

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER 1976**

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## THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER 1976

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

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### SOLAR ECLIPSE

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (11.2 a.m.): Mr. Speaker, on this coming Saturday the moon will pass between the sun and the earth to form a total eclipse. During the period from 3.50 p.m. until 5.40 p.m. a very real danger to eye health will occur. I wish to use this important forum to urge all honourable members when they return to their electorates later today to further alert the constituents in their electorates to the very severe permanent eye damage that can be caused through direct viewing of the sun and eclipse. It is essential that all parents explain the danger to their children and the desirability of preventing direct viewing by bringing children indoors during the risk period.

I have been advised that, technicalities permitting, television coverage of the eclipse will take place on the Saturday afternoon, and quite obviously this is the way to view the eclipse. I hope all honourable members will seek every opportunity in their individual electorates to give the widest warnings about the eclipse.

The incidence of solar photo retinitis, or eclipse blindness, is greatly higher in children compared with adults. Children, because of their very inquisitiveness, are the major risk group, and it is essential that at eclipse time the adult population acts as look-outs to prevent children giving in to temptation to view the eclipse and then to suffer life-long eye damage. I assure honourable members this is a very real health hazard.

The last total eclipse of the sun in Australia occurred at Cape Leeuwin, south of Perth in Western Australia, in June 1974.

I am advised that after this eclipse 10 people reported some loss of vision. In a 3-minute total eclipse which affected Africa in 1959, 170 people suffered visual defects after solar eclipse.

Saturday's total eclipse will be some 4.9 minutes in length but the total period of danger is just under two hours. If parents think their child has been exposed to the harmful light, they should immediately contact their local hospital or an eye specialist.

I am advised that initially the complaint would be of a persistent after-image of the sun, and there is almost always a change in the quality of vision, such as the shape, size and colour discrimination in severe cases. While eclipse blindness is not total blindness, reading ability is the major faculty at risk. Quite obviously, damage to the sight of young children in their early years of study would indeed be a severe handicap.

Normally the brightness of the sun prevents our looking directly at it. During an eclipse this brightness is diminished and we are able to look at the sun, or the part of it that is visible. By doing this, our eyes take in an excessive amount of radiation, which produces a central retinal burn that eventually destroys reading capacity. The damage is caused in a matter of seconds.

During question-time, for the information of all honourable members, I will have circulated a copy of this ministerial statement and a pamphlet on solar eclipse from the Queensland Health Education Council.

Mr. Speaker, if honourable members are able to prevent eclipse blindness occurring in one child or adult through a timely warning, then we have served this State well. I ask all honourable members to take careful note of this statement.

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1. 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:—*

(1 and 2) The Act provides that, during any period of incapacity less than 26 weeks, an injured worker employed under an award shall be paid compensation at the award wage as varied from time to time.

The award wage at the commencement of the period of incapacity is established by the State Government Insurance Office

in the first instance from information contained in the employer's report of the injury, and the initial payment is made at this rate. The office makes subsequent payments to the claimant at the same rate subject only to verification of continuing incapacity.

The volume and complexity of State and Federal awards is such that verification of the award rate prior to each subsequent payment would be impossible without substantially increasing the number of staff dealing with workers' compensation claims. Reliance is placed upon the employer or the claimant advising of any change to the award rate. This information, if not supplied promptly, can result in a delay in payment, but the adjustment is paid retrospectively.

It is recognised that the present procedure is not entirely satisfactory in that the employer is not required by the Act to advise the office of wage variations which affect his employees who are currently receiving compensation. Consideration is at present being given to amending the Workers' Compensation Act to make it mandatory for the employer to advise the State Government Insurance Office of any award variation which affects an employee on compensation.

## 2. THEFTS FROM BOATS

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

(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, outboard 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?

*Answers:—*

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.

(4) One is situated in Brisbane. This station operates on a 24 hour per day, seven days per week basis. Minimum staff at any one time are one sergeant 2/C and two constables.

(5) There are no water police stations outside the metropolitan area of Brisbane. However, motor-boats are stationed at the following centres for use by police in those areas as and when required:—

Thursday Island—17'6" aluminium boat with two 20 h.p. motors.

Southport—16' fibreglass "Cruise-craft" with two 70 h.p. motors.

Cleveland—15'2" De Havilland "Off Shore" aluminium with two 25 h.p. motors.

Rockhampton—13'7" fibreglass boat with 20 h.p. outboard motor.

South Townsville—14' "Savage" aluminium boat with 25 h.p. motor.

Cairns—18' fibreglass boat with V8 jet motor.

## FORM OF QUESTION

**Mr. LESTER** (Belyando) proceeding to give notice of a question—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to pay more attention to the framing of his questions. If he needs any assistance, he should consult the Clerk of the Parliament.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### ON-THE-SPOT FISHING FINES

**Mr. ROW:** I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries: Will he inform the House whether he proposes on-the-spot fishing fines of \$400, as indicated in "The Courier-Mail" today?

**Mr. WHARTON:** I have never ever considered introducing legislation which would extend authority to any officer to impose on-the-spot fishing fines of \$400. The report in "The Courier-Mail" is quite incorrect. The proposal was to introduce a system of on-the-spot penalties for minor offences only, with very limited penalties. However, should the proposal be implemented at some future time, it is essential that any person so levied retain the right to present a defence at court and this would be a paramount factor in any proposal I would submit to the Government.

### ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT BY VARIOUS RELIGIOUS GROUPS

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** I ask the Premier: With regard to the present spate of attacks on the Government by members of various

religious organisations who claim that some actions of this Government have deprived people of freedoms, and that other actions will endanger other freedoms, can he inform the House if these people have mentioned any freedom that is threatened, or do they launch their attacks in general and unsubstantiated terms for publicity purposes only?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I think in many instances these attacks that are made on the Government are for political purposes. There are many people who follow the lead that has been given by certain individuals, and I think that yesterday the honourable member for Toowong gave a very interesting run-down on some aspects of this matter. If the honourable member had had the time, there were many more aspects upon which he could have elaborated, because he and I, and many other honourable members, know exactly the backgrounds of many of the organisations to which he made reference.

I want to say that I have heard of and read statements by various groups of people that their liberty has been taken from them and that their freedoms have been imperilled, but, as I say, this is largely political propaganda disseminated for special reasons. I would like any of these groups to give me one specific instance of any freedom that they have lost or any liberty that has been imperilled by any action of my Government. I should be happy to discuss with them any aspect of the matter, because I know that their accusations cannot be proved.

I would like to say to all of these people that, while I do not deny them the right to criticise my Government rightly or wrongly, my Government is concerned about exactly the same things as they say they are concerned about, namely, freedom and liberty. We are protecting the freedom and liberty of all sections of the community, including those of honourable members opposite. Unlike some people, we do not believe that freedom exists for ourselves only, and we will continue to protect the freedoms and liberties of all sections of the Queensland people, no matter who they are, although we may temporarily antagonise some of them in the process.

To me and my Government freedom and liberty are precious things which have to be fought for and protected against attacks by anyone. I would like to remind these people talking about freedom of the words of a much wiser man than I—"freedom ends where it transgresses on the freedom of another." Nobody in Queensland must get the idea that only his or her freedom will be protected if the protection of that freedom means the infringement or destruction of the freedom of some decent, reputable, law-abiding citizen or group of citizens.

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AGNES WATERS

**Mr. POWELL:** I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General:

(1) Is he aware of Press reports regarding a proposed land development project at Agnes Waters, north of Bundaberg?

(2) Has he noted in those Press reports that concern has been expressed relative to certain matters regarding this development?

(3) Will he take appropriate steps through the Corporate Affairs Commissioner's Office to have this matter investigated?

**Mr. LICKISS:** I am aware of the proposed development at Agnes Waters, north of Bundaberg, and I am also aware from Press reports that concern has been expressed in relation to that development. I have already discussed the matter with the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and two officers have been dispatched to the area to make an on-the-spot investigation and such other investigations as are necessary. I am awaiting a report from those officers.

#### SOLAR ECLIPSE

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Because of the absence of the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities, I ask the Premier: In view of the timely statement by the Minister for Health on the eclipse of the sun, will he ensure that all schools in the State are notified of the Minister's statement, either in full or in a precis of it, because I think it is very necessary that children be informed as soon as possible of the dangers?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Yes. I give the honourable member the assurance that the Government will give directions that will ensure that all schools are acquainted with the facts. It has been done already in some areas, but we will ensure that all schools are notified.

#### METALS EXPLORATION LTD.

**Mr. MELLOY:** I ask the Premier: In view of the reported \$5,300,000 operating loss of Metals Exploration Ltd. for the year ended 30 June 1976, what action will the Government take to ensure that the loss does not continue? Will the Government investigate the activities of the company, especially since the Government in 1970 unconditionally agreed to guarantee the repayment of moneys borrowed by the company for 20 years?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The honourable member would not, of course, expect the Government to run the business. The Government has given very strong support to this project, as it does to many others, because of the job opportunities that it

provides. Some union leaders have not made it any easier, and in fact they caused great hardship initially for this company and many others. If greater co-operation could be obtained from certain unionists, not the rank and file but their leaders, some of these problems could be overcome much more easily.

I am quite sure that ultimately this company will come to the surface. From time to time many people and organisations find themselves in a tough spot. This is a wonderful project that is in the interests of North Queensland and we hope that it will continue. We are sure it will.

#### NEWMARKET BIRD AND ANIMAL SANCTUARY

**Mr. MOORE:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: As the Brisbane City Council apparently intends to annex 20 acres from the Newmarket bird and animal sanctuary for the purpose of laying a running track, do the 4,000 persons who objected to this proposal under the original Brisbane Town Plan and again wish to object to it under the modified town plan have to lodge fresh objections, and, if so, what is the deadline for such objections?

**Mr. HINZE:** Every time I hear the term "bird sanctuary" I duck for cover. I didn't think I could get into so much trouble over birds. If they were birds of a different type I wouldn't mind; but bird sanctuaries! 'Struth! Every week something is brought to Cabinet concerning either the Newmarket bird sanctuary or the Currumbin bird sanctuary. I suppose if there are any more bird sanctuaries in the State I will cop them, too.

To answer the honourable member's question—I know that he is trying to safeguard the interests of the 4,000 persons who objected to this proposal in the original town plan. Some of those people are of the belief that because they have already objected to the proposal they are not required to do so again. I assure them that if they still wish to object to the proposal under the modified town plan they must do so, by 2 November. I thank the honourable member for such an intelligent question. But for heaven's sake don't keep talking about bird sanctuaries.

#### WAMURAN STATE SCHOOL

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I ask the Minister for Transport: Will he endeavour to cut the red tape that seems to be strangling the Wamuran State School Parents and Citizens' Association in its attempt to obtain the use of railway land at Wamuran for additional playing areas?

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** Yes, I will cut the red tape, even if I have to use a pair of scissors to do it.

#### ELIMBAH STATE SCHOOL

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Will he give consideration to approving the erection of a temporary building at the Elimbah State School for 1977 to enable the school to commence a pilot pre-school, which would be a great asset to the community?

**Mr. LEE:** I would like to accede to the honourable member's request but I could not give an undertaking that I will do so without first looking at the works programme. It would not be right for me to promise to do things that I cannot do. I have never made a practice of doing that.

#### PAPUA NEW GUINEA BORDER

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I ask the Premier: Has he had any further communication from the Federal Government concerning the proposed change to the border of Queensland and Papua New Guinea? Would he indicate the attitude of Queensland Federal members towards this vital issue?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I have not received any recent communication from the Commonwealth Government, but I believe that as time has gone by it has mellowed in its attitude towards the requirements of the Islanders as well as of the people who live in North Queensland. I am not sure that the Federal Government has come to a conclusion on what it is expected to do and what it has to do, that is, conform with what has been put up to it many times by the Queensland Government. I hope that this matter will be finalised in the very near future. I could reiterate the attitude of this Government and that of the people to Canberra, but Canberra knows our wishes. It is up to Canberra to perform. It is as simple as that.

#### FREEZE ON WAGES AND PRICES

**Mr. JENSEN:** I ask the Premier: Will the Government support a 12-months freeze on wages and prices in order to contain the economy of this country?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I have always believed in doing it in a better way than that. I have always suggested that, rather than freeze wages and prices, the Commonwealth should start at its own back door, as Mr. Curtin did, that is, freeze taxation and sales tax to relieve the pressure of demand for higher wages and prices. If that does not work with certain unions, the other moves that the honourable member suggests should be taken can be looked at. A tremendous advantage would be gained if the Commonwealth would do what I suggest. After I recommended this action to Mr. Whitlam at three Premiers' Conferences, I noticed that

even he suggested that this might be the solution. It has taken him a long time to wake up.

**Mr. JENSEN:** I ask the Premier a supplementary question: His answer indicates that he does not support a freeze on wages. Therefore he supports the escalation of unemployment. Does he agree with the escalation of unemployment and the Communist-controlled unions causing more strikes and revolution? Does he agree with that?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! What is the question?

**Mr. JENSEN:** Does the Premier agree with further escalation in unemployment with the Communist unions causing further strikes and revolution?

**Mr. Aikens:** You will have to find employment for him.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** It is true that it may be necessary to find employment for him. I assure him that if he comes to the Government we will see where we can accommodate him because we know that he is facing unemployment.

On a serious note—the Government has demonstrated again and again that its main objective is to find work and employment—to provide jobs and job opportunities for people.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is far too much noise in the Chamber.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** At all times we are trying to promote industry. This morning, again, I had a group of big company people in my office trying to work out a solution to get another project going so that we may provide jobs and job opportunities. That is what we are striving to achieve. It is the union leaders, through their standover tactics and other methods of intimidation that are coming more and more to the fore—with many of them adopting gangster tactics—which are causing the unsettled situation confronting the nation in strikes and unemployment generally.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AS PART-TIME STATE SECRETARY OF THE A.L.P.

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Has he seen recent Press reports of the statement by the Leader of the Opposition that he had offered his services on a part-time basis as State secretary of the Australian Labor Party? In view of the fact that the attendance in this Parliament by the Leader of the Opposition has been, to say the least, irregular, particularly during the recent Budget debate, does he consider that the State of Queensland—indeed, the Budget debate—would

have been better served if the Leader of the Opposition were to give some time to his parliamentary duties and his record of attendance in this place?

**Mr. KNOX:** I realise that the Leader of the Opposition has very onerous duties. I am quite sure, with all the pressures going on within his party at the moment, it must be very difficult for him to attend Parliament.

**Mr. Marginson:** You had a few pressures on you up in Toowoomba, didn't you?

**Mr. KNOX:** Yes, but I handled those all right. I am still here, and I have been unanimously endorsed by my party to fight the next election. I am still Leader of my party. I cannot say that the future for some members of the Opposition is as bright.

Since Sir John Egerton was removed from office, the Leader of the Opposition has lost one of his greatest allies. His party is now finding that it is in grievous trouble, because the Left Wing has now been given the opportunity to move in and take over. Having lopped the head of Mr. Lourigan, he has offered his services to the party as acting secretary. That offer has been rejected. He would probably like the job permanently, as it is a lot quieter there than it is here. Of course, we are trying to keep him permanently as Leader of the Opposition.

POTTED PLANTS FOR CLOSED SECTION OF BRUNSWICK STREET

**Mr. LANE:** In directing a question to the Minister for Health, I draw his attention to an answer I received from the Minister for Transport yesterday, in which he said was having difficulty in obtaining potted plants and shrubs to decorate the part of Brunswick Street that is temporarily closed owing to the railway electrification work. In view of the large installation he has in the grounds of the Chermiside chest hospital, which seems to me when I drive past to be full of potted plants and shrubs, will he undertake to lend to the Minister for Transport a selection of those shrubs to decorate that part of Brunswick Street which is closed?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I am aware of the member's concern on this matter. I assure him that I will have his request investigated.

TOWNSVILLE MEDICAL SCHOOL

**Mr. KATTER:** I ask the Premier: Will he approach the Prime Minister and demand an immediate reversal of the decision by the Federal Government to postpone the establishment of the Townsville medical school, particularly as it is becoming more difficult to obtain medical treatment in this

State, whether in Brisbane or Julia Creek, and the only solution to this problem is the establishment of the Townsville medical school?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Like the honourable member, my Cabinet members and I and the rest of us are concerned that, because of lack of funds, the Commonwealth Government dropped support for this proposal, as it did for other proposals that had to be postponed. The Minister for Health has informed me that, within the next few weeks, he will be coming to Cabinet with a submission. On the basis of it, I will make a submission to the Commonwealth for reconsideration of its decision. I can assure the honourable member that we appreciate his support. When I receive a reply from the Prime Minister, I shall acquaint him with the result.

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON UNION MEMBERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

**Mr. WRIGHT:** I ask the Premier: With reference to the reported State Cabinet decision to confer the benefits of union membership on non-members of the Queensland Teachers' Union, is this now the official Government policy and does it mean that preference in employment will no longer be given to persons who belong to the relevant union? I cite unions such as the State Service Union, the Professional Officers' Association, the Hospital Employees' Union, the A.R.U., the Building Workers' Union and the Miscellaneous Workers' Union. If not, do we accept the fact that this Cabinet decision is simply one way to continuing the Government's vendetta against Queensland teachers?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** It would surprise me if the honourable member wanted to deny to any public servant, irrespective of the department in which he is employed, his just reward for the service that he gives. I hope the honourable member is not implying that he has revelled in seeing some people not receiving their full payments just because they do not belong to a union. I should like him to declare himself on this issue at the appropriate time. Those remarks apply also to other honourable members opposite. There are those who would like to victimise people who do not conform to their way of thinking, but that was not the attitude of the Government when this decision was made. The Government has always had a policy down the years of requiring officers employed in the various departments to belong to unions. At the moment no decision other than that has been made.

At 12 noon,

*In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House went into Committee of Supply.*

SUPPLY

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—FIRST AND SECOND ALLOTTED DAYS

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

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1976-77

COMMUNITY AND WELFARE SERVICES AND SPORT

CHIEF OFFICE

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I desire to inform honourable members that, on the Chief Office Vote, I propose to allow a full discussion on the whole of the ramifications of a department (Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds, and Loan Fund Account).

For the information of honourable members, I point out that the administrative acts of a department are open to debate, but the necessity for legislation and matters involving legislation cannot be discussed in Committee of Supply.

**Hon. J. D. HERBERT** (Sherwood—Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport) (12.1 p.m.): I move—

“That \$4,249,551 be granted for ‘Community and Welfare Services and Sport—Chief Office.’”

When the Estimates of my portfolio were last debated in this Chamber, the area of my responsibilities was designated as the Department of Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services, which had been established in June 1972. Following the State election in December 1974, a reshuffle of areas of control took place and the department was renamed to become the Department of Community and Welfare Services and Sport.

