." What incredible blasphemy—to suggest that Christ was a Communist because he advocated giving away all one's worldly goods. Apparently there is no understanding of the essay in humility that this represents. The essence

of Christ's teaching was that all men were equal before God. But the essence of Communism is that people are permanently unequal, that there are some who order and some who will be ordered; all men are far from being equal. The suggestion that this is in any sense related to Christianity is, as I say, blasphemous.

Wherever Communism has been practised it has been accompanied by the ruthless extermination of Christian people, by decimating the churches and driving them underground. There is no free religion practised in any Communist country in this world, and will not be, either. So for any reverend gentleman to try to sell us a bill of goods which tries to equate Communism with Christianity is really diabolical.

These are the people who staged the vigil last Friday evening at which "Direct Action" (a pamphlet) was very freely handed around, and "Direct Action" is an extreme Communist publication. It is a document put out by the Trotskyite Socialist Workers' Party of Australia. One can be pardoned for wondering just how much genuine Christianity there can be in people like these and how much calculated Left-wing treachery there is in them.

One might bear in mind also that the advertisement suggesting that people should join in this prayer vigil carried a whole host of university names including people who are well known as agnostics and who glory in deriding and scoffing at Christianity. I might also mention this: 23 of the signatories were also signatories to a big advertisement—"Christians for Democracy"—which appeared in the election campaign of 1975 touting for Whitlam and the Labor Party. It is very apolitical this A.W.D.—and very Christian!—with its Left-wing doctrines and its promotion of endeavours to destroy Governments of our particular colour!

If these gentlemen have anything to say I will be happy to hear them say it and if they would like to get on TV and talk it over with me, I will be glad to do that, too. But I doubt that I will have many takers.

All of this A.W.D. clerical performance is a perversion of true Christianity. We have to remember that the A.W.D. in its aims calls for more individual participation in the democratic process than merely voting at elections. What, sir, does that mean? Does it mean no more decisions at the ballot-box, and that we form Governments by decisions of mass meetings of unionists and by mobs in the streets? Is that what they are after?

The other aim of the A.W.D. is a just sharing of wealth and power, and this is the mealy-mouthed sort of gobbledegook which has always masked the Communist aim, the idea of beating down freedom of the individual and the free enterprise system.

When one thinks of the mass murders, the wholesale tortures and the ruthless extermination of religion that has accompanied Communism everywhere, I say that far from anybody involved in this A.W.D. being truly Christian, I find their activities positively Satanic.

(Time expired.)

#### MISUSE OF HOUSEHOLD DETERGENTS

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) (12.46 p.m.): The matter I wish to raise today is the use of detergents in the home. I have been very concerned for some time that some people in the community have been using detergents wrongly. This has occurred mainly because of the average housewife's ignorance of the proper use of detergents. I feel that an investigation should be made as soon as possible into the use of detergents now being sold in the community. The average housewife does not realise the possible danger to her family when she uses a detergent to wash the dishes, especially when she fails to rinse the household crockery in fresh water after it has been washed. In homes which have double-sink facilities, how many times do we see the housewife fail to use the second sink to rinse the crockery again in fresh water to eliminate the film of detergent which remains after washing?

I know that for some years now, many medical authorities have been conducting research into this subject, but unfortunately the results of their research have not been disseminated throughout the community and people have not been advised of the proper use of the detergents they buy. I think the time is long overdue when every detergent sold, no matter how it is packaged, should have a label showing its constituents. There should also be a warning on the label of the dangers if the detergent is improperly used. People can become careless through ignorance.

To be fair to the housewife, she has been caught up in the constant advertising of these products, especially on television, where we see large packets of these detergents shown with some free present attached to them to entice the housewife to buy that particular product. The housewife is just caught up in this powerful advertising campaign. It has been said that some manufacturers spend as much as \$400,000,000 a year on advertising and promoting their products. It is a pity they do not spend some of this money on enlightening the consumer about the quality of the product and the dangers if it is not properly used.

**Mr. Moore** interjected.

**Mr. DEAN:** I do not have the time to answer inane interjections. Many of these products are very good, but as with many fertilisers on the market there should appear on the package a label setting out what the

product is made of and how it should be used. The trouble starts when the product is not used properly.

**Mr. Wright:** Don't you think the advertising is also suspect when there is talk about it being lemon-charged and so on?

**Mr. DEAN:** That is what I said earlier. The housewife is unfortunately caught up in these high-powered advertising campaigns, especially the campaigns conducted through the most powerful section of the media, television. People are hooked by this form of advertising.

**Mr. Wright:** It is false advertising.

**Mr. DEAN:** It is false advertising, but again the consumer is caught up in it.

In my opinion the time has arrived when Parliament, and the State Health Department, in particular, should give a definite lead to the community. From time to time the department issues many very informative leaflets on health matters. I cannot see why it could not extend its activities a little further and point out to the public the dangers associated with the improper use of detergents.

It has been said by many authorities that skin complaints, particularly amongst women, can be attributed to the use of detergents. As I said earlier, unless there is proper cleaning and rinsing of cooking utensils and crockery in the home, residues of detergents can be taken internally. Who knows what effect they have? Only those with medical knowledge or those who have carried out research could tell us whether these very powerful irritants may be the cause of malignant growths.