The Queensland Government Tourist Bureau was moved to another portfolio but additional responsibilities were added to my department, including: the Division of Social Work, from the Health Department; the Probation and Parole services; and the activities of the Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind as well as the Blind Advisory Committee.

Since its origin almost 4½ years ago, the department has been through some very difficult periods owing to lack of accommodation initially, shortages of staff in the chief office in particular, and a greatly increased work-load as new phases of Government policy were implemented and as changes in step with modern concepts and requirements occurred.

In the current financial year, the department's Vote has been increased by more than \$5,500,000 to \$35,842,022, comprising: the amount mentioned in the motion I moved

at the commencement of my speech for chief office; \$18,073,385 for the Department of Children's Services; \$12,765,243 for the Prisons Department, and \$753,843 for the Probation and Parole services.

The total allocation for the year represents an increase of nearly 140 per cent, after allowing for the transfer of the Division of Tourist Activities to another portfolio, in the period since these Estimates were last before Parliament.

However, I think that it should be clearly understood that, in the context of current inflation and the accompanying spiralling costs, these increases will not permit any major expansion of existing services during the present financial year.

The problems I have mentioned and the increased work-load that I have illustrated have been tackled successfully and this has been due in no small way to the dedication of my own staff and the co-operative spirit shown by officers in other departments.

Annual reports covering all sections of administration within the department have been tabled and I cannot see any value in my reiteration of the contents of those and possibly depriving someone else of the opportunity to speak. Also, in my closing speech, I hope to comment on as many as possible of the points raised in the debate. It is my intention to leave any remarks until then—unless, of course, a matter of some contention or significance emerges and requires an immediate reply.

I have adopted this approach because of the importance of the activities of my department to the general welfare of the community and the impact they have on the lives of thousands of people throughout the State each year. For the same reasons, I am introducing the Estimates on a non-political basis and I hope that other honourable members will enter into the debate in the same spirit.

I have never believed that the misfortunes of others, whether self-inflicted or not, the plight of the needy, the assistance of the deprived, the welfare of the dispossessed and the development of community recreational facilities, whether they be for the aged or for the young, for the active or for the handicapped, should be allowed to become political footballs.

I believe that all people carrying responsibilities in the community should strive together for improvements in these fields and, as I have indicated previously, I am quite happy to listen to and consider any constructive suggestion from any member of the community. My officers and I do not presume to have all the answers and, in this day and age, we must be prepared for change if the ever-altering needs of the community are to be met.

Officers of the department are examining its present structure with a view to improving and streamlining our procedures and functions and will make recommendations to me with these objectives in mind.

In his annual report, the Director of the Department of Children's Services commented on the questioning of values, practices and administrative structure of his department by an increasing number of people and groups of people in the community and I can assure honourable members that all of these matters have been under review by a committee of officers of the department and by me for some time.

The problems which confront the Department of Children's Services continue to grow. Social attitudes to patterns of living are changing, the pressure of economic factors is being felt and more people are being confronted with problems with which they cannot contend without help. As a result, social welfare services, both statutory and private, are experiencing increased demands and, at the same time, the provision of these services is becoming more extensive and expensive.

The increase in the expenditure in the area of family assistance has been quite marked. In 1968-69, the department's expenditure in this area was only \$432,156, but in the 1975-76 financial year it reached \$4,466,589. Fifty per cent of the bulk of this expenditure is recoverable from the Commonwealth.

The level of family assistance payments is reviewed at the time of any increase in the class "A" Widow's Pension to ensure that it maintains parity with that pension and other benefits paid by the Department of Social Security. It seems clear that payments to single mothers of the Supporting Mother's Benefit have resulted in many single mothers retaining their children. This, together with a number of other factors, has led to a greater period of waiting for adoption placements, not only in Queensland, but throughout Australia.

Strangely enough, the increase in the period of waiting for adoption has led to a very great increase in the number of queries received by the department from potential adoptive parents and, as of 1 September 1976, the period for which potential adoptive parents would have to wait was: male—up to 30 months according to religious denomination; female—up to 39 months according to religious denomination.

As indicated earlier, the number of children becoming available for adoption is decreasing, and when potential adoptive parents receive notice that they have been approved as potential adoptives, it is almost impossible to give them an exact estimate of the length of time they will have to wait.

I cannot see that there is going to be any lessening in the demands placed on social and family welfare authorities, such as our department.

A number of factors in our society are contributing to anti-social attitudes in children and the precise nature of these factors is not clear, but it seems that the corrective and counselling services of the Department of Children's Services will continue to be called upon.

There is a greater demand for child-minding facilities and great care must be exercised in this area to ensure not only that the physical well-being of the child is attended to, but that his developmental needs and general welfare also are provided for. If these are neglected, there is evidence to suggest that the child will suffer in both his emotional and cognitive development.

I am concerned that a responsive service be provided in the case of child abuse. During the last financial year, a small number of cases were reported to the department where there had been almost unbelievable cruelty to children. Reported numbers of these cases are small when one considers the population of the State, but it is the view of a number of experts in the field that we are only seeing or hearing about the tip of the iceberg. In co-operation with the medical profession, police and voluntary agencies, such as Life Line, it is hoped to provide a comprehensive service to protect children from abuse.

The Juvenile Aid Bureau continues to work within the Department of Children's Services and this group of dedicated police officers is an effective force in helping children.

Over the years, the Department of Children's Services has been reinforced by increased personnel so that greater attention can be given to all aspects of the welfare of children and their families. The cost of these services is accelerating and becoming a heavier charge on State revenue.

In its desire to modernise the State's prison service, the Government is pressing ahead with a three-pronged attack through improved facilities, a more effective rehabilitation system and an officer-recruitment and training programme.

In addition to the \$12,700,000 provided in the Budget for the department's normal operations, a Loan Funds allocation of \$3,100,000 has been made for capital works to improve facilities at several of our institutions, whilst plans are being formulated for further improvements in the foreseeable future.

We recognise that the present accommodation for holding females is old and inadequate, and the initial planning for a new female prison based on overseas trends is under way. Another planned step forward

will be a remand prison. It is envisaged it will be built on land available on the Brisbane Prison reserve.

Present thinking is that there also should be hostel-type accommodation for those prisoners who are granted release-to-work and those sentenced under the Weekend Detention Act. At the present time, these people are accommodated in various maximum-security prisons, and this consequently diminishes the level of security.

Planning is under way for a new maximum-security prison at Townsville on land occupied by the department. When this is completed, the present structure will be demolished to make way for a new medium-security area.

Queensland was a leader in Australia in establishing a modern Probation and Parole Service in 1959, and I think honourable members would agree that the contents of the annual report on this section of my department's activities clearly indicate that, over all, this system is working very successfully in the interests of the offenders and the community.

As far as probation is concerned, it is used mainly in respect of young persons. In the past year, for instance, some 81 per cent of all offenders admitted to probation were under the age of 25 years and almost 90 per cent were under 30 years of age. What it amounts to is the selective use of a less drastic alternative than imprisonment for young people who would not, in the long term, benefit from being imprisoned. Some 60 per cent of those who are placed on probation and who successfully complete their period of supervision have never previously been convicted of an offence. The aim of this type of service is to assist these young offenders to develop behaviour patterns that are going to stand them in good stead for the remainder of their lives, and obviously the concept is well founded judging by the success rate as reflected in the annual report.

As far as parole is concerned, the community actually is given a greater degree of protection than in the typical case of a completed sentence. The parolees are placed under the supervision of a trained parole officer, who assists them to adjust to society and to achieve a standard of behaviour which is acceptable to the community.

There has been a progressive decentralisation of the Probation and Parole Service in recent years and this is continuing. Regional offices now exist in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Redcliffe, Ipswich, Southport and Toowoomba, with the headquarters, of course, being in Brisbane. Approval already has been given for another regional office to be established in Maryborough.

The number of cases to be supervised by an individual officer has been fixed at 75, and it is hoped that in some of the

more distant centres, such as Mt. Isa, it will be possible to establish an office before the case-load approaches that figure. In the meantime, however, selective use is being made of honorary probation and parole officers. Clerks of court have traditionally acted in this capacity, but the demands on their time are becoming greater.

The department, therefore, has begun inquiries into the recruitment of suitable honorary staff in centres where more than 10 probationers or parolees are being supervised, whilst work also has commenced on the preparation of a scheme for the use of community service orders. The philosophy behind this system is to associate young offenders with well-adjusted groups in their own locality and to involve them, in terms of a court order, in worth-while activities on projects organised by service groups and similar organisations.

In the foreseeable future, I can anticipate a higher degree of integration of the Probation and Parole Service with the operations of the Prisons Department and, as a result of this, I would predict a situation where a larger proportion of offenders will eventually be under supervision within the community than within our prisons.

It has been the pattern in Queensland in recent years for the number of offenders supervised by the Probation and Parole Service at any time to exceed the number held in prisons. It is expected this trend will increase. After all, there is no point in spending massive sums of money on maintaining offenders in prison if they can be adequately supervised in the community and can pay their own way and support their families.

To dovetail in with the efforts of the Prisons Department and the Probation and Parole Service, the Division of Social Work introduced a new service in the past year for families of prisoners aimed at preventing the disintegration of families while one of the parents is in prison. Another of this division's recent developments is a new volunteer service to assist families who have the constant responsibility of caring for a severely handicapped person within their home. At the present time, a total of 37 families have sought assistance in this way.

The Department of Sport, which has now been functioning since September 1972, continues to provide financial assistance to sporting associations and clubs throughout Queensland. Small clubs in the remote areas of the State, as well as the larger ones in the main cities and towns, have benefited by the receipt of subsidies from these funds.

Queensland was the first State to inaugurate a scheme of assistance to State teams and for the conducting of national and international events within the State. Later the Commonwealth Government undertook this responsibility but again withdrew from the

field at the end of 1975. While the Commonwealth scheme was in operation, State associations assisted by it did not qualify for a further State grant but, now that the Commonwealth Government has withdrawn its aid, Queensland has provided assistance upon application by the various State bodies, although at a reduced rate in comparison with Commonwealth funding. The action taken has been very well received by all State associations.

One of the features of the development of sport in Queensland has been the establishment of a number of organisations providing playing facilities for more than one sport. These multi-purpose sporting organisations have provided facilities for year-round operation and have opened the choice of sports to the family group. Costs have been lessened as the ancillary facilities provided have been used by more than one group, requiring a smaller installation and the actual sporting venue has been used for a greater period of time.

The introduction of the Sporting Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1973 has assisted with early construction of some major projects, with the Government providing a guarantee of a loan raised by the sporting body concerned. Funds have thus become available to an organisation which can prove it has the financial capacity to construct a major facility, to manage and organise it, to bring it into operation and to service the debt by moneys raised from conducting the facility and by other means. The sporting body concerned has to raise the loan and prove it can repay it in a specified period of time. The Government simply guarantees such loan to be used for the purpose of constructing a sporting facility.

The Sporting Assistance Scheme has received wide acceptance from the various clubs and associations throughout Queensland and it is intended to continue the scheme as at present constituted within the funds available.

Since the Estimates of my department were last debated here, the Government has introduced a new scheme to assist youth groups which did not qualify for assistance from our sporting funds. Applications for this new type of aid were first called in the 1973-74 financial year after Cabinet had laid down guide-lines which broadly followed those established for sporting organisations.

This step also has been very well received within the community and, in the last financial year, following applications from 19 youth groups for assistance on 68 projects, my department paid out subsidies on capital works totalling \$435,890 and grants amounting to \$2,400 to organisations. For the current financial year, applications have been received from 27 youth and community recreation groups concerning 92 projects.

The past few years have seen an expansion of the role of the National Fitness Council into forms of recreation other than just

sport and physical activities. Within the limits of available finance, this expansion is expected to continue so that the council will become a catalytic and resource organisation for all forms of recreation to the people of Queensland.

Its services have been highly decentralised over the years through the establishment of area committees as well as the appointment of field officers, including additional female officers, and these developments were expanded and consolidated in the last year. Three new camps will be operational in the near future—at Julius Dam (Leichhardt River), at Barambah Creek in the South Burnett, and at Currimundi on the Sunshine Coast—and the expenditure in this area of the council's activities from the funds of the State Works Department was vindicated in the last financial year when camping jumped by 15 per cent to 170,925 camper-days.

The council will push ahead this year in spreading its influence in wider fields with proposals to expand recreation services to ethnic groups through the Queensland Ethnic Council, to increase services in the metropolitan area following the appointment of three additional officers last year, to liaise with the Department of Technical Education in the provision of recreational activity for apprentices and to conduct a number of evening courses in fitness and recreation in conjunction with the Board of Adult Education. Work in the field of recreation for the handicapped is relatively new and will be continued.

We believe that it is important that departmental officers should be made aware of new thinking and the latest developments, experiments and research in all parts of the world, and a step towards this end was the establishment last year of a departmental library. Under the guidance of our very competent and enthusiastic librarian, Miss Huish, a valuable collection of books and other material already has been acquired.

In concluding these remarks to open the debate, I would like to pay a tribute to all officers under my control. Their loyalty and efficiency are without question and to each and every member of the staffs of head office and the subdepartments, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks.

Particular mention must be made of the magnificent contribution by the Under Secretary, Mr. C. L. Johnson. His performance has been far beyond the call of duty. Starting from scratch and plagued by shortages of staff and accommodation, he has succeeded in welding the department into a cohesive, efficient organisation.

My comments would be incomplete if I did not make mention of the contributions made to the community over the years by Mr. C. A. P. Clark, who retired last year as Director, Department of Children's Services, who was replaced by Mr. F. R.

Plummer, and Mr. E. Harris, the first secretary of the National Fitness Council in Queensland, who also has retired and was replaced by Mr. B. J. Nielsen.

To those mentioned who served faithfully and well for many years, I convey my appreciation and that of our Government, whilst I thank their successors for their devotion to duty and their assistance already in the administration of a department which, I am sure all will agree, has its own particular brand of problems.

**Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (12.23 p.m.):** At the outset, I would like to express my disappointment at the number of members in the Chamber at present. This is a most important debate, but if in making a contribution one depended for inspiration and support on the number of members on the Government benches, one would be very disappointed. We hear so much from time to time about the absenteeism of the Opposition, but considering the comparatively small number of Opposition members, I think our attendance record is very good.

There are so many weaknesses manifest in this department and so many matters which I feel I should mention that, after studying the Estimates and the Budget generally and after collecting information to use in this speech, I found it rather difficult to make a choice between the subjects I should deal with and those I should not. However, after much deliberation and study I finally arrived at a speech which I felt would be a suitable reply to that of the Minister.

For a long time the widening gap developing between the social welfare resources of Queensland and those of other States has been a matter of concern to many people. The gap is very wide indeed. Notwithstanding the pressing social welfare needs of Queensland, the continuing provision and ongoing quality of social welfare service delivery lacks both actual quantity and quality of resources when compared with those of other Australian States. The tragic theme of this speech is that Queensland is the Cinderella State in the provision of social welfare, and very few people could deny that. Despite the existence of pressing social welfare needs in this State, the Queensland Government lags far behind other States in the quantity and quality of its social welfare services.

We need to face the fact that Queensland is the second largest and the most decentralised of all the Australian States. It has the third largest population, the highest number of people about the age of 65, the highest number of children per family and the highest proportion of Aborigines in Australia. Despite these facts, there has been no new legislation in the field of social welfare since the mid-1960s. The Minister surely cannot feel proud about that.

The present Government, which claims to be Christian, has much to answer for in its neglect of the social needs of the people of

Queensland. This State spends less money per head of population on social welfare than any other Australian State. I referred earlier to a comparison of expenditure, and I think that the time is now opportune for me to place it on record. According to the commission on poverty, Victoria spent \$4.06 per head of population on social welfare, South Australia \$5.17, Western Australia (where there is also a coalition Government) \$7.10, New South Wales \$3.17, Tasmania \$3.27, and Queensland, despite the tragic need for social welfare services, only \$1.79.

The Government of this State does not provide any assistance to local government for the provision of welfare services at a local level. There is no provision in Queensland for the funding of citizens' information centres or citizens' advisory centres. Although these are very important, again Queensland compares very unfavourably with other Australian States, where such welfare services and the provision for them is taken for granted.

The Government of Queensland does not believe in co-operative federalism when it comes to social welfare. There is ample evidence that it has not taken advantage of various Federal Government welfare programmes; in fact, in many instances it has not only not co-operated but has actively hindered the provision of welfare services by the Federal Government. Early this year the Prime Minister wrote to State Premiers about State administration of the Australian Assistance Plan. What has the Government of Queensland done to ensure that the Australian Assistance Plan will remain in force in this State? Nothing! Many towns and cities throughout the State stand to lose their sources of social welfare services because the Government is too blind and uncaring in the provision of such services. It refuses to face up to fundamental issues in the field of social services.

From notes available to me and information that I have obtained from the library, I have ascertained that towns such as Emerald, Moranbah, Biloela, Charters Towers, Ayr, Maryborough and Proserpine will lose valuable social welfare personnel by the middle of next year because the Government has failed to take the steps necessary to ensure that the ideals of the Australian Assistance Plan will continue to be implemented throughout the State.

If we look at the Department of Children's Services, we can only shudder with horror at the way in which the Government allows its meagre social welfare provisions and services to be implemented and provided. There is virtually no decentralisation of child welfare programmes. Where are they? There are none. For example, there are no residential facilities for children north of Townsville, yet the population north of Townsville is over 150,000. The same department does not provide family assistance for Aboriginal women on reserves. In other

States these provisions would be taken for granted. Much is said about the provision of assistance to Aborigines, but the Government shows no consideration for this very important race of people. I have collected a great deal of information on that subject, but in the limited time available to me I cannot enlarge on it. The fact remains that Aborigines in this State are sadly neglected.

The Government of Queensland, despite its claim to care for the people, does not publicise its rate of assistance or requirements for eligibility. How on earth are the people of Queensland to know what they are entitled to when the Government refuses to provide prepared information for the general public?

If one cares to look at the question of welfare needs even further, one is faced with the tragic reality that the Government cares so little about the welfare of the citizens of Queensland that it provides virtually nothing in the field of welfare information. Not only is Queensland the Cinderella State in social welfare but it seems to be going further and further into the backwoods in terms of social welfare.

Whilst other States are trying actively to involve local government more and more in the provision of social services, and to decentralise welfare services and involve local people in them, this Government is doing virtually nothing. What in fact is it doing? It is centralising more power in Brisbane, and spending more and more on administration and less and less on services. Government members should hang their heads in shame over their failure to come to grips with social welfare needs and to provide even slightly more for them.

What is the situation in South Australia? Under a Labor Government in that State, the Department for Community Welfare has established a crisis care centre. That service has now attended 1,000 crisis situations since the project began on 16 February of this year. Attendances by the crisis care unit now average more than 40 a week and since 16 February some 6,000 telephone calls have been dealt with. About 25 per cent of those calls required further action to be taken by the service, the department or another agency. Mr. Payne, the Community Welfare Minister, has said that the demands on the service were so great that it had been necessary to increase the number of crisis care workers from eight to 12 and to move to more spacious premises.

Two-way radio is a most important facility today. What a boon it has been to the ambulance service and fire brigades! In South Australia two-way radios are installed in three cars, thus enabling a more effective service to be given by the crisis care centre. The service is available to help in any crisis at any hour of the day or night. The main case load still consists of domestic disputes between husbands and wives and de facto

spouses; tension between parents and children; deserted, unattended or runaway children; deserted and deserting husbands and wives; and attempted suicides. All those problems come within the ambit of this service provided in South Australia. About two-thirds of the cases handled are referred to the centre by the police with whom there is apparently excellent co-operation.

Another important aspect is that many of those dealt with by the centre have had no previous contact with the Department for Community Welfare, and through the crisis care service they are learning of the many ways in which help can be provided by either the department or some other agency. I call on the State Government to learn from Labor's success and establish a crisis care centre in Queensland.

In studying the Budget I found that another defect was the failure to recognise single fathers. In common with many others in the community, I found this a bitter disappointment. I believe that recognition of single fathers is long overdue. The Minister knows that as well as I do because he must come in contact with many sad cases of single fathers. They experience the same problems as single mothers in caring for their families. In many ways, they have additional burdens to bear. Their neglect is quite unjust. There is an undoubted need for the introduction of a supporting fathers' benefit similar to the benefit received by single mothers. As I mentioned earlier, the demand for assistance for this section of the community is very great indeed.

The Whitlam Government introduced supporting mothers' benefit in 1973 to assist single mothers, separated wives and other women without male support. Although that Government was in office for only a short time, it found it necessary to introduce that very important legislation to help single mothers.

The Budget increase of \$2.25 per week in the supporting mothers' benefit will go part of the way towards maintaining the real income of those women. However, the Government's failure to provide a similar level of assistance for the 33,000 single fathers in a similar position is very regrettable indeed. Whilst some single fathers are eligible for special benefit, this group as a whole are ignored by the Government and, unfortunately, also by the community.

The Federal Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle) stated last March that proposals for expanding assistance to supporting fathers were being considered by the income security review group. So far nothing has eventuated from her statement. But we can expect little else from the Liberal-National Country Party Government in Canberra.

It has since been reported that that group recommended to Federal Cabinet that supporting fathers receive some form of benefit. We in the Opposition believe we are

entitled to some explanation from the State Government, as well as from the Federal Government, for its continued disregard of the hardships suffered by single fathers.

"The Sunday Mail" of 1 August 1976 contained, on page 26, a full-page advertisement headed "Where you can seek help for your problem". Nowhere in that advertisement is reference made to the Department of Community and Welfare Services. The welfare services provided by the State Government are so shoddy that a multitude of voluntary services have sprung up to cater for the needs of the community. Whenever a voluntary organisation springs up in the community it does so because there is a demand for the services that it offers. Such an organisation develops as the result of the shortcomings of the department. That fact of life alone is an indictment of the Minister's handling of his portfolio. It is the responsibility not of voluntary groups but of the State to cater for welfare needs.

On looking through newspaper reports that appeared both before and after the last Federal election, I find many broken promises. One of them concerned pensions. I am referring now to the present Federal Government, which is of the same political colour as this State Government. Before the Federal election Mr. Fraser, together with the Premier of Queensland and, incidentally, Sir Gordon Chalk, guaranteed to pay cost-of-living rises to pensioners more quickly than would be paid by a Labor administration. He guaranteed to remove the means test and promised that pensioners would not be disadvantaged. That statement was made in Rockhampton on 8 December 1975. Of course, now that the election is over it is a different kettle of fish. Most of Mr. Fraser's election promises have been conveniently forgotten. Thanks to the Press and to those people who take the trouble to keep newspaper cuttings, we can recall some of the promises that have not been honoured.

After the election, the Federal Government refused to pay pension increases as early as it had promised. There is no certainty whatever that pensioners will ever receive the full entitlements that they were promised.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** What rubbish!

**Mr. DEAN:** It is not rubbish. We only have to read the daily paper to see the Federal Government's poor record.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I cannot allow the honourable member to discuss Federal matters. We are debating State Estimates only.

**Mr. DEAN:** I bow to your ruling, Mr. Hewitt, but I am only drawing a comparison between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government. You must

admit that there is a very strong analogy between the two; they are both of the same political colour. I have here a Press report of a promise made by the State Government prior to the State election. That promise was not honoured.

As I say, Mr. Hewitt, I bow to your ruling, but I use those pre-election promises merely as an illustration. The Minister and his colleagues wish to forget the promises made prior to the last Federal and State elections.

The Labor Party has a definite welfare policy that is set out in black and white. On looking through my notes I thought it just as well to put on record what we will supply as an alternative to what the Minister presented today. A Labor Government will aim at providing a social security system at least equal to that of all other States. If we can do that we will be quite happy. Labor recognises the need to be mindful of the costs-benefit relationship in providing social security. The first activity within Labor's State social services will be an inquiry into the effectiveness of existing social welfare programmes. What a task that will be! That inquiry will investigate the co-ordination of existing programmes, particularly, and the possibility of regionalisation of delivery of social security at personal and community levels. That is one suggestion Labor has to offer in this debate.

Labor promises that social security will be designed to assist those disadvantaged by illness, accident or disability or by economic circumstances beyond their control. Labor will try to provide adequate financial assistance to those in need and will gear benefits to living standards and not simply the means test.

Labor will examine the major problems in children's services, which the Minister referred to this morning. In particular Labor will examine fostering and adoption. Much is needed in this facet of the activities of the Minister's department. Labor will explore these problems, with the needs of the children being a foremost consideration.

We will also co-ordinate and encourage provision of homes for aged persons and community activities to care for aged persons in their own homes.

It must be recognised that Aborigines suffer disadvantages in our community. That is one of the major responsibilities in Queensland that I referred to earlier. Further efforts will be made to foster the dignity of Aborigines in the community and to encourage their self-sufficiency.

Further assistance will be provided to reduce the problems arising from alcoholism. What a task we will have in that field when we take office!

(Time expired.)

**Mr. POWELL** (Isis) (12.42 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise as one of the few back-benchers on the Government side to have the opportunity to speak to these Estimates today. Unlike the previous speaker, I compliment the Minister. In my short time in this place I have had a fairly close association with the Minister and his many activities in my electorate. I have also been associated with him in some of the part-time activities in which I have engaged, especially the scouting movement. I congratulate him on the way in which he carries out his job.

I do not know how many honourable members have seen the Minister in operation in the community, but his knowledge of his departments' activities is astounding. Recently, at a dinner function held in the northern part of my electorate at Bundaberg, the Minister faced up to a group of sportsmen and allowed himself to be cross-examined by them. This meeting was one of the largest ever held in Bundaberg on behalf of sportsmen. The Minister accepted questions from representatives of all sports and was able to answer each inquiry in a lucid, satisfactory way. He needed considerable knowledge to do that. I am very happy to be able to be associated with a Minister who has such wide knowledge.

Certainly this Government has undertaken many works and programmes in the field of sport. Its system of subsidy to sporting organisations is extremely good and it has been very well received by the community. I hope that future Budgets will advance further moneys for sport, but I emphasise that it should be for voluntary sport. I know that the Minister and his department pursue a policy of not advancing money to sporting associations that pay their players. I hope that we never will enter that field, for it is the sporting organisations that are providing for voluntary sport that are the most important to our community.

The honourable member for Sandgate spoke about this Government's being unmindful of the needs of the community. If you look at the activities of the department we are discussing today, Mr. Hewitt, you will notice that this Government is very mindful indeed of the needs of the community. It is very mindful of making every attempt to help voluntary organisations. It is trying very hard to encourage people to help themselves. That is probably where we find the greatest ideological difference between our parties and the Labor Party. We are encouraging people to help themselves, whereas the Labor Party, with a socialistic attitude, encourages people to be subservient to a Government or to a State.

While the Department of Community and Welfare Services and Sport is a leadership department that encourages activities by individuals and groups within a community, the Labor Party would rather have people

within the community not use their initiative at all but instead remain subservient and sit back and call out for the State to help and assist them. We do not believe in that. We believe that a healthy community is made up of people who help themselves. That is the whole aim of the department's system of assistance to sport. Honourable members who take the time to look carefully at the guide-lines laid down by the Minister will find that that is fairly well spelt out.

It concerns me that people within the community are not aware of the amount of assistance that the State Government is willing to give to voluntary bodies that help themselves. Again I refer to the recent visit of the Minister to my electorate. He was able to assist sporting bodies—not only in Bundaberg, but also at Woodgate and Hervey Bay—by giving them an indication of the way they can go about applying for subsidies. There is always the proviso that they assist themselves as well.

I am continuously attempting to inform the community of the circumstances in which the Government will help them, and I know that other honourable members aware of the situation are, too. All they have to do is sit down, do their homework, put in their application and the department will look at it with a very sympathetic attitude.

The amount of money that is given to sport, as I said before, is commendable. I hope that it continues to be given to voluntary sport. The young sections of sport—junior cricket, junior soccer, other forms of junior football and so on—are the areas to which I believe most of the money should be going. Through the encouragement of sport for junior players, we are assisting to train young people to be better members of the community. The department's annual report reveals that under the National Fitness programme young people are trained in an attempt to give them a better appreciation of how to spend their life in the community in a better manner.

Under the assistance to youth and community recreation organisations an extremely large amount of money is being given to organisations as leadership grants, for example. A quick look at the Estimates shows that the largest single amount of \$15,000 was given to the Department of Christian Education of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. The second largest, amounting to \$14,000, went to the Scout Association and the third largest, \$13,000, went to the Y.C.W. This money is being spent in an extremely wise fashion by those organisations, and the many others that are mentioned in the report, in assisting to train young people to become leaders in the community. On behalf of the people of Isis I applaud the Minister's attitude in this field.

In opening the debate, the Minister mentioned children's services. I must comment on this subject. I think the Minister said

that, depending on religious denomination, adoptive parents have to wait 30 months for a male child and 39 months for a female child. I am sure that other honourable members have been through the rather heart-rending experience of young people, who have been approved as adoptive parents, not being able to adopt a child, or of having to wait so long to adopt one. Parents who have adopted one child sometimes have to wait up to three years before they can adopt another. I do not think we should treat this matter lightly.

The reason for the unavailability of children for adoption is fairly obvious. It is the social security record of the Whitlam Government paying young single girls so that they could keep their babies.

**Mr. Burns** interjected.

**Mr. POWELL:** I believe that children should be brought up in a family atmosphere. If the Leader of the Opposition carefully studies the social record and history of our way of life—even going back thousands of years—he will find that the child who has been reared in the warmth and protection of family life is the child who becomes the most secure adult member of the community.

**Mr. Burns:** That's not what you are saying.

**Mr. POWELL:** I am saying that. The Leader of the Opposition should also know that, where a young girl of, say, 14 or 15 is subsidised to keep a baby, by the time she is 16 or 17 the novelty of the baby as a toy wears off and the child is then neglected to such an extent that the State has to become responsible for its upkeep. He will also find that the child who is subsidised and left with a person without family security is the child for whom the community remains responsible because he is not stable enough to make his own way in life.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. POWELL:** That is where I find fault with the Whitlam Government, the Labor Party and the Opposition members who are interjecting.

**Mr. Burns:** What about the widows?

**Mr. POWELL:** I find fault with the Labor Party's social security plans. It is best for a child to be brought up in the family unit.

We have a long record of support for widows and deserted wives who live in the family situation. I applaud that. The widow and the deserted wife need considerable assistance, and, as the honourable member for Sandgate said, so does the deserted father, because quite often he is worse off than the deserted wife.

**Mr. Aikens:** Don't you know that all of the battered babies come from homes in which there is a drunkard or no-hoper father? Is that what you are advocating?

**Mr. POWELL:** No, I am certainly not advocating that at all.

The deserted father who is left with a family is not the one who is battering children. If a woman leaves that type of father, and she has some consideration for her children, she takes them with her. The father I am concerned about is the one whose wife just walks out on the family. Fortunately, there are not many of them; I know of only three or four cases. I suggest that the father who is left in those circumstances is worse off than the mother who is left, simply because the community is sympathetic towards the mother and favourably considers subsidising her. I have nothing against that. What I am arguing for is similar consideration for deserted fathers, who, I claim, are worse off because they are not used to performing the family duties that the women are used to doing. They are not used to having to change nappies every two or three hours, feed babies and so on, and I believe that they need that assistance. It is all very well for the deserted mother to receive assistance; she needs it—obviously. But because the man is regarded as the traditional bread-winner of the family—I have no objection to that little bit of tradition—it is then decided that he does not need assistance, financial or otherwise, to bring up a family, although of course he does. The reason why I object to the Federal Government's social security attitude of encouraging single girls to keep babies through the payment of money is that the children are not being brought up in the nurture of a family.

**Mr. Aikens:** The mother would look after the child probably better than a married couple would.

**Mr. POWELL:** But they are not being brought up in a family atmosphere, are they? That is the important thing as far as I am concerned. The children who are being supported by the Federal Government at the moment with its payments to single mothers could be adopted by couples who are unable to have children and who would, in my opinion, give them far better care. That is why childless couples today are having to wait between 30 and 39 months for suitable children to adopt.

Socialist countries carry on a continuing programme to try to destroy family life. Family life is the bastion of our community and if we destroy family life, then we as a nation will be destroyed, and if honourable members do not believe that, they should read their history books and find out what happened to those nations which did destroy family life; they fell and became nothing.

If we want to continue to be an affluent country and a force in the world, then we have to ensure that the concept of the family is supported within the community.

The honourable member for Sandgate spoke about what a bad thing it was that the State Government is not looking carefully at the Australian Assistance Plan. I would have thought that the Government was looking at the Australian Assistance Plan in a very realistic fashion. The honourable member for Sandgate said that the place which would be most affected in my electorate would be Maryborough, and that it would lose a very good social development officer. I do not know that that will be so. I hope that the Government will not support or promote the Australian Assistance Plan. I do not believe it does anything in the community that other organisations were not already doing, and that is a very important point that I want to put across. It is my belief that the Australian Assistance Plan is doing nothing that was not being done very successfully by voluntary organisations.

As time is short I must hasten on. I want to mention the National Fitness organisation, which also comes under this Minister's control. It is doing a very good job throughout the community, and I would like to pay special tribute to the members of the Bundaberg area committee, who have done such a lot for the community centre in Bundaberg and the training of people in the area. I refer particularly to the chairman of the Bundaberg area committee, Alderman Bryan Conquest, and the secretary, Mrs. Gatley, two people who have worked extremely hard to promote National Fitness in Bundaberg and to instil in young people an attitude which they might not otherwise have developed. From the department's reports honourable members will find that Bundaberg has had six courses in the instructor training section and that after Brisbane it has the greatest number of people participating—214!

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

**Mr. POWELL:** Before the recess for lunch, I was congratulating the Bundaberg committee of the National Fitness organisation for the excellent work it has done, and I look forward to the continuation of the good work from that committee for the young people of the Bundaberg district.

The Maryborough committee, too, is working hard. It has sought some land on Fraser Island for a National Fitness camp, and I hope that the Lands Department will soon come up with an answer to its request. The hostel at Maryborough is used fairly extensively, and I suggest that it would be very desirable to have a hostel on Fraser Island. I am sure that it would be used very extensively, because many people visit the island and it certainly lends itself to bushwalking and the other activities in which people who use the hostels engage.

As I said earlier in my speech, I am concerned that many people are not fully aware of the way in which they can benefit from subsidies offered by the department. I sincerely hope that in the coming months the Minister will send out circulars of the type that he has sent out in the past, informing sporting bodies and other organisations of their right to apply for grants for sport and for leadership training, as these can be well used in the community.

In rounding off my remarks I again congratulate the Minister on the excellent job that I believe he is doing. Queensland has a record in social welfare in which honourable members can take pleasure and a measure of pride. It is quite obvious that this State, although not adopting the socialistic attitude of some other States to social welfare, is implementing a policy of encouraging self-help, and in my opinion that is the type of assistance which is most needed in the community today. The social welfare workers and the officers of the Children's Services Department are to be commended for the excellent way in which they go about their work and the assistance that they give to people in need. Of course, the aim must be to provide assistance for those who are in need, not simply for anybody who happens to wander along to the department.

In my opinion, the Australian Assistance Plan does not do anything in the community that was not being done already. Although the section of the A.A.P. with which I am familiar—the Wide Bay community of social development—has certainly done an interesting job in carrying out surveys, I am satisfied that that job can be done equally effectively by community groups already in existence.

**Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (2.19 p.m.):** At the outset, I join with the Minister in expressing my thanks and the thanks of my constituents in the Mackay electorate to the officers of the Minister's department, who have done such a sterling job in the couple of years since the Estimates of the department were last debated. In particular, I refer to the work of Mr. Cedric Johnson, the under secretary of the department, who has very skilfully carried out the rather difficult task of setting up a new department, as the Minister indicated earlier. A perusal of the annual reports of the department reveals what a difficult job it has been.

I also offer thanks to the Director of Sport, Mr. Ron Leahy, not only for the excellent advice he gives on sporting bodies in one's electorate but also for his excellent knowledge of sport over the length and breadth of Queensland.

Mr. Plummer, who has taken over from Mr. Charlie Clark, as Director of Children's Services, seems to be a successful incumbent of that position and a worth-while successor

to Mr. Clark. I would like to pay one special tribute to a man in a small branch of the department, the Relief Assistance Branch, Mr. Jack McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy has been in the department for quite a considerable period, and I do not think there would be a pensioner in the State who would not acknowledge his wonderful manner and the courtesy he shows in his dealings with them when they seek some assistance. I congratulate him on the excellent job that he does.

I have mentioned that the organisation of this department must have called for a tremendous effort by the staff. We have a vast range of community welfare services throughout Queensland. I suppose that my main criticism of the department concerns what it does not do rather than what it does. I realise from some of the Minister's comments and also from my perusal of the annual report that there is a slight movement towards this department's taking over the whole of the welfare services within our community. There is a great need for proper co-ordination of our community and welfare services. At present they seem to be dispersed in so many different directions.

In recent times there has been a fair amount of criticism in the Chamber and elsewhere of the Australian Assistance Plan. I saw the Australian Assistance Plan as an attempt to achieve this co-ordination for all people in the community through community organisations wherever possible. Certainly the plan ran into political animosities, but is it any wonder when we see the attitude of some members of this House! The honourable member for Merthyr clearly displayed his attitude towards the other day in his speech on the Financial Statement. The honourable member made it quite plain that in his particular capacity he sought to find out the political affiliations of people whom he was interviewing before he would take any action under the Australian Assistance Plan. This was completely wrong.