I repeat that the only way to protect the public is by giving full details of the product in plain language that is easily understood—not scientific jargon, but plain English—on the label of the container. The label should state what the product is made of, how it should be used, and how it should not be used.

**Mr. Wright:** Do you think we should cover the pollution aspects as well?

**Mr. DEAN:** The subject is so wide that it could be extended to cover pollution. Detergents do pollute many streams and water-ways, and drinking water might be involved. However, I am dealing particularly with domestic detergents which are taken directly into the home and, in many instances, used instead of soap. Years ago one could quite easily obtain a cake of soap, but faster means of cleaning are now available. Detergents certainly clean dishes, and if precautions were taken after their use to ensure that the residue was removed, the potential health hazard would be minimised, if not eliminated.

**Mr. Wright:** The cost is exorbitant, also.

**Mr. DEAN:** That is another aspect of the matter. One could deal at length with the cost. It is obvious, of course, that the consumer is the one who pays.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Mr. DEAN:** Many women do not use detergents; many others do use them. They are taken in by the very clever propaganda used to promote the sale of a product in the community.

The main point that I wish to make is that the health authorities should give a lead, especially through the schools. I am a great believer in bringing matters of this sort to the notice of young people very early in their lives, so that when they leave school they will have some knowledge of the dangers of products such as detergents that may be hazardous to health in later life. I cannot see why leaflets could not be printed outlining the proper use of detergents. In addition, as I said earlier, all the constituents of detergents should be stated very clearly on the label of the container or the package in which they are sold.

#### BRISBANE TOWN PLAN

**Mr. LANE** (Merthyr) (12.54 p.m.): I join with my colleague the honourable member for Ithaca in speaking about some of the implications of the Brisbane Town Plan, which is currently on display at the city hall and which, till 2 November, is open to objections from the public. It will then be removed from the display area in the city hall and go before the council to be debated.

It is important that the public know that they should give attention to this town plan, which is a new town plan and quite separate from the one that was displayed about 12 months ago. It went its way through channels until it was rejected by the Minister for Local Government and was sent back to the city hall for modification. In the few days remaining all the people of Brisbane should make a study of the new town plan and, if they find something objectionable in it, lodge an objection on the proper form. It is only on such objections that action will be taken.

**Mr. Chinchen:** The previous plan was rejected not only by the Minister but also by the metropolitan Government members.

**Mr. LANE:** The previous Brisbane Town Plan was rejected by the Minister on the recommendation of the metropolitan members of the Government parties, who, under the chairmanship of the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt, held continual meetings over a period of some months. They produced an in-depth report that resulted in the rejection of the town plan and the direction to the Brisbane City Council to modify the plan.

The modified town plan contains many basic features to which I think a large number of Brisbane people will take objection. I should like to refer to some of them briefly in the few minutes at my disposal.

In the first place, the modified town plan provides for a river-bank set-back. In other words, no person will be able to have a building approved within 20 metres of the bank of the Brisbane River if his land is upstream from the William Jolly Bridge, or within 30 metres of the bank of the river if his land is downstream from the William Jolly Bridge and upstream from the Hawthorne ferry jetty. This will mean that none of those persons who have homes, home-units or flats on land within those boundaries will be able to carry out alterations to their buildings or redevelop their land. In future, as the result of the inclusion in the town plan of this arbitrary rule, their land will be non-conforming uses.

The member for Ithaca has referred to the fact that clubhouses and other establishments could be constructed wantonly on existing open space and sport and recreation areas. In instances of alienation of parkland, such alienation will not be advertised, so the public will not have an opportunity to object to it or to appeal against decisions made by the Brisbane City Council.

Perhaps the most iniquitous feature of the new town plan is its provision concerning the use of land for multi-unit development. The people of Brisbane should know that from the day that the modified town plan becomes law they will not be permitted to construct a multi-unit dwelling on land with an area less than 32 perches, or 800 sq. m. At the present time and under the present index system, flats or perhaps two maisonettes can be built on an area of 24 perches. In fact, if all other requirements are fulfilled, eight flats can be built on a block of land—probably it is more practical to use six flats as an example—of 24 perches. But under the new proposed town plan people will be prevented from erecting flats, units or maisonettes on land with an area smaller than 32 perches.

All those people who hold land in B zones in the expectation of being able to develop it and to provide housing for many needy persons will be prevented from doing so if their land is less than 32 perches.

Under the heading "Restriction on Development in Residential Development Areas", which is item 6 in the Planning Ordinances, this provision appears—

"The Board shall refuse any application in respect of development on a site in a Residential Development Area R2 or a Residential Development Area R3 where it appears in the opinion of the Board that an adjoining allotment having an area of less than 800 square metres or a frontage of less than 20 metres will be rendered incapable of being developed together with any adjacent allotment with which it may be amalgamated to form an allotment equal to or exceeding that area and frontage;"

That means that, before a person can obtain the permission of the council to construct units or flats on his block of land, he has

to take into consideration the land adjoining three of his boundaries and he has to have some sort of commitment from the owners of the adjoining blocks that their land will be used or developed or held in a special way. This provision will cut right across the principle of private ownership of land.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The time allotted for the Matters of Public Interest debate under the Sessional Order previously agreed to by the House has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.

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