I was very fortunate in seeing the plan being implemented in my electorate of Mackay without this political animosity. It is rather strange that in many respects the biggest critic of the Australian Assistance Plan in Queensland has been the National Party, and in particular the National Party members of this Parliament. In many respects this attitude has been evident even in the Federal sphere. Within the Mackay district the greatest beneficiaries under the plan were people in country areas. I feel that the honourable member for Belyando will support me in this.

The Minister for Police, too, would be aware of the assistance given to people in the back part of his electorate of Mirani, in areas around Dysart and Clarke Creek where the brigalow settlers were in dire straits because of the dry weather and the drop in beef prices. These people received

great assistance under the Australian Assistance Plan. The community of Mackay and, in particular, people employed in the meat industry also received great assistance under the plan.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable member is the third to make reference to the Australian Assistance Plan. For the information of not only the honourable member but the Committee generally, I remind him that the Australian Assistance Plan was totally a Federal initiative and is therefore not covered by the Estimates under consideration.

**Mr. CASEY:** I accept your ruling, Mr. Hewitt. However, there is one point I want to make: I am the fourth member, because the Minister, too, mentioned it. One of the problems with the plan concerned State Government participation and, with due respect to you, Mr. Hewitt, a perusal of the department's report this year bears out my point.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I take the honourable member's point, and I will allow discussion on the Australian Assistance Plan only to the extent of State Government participation in it.

**Mr. CASEY:** Now that the plan has been dropped by the Commonwealth Government, the State Government has a wonderful opportunity to participate much more fully in the work that was previously undertaken under the plan by various agencies and organisations. The State Government can step in and fill the void.

Too many Queensland Government departments are, to use a common term, doing their own thing. I found this to be very much so when I became involved recently in the plight of a woman in my electorate. Her case is one of the saddest that I have come across since I became a member of Parliament.

She has six children whose ages range from 6 to 16 years. In the middle of winter, because she had nowhere to live, she was forced to camp in long grass on the bank of a creek a few miles south of Mackay. When her plight was brought to my attention I was amazed to find out that at that stage three or four agencies in the community, including State departments, knew she was there, but because somewhere along the line there had been a few mix-ups and lack of co-ordination no action was being taken by any one of those agencies to assist her. The Education Department, the Children's Services Department and the Police Department were involved as well as—dare I mention it—the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

Because there was no over-all authority somewhere along the line to take action to assist her, nothing was happening. She was

being fed on hand-outs. She had been caught up in the Federal Government's measures to try to chop the so-called dole bludgers, but she was an innocent party.

Having learned of her predicament, I started moving among some of these agencies and by that afternoon money had been received to assist her. I had been in touch with the Department of Children's Services, which was happy to help and support her. Accompanied by an officer of the Department of Social Security and persons from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I went to where she was camping to collect her and her children on their return "home" from school. She was doing her best to send her children to school every day, to a nearby school, so that they did not lack the education that other children received.

When we went to collect her, however, we found that the police, out of the blue, had decided to take action. They picked her up and took her and her six children to the police station, where she was going to be charged with vagrancy. That would have been the worst thing that could happen.

We were able to slip a cheque from the Department of Social Security into her hand while she was at the police station, thereby preventing the police from charging her with vagrancy. However, the matter had gone too far. The court had been notified and had been convened. It was necessary for me to obtain a solicitor from the Commonwealth Legal Aid Department to appear in court next day on behalf of her and her children and to fight any attempt to have the children taken from their mother. Fortunately we succeeded and, thanks to the welfare agencies in Mackay, the whole matter was ironed out within a few days. That terrible situation arose simply through the lack of co-ordination.

I notice that the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services is in the Chamber. While he was Minister for Police and Minister in charge of the disaster relief organisation, which was set up by him and in which he showed a keen interest, similar problems arose in times of natural disaster. I know that the Minister was deeply concerned about them. There seemed to be this lack of co-ordination between the various welfare organisations.

I have found that when I have been trying to arrange for help to be given to people in times of natural disaster a distinction is drawn between white and coloured people. If help is being given to coloured people, it has to be rendered through the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, whereas if it is given to white people it is given through some other department.

The Department of Community and Welfare Services is beginning to establish itself as an overriding authority in the matter of providing welfare services in the State. I

realise that to achieve this aim totally it will require more funding. Yet, paradoxically, the Minister's Estimates reveal that the Government is going to spend more money on and provide more staff to the parole system than to general welfare. As I have said before, a void exists, and the department has a golden opportunity to move in and fill it to meet the needs of the people of Queensland.

The Estimates and the various annual reports make reference to some strange and antiquated forms of assistance. Funeral assistance is still in vogue in Queensland. But there has been no call on it for a number of years. Is it any wonder when only \$20 is allowed for this form of assistance! That sum would not go far these days in helping people in very poor circumstances to arrange a decent funeral. Humanity owes two things to all men: the opportunity of a decent birth and of a dignified burial. This facet of the department could well be looked into. I know that the Commonwealth Department of Social Security helps people in this field, particularly pensioners, but on my reading of the report this assistance seems to be a little ridiculous.

The report reveals that in 1975-76 a total of \$375.20 was dispensed to 145 persons for winter relief and Christmas cheer. That represents about \$2.50 a person. Winter relief of the order of \$2.50 a week would not buy a blanket for a dog, and for all the good that amount would do in the way of Christmas cheer, the recipients might just as well be sent a Christmas card wishing them well. While these schemes are admirable, the sums allocated are completely inadequate in this day and age. They should be closely examined by the department.

This department's activities need continual upgrading and extension. A tremendous number of well-run welfare groups operate in the community with the assistance of the department, but we must be very realistic about gearing welfare to needs, not to resources. Community welfare is designed to look after the needs of the people. After all, we live in a world of people not dollars. People are the most important part of the community.

For a number of years a National Fitness camp has been mooted for the Seaforth area to service the whole Mackay district. For a considerable time the Mackay National Fitness Area Committee has been very concerned about this proposal, which has been included in the Budget Vote. I understand, for a number of years. I remember corresponding with the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services years ago, when he was Minister for Works, about the acquisition of land and the planning of this camp. The proposal seems to have bogged down and the camp has not eventuated. An area has been set aside by the Lands Department at an excellent site in probably one of the

best coastal areas of Queensland. When the camp is provided it will become part of the chain of National Fitness hostels throughout the State. I urge the Minister to inquire why the Seaforth National Fitness camp has not been constructed and try to get it moving as quickly as possible.

I am deeply concerned that the parents of children placed under the care and protection of the director in penal or other institutions run by the department are required to pay for the maintenance of their children. That is iniquitous, particularly when the children are committed by a court. If a man is sent to gaol, his family does not have to pay the cost of keeping him while he is being treated or given an opportunity to rehabilitate himself. Why should we expect the parents of children who are similarly treated by the courts to meet maintenance charges? This causes great distress to families.

In many instances the families are eventually summonsed by the department for not meeting the maintenance payments. That distresses them even further. In most of such cases, if the families had had the money in the first instance, the children may not have got into trouble. In other words, if we had been looking after the children through our welfare service organisations, the children who found themselves in court may not have committed the acts that landed them there. I believe this is something we must have a very close and hard look at. We should not expect families to pay maintenance when their children have been committed to the care of the department.

There are many aspects of the department's activities that one could speak on at considerable length. Perhaps the matter that I will now touch on briefly comes under Welfare Services; I do not know. I will bow to your ruling on this, Mr. Hewitt. It certainly comes within the general subject of the welfare of people who are presently in this State. In recent days much publicity has been given to the living conditions of the Taiwanese fishermen whose boats are moored in the Mackay Harbour. It has been said that no-one is looking after them except a few voluntary welfare organisations. The picture as it has been painted in the Press is not entirely accurate. The Taiwanese are being cared for by various Government departments and groups in Mackay. Certainly, in the first instance, they were not being properly looked after. But all is not as it has been made to appear.

Queenslanders who are concerned about this can be assured that some of the stories that have emanated from Mackay are not correct. Exaggerated stories have been told. I assure all people who are concerned that Mackay is not so heartless that it will not look after them. I, as one responsible member for the area, have taken steps through the Premier and various agencies to ensure

that those people are being properly looked after while they are waiting for the courts to consider their cases.

**Mr. CORY** (Warwick) (2.37 p.m.): I am very pleased to have a little time afforded me to discuss the Estimates of these departments. Nearly every aspect of the Minister's portfolio affects our social environment and involves people who are psychologically or mentally disturbed. Because of that, the way in which such a department is administered has a great deal to do with its success. I thank the Minister and his Under Secretary (Mr. Johnson) and the members of their staff for what they have done on my behalf over the last 12 months.

It is the human approach that is terribly important, and I wish to refer to the time earlier this year when Warwick was affected by flooding. First, I mention the promptness with which assistance came. It remained until all the problems were sorted out and remedies were finalised. That was the real secret of the operation. There was not just a hurried visit to have a look at this or that. Personnel were deployed to the area and allowed to stay until all the problems were solved. Because of that, the operation was completely successful, and I wish to express a word of appreciation on behalf of the community for what was done.

That sort of thing is becoming more and more important, whether we think it is correct or not. It is a fact of life that our communities are becoming more and more dependant on Government assistance in times of crisis. Perhaps there is not as much individual self-reliance as there was in years gone by; but we have to accept it as a fact of life that communities do seek assistance in times of trouble.

**Mr. Jensen:** Why do we have to accept it when it creates bludgers?

**Mr. CORY:** I said that I was not commenting on it one way or the other. However, it is a fact of life that communities do expect assistance in times of natural disasters. Because of that, the promptness of the assistance was very much appreciated. We must remember that this assistance supplements the self-help within the community.

During the floods the co-operation with the local disaster committee was very noticeable. Certain things can be done only by the local people because they are known and, in addition, before they start, they know the problems of many of the people involved. Therefore, local knowledge is very valuable. The co-operation between the local people and the helpers who were deployed in the area was very good and resulted in the utmost success of the operation. The personality of the people means a great deal. Success depends very largely on how strangers are approached. This matter has to be watched and on my observations, in this case, it was done very well.

The Minister is also responsible for subsidies to youth hostels. More and more hostels are being established throughout Queensland, although there does appear to be a slowing down in their development at this stage. A hostel was opened in Warwick about 12 months ago and State Government assistance made all the difference between the success and failure of that establishment. Many of these organisations are constantly battling for funds. Any financial assistance given to them provides the incentive to go ahead with their plans. Also it bridges the financial gap to make their progress possible. If the gap is narrowed sufficiently with Government assistance, they can see their way clear to go ahead.

Hostels are well used and their use is growing. A greater number of young people than ever before are moving round our country and many of them require good, clean, cheap accommodation, and that is what hostels provide. For a good many years hostels have been in use overseas. They are often used by young Australians. I am terribly pleased to see that this scheme has got well off the ground in Australia. Hostels are providing accommodation for visitors from overseas as well as from other parts of Australia. The other types of accommodation available are too expensive for many of these travellers.

The part that the State is playing in making possible the establishment of these hostels is helping country areas. I realise that there are hostels in the city but those in the country are of greater advantage to the city dwellers who get out and travel in these areas. We are pleased that they are able to do this and that the hostel scheme appears to be working well.

I now turn to the Department of Sport. I congratulate Mr. Ron Leahy on the part he has played. He has been with this department since its inception, and I am quite sure that he has influenced the development of the formula that has made the department the success that it is. One point that I want to stress is that money has been allocated to all parts of the State. When the department was set up, I feared that the State bodies might get all the cream and that the small individual clubs could well miss out, but I am very pleased to say that in effect the reverse has happened. The small clubs are more or less receiving their full entitlement, and this is terribly important, particularly in country areas. No matter how small a club is, provided it establishes its bona fides it is just as eligible as any State body to receive a grant. In fact, I venture to say that these very small struggling clubs are likely to receive their grant first, and if anybody misses out it could well be the big clubs.

I want to stress that these sporting subsidies have been a boon to our country clubs. Regardless of the sport, their facilities are always at a premium because no

club really has sufficient funds to provide the type of facilities it would like to provide. Again I say that this subsidy is a self-help programme. The club itself has to contribute in some way, and this is very good because it ensures that clubs get their priorities right. They have to provide something themselves and so they are not going to be careless about it. This is as it should be, not only as the amount of the subsidy sufficient to encourage the clubs to help themselves but it also bridges the gap which makes the difference between success and failure. It means that they can provide something which they would not have been able to provide on their own. This is something the clubs realise, and I would say that since the introduction of this subsidy, the general sporting facilities throughout the State have never been better. We realise that there is always a lot more to be done because these recreation facilities will be used more and more in the future as people get more and more leisure time but I applaud what has been done by the department up to date.

Moreover, an increased subsidy has been provided to enable more coaching for juniors, and this increase makes the difference between doing it and not doing it. The fact is that junior coaching is being extended more and more.

I want to stress that all clubs must ensure that their applications are kept current. Some applications were lodged last year ready for the next financial year's subsidy but for some reason or other the money has not been spent; it has not been possible to go ahead and do the work at the time. So the clubs must make sure that each year they reapply for those funds and so keep their applications current.

**Mr. Herbert:** They are given two years—this year and the next year—but they have to apply again at the end of the second year.

**Mr. CORY:** I should have known that it was two years, but the principle is the same. We have seen the applications of too many clubs lapse. I stress that they should keep their application current so that they will be eligible to receive the money when they are able to spend it.

The department's acceptance of amended costs is also of considerable importance. We all realise how greatly building costs have increased, more particularly in recent years, and that it is virtually impossible to give an accurate estimate today of what a building will cost in 18 months' time. Of course, in many instances at least 18 months elapse before construction begins. In my experience, the department has been very tolerant in accepting amended costs. The fact that amendments are necessary is not really anyone's fault; it is a fact of life that costs have increased. However, it is very pleasing

to see that the department is prepared to come to the party and accept amendments in costs from time to time. If it were not possible to have a flexible arrangement of that type, I think it would be very difficult to get people to grasp the nettle and go ahead with some projects. If they did not do so, the sporting club or association concerned could suffer a considerable loss.

I wish to refer also to the repeal earlier this year of the Sporting Bodies (Natural Disaster Relief) Act which was replaced by the Associations (Natural Disaster Relief) Act. In principle, its provisions are similar to those relating to straight-out sporting subsidies. The clubs, associations or groups are non-profit organisations set up by voluntary labour to provide facilities and administer a particular sport. Therefore, they are limited in their resources and in the security that they can offer. In fact, they can offer only a genuine approach to what they are trying to do and their own hard work. The introduction of the disaster-relief measures makes it possible for facilities that have been damaged to be restored to their original condition at a reasonable cost.

At present, of course, interest rates are out of all proportion, and it is very valuable to sporting and other organisations to have interest rates reduced to a reasonable level, especially when their income is small and their avenues of collecting money are few. In these circumstances, every little bit counts, and having money available at a lower rate of interest makes it possible for facilities to be repaired and brought up to the condition required by the sport.

In conclusion, I again thank the Minister for what he has done in this field. He has taken a personal interest in these measures since he took office and has made a success of them.

**Mr. HARTWIG** (Callide) (2.54 p.m.): At the outset, I pay a tribute to the Minister. In John Herbert we have a Minister who has applied himself extremely well to his task.

I reject entirely the belief of many people that the National Party does not support the Liberal Party. I acknowledge the tremendous job that the Minister is doing for every member of this Parliament. I feel that it is worth recording his work in honourable members' electorates, and I would like to acknowledge some of the subsidies that have been granted to clubs in my electorate. The Callide Valley Cricket Club, the Callide Valley Football Club and the Callide Valley Tennis Club have modern shower rooms and toilet facilities because of the subsidies received from this Government. The facilities, which include floodlighting, of the Dawson Valley Pistol Club are among the most modern to be seen in country pistol clubs.

**Mr. Frawley:** Are you a member of that club?

**Mr. HARTWIG:** No, I am not a member. It is one of the most up-to-date country pistol clubs. Just recently I had the pleasure of donating trophies to that club. There were shooters there from as far away as Brisbane, Mackay and Longreach, and they all praised the facilities of the club. Those facilities were made possible only by the correct approach made by that club to the Minister's department.

The building housing the indoor bowls club at Yeppoon, which the Minister opened, is a magnificent building, far better than any comparable building in Central Queensland. The indoor bowlers at Yeppoon are very appreciative of the grant of approximately \$12,000 from this Government. The invitation to open the building was a fitting tribute to the Minister.

The Yeppoon Golf Club is developing six extra holes to complete an 18-hole course, and this will be the only other 18-hole golf course in Central Queensland besides Rockhampton. This has been made possible by a subsidy of \$6,000 from the Minister's department. The Emu Park Golf Club now has an assured water supply as a result of a subsidy granted by the Minister's department. Marlborough Tennis Club and the Ogmoo Sporting Club also have received subsidies from the Minister's department. Many other clubs have, too.

At Yeppoon there is one of the most modern National Fitness camps in Queensland. That camp has a magnificent, modern kitchen with stainless steel facilities throughout, which cost over \$100,000. The Minister performed the opening ceremony of these facilities. Twelve new cabins, which cost over \$80,000, have been provided also. These additional facilities which have cost over \$200,000 have been provided with assistance from the Minister's department.

Recently I made a donation of \$100 to the St. George's Home at Parkhurst for a bus that they were purchasing. An additional \$1,000 was needed to meet the purchase price of \$7,000 for that bus. I was happy to assist through my donation. The Minister travelled all the way from Brisbane to open the fete at the home and his gesture was appreciated.

St. Joseph's Home at Neerkol has benefited also from subsidies towards the cost of a school bus and additions to the home.

I acknowledge my appreciation of the Minister's wonderful work and also the opportunity we are given to receive credit for the Government's efforts by distributing the cheques for these subsidies. This is very important to honourable members.

There is a problem associated with Her Majesty's Prison at Etna Creek. Unfortunately there have been some escapes from there, and on one occasion an old couple, Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, were almost bludgeoned to death by two escapees. One of them had

only 48 hours of his sentence remaining to be served, yet he made a break. As the Minister said to me afterwards, who can we trust?

That man had a fairly good record and was kept in the minimum security section. As I say, he had only 48 hours to serve. He made a break and almost murdered two people. For that he was ordered to serve a further 10 years' imprisonment, in another prison, and rightly so. His mate suffered the same fate.

That incident struck fear into the hearts of residents who live near the Etna Creek Prison. I have attended several meetings called by them to discuss that matter. I sent certain submissions to the Minister and he, in turn, sent lengthy letters to the residents of the area. One contained three pages and it is the longest answer that I have received to any submission put forward by me to a Minister. He is as concerned as the local residents for their welfare and safety.

At a recent meeting, the local residents called for the installation of a siren at the prison. Sirens now available can be heard for some distance, and the local residents claim that, by virtue of the location of the prison on fairly high ground, a siren of the type that they have in mind could be heard for many miles. They have asked me to convey their request to the Minister. I think the Minister gave an undertaking that if the people desired a siren to be installed, he would take steps to see that one is installed. The siren could be used to warn residents of a break-out.

The Minister, in his letter, gave a very good reason why the installation of a siren could have adverse effects. It would alert not only the residents but also the escapee to the fact that his absence has been discovered, and he might, as a result, become more desperate. Even though this fact has been made plain to the local residents, they are adamant in their request to have a siren installed.

The time has arrived when we must take a good look at what is happening in local government. The honourable member for Sandgate claimed that the Government is doing nothing for local authorities. The sea-wall along the Capricorn Coast, which is in the Livingstone Shire, suffered tremendous damage during a recent cyclone. Huge quantities of rock fill and cement are needed to repair it. The work will cost the Government hundreds of thousands of dollars. I cannot see why prisoners at Etna Creek cannot be put to work repairing the wall. They would, of course, need screening and supervision.

Local authorities are almost bankrupt. I am not saying that lightly. They are relying wholly and solely on hand-outs from the State and Federal Governments for their very existence.

The Etna Creek Prison accommodates strong, able-bodied men who are a drain on the State's resources. They have to be guarded, fed and clothed. As I say, I cannot see why they should not be put to work on repairing the sea-wall. If it is not repaired prior to the next cyclone season, the cost of repair will run into millions of dollars.

At Kinka Beach the main highway is being threatened by erosion. It has crept to within 30 ft. of the roadway. A mile of the highway needs to be repaired. At Yeppoon Beach the sea-wall is in a hell of a state. The cost of repair will run into about half a million dollars. The local authority simply has not got that much money. At Etna Creek Prison the Government has sufficient manpower available for such repair work. What a boost it would be to the local authority, to the ratepayers and to the Government if those prisoners could be put to work so that they could serve a useful purpose. Surely we are not so naive and stupid as to refuse to let our laws be bent a little, thereby enabling such work to be carried out. I am sure that the Minister will seriously consider that request. He will probably say that he cannot accede to it and he may have good reason for saying that. But I well remember that Italian prisoners of war were put to work in Australia. They did a damn lot of good work to develop the State. I cannot see why prisoners cannot be given a job to do. I do not speak of murderers and similar prisoners, but those in minimum security.

I support the honourable member for Warwick, who said that many organisations carry out an addition or an improvement to their clubs and then approach the Minister for a subsidy. We must instil into people's minds that a subsidy will not be paid on work carried out before the Minister's approval is forthcoming. The local organisations that approach the Minister's department through their State bodies get subsidies and the work proceeds efficiently.

I place on record my sincere thanks to Mr. Clark, the former Director of Children's Services, who has retired. He assisted me on many occasions when I made representations to him.

In conclusion, I again ask the Minister to seriously consider effecting improvements at the Etna Creek Prison and to try to make prisoners available to do purposeful work in the community.

**Mr. YEWDAL** (Rockhampton North) (3.7 p.m.): At the outset I shall refer to the Federal sphere and the Federal Treasurer's Budget speech and relate these matters to to Queensland economy. The Federal Treasurer did not increase the allocation for National Fitness in Queensland and his speech revealed that no payments were to be made to further youth areas in Queensland.

**Mr. Herbert:** It was the Labor Government that wiped National Fitness.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I am referring to the Budget introduced by the current Federal Government. Recurrent expenditure was decreased from \$118,000 to some \$94,000. The grant for leisure facilities was decreased from \$1,060,000 to \$870,000, while the grant for arts and cultural facilities was completely eliminated. Last year's payments under the Australian Assistance Plan totalled about \$24,000, but this year nothing has been allocated. That is a reasonable summation of what is happening on the national scene.

Having made those points, I return to the State scene and shall make some comments on the recent outburst by the Minister for Sport relative to the Montreal Games. There was a hue and cry all over Australia about the poor results achieved by our athletes at Montreal and opinions varied about the reasons for their lack of success. The Minister made certain comments which are on record and can be read by anyone who is interested. He said that the female participants from European nations who won medals were flat-chested, baritone-voiced and needed a shave every day. He publicly made many other sarcastic and critical statements.

In my opinion he was referring to only one section. I took particular interest in the happenings at the Olympic Games. I watched as much of the TV coverage of the events as I possibly could. To my mind his cynical criticism was completely unjustified and should not have been made. The American swimming girls, who won quite a number of medals, were not flat-chested or baritone-voiced and certainly did not appear to need a daily shave. Probably the top female athlete of the Montreal Olympic Games was the young gymnast from Yugoslavia, I think it was, who broke all the world records.

**Mr. Frawley:** Romanian, she was.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** The young Russian girl who competed well against her had a nymph-like figure. The vast majority of the participants, male and female, had normal features. It seemed to me that the Minister should have had more to do with his time than to make that outburst.

I say without being derogatory that some of our top female swimmers over the years have developed into very big girls. That comes from the nature of the activity and the exercise in that sport.

**Mr. Frawley:** What is wrong with that?

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I do not see anything wrong with that. However, I thought it was very petty for the Minister to make statements such as that about athletes from any country.

I wish to refer to the outcry at the time about what we have to do as a nation to win at the Olympics; what we have to do to

improve our standard; what we have to do to win gold medals. There was a variety of opinion. It was suggested that the gold medal is not the be-all and end-all of sport. I would be the first to agree. It should not be a requirement that a person has the ability to win gold medals before he can be selected to represent his country in a sport. However, I would qualify that by saying that there is not much point in our competing as a sporting nation, developing athletes in the various sports and sending them away to a world competition if we do not try to win gold medals. I believe that the whole purpose of participating is to win. We would be talking in circles if we said to our participating athletes in the Olympics, "We are sending you over there; we have trained you as best we can; but because winning gold medals is not the be-all and end-all, we don't necessarily want you to win any."

The logical lesson from the Montreal Olympics is that we have to adopt new techniques. We have to introduce the methods that are being used overseas if we are to be an international sporting nation. I feel sure that the Queensland participants in the Olympics would be the first to agree with me that there should be better training facilities, better instruction and more qualified instructors. Let us look at it from that point of view and be constructive about it. If the many people who were critical—including our Minister in his reference to the female athletes—had made statements to that effect, that would have given me much more satisfaction and a sense of justice. I reiterate that the Minister's statement was very petty.

While talking about facilities for sportsmen and sportswomen in this State, I remind honourable members of recent action by a colleague of the Minister for Sport, in the person of the previous Minister for Justice (who is now Treasurer), when he embarked on what he termed improved legislative amendments affecting the fund-raising activities of sporting bodies in this State. I do not have to go into detail. His statement caused such a hue and cry—not only among the sporting organisations but also amongst his own political colleagues—that something had to be done about it. I am happy to say that the amendments that ultimately came before us were in a more acceptable form and took a lot of the strain off the sporting organisations in this State. Those amendments affected not only sporting organisations but also charitable and other organisations that were defined in the Bill as approved bodies. So while on the one hand the Government was talking about its involvement in and its commitment to sport in Queensland, on the other hand the then Minister for Justice endeavoured to reduce the income of many sporting bodies in this State.

At the time that debate was proceeding, the member for Toowong (Mr. Porter) and the Federal member for Griffith (Don Cameron) were both quoted in the Press as indicating concern about the results achieved by

our athletes in Montreal. Both of those gentlemen were highly critical of the Fraser Government's approach to sport and its allocation of funds for sport throughout the Commonwealth and particularly in Queensland. So the approach to these matters is not a narrow one.

I go along entirely with what the Minister said early in his speech about multi-purpose sporting centres. Many sporting organisations in Queensland are made up predominantly of parents who are interested in their children and the sports they engage in. Sometimes they adopt a very narrow and parochial approach to their involvement. They genuinely want to provide facilities for their children, but they tend to have a mania about providing their own facilities, willy-nilly, all over the place. Some sort of education programme must be embarked upon so that we can instill in their minds the value and virtue of multi-purpose sporting facilities.

With your tolerance, Mr. Hewitt, I shall digress slightly from amateur sport and discuss what is in a sense commercial sport. Recently, in Rockhampton, I have been able to convince the people who are trying to establish greyhound-racing there that they should use Callaghan Park, which is situated almost in the heart of the city. It has all of the facilities required for galloping and trotting events. It seemed to me—and I was able to obtain some support—that if there is to be greyhound-racing in Rockhampton, it should be established at Callaghan Park. If it is, money can be sought to expand and improve facilities on the basis of catering for a triple-sport complex. This would, once again, lessen the responsibility of the local authorities.

One of the failings in the activities of sporting organisations in Queensland, on a broad basis, is lack of liaison. Here I am referring to the various groups and authorities, which include the Education Department, the local authorities, the parents and citizens' associations and the service clubs. Very often, during school holidays and at certain other periods schoolgrounds are closed. In fact, it is a breach for anybody to use schoolgrounds and school sporting facilities.

**Mr. Frawley:** Rubbish. You can go to the principal and ask him.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I am not going to argue about some exceptions. The general pattern in the State has been that schoolgrounds are closed over holidays.

**Mr. Frawley:** It is up to the principal.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** If it is up to principals, we just haven't got the message across to them. I was speaking about lack of communication. Let us get the message across to school principals. If it has to

be done through the Education Department, the Minister for Sport should go to that department and establish some communication between it and these people.

**Mr. Frawley:** Why don't you go?

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I have done it, but it is not being done enough.

Local authorities should be consulted by the Minister for Sport and the Minister for Education so that where development, such as housing projects, is taking place in the country or in provincial towns, areas are set aside for recreation purposes for the use of the children. Inevitably, in housing projects, houses are built one against the other and the children and parents living in those houses have to travel some distance to established recreation areas. A lot can be done through communication between the various people involved.

I can assure the Committee that many people in the community are concerned at the phasing out or virtual elimination of the Australian Assistance Plan. I have taken the trouble to obtain some details about what was done under the plan and what has happened to it. The area I will refer to is the Fitzroy region, which covers many electorates, including mine. The Fitzroy region is made up of some 12 local authorities and covers an area from Jericho in the west to Gladstone in the south. It is an area of some 50,000 square miles with a population of well over 124,000. The Fitzroy region committee set up under the Australian Assistance Plan consists of representatives from the Capricornia Institute of Technology, Queensland Alumina Ltd. from Gladstone, local authority representatives, a farmer, a shearer, a miner and so on. These people have taken a keen interest in the area, particularly the country sections, where after a period of many years of neglect some assistance was provided under the Australian Assistance Plan. Although the money allocated was not a great deal in the context of National and State Budgets, I can assure honourable members that the people concerned appreciated the amount that was allocated and it enabled a great deal of development to take place. The work was done with a great deal of enthusiasm.

In 1974-75 the Fitzroy region received a capitation grant of \$103,065. It also received \$18,600 for the establishment of a citizens' advisory service in Gladstone. Nobody would disagree with the assertion that Gladstone is a highly industrialised town which is developing at a rapid rate.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Row): Order! I would remind the honourable member that we are discussing the Estimates and that the Australian Assistance Plan is not pertinent to the department under consideration.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** These moneys were allocated for community welfare in Queensland, and I believe that their withdrawal will adversely affect community welfare in Queensland. I do not believe that any of the people on the committee to which I referred would disagree with that statement. I do not want to labour the point; I have just about finished. In Rockhampton the Australian Assistance Plan provided some \$3,500 for an outdoor living area for aged persons, \$4,500 to purchase a motor vehicle for the home-nursing service and \$12,000 for community workers in the Livingstone, Mt. Morgan and Jericho Shires. These people work very closely with the high schools and other schools in the district, so I would suggest, particularly in regard to that aspect, that the A.A.P. withdrawal is going to cause quite a lot of hardship and concern in the community.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable member will now return to the Estimates under discussion.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** In referring to the allocations made by the department to sporting bodies, I would like to say that those with which I have been associated have been most appreciative of the allocations they have received, and I think this would apply to the entire community. I am certainly not suggesting that the assistance given by the department is not appreciated. It has enabled the provision of a host of wonderful facilities, particularly in country areas. I am deeply involved with Rugby League and I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance we have received, but I believe that the critical comments I have made in the past have been valid and justifiable. I do not intend to start a witch-hunt and argue about who should or should not have received what money. The system is such that, if a sporting body can prove its bona fides and it lodges an application, it is generally given favourable consideration. To my mind it would just be crazy to give certain people special treatment which could not be justified.

I heard the honourable member for Callide say earlier that he appreciated that he was able in some way to boost himself as the local member by presenting subsidy cheques to the clubs in his electorate. For the edification of honourable members, I might say that I noted that the honourable member for Callide was distributing cheques from the Minister's department and I asked the Minister what the situation was regarding the distribution of these cheques. I was told that if any member asked the department that the cheques be sent through his electoral office, he would receive them, but to my knowledge until I asked that question it was not commonly known that a member could have the cheques sent through his electoral office. Anyway, that is past history, and any honourable member who does not

have these subsidy cheques sent through his electoral office—well, that is his prerogative. I have been receiving them, and I do appreciate the fact that in this way I am able to make contact with some sporting organisations that I would not normally associate with.

I would now like to deal briefly with what is probably the most important aspect of the Minister's portfolio. Because my colleague the honourable member for Sandgate covered the subject in great detail, I do not intend to go into it in any detail. As to the welfare services and children's services sections of the Minister's department—I certainly agree with the Minister that one should not play politics with unfortunate people such as unmarried mothers and deserted wives. I do not think that has happened to any degree. Anyone with an ounce of humanity in him feels sympathetic to people in distress.

Some State Government Ministers have gone out of their way to advertise the various facilities available to the community through the departments in their portfolios. I do not wish to see the Minister's department spend a lot of money on advertising. It is preferable that the money available be distributed to people in need; however, I suggest that the Minister might consider giving some publicity to the facilities available through the departments under his control.

I have had experience with young people and their parents and they have been completely ignorant of the assistance that is available, particularly to unmarried mothers. They have come to me and suggested that they need help. The daughter may be at a stage of pregnancy where she is not able to earn anything, and she is living with her parents who are not in a good financial position. When I am asked what assistance is available, I send them to the Rockhampton office of the Minister's department. Without exception, I do not see those people again. The office deals with them, payments are forthcoming and everything is taken care of.

I suggest that the Minister might consider some limited advertising throughout provincial areas giving short details of what facilities are available in the area in which the newspaper circulates and virtually inviting people to the office to ask questions and state their problems. In my opinion, limited advertising of that type would be beneficial to the community.

Very often young people find themselves in a situation that is embarrassing to them and to their parents and, therefore, nothing is done. Later, when the young girl is not earning, it costs her parents a good deal of money to keep her. She then has to prepare to have her child, with all the attendant expense. One bad feature of the present system—when I say "bad", I mean from the point of view of the recipient—is that the

person concerned does not receive any retrospective payments. In effect, people lose because they do not know what to do in the first place.

**Mr. Jensen:** There is an office in Rockhampton.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I have said already that I send people to the office in Rockhampton regularly when they come to me with their problems. I stressed that people, particularly young unmarried mothers, are ignorant of the facilities that are available through the department.

**Mr. Moore:** The taxpayers pay all the bills.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** We cannot talk about Governments and departments, Mr. Row, if we do not talk about taxpayers paying the Bill. To my mind, my suggestion would be in the best interests of the person concerned and her family.

**Mr. Moore:** I am not arguing about that. I am just stating what happens.

**Mr. Jensen:** You could advertise every day of the week, but people take no notice until they are in trouble.

**Mr. Gunn:** That's right.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Row): Order! The Chair will tolerate interjections but not cross-firing.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** Honourable members are saying that advertising is a waste of time. If that is so, each and every State Government department should forget about advertising. The Tourist Bureau should tear down its signs; the Minister for Justice should forget about his advertisements on the law.

**Mr. Moore:** They are finished.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I know that the series is finished. However, I think that my suggestion is worth while, even if advertising is done on a limited basis.

**Mr. LESTER** (Belyando) (3.29 p.m.): I should like to commence my contribution by recognising the efforts of the Minister and his departmental officers to help the youth of this State and people in need. Because of the good job they obviously are trying to do, I formally invite the Minister, and whichever officers he wishes to bring with him, to come to my electorate and see for themselves some of the good work that has been done and the work that needs to be done. When it is convenient for the Minister to come to the Belyando electorate, I will set things up and make sure that he is looked after and meets the people in need.

The area of Belyando is extensive. It is an area of 36,750 square miles, and has some particular problems. We have the two

new mining towns of Blackwater and Moranbah. The established mining town of Collinsville has its particular problems. The more established towns of Emerald and Clermont need help with certain problems. The smaller towns of Alpha, Jericho and Duaringa have a different type of problem that also requires solution. The Minister's department can in many ways help the people in this vast area by making life a little more enjoyable.

Grants by the Department of Sport to the various sporting organisations in this State have played a great part in making possible their involvement of children in sport and various other forms of recreation. It has given the children an alternative to roaming the streets aimlessly. It gives them a constructive outlook on life in that, while they are competing against their mates in sport, they are competing in a way that helps their fellow man. We are far enough behind as it is, but without such schemes we would be much further behind. Let us make the most of what the department has to offer in country areas.

There are specific problems in the towns of Moranbah and Blackwater, in that in those towns there is an abnormal proportion of young children. It is interesting to note that the average age of all people in the towns of Blackwater and Moranbah is 11 years. That means that there are very many young people in the five to nine-year age bracket. Those kids have to be looked after, and the department is becoming involved through making money available to the various recreation clubs for recreation facilities for children. This can be done without handing out money willy-nilly. The big advantage of this encouragement from the Government is that it not only involves the children in sport but also involves the parents in doing something to help the kids. I wonder where we would be without the Government's assistance?

Let us not think that it is the Government's job to do all the work, but a Government, irrespective of its political colour, has a responsibility to help. Parents and everybody else also have a responsibility to put their shoulders to the wheel and help the young kids to become involved and so develop into better citizens. If the Government helps the people in a small way, without handing out money stupidly (which it is not doing), something will be achieved. I have been asked by the people of Moranbah, Blackwater, Clermont and Emerald to thank the Minister for the assistance that has been given to help kids do a bit better in life.

I should also like to point out that there is a very definite need in the Central Highlands for a permanent welfare officer. I know that the Minister's department has gone to the trouble of sending a welfare officer to the Central Highlands in an investigatory capacity. During that trip he

was well looked after. He met a group of key people in Emerald at a meeting that I organised. He did the same in Clermont, where he met people of weight in the community such as nuns at the school, police, teachers and various shire officials. He also met some people at Blackwater. The problem is that kiddies get into trouble because they do not have enough to occupy themselves with. A welfare officer stationed there could play an advisory and informative role and guide parents.

I have had a devil of a number of young children come to me, with their parents, after they have smashed some property and found themselves either in the Children's Court or faced with the prospect of being sent down to Brisbane for special treatment. In some cases, that is necessary. But it would be very helpful to have a welfare officer who could advise them in the first place. So again I ask the Minister to look at this problem. The appointment of a welfare officer to serve the Central Highlands would be of great benefit to the area.

The National Fitness organisation is doing wonderful work in Emerald and other towns. In Emerald it has an officer named David Malshore. He is a great credit to the National Fitness organisation and the Government. He works tirelessly, moving round to all the towns in the area, such as Dysart, Moranbah, Clermont, Alpha and Jericho, spreading the National Fitness gospel and encouraging parents and children to become involved in community projects and to look at life from a better point of view. He is one of the true saints in our community. He is prepared to go around, for little money, doing what he can for young people. He is making life just a little bit better for those young people who grow up in country areas.

It is a pleasure to me to attend the boxing tournaments arranged by the National Fitness organisation in Emerald and Clermont. Parents and other people take great delight in becoming involved in these tournaments. In fact, recently a big tournament was arranged at Emerald and it was attended by people from New Zealand and other distant places. We saw a lot of involvement by a lot of people from all over the State, and they made the tournament a great success. It was the brain-child of the National Fitness organisation.

It is not my desire to take up too much time. I rose to speak mainly to impress upon the Minister the need to visit our area—he will be most welcome—the need to appoint a welfare officer to the Central Highlands and the need to do what he can to keep the subsidies flowing.

The Methodist Church in Clermont has asked me to thank the Minister for the subsidy of \$15,000 that has been granted to the Methodist Youth Hall in that town. Its completion will allow a lot of young people to be given good training and sound advice.

As to welfare of adults—the problem in country towns is graver than it is in the cities. In Emerald and Clermont, for example, a large number of people are out of work and are not getting their dole cheques through. I am talking federally here; nevertheless it is a welfare matter.

From time to time I am approached by wives who are bashed up by their husbands, and even by husbands who are bashed up by their wives. Their kids suffer, and quite often I, like other members, am called upon to try to sort out the situation. Admittedly I have had some very funny experiences.

**Mr. Jensen:** You should be a marriage guidance counsellor.

**Mr. LESTER:** That is the very point I am trying to make. I am not a marriage guidance officer. The people on the Central Highlands need someone responsible to whom they can turn in times of crisis.

**Mr. Jensen:** It's no good going to you; you're not responsible.

**Mr. LESTER:** When irresponsible interjections such as that are made I sometimes wonder who is responsible. Is it any wonder the member for Bundaberg is unable to obtain endorsement? He is making stupid remarks while I am trying to do something constructive for the community. Nevertheless I wish him well.

In conclusion—any action that the Minister can take to help the people on the Central Highlands in the sphere of welfare will be deeply appreciated.

**Mr. KAUS (Mansfield) (3.40 p.m.):** I am very pleased to enter the debate on the Minister's Estimates. I congratulate him on a job well done. I also thank his departmental heads, who are only too willing to assist me with problems. It is not that I get many problems in my area; it is a very good area. However, now and then one or two arise. I note the increase of \$5,500,000 in the Minister's Estimates. It is excellent to see that money is to be spent in certain areas for the benefit of many people throughout the State.

I was surprised to hear the honourable member for Sandgate criticise the Government for not doing much in the way of family assistance. Evidently he was not in the Chamber when the Minister was speaking.

**Mr. Jensen:** He was here all the time.

**Mr. KAUS:** Maybe he was asleep.

**Mr. Herbert:** The speech-writer wrote it for him before I delivered my speech.

**Mr. KAUS:** Apparently the honourable member for Sandgate could not comprehend what the Minister was saying. I was so

shocked by his comments I immediately examined the Minister's speech and noted that the expenditure of the department on family assistance in 1968-69 was only \$432,000, whereas this year the department plans to spend \$4,500,000. I only hope that in future certain honourable members get their facts right before making a speech. I cannot see how the honourable member can criticise the department's performance. The increased expenditure shows how problems have multiplied over the years and how the Government is providing assistance.

Only this morning a lass came to me in my electorate office when I was working there very early with a problem that I do not think any of us could solve.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row):** Order! I remind the honourable member for Bundaberg that certain of his remarks are getting close to being unparliamentary. I also remind him that continuous interjection will not be tolerated.

**Mr. KAUS:** I advised the lass to approach a Federal department because it was not a State matter. I listened to her story but her problems will be passed on to Mr. David Jull, the Federal member for Bowman, who no doubt will be able to help her.

As I said, I do not have many problems with supporting mothers. It seems that these arise in certain areas affected by socio-economic difficulties. I am indeed fortunate; when I am approached about these matters I take them to the officer in charge of the department who takes care of them. I thank the Minister for establishing an office and staff close to my electorate office. It helps me and honourable members representing adjoining electorates.

In particular, I thank the Minister for what he has done in providing money for sporting clubs in my electorate. Not long ago I received a cheque to be used in coaching Australian Rules players. I do not know whether or not the president of the club was psychic, but he walked into my office asking about the cheque just 10 minutes after the postman had arrived with it.

**Mr. Jensen:** He was a wake-up to you!

**Mr. KAUS:** Fortunately, I was able to hand him a cheque for \$2,600. That was one of many cheques that he has received.

As honourable members know, the Government does not look after just one code of football. In my area about 45 midgents play soccer. We have 35 teams in the cricket competition in my area.

**Mr. Jensen:** Do you get money for coaching them?

**Mr. KAUS:** No, I don't.

The progress in all sports is due to the wonderful effort of the Minister and his director.

**Mr. Frawley:** There is one thing about it. We are lucky they sent the cheque to you. If it went to Senator Georges, he would have tickled the peter.

**Mr. KAUS:** That is true. We do not have any worries with our cheques—though sometimes they are lost through the post, as happened to me on one occasion.

I am very grateful for funds allotted to cricket, soccer, Australian Rules and bowling clubs. However, I wish to refer particularly to the shooting club and the shooting range in my electorate and to the parliamentary shoot to be held on 14 November. I am organising the metropolitan members to attend that shoot, which is against the Federal parliamentarians.

**Mr. Gunn:** The A.L.P. are pretty good at knives.

**Mr. KAUS:** I understand that.

I am inviting all honourable members, including those from the Opposition, to attend the function. The day is being organised not just for the competition but to show the complex to all those who are interested. Just recently the metropolitan branch of the Sporting Shooters Association built a completely new complex. About 25 ranges are in an area covering 1,300 acres. It would do every member the world of good to see what goes on, how the members train and how they utilise their facilities.

While I am on the subject of shooting—I believe in education and not restriction. I believe that everybody should be educated in the best way of shooting and using guns.

**Mr. Moore:** In the use of firearms.

**Mr. KAUS:** That is correct. However, I do not believe in restrictions. I reiterate that I hope any members who have not been notified will remember that date.

I notice that \$4,400,000 is being made available this year for sport, youth and recreation purposes. This will help a lot of small clubs. One of the members from the south side of Brisbane has asked me to introduce him to certain friends of mine in a club in his area, and I will do that in the very near future.

I understand that many clubs have difficulty in lodging applications for funds. They do not know how to go about it. I have had some trouble in my area. Really all that needs to be done is for someone to ring the department and the secretaries will send out the guide-lines and any other information available. But still some people do not know how to approach these appli-

cations. I send copies of the guide-lines to most of the clubs in my electorate, but as it covers such a large area I do not know all of them. New ones are always springing up.

It was good to see the introduction of the Sporting Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act in 1973. Many clubs which could not get projects off the ground because they did not have the financial backing will be assisted by that legislation, which allows them to raise loans with no trouble at all with the Government guaranteeing the loans through the bank.

I shall now pass a few remarks on National Fitness. I have already apologised for not being present at a meeting this afternoon. I am very interested in National Fitness. I am a representative on the National Fitness Council and also a member of the National Fitness Camp Committee. The National Fitness officers do a fantastic job. I must say something about Mr. Eric Harris. Over the years he did a good job for National Fitness. He retired recently and will be missed. I am sure that, with his young replacement in the person of Mr. Barry Nielsen, National Fitness will go from strength to strength.

As I am a member of the camp committee, I am happy that it is looking to the future and is searching for areas on which to develop recreational facilities and camps. The lesson for the recreationist is very simple—get land now for the future. This is what the committee is doing. It is developing quite a few new camps. There is a great need for the Currimundi camp, which in a few years' time will match the Tallebudgera camp. The sooner it is completed, the better off we will be. This applies particularly to the kiddies in that area as well as those on the north side of the river.

I know that the facilities at the Tallebudgera camp are overtaxed. The committee considered another camp on the lake at Advancetown. Because we have problems in today's society, I hope that it is developed as a camping site in the near future. In the planning of these camps we must do something not only for the younger children and the teenagers but also for the older group.

**Mr. Moore:** What do you think about boxing and other contact sports?

**Mr. KAUS:** They can come into it, too, as far as recreation is concerned. Certain clubs are developing those sports as well. With recreation there are two critical periods in a person's life—around the age of 18, when the average youth leaves school and enters industry and commerce, and around 60, when an individual is nearing the end of his working life. At around the age of 18 a youth is separated from his play and home associations and his friends and enters

a world peopled by older workers where he feels alone. Unless he can fall back on well-established recreation patterns in his own neighbourhood, he is likely to feel sorry for himself and seek solace in unwholesome activities, and by this I mean—

**Mr. Moore:** With queers.

**Mr. KAUS:** Not only with queers, but he can turn into a delinquent. He is unlikely to be resourceful because all his life he has been told what to do by his parents and his teachers. A man in the older age-group is also likely to have feelings of loss after being an employee for 45 years and having someone else to make plans and decisions for him throughout his everyday working life. A young man has to enter industry, but he should retain the social and recreational contacts of his school-days, relinquishing them only gradually as he makes adjustments with new friends. By the same token the older worker should retire gradually, developing more and more old-age pursuits and projects as he allows his interests and even his attendance at his regular job to diminish. Unfortunately, most persons do not have the prescience to plan their lives in advance, so it is most important for recreationists to be ready with appropriate programmes at these two critical periods, and that is why we have to make sure that we cover the recreational pursuits of everybody in the State in those two large groups—

**Mr. Moore:** How can you justify that when the Brisbane City Council won't even look after the cricket pitches?

**Mr. KAUS:** That is a fact, but I still have an important message to get over here.

For instance, it would be good to see more professional officers in the National Fitness field. Professional preparation for recreation should be broadened. Just as city planning will not achieve its full potential as long as it is dominated by architects, so recreation will not realise its full potential as long as most of its practitioners are physical educationists. A comprehensive pervasive recreation programme should contain elements drawn from all the behavioural and related sciences. For instance, a generation ago it was taken for granted that a city manager should be a civil engineer. Now city managers are trained in graduate schools of public administration. The change reflects the change in the manager's job from construction and maintenance engineer to chief administrator who hires and supervises engineers as well as the other municipal employees. Similarly, if the recreation programme is to emphasise personal development rather than games for children, we shall need leaders who know more than is vouchsafed in the physical education major from the typical university. Of course, the programme should include instruction in the correlated subjects I have mentioned, and the core course in recreation planning, administration and current field work. I see

from a National Fitness circular I have here that recreation courses are being offered in Australia.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis) (4 p.m.): In making my contribution to the debate on these Estimates, I wish to speak about the need for better child-care throughout the State of Queensland.

Unfortunately, local authorities find great difficulty in providing child-care centres, the need for which has been created by mothers having to join the work-force. I understand that 71 per cent of the women in the work-force have about 350,000 children needing care.

**Mr. Gygar:** Do you think that is good?

**Mr. PREST:** Unfortunately, the people who need assistance of that type are the unmarried mother, the deserted wife or the mother who finds it necessary to join the work-force to supplement her husband's income. I am quite certain that in many instances, because of the standard of living most people now enjoy, the mother joins the work-force to assist her husband to buy the additional amenities they think they require.

The difficulties that local authorities face in providing child-care centres have arisen largely because of the restrictions that have been placed on such centres and what is required in them. Although it is desirable that child-care centres be of a very high standard, the mother who uses these centres pays dearly for the privilege. Because local authorities are unable to provide child-care centres, parents are forced to put their children into care in private homes while they work.

In my opinion, the more children who can be cared for privately, the better, because I do not want to see them going into institutions or other places where they would not be cared for adequately. If a mother can have one or two children cared for privately, perhaps by a neighbour, a friend, or a relative, that is very desirable. However, I do not believe in large groups of children going into private homes where the facilities are inadequate to cater for them and where it would not be possible to evacuate the children speedily in the case of an emergency such as fire. Therefore, local authorities should be given every assistance and encouragement to provide child-care centres.

Unfortunately, such centres are very costly to run and very costly to build. If they become too costly, the person who is compelled to work or to take on the role of breadwinner for the family—and there could be many reasons for this—finds that she cannot afford to pay the fees. Because of the additional tax that she has to pay when she works, she finds that there is little left out of her wage and it is virtually useless her

carrying on in that capacity. In my opinion, payments for child-care made by a mother working to assist her husband, a deserted wife or an unmarried mother should be a deduction for income tax purposes, and I should like to see the department give more assistance to people in these circumstances.

I am very pleased with the good work that the department has done for sport in Queensland over the past few years. In Gladstone we have been very fortunate to receive much assistance from the Minister's department and, in particular, from Mr. Leahy. I am quite certain that what has been done in Gladstone can be done anywhere. I am a member of the Gladstone Parks and Sports Committee, which has worked very hard and conscientiously. The committee has co-operated in every way with the department and it appreciates the assistance rendered by the department. The committee looks forward to a very long and happy association with the department in the provision of sporting amenities for the people of Gladstone.

I am not a great supporter of assistance for trips by sporting organisations. I believe that the greatest need lies in the provision of sporting amenities and facilities. I think that the time has come when sportsmen throughout Queensland and Australia must be prepared to pay for their sport. I do not think that every member of a sporting team should be paid for participating in sport. I believe that coaches should be paid if they have the ability to pass on a standard of sportmanship and knowledge that will improve the sport. I do not believe that every man who plays football or any other sport should be paid out of this fund.

Unfortunately over the years there has been some very bad publicity against the institutions provided for delinquents by the Government, particularly against those for girls, I sincerely hope that the Minister will take a much closer look at these homes to see that better efforts are made in their administration for the benefit of the inmates. Unfortunately sometimes people admitted to these institutions are ill-treated and consequently they have a set against life and the institutions.

**Mr. Herbert:** Have you any proof of this ill-treatment to present to Parliament?

**Mr. PREST:** Reports have appeared in the Press and other media and calls for inquiries have been made. I have never heard of inquiries being held. I sincerely hope that these accusations are looked into and greater care and attention given in these institutions.

**Mr. Herbert:** I do not expect a member of Parliament to make accusations in the Parliament against employees of the State without evidence other than hearsay evidence.

**Mr. PREST:** I am quite certain that the Minister's department has the facilities to institute these inquiries and refute these

accusations that are made against the department and its employees. Nevertheless, I am very happy with the way the department in general has been administered.

I am quite certain that not enough money is being spent on child-care, and if this could be rectified I, along with other people throughout this State, would be very happy.

I am pleased to see that the assistance to sport is being provided.

**Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (4.10 p.m.):** Few Queenslanders would fail to be pleased by the Government's intention to increase expenditure on sport and recreation. This year it will rise from \$2,000,000 to \$4,400,000. Queensland provides a perfect climate for sport and leisure activities. While we have differing opinions as to which sport is the best, the love of sport is common to all of us. It is important that throughout Queensland we create an atmosphere conducive to good competitive sport.

I will devote most of my speech to sport, but before doing that I wish to commend the Minister for the able manner in which he handles his portfolio. I have the greatest of admiration for him. He has visited my area and worked extremely hard for me. While he was there he spoke with about 300 to 400 people and was at all times most informative and helpful. I have no doubt that he greatly impressed them. A member of Parliament could not ask for any more than I have received from him.

The National Fitness organisation in my area plays a very important role. The people of Mt. Isa are very grateful to the Government for its allocation of \$100,000 towards the cost of completion of the camp at Lake Julius Dam. It will cater for a large number of young people and will provide wonderful opportunities to young people in the North West to get out into natural surroundings and enjoy themselves. It will also give people from outlying areas an opportunity to visit Mt. Isa, and the people in the town of Mt. Isa a chance to understand better the ways of people of the West. We certainly thank the Minister for allocating that money to the project.

I congratulate members of the National Fitness local committee, particularly Bruce Chapman who is a tower of strength. He has combined local businessmen into a strong committee and one that stands behind him. National Fitness in my area will move forward in leaps and bounds in the coming year.

The Mt. Isa Youth Action Group decided to publish a booklet containing a questionnaire directed at ascertaining the likes and dislikes of people in Mt. Isa for sporting activities. I think the booklet listed more than 54 different sporting organisations. An amazing fact learned from completion of the questionnaires is that the vast majority of people in Mt. Isa want a skating rink more

than anything else. The second activity in order of preference is indoor sport. Thanks to a State Government contribution of \$100,000 and a contribution from Mount Isa Mines, a community recreation centre catering for all types of indoor sport has been erected. It is to be officially opened some time in November. It will provide the means whereby virtually all indoor activities can be carried on under the one roof.

The Community Advice Centre in Mt. Isa plays an important part in social activities and in overcoming social problems. It is only right that I should thank its social worker, Mrs. Pamela Mason, who, together with her associates and her hard-working committee, has made a great contribution towards relieving some of the social pressures in my area.

I come back now to my main theme—sport. As I have said a number of times before, sport plays a great part in the activities of young people. Youth must be encouraged to participate in sport. I know that a number of young persons are involved in two or three different types of sport at one time. By taking part in sport young people stand a good chance of becoming good and decent citizens. Participation in sport allows them to put their time to good use instead of becoming idle, as happens in so many cases in cities. Idleness leads to trouble.

By encouraging sporting activity, however, we create a lot of problems. We have to contend with the high cost of building and also the cost of transport of competitors. I have mentioned this aspect many times before. I have received a number of letters from sporting organisations that are confronted with this problem. They all speak of the difficulties caused by the cost of travelling in western areas. This is where I differ from the honourable member for Gladstone. He said that we should not allocate any money for this but, at the same time, he suggested adequate facilities should be provided. It is difficult to create an atmosphere conducive to competitive sport when there are no opportunities to compete with teams from neighbouring towns. Sporting teams in Mt. Isa have to travel 500 or 600 km for competition, or even 1,200 km to Alice Springs. It is very difficult for them to raise the necessary funds.

I have here numerous requests relating to people who have been selected to compete in national titles but whose clubs have been unable to raise the necessary finance or have had to reduce the number of competitors. A young gentleman by the name of Scott Campbell, who competed in the national table-tennis titles in Adelaide, returned as one of the champions in the doubles. Recently five people were selected to compete in the judo championships but the club could afford to send only three. The two people who could not compete were penalised.

It is well known that people from Mt. Isa have achieved national fame in various sports, yet they cannot get the competition that is readily available to people who live on the coast. If I have one request to make of the Government it is that it provide funds, perhaps by way of National Fitness, to be allocated to help our youth travel to compete in sport. If it were only young people who were concerned, this matter could be handled adequately by the National Fitness organisation. Help is needed desperately. I know of a number of teams that raised up to \$7,000 to send teams to compete in other centres such as Toowoomba. Such large sums do not have to be raised on the coast because towns are easily accessible by road transport. The Minister might well consider providing free rail transport for sporting clubs. Perhaps he would consider free travel for all our junior sports. Something certainly needs to be done for clubs in western areas—areas to the west of the Great Divide—so that they may compete on the same basis as people who live in more closely settled areas.

As I said, Mt. Isa has over 56 different clubs competing for facilities. I have received numerous requests for allocation of land so that clubs may build their own clubhouses. I believe it would be more economic if clubs combined to build one clubhouse and ground for each area of sport. It would be far better if the three or four junior Rugby League clubs combined to build one clubhouse and field that all the clubs could use. In this way their efforts could be maximised.

I know that the Minister said that he is attempting to streamline operations and alleviate the problems associated with sport. I point out to him that the Urquhardt Tennis Club in Mt. Isa wrote to the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association in Brisbane requesting financial assistance from the Government and waited one and a half years without receiving confirmation or any information from the head body. After I had made numerous telephone calls I tracked it down and found that I had to send the application in myself by taxi that morning so that it would arrive on time. That aspect has to be looked into. My area is very concerned that head offices in Brisbane do not always perform their functions as they should. That is very disconcerting to people in country areas. I hope that the application I lodged for the Urquhardt Tennis Club will be considered when the allocations are made this year.

I do not wish to speak for any longer in this debate as I know that many honourable members intend speaking on these Estimates. I hope that our Government considers the matters I have raised and looks at problems that arise in western areas, with particular reference to competitive sport. Finally, I commend the Minister on the excellent job he is doing in his portfolio.

**Mr. WRIGHT** (Rockhampton) (4.21 p.m.): In speaking to this debate, I wish to direct most of my remarks to the aspect of the Minister's portfolio that pertains to the National Fitness organisation. As honourable members no doubt realise, major changes have taken place in that organisation in Queensland. Credit must be given to the Minister for the innovative ideas he has been pursuing. One in particular has been the employment of women officers.

I wish to expand on this. Whilst we have had an increase in the number of officers and the employment of women officers in a number of areas in Queensland, the concept of area committees has been extended. Numerous area committees have been established in rural areas. We have been able to rethink our attitude on representation on the area committees. There has also been the introduction of regional conferences for National Fitness area committees instead of just a State conference once a year. Zone or regional conferences are far more representative of the various groups involved in National Fitness. Having been involved in the Central Queensland zone, I assure honourable members that it is very worth while to go along and hear representatives from clubs in the various regions talk about their problems.

Another major change that has taken place in the last couple of years has been in the membership of the National Fitness Council. I was a great critic of National Fitness for a long time because of the people who comprised the council. However, changes have taken place, and now zone delegates represent, one might say, the various regions or area committees. Although they do not specifically represent them, they come from the country areas—Warwick, Darling Downs, Townsville, North Queensland and also Central Queensland. That has enabled National Fitness to have far broader representation, and I believe that the organisation has gained at a State level from hearing the views of the zone members as they express the concern of area committees and also area officers.

Major steps forward have resulted from ensuring that the State council is truly representative of those people who are involved in recreation in our community. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Guymer and with the presence of Mr. Ron Leahy and many other personnel from the teachers' colleges and from other areas of the community in sport, the council is now one of expertise that is able to deal with problems affecting all areas of Queensland. Consideration is given to geographical aspects and also to the various roles that National Fitness must play in sport and recreation.

Another major change that has taken place has been in the introduction of care of the handicapped. For a long time that need was not acknowledged. It is now being done, and it is welcomed by those in our community who are handicapped.

There has been a renewed emphasis on camping. Much more money has been made available to many areas to ensure that camping activities can continue.

I suggest, therefore, that National Fitness has built up a very fine record over the years. While there has been some criticism, its officers have worked extremely hard—sometimes under financial difficulties.

I place on record a tribute to Eric Harris for the way that he carried National Fitness for many years. Back in the 1940s he was the only officer, and it took a long time for him to get the extra support that was required. He has now been replaced by a man of great ability, in the person of Barry Neilsen. I commend, too, his administrative staff and the many other officers who work for him. They are dedicated people who work long hours—not the 40-hour week, as we so often expect of public servants. They travel great distances at great expense to themselves, and sometimes at great loss to their own home lives. Officers of the new type coming into National Fitness are highly qualified. Many of these young men and women have diplomas and the expertise required to give emphasis to the role of National Fitness in the community.

Because of the higher qualifications, the salaries paid to these people will need to be constantly reviewed. It is a pity that over recent years we have lost some highly qualified men because they could not live on the wages they were getting. We need also to look at conditions. When we are looking at a housing complex or a housing commission for teachers, we might extend the idea to provide accommodation for National Fitness officers. The Minister will know that we have lost officers in areas such as Gladstone and Mackay because of lack of accommodation. I know that he was personally concerned about the problem and did endeavour to do something about it.

Possibly it is a long-term problem, as it was with the provision of cars. It took a long time to convince the authorities of the time that it was worth while making cars available to officers. We achieved it. Surely the next one should be to ensure that accommodation is available. We are sending these young men and women into areas where it is difficult to find homes. Very often they pay \$40 or \$50 a week. If houses are available, many problems—certainly the domestic problems—will be overcome. I suggest that the Minister speak to the Minister for Works and Housing to see whether, over a period, arrangements can be made to set houses aside. It might be that we can gain only two or three a year but in time this problem will be overcome.

While we are looking at the restructuring of National Fitness which is taking place, as many members know, in the actual responsibilities and functions and also in the renaming of the National Fitness Council—we hope to see legislation forthcoming this

year—we must accept that there is a greater amount of leisure-time in our community. It would be wrong if we, as Legislature, did not acknowledge this fact and act, incorporating our ideas about the use of this leisure-time, to inculcate into the community the need to have the skills that will make the most valuable use of the time that is available and to ensure that it is not wasted. It bugs me somewhat to see so many of our young people still hanging around the streets. I remember, as a young fellow, that that was common for many people in my age-group. It is a great pity today, when there are so many marvellous gymnasiums owned by the Y.W.C.A., the Y.M.C.A., the Police-Citizens Youth Clubs and so many other clubs, that we do not have the young people with the incentive to become involved in recreational pursuits.

This is not so in all of the sporting areas. In Rockhampton, thousands of young people are involved in football, soccer and so on. Huge groups are involved in tennis. But a large number of the community still are not involved and they will not be unless in some way we encourage them to be. Skills need to be taught. It is not only a case of making the facilities available; we have somehow to involve these young people in these activities. This will take some conditioning.

During a recent trip to China I noticed that the Chinese people stressed the need for physical fitness and health. On a couple of mornings I went with the Leader of the Opposition and other members to see thousands of people doing exercises out in the street. Even when we got back to Hong Kong, as the honourable member for Sandgate would verify, we found the Chinese people exercising. No doubt some of the officers of the Minister's department who have been in those areas know this. The Chinese people involve themselves deeply in physical education. This is certainly so in their schools but, as the honourable member for Sandgate says, it applies to all ages.

We must accept that we need to be physically healthy and well in our community. I wonder how many of us could undertake the test that is so often run by the Education Department. I tried one and the college of advanced education was pleased with the way I came through it. But many other people, because they are not fit, fail these tests.

Accepting that we need to look at physical health, we then come back to the need for money and personnel. Whilst I commend the Minister for what he has done in this area of sport and national fitness I am sorry to see that the estimated expenditure for National Fitness in 1976-77 is only \$889,000 compared with \$878,161 last year. That is a miserable increase of \$11,000. I suggest that we will not meet the requirements of our community and our society to provide facilities and personnel required

to encourage people to be involved in recreational activities unless the money is available. We cannot get the personnel unless we have the money to pay them. While some \$2,400,000 is now being set aside for sport thanks to the pools and the other normal allocations for the Department of Sports, it is my opinion that a lot of this money should be diverted back into National Fitness.

**Mr. Herbert:** Some of it does go to National Fitness.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** Perhaps the Minister will explain how it is done, because the figures here do not indicate much of an increase. No doubt there will be indirect advantages—

**Mr. Herbert:** National Fitness are now involved, as you know, in multi-purpose halls and they have made application through our grants system.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** I accept that the National Fitness area committees are going to be encouraged to establish these halls, and I acknowledge that the Minister has helped my own area to set up camping facilities, this money has been forthcoming. But we should not have diversification in the sense of having a Department of Sport and a National Fitness organisation. The two should be closely related. I am not suggesting a total amalgamation, but they carry out much the same functions and I would like to see an extension of the multi-purpose idea. In fact, I would like to see special incentives given to those organisations within the community that promote or sponsor multi-purpose facilities.

Whilst at the moment the State pays a 33½ per cent subsidy to those organisations which apply for subsidy on their various programmes, let us have a special incentive. Let us increase this subsidy from the State to 50 per cent, 60 per cent or even 70 per cent if that complex is going to be multi-purpose—a totally community-oriented complex—because in doing so we would save ourselves a lot of money in the long term. We find in country areas one group with 30 or 40 members purchasing \$3,000 or \$4,000 worth of gymnastic equipment. Only a couple of miles away we will have a similar organisation trying to raise a similar amount for the same purpose, and yet another organisation trying to raise \$30,000 or \$40,000 to built itself a hall. Two miles away another organisation—it might be the Y.W.C.A. or a similar organisation—might be trying to establish similar facilities. Surely we need to encourage these groups to get together. We should say to them, "Look, if you combine and if you make the facility a multi-purpose hall and organise yourselves to use the facilities—let it be for indoor bowls, gymnastics and amateur basketball groups as well—you will get a far greater subsidy from the Government."

Unfortunately the Federal Government has cut back its financial aid. We were getting a 25 per cent subsidy in many instances. Honourable members will note, too, that under the Labor Government the emphasis was on multi-purpose units, and for a multi-purpose complex there was a pretty good guarantee that the money would be forthcoming.

I want to come back to the point I was making that National Fitness and sport have a combined role to play in the provision of facilities and personnel. There has been a renewed interest in the use of schools and I note that the Ministers have been working together to overcome the problems that presently exist to try to come up with a plan for community use of schools.

**Mr. Kaus:** I am involved.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** I know that the honourable member for Mansfield has been involved, as, too, have many other honourable members. But the main problem that comes up in the community use of schools—and we are talking about the community use of recreation facilities—is supervision. The principals and members of p. and c. associations to whom I have spoken have all said, “Look, we must have proper supervision and some type of arrangement for maintenance and someone must be responsible for all these things.” This must occur because no principal can allow anybody simply to come in and use the school and have no responsibility for maintaining, caring for and replacing facilities that are used or damaged.

I suggest that the pilot schemes that this Government, through this Minister and the Minister for Education, has set up in many areas have shown that we can use these schools very effectively if the supervision is there. I point out to the community that the supervision in these instances was provided by National Fitness officers. So I suggest to the Committee that we need to look at the idea of expanding National Fitness and sport to employ National Fitness officers to be the supervisors for these activities. As I have said, we have had the pilot schemes whereby we have used schools on week-ends and during vacation periods. In some schools in Brisbane we have had the post-school activity whereby different groups from the p. and c. and community level have come in and used the facilities that are available. Although this is a little haphazard, they have admittedly been successful in their own areas. But we need a total concept here, and I believe this will be best achieved if the National Fitness organisation is involved. Let us use the expertise that is available through these people. Let us use the grass roots organisation that we have already in Queensland, with the area committees composed of community personnel.

I suggest that we look at the idea of setting up recreational boards in school areas—boards made up of people from the

Education Department (the principal and staff and student representatives), community representatives and, above all, National Fitness representatives. Let us see that these National Fitness officers have the finance available to employ recreational staff.

I suggested in this Chamber some time ago that while we have teacher aides—and they have been very successful—we must also look at the role of recreational aides in our schools. Teachers do not always have the time or the ability to teach some of the skills that I have in mind. Again, National Fitness could assist. It could advise the principals and the p. & c. associations and assist in the training of personnel in the recreational aide field.

**Mr. Kaus:** There are some highly qualified physical education teachers already.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** Yes, I accept that; it is something I had not considered. There is no reason why the physical education section of the department cannot be involved in the over-all scheme that I am putting forward; but with the decentralised basis of the National Fitness organisation and the community involvement that we already have, surely that is the structure upon which we should be expanding. Many school principals get in touch with National Fitness officers and ask about the types of programmes that they can introduce into their schools. They often confer with the officers about the facilities needed and how they can plan them. This is certainly happening in my region with the establishment of adventure playgrounds. So, from every point of view—community involvement, expertise, and its decentralised nature—National Fitness can play this role. It has proved it can do it, and I ask the Minister to consider the proposal very carefully.

It will mean additional money; it will possibly mean some money being reallocated into this area from the normal subsidies made available by the Department of Sport. I do not think that people would really mind, because sometimes some of the subsidies made available may be wasted. Although I, like every other honourable member, often make representations for groups to get subsidies, it may be necessary for us to rethink our priorities. It might be good politics to be giving a couple of thousand dollars to a particular organisation to assist it to provide facilities, but I suggest that the money would be far better used for the community as a whole instead of for a small group—used to establish multi-purpose units, to employ recreational officers, and to expand the National Fitness system so that facilities can be provided in country areas. That is the point that needs to be examined very carefully.

I ask the Minister to consider increasing the number of National Fitness officers, because there is a special need in country

areas. It is almost impossible at present for some officers to carry out their duties because of the huge distances they have to travel.

I wish to speak very briefly about the comments made by the Minister about the recent Olympic Games. I do not wish to make disparaging remarks about him, but we can learn lessons from the poor results that were achieved at those games. I suggest to the Committee that, through the Department of Sport, National Fitness or the Minister himself, we consider bringing from other parts of the world people who are extremely proficient in sports in which there is competition at the Olympic Games. For example, Japan and other areas have experts in judo. We could benefit tremendously from bringing them here for two or three years. It would mean paying them and meeting their travelling expenses; but if they were employed by the Government to travel throughout the State coaching and encouraging young people to become involved in these pursuits, there would be significant benefits in the long term. Surely this is what other Governments have done. In the socialist countries and in the United States of America a great deal of money is being spent to foster sport. In many of the socialist countries, people are encouraged to spend all their time in sporting activities and they are paid a reasonable living wage to do it. We may not have the personnel to do that in Australia. If we have, let us use them; let us grab them and provide funds to enable them to carry out this responsibility. If that is not possible, let us consider the idea of looking round the world for people whom we believe to be expert in, say, archery and bringing them here and using their skills.

The present policy on the rules of assistance to various organisations in the community which do not allow for the provision of funds for State championships requires alteration. I recently wrote to the Minister on this matter on behalf of the Amateur Athletic Association in Rockhampton, and he replied that unfortunately no funds were available. If we are to encourage young people to reach a certain level of ability, then it will take place through the drive to reach State championship standard. These championships require large sums of money to organise and the sporting bodies find difficulty in funding them. Assistance for the staging of these championships is just as important as the assistance for the provision of facilities at the grass roots level. I ask the Minister to look closely at this. Let us place emphasis on giving incentive to all the people in the community to be involved in this recreational area. I suggest that the Minister can do this.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. KATTER** (Flinders) (4.41 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to speak in the debate on the Estimates of the Department of Community and Welfare Services and Sport. The previous speaker has pre-empted my resolve to ask for general sporting complexes. There are unsatisfactory conditions in many of the towns and cities in Queensland as a result of each sporting club wanting to build its own little opera house, or whatever one likes to call it. I take this opportunity to request the Minister and his department to look very closely at the efforts now being made in the city of Charters Towers to consolidate most of the sporting activities of the town in one oval, which at this stage is totally undeveloped. It is going to require a lot of money which, in other circumstances, would over the years be applied to development of a number of areas.

This consolidation will be of benefit to a range of sports. In this respect I pay great tribute to two young men in the city of Charters Towers, Mr. Bob Reid and Mr. Peter Swindell. Their efforts are in sharp contrast to those of people of the same age who are wandering round on drugs at Cedar Bay or wandering down town in Brisbane picking up their dole cheques. These two young men have got off their backsides and tried to mobilise the various sporting bodies into consolidating the various sporting complexes in Charters Towers into a single oval. This complex has been advocated also by another gentleman, Mr. Baggle. I hope that when we approach the Minister we will receive very sympathetic consideration of our attempts to bring about this consolidation.

Probably the most appalling reflection upon sport in North Queensland is the state of the grandstand—and the word should be shown in inverted commas—at the Townsville Recreation Oval. Every year some 6,000 attend the Foley Shield Finals and these people have to watch the football in the most appalling conditions to be found in Queensland. That grandstand in Townsville is a very unfortunate reflection upon the people who are responsible for it. If an approach is made to the Minister, I hope that it receives sympathetic consideration.

I remind the Committee of the very fine efforts of the member for Townsville to have something done about this grandstand.

**Mr. Jones:** What did he do?

**Mr. KATTER:** Three days ago in this Chamber he requested that something be done immediately about it. The Minister in his reply said that once an application was received from the people concerned (and the fact that it hasn't been sent must be a reflection upon the people concerned) the Minister most certainly would give it sympathetic consideration.

In the small area of the Flinders River Basin between Hughenden and Julia Creek the major sport played is Rugby League. I

am acting president of the local organisation. An amount of \$100,000 was raised for Rugby League last year in that area and it has a population of only 8,000. Some 200 senior A grade footballers played football that year, and on an average 1,000 people watched football every week-end in those four communities. We succeeded in getting a number of players through to selection for the North Queensland side.

People who disparage Rugby League put a weighted average, if I might use that expression, upon culture. They think there is some intrinsic value in ballet, opera and theatre. In those activities the participants play someone else's game. In Rugby League the players create their own drama. And it is a human drama that takes place on the oval every Sunday.

I pay great tribute to men such as Joe Bakhsh, who has been associated with Rugby League for the past 20 years and has kept the sport going in that area for a long period. The small town of Cloncurry has four Rugby League teams, and they are a tribute to him. I also pay tribute to Mr. Joe Matthews, the president of the Mid-western Rugby League, and to the other presidents in the area, namely, Mr. John Teitzel, who is backed up by Curro Corney—a familiar old identity in the area—Mr. Rob Mitchell and the Mitchell family. Rob Mitchell was a brilliant player in his day. I pay tribute, too, to Mr. Grant Lillyman and the Bulmer brothers from Richmond and to Fred Morgan at Julia Creek, as well as to Harold Mitchell and Michael Dawes, who kept the sport going in Julia Creek for a long time in the past.

I hope that the Minister looks upon Rugby League with great favour and that this Government will do away with this class concept that in ballet and theatre there is some intrinsic value that makes them so much more important than Rugby League. Whereas approximately 100,000 people turn out every week-end to watch Rugby League, nowhere near that number go along to the local ballet. Perhaps the ballet groups should move to South Australia!

**An Honourable Member:** That's a load of rubbish.

**Mr. KATTER:** It's not a load of rubbish at all. We believe in the democratic system and in the right to vote for what we support. Every week-end the people's \$1 votes go not to ballet but to Rugby League. Ballet and similar activities have to come to us with their hands extended, asking for support from the public purse. Let those people who appreciate ballet and theatre pay for it. They do not have to go to those forms of entertainment. I see no reason why those activities should be supported from the public purse while another and far more exciting form of entertainment—football—is given a second rating by the Government.

Finally, on a more serious and more general level, I refer to National Fitness camps. They are very narrow in concept. I ask the Minister to look at the possibility of establishing Outward Bound schools and survival schools. As an area I would recommend not, say, Magnetic Island—that pleasant area where land prices are high—but the spectacular and beautiful gorge country north of Hughenden. It is unused except for the purpose of grazing a few cattle. Even that use is limited because it is mainly steep gorge country. It would be ideally suited to survival schools and Outward Bound schools—activities that are more attuned to the youth of today than National Fitness camps and other concepts that relate to ages past and days gone by.

We tend to deplore the hippie communities at Maleny, Cedar Bay and other places. There is a valid reason why those people are wanting to seek out that type of existence. Let us appreciate the valid sentiment that is there and let us utilise it and steer it along a sensible course. I am talking, of course, about survival schools or, if you like, Outward Bound schools. We could even consider the more radical concept of the kibbutz in Israel. I ask the Minister to look seriously at the establishment of something like that. There is no reason why schools such as I have mentioned could not be self-supporting by growing their own foodstuffs and producing their own beef. The land is there, it is free at present, and whatever finance is needed could well come from selling the present camps at places like Magnetic Island.

I ask the Minister to consider specifically the sporting complex at Charters Towers. I ask him to argue strongly in Cabinet for help, particularly for sports that command popular and widespread approval, such as football (and especially Rugby League). Finally, I ask him to consider the concept of schools in the gorge country north of Hughenden, specifically schools that will cater for people who want to get out into the bush to do their own thing in their own time, and a series of survival courses. I have in mind a concept like that of the Outward Bound schools.

**Hon. J. D. HERBERT** (Sherwood—Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport) (4.51 p.m.): I take this opportunity to answer before the dinner recess some of the comments already made.

The honourable member for Sandgate, who led the debate, can be taken as the spokesman for the Opposition on these Estimates. He outlined what purported to be the Australian Labor Party's policy on welfare in Queensland. As I listened to him reading out his party's intentions in this field, if it is ever lucky enough to be elected to office, I could not help gaining the impression that the Labor Party did not learn the recent lesson of the tragic three years

of Labor Government in the Federal sphere. After that awful fiasco one would have thought that someone in the Labor Party would get the message, but quite obviously no-one has. Its welfare policy in the Federal sphere was dominated by a series of official inquiries and the formation of committees for a wide variety of purposes.

If the Federal Labor Party faced any problem at all, it got together half a dozen academics, called them a committee, and gave them a large sum of money to play with. That was the very reason for the Labor Party's failure in the welfare field in the Federal area. It was there for less than three years, yet it created the greatest confusion in the welfare services of this country in its entire history. Although some of the committees were investigating the same problem, they did not know of one another's existence. We had streams of people coming through our office in Queensland and often wasting the time of our officers by asking many elementary questions. While the people who were appointed may have had academic distinction in some area, they knew nothing at all about the matter they were supposed to be handling. I had one young man in my office talking about kindergarten matters. His only experience was gained as leader of the moratorium movement in the South for a couple of years. He had no qualifications at all other than a rather extensive and radical political background.

In that period we had many problems in the welfare field, all of which could have been avoided. There was all sorts of overlapping in inquiries, with one committee not knowing that a similar committee was doing the same thing, and each being paid by a different department. It was incredible. Yet today, the honourable member for Sandgate delivered Labor's State policy, advocating the establishment of inquiries into all sorts of things at the State level.

At least our Government has gone about these matters in a most practical way. We have an interdepartmental committee for welfare and we are examining the wide range of welfare services offered by our Government. In addition, we have a task force set up by the present Federal Government to appraise health and welfare services generally throughout Australia with a view to rationalising the services. That should have been done a long time ago, but, at last we are getting some sense out of it. Unfortunately, the honourable member for Sandgate based his attack on our current services on statistics from the Report on Poverty in Australia.

I wish that whoever wrote the honourable member's speech had had a good look at just what those figures meant, because the statistics have since been proved to be very doubtful. If whoever wrote that speech had obtained

the subsequent figures, the honourable member's contribution to the debate would have been a better one. The figures he quoted are just not true. Because of the difference in the pattern of services provided by the States, the figures do not represent realistic comparisons of the per-capita expenditure of the various States. The honourable member compared the spending by the various departments of welfare. However, the services provided by my department, for instance, vary considerably from those provided by the department the honourable member lauded—the one in South Australia.

The figures quoted for Queensland did not take into consideration the money spent on welfare services by the Department of Health and the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, which are very considerable indeed. A comparison on that basis would have shown that Queensland comes out better than most of the other States. A simple comparison of the amount spent by a welfare department in Queensland with the expenditure of a similar department elsewhere loses sight of the fact that in Queensland the responsibility is shared by many Ministers. Consequently, the aggregate figure here is far higher.

Our policy in Queensland is based on a partnership between Government and voluntary organisations. That is not necessarily so in the other States. Recently in South Australia there was very severe criticism by the retiring President of the Methodist Conference of the State's duplicating services that could be offered by voluntary organisations. We in Queensland make no apologies for our welfare system. We believe in a partnership between the State and voluntary organisations, particularly the churches. The State can provide money, but it cannot necessarily provide the compassion found in people with a religious motivation that takes them into welfare work.

We have found by experience that the people in voluntary organisations are very often the ones who do a better job and, incidentally, save the State money because their very dedication results in their providing a better service for a lower monetary return. We have no intention under any circumstances of leading Queensland into the scheme that the Labour Party attempted to implement in the Federal sphere, by making all charity a Government enterprise. Once we remove the compassion and love put into those organisations by church people, those who benefit from the services will be faced with a problem. We are trying to avoid the situation that has erupted in some other States.

Obviously the honourable member for Sandgate had his speech prepared for him before I made my comments. I do not like to have to say this, and I wish he were here to hear my reply, but he completely misrepresented my attitude to change or, shall I say, ignored it, because I suppose he did

not know what I was going to say or what he was going to read. My department and I are more than happy to listen to anyone at all who has constructive suggestions or can advance new ideas. As I said in my earlier comments, we do not presume to be the fount of all knowledge. We do not know all the answers.

With the changes that are piling up one upon the other in the welfare field, the standards of the community are changing and we have to change with them. If we can get help from any other organisation, we are grateful for it. The officers of my department are looking at our present structure with a view to improving and streamlining the procedures and functions. We will make recommendations that will improve the effectiveness of the department and the level of assistance afforded to those in need. There is a very great need now for us to switch more and more to family welfare as against child welfare. In other words, we treat the family before we necessarily have to treat the child. Very often if the child is treated and remains in the same environment, the family will produce further problems later on. If the family is treated, subsequent problems might be prevented. But we are not going to do what the Labor Party did and, without proper investigation, commit ourselves to all sorts of campaigns and proposals. We are paying very dearly now for some of the things it went into. It is just as well that we did have a look at it.

I think the operations under the Australian Assistance Plan are a classic example. Under that scheme it cost \$1 to give away \$1. This Government would be very wrong if it accepted a proposal under which it would have to spend \$1 to give \$1 to a recipient somewhere. As far as we are concerned, the Australian Assistance Plan, as a State enterprise to be run with State money, is just not on. If the Commonwealth decides that the A.A.P. should be continued, we will run it as long as the Commonwealth cares to finance it. But it has already indicated that it does not intend to do that. No-one should ask a State Government to take up a system under which it would cost \$1 in administration expenses for every \$1 given to recipients. That is a totally wrong principle. Such a scheme would be a grave waste of public money. I ask honourable members who have supported the A.A.P. how they can justify spending \$1 on the people working in an organisation in order to give \$1 to the people at the other end. It is not fair and it is not justified. I suspect that the motives of some of the people supporting the A.A.P. are not necessarily in the field of welfare. If the Commonwealth wants to keep on funding it, it will be its problem, not ours. There is nothing in the Budget to provide for it.

If we did say we would fund it, we would be in the embarrassing position of other States, which will find themselves in all

sorts of trouble when the Commonwealth funding is stopped. They will face the dilemma then of partly disbanding the units or finding funds for them. I do not know how they are going to do it. Our attitude is that it is not an acceptable proposition on a State level. If the Commonwealth decides to close it down, it is its responsibility and not ours.

Queensland is supporting a committee established by the Commonwealth to review all the services available to families, including those for lone fathers. This is a particular area of concern to all welfare agencies. At one stage there was some doubt on whether the committee would continue after the change of Government in Canberra. My motion that the committee should continue was carried at the Ministers' Conference and has been accepted by the Commonwealth. So this committee will continue. We hope that it will come up with some reasonable answer to the problem of lone fathers, because it is a very difficult one. One or two honourable members alluded to it in their comments.

I also draw the attention of the honourable member for Sandgate to the fact that we have initiated inquiries within my department into adoption and fostering policies. Quite recently the Foster Parents' Association requested that it be represented on this particular committee or be permitted to make a written submission. The association has been advised that we would be very happy to receive submissions from it, because the whole situation in relation to adoptions has changed radically.

Many people make an application for an adoption because they want a baby then and there and not at some time in the future. Even if they wanted a baby when they were aged 30, it is possible that by the time they are 35 they might have an entirely different view. In each one of these cases it is a personal tragedy. There is nothing that Governments can do about the supply of babies for adoption. So we just have to accept that there is a diminishing supply and an increasing demand.

Mention was made of the payments to Aboriginal women on reserves. I gave that information in answer to a question in the House. I do not know whether the honourable member wants a further answer. As he is not in the Chamber to hear my reply, I do not know how much he really wants of this information. I hope that he at least reads it in "Hansard".

He also drew attention to something like 6,000 crisis cases being attended to by the service instituted in South Australia for this purpose. During a recent visit to Adelaide my under secretary and the Director of the Children's Services Department, together with welfare men from other States, took the opportunity to inspect the centre. I am informed that the actual number of cases attended to was in the vicinity of 1,100.

I have already made an announcement, and the honourable member for Sandgate knows this, that research is being undertaken into the need for a crisis service in this State and, following upon the comments concerning the co-operation of the Police Department, arrangements have been made for two officers of my department to visit Sydney and Adelaide to examine the facilities that are available there. A superintendent and a sergeant of police will be accompanying them.

The Adelaide service is in the experimental phase and we will be having a very close look at it. I am quite sure we will have a crisis line available in Queensland in co-operation, and not in competition, with Life Line. I hope that deals with the comments of the honourable member for Sandgate.

I would particularly like to compliment the honourable member for Isis on his attitude to child welfare in his area. He is the only member I know of who still wears a Scout uniform, and he wears it with pride. He is the district commissioner for Bundaberg and he does a very good job in the organisation in addition to his work as a member of Parliament. He does a very effective job over all in handling his obligations. The work that he does in the Scout movement is a signal contribution in that field. I thank him for the congratulations he extended to the staff of my department. He also commented on the need to give priority to voluntary organisations. He knows very well that that is the attitude of the officers of my department, and is in fact Government policy.

The honourable member for Mackay made a few comments about the A.A.P., but, as I have already said, he need not worry too much about that in the State sphere. We have no intention of moving into that area.

The honourable member for Warwick spoke about the flood situation in his area. I would like to thank the honourable member for the assistance that he gave during the recent flood crisis in his electorate. We used his office up there for quite a long time. He also spoke about the self help that is necessary in flood-crisis situations. We now have a group of officers in the department who can move in when a crisis of this nature occurs, but we still find that no matter how highly trained a man might be in crisis situations, when there is a disaster affecting an area he is not nearly as effective as he could be unless he has local knowledge. So far, very fortunately for us, when we have had a disaster on our hands, we have been able to get an officer, male or female, with practical local knowledge. We had a very good one in Toowoomba and another in Warwick. I just hope that we never experience a crisis at a time when we do not have someone with local knowledge qualified to handle it, because Governments just have to move in

these days. The old idea that people either lived or died when a crisis occurred no longer persists, and the resources of the State should be provided, and are provided, in times of emergency.

The honourable member for Callide brought up a problem that has been concerning all the people of Central Queensland. This problem occurs in any area where there is a prison. I am referring to a recent escape from Etna Creek and the assault of a citizen. As the honourable member pointed out, when a man has only a couple of days of his sentence still to serve, one would think that he could be trusted to see it out. Why on earth a man in that position would run is something that is beyond my comprehension. Why a man who knows he will be caught and sentenced for this additional offence would do that is just beyond me. I can understand that a man who is serving a term of life imprisonment would take the risk and go over the wall, but what we can do about the other man in our present system, I do not know. I do not have the answer, and I admit that quite frankly.

The people of Rockhampton have asked that a siren be installed, but experience overseas indicates that sirens are not the best thing, particularly if the escapee is a very nervous prisoner, as he may decide to resort to violence because his escape has already been notified. This is a problem. Very fortunately, Queensland has a lower escape rate than any of the other States. That might be good fortune, but I prefer to think that it is good organisation and that our prison staffs, which are under strength at the moment, are doing a very good job. I would particularly like to suggest that the senior officers in our Prisons Department are doing a very good job in bringing our prison service up to a very high peak of efficiency. I only hope it stays that way.

The honourable member for Rockhampton North spoke about the Olympic Games. It is a pity that he referred to a girl from Yugoslavia when in fact she came from Romania. That might have some bearing on the relative value of the other comments he made.

The honourable member for Belyando has asked me to make another visit to his electorate. I shall be happy to accept his invitation at a mutually suitable time. If it does not do anything else, it might stop the honourable member coming to see me and writing letter after letter to me. If ever a man works hard for his electorate and works Ministers hard, it is the honourable member for Belyando. I am quite sure that the people of his electorate will recognise that when he comes up for reappraisal, because most of his ideas are eminently sensible and suitable for an area that has problems. In the new coal-mining areas, in which there are very many young people with young children and no long-term facilities, the needs are very great.

The honourable member for Mansfield has been a source of technical advice for me ever since I took over my present job. In addition, the work that he does in the National Fitness movement and on the camp committee is invaluable. He could not pick cricketers when he was a State selector, but he can still play cricket better than any other member of this Assembly, and his technical advice and advice on National Fitness is very much appreciated.

The honourable member for Port Curtis represents an electorate that probably has received more out of the till than any other. It is an area that is growing very fast, an area in which there is a multinational corporation that is prepared to put back into the community some of the money that it is making there. The net result, of course, is that the community receives money from the aluminium company, then comes to me for an additional one-third, and it does very well out of it. The local organisations, one of which the honourable member belongs to, are doing a very good job in providing sporting facilities. In fact, in the next few years Gladstone possibly could have some of the finest sporting facilities in the State.

The honourable member for Mt. Isa spoke next. Mt. Isa is the most sporting-minded city in Queensland. The last time I was there, I was kept going almost non-stop for 48 hours answering questions about what assistance the department could provide. We have been able to assist Mt. Isa with the Julius Dam project, which will be the only big National Fitness camp in that part of the State.

The honourable member also raised the question—and it is a very real problem for people in the West—of the cost of travelling time for people who want competition. The same problem is raised with me in every centre in the West that I visit. If players from Mt. Isa want to take part in the Foley Shield competition, they do not have to travel only as far as Ipswich or Toowoomba, as Brisbane players have when they take part in the Carlton Cup competition. They have to fly all the way to Townsville or travel there by some other means, and that costs a great deal of money. We will have to find some way of assisting general sporting organisations in these areas.

I have already spoken to some State executives who are unfair in the way in which they allocate the money they receive for interstate trips to take part in national competitions. They give the same amount to each competitor, whether he comes from Brisbane or from Cairns. Consideration should be given to the fact that, if the competition is being held in Sydney, a man from Cairns is already two-thirds of the way there when he reaches Brisbane. The problem of competition for country teams must be faced, because travelling costs are

crippling many organisations that could spend much more on training and other facilities if the burden of fares was removed from them.

The honourable member for Rockhampton spoke at some length about National Fitness, and he does a very good job for National Fitness, particularly in Central Queensland. The honourable member for Rockhampton and the honourable member for Mansfield are two members who are particularly active in the National Fitness field, and I suggest to any honourable member who is not already in National Fitness that he should be. The work that National Fitness is doing in this State is invaluable. It is a public service because each National Fitness organisation requires a lot of help at the moment, particularly as big changes are coming. I anticipate that in this term of Parliament, possibly in the March session, I will introduce legislation to alter the concept of National Fitness by moving further and further into the field of recreation.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. HERBERT:** This change has come about because there is a greater recognition by the community that so much time is spent in recreation and that Governments have a responsibility to assist here as well as with sport, which is done now. After all, active sport may cover only a few years of a man's life, and the rest of his life is spent in recreation and leisure. National Fitness Council can be adapted to cover the whole family, and that, of course, builds up our family concept in the welfare field as well.

The honourable member for Flinders spoke of multi-purpose organisations. This is becoming the accepted composite organisation in country areas. We now have people in country areas who are recognising that it is not possible to have a lot of little clubs vying with one another for the available funds and that it is simpler to accept the responsibility of the multi-purpose organisation which allows the total use of the facilities.

**Mr. Burns:** Do you fund them in that way?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Yes, we do a lot of this. There are a lot of multi-purpose centres at the moment, and the honourable members from the country areas will know them. It began with football clubs finding that in summer sufficient finance was not received from the use of the club grounds by a cricket club and that additional finance would be available if use was made of the grounds by women's netball clubs and other organisations. Brothers League Club in Bundaberg has a facility of this nature under construction at the present time. At Gladstone one will find a multiplicity of sports in the same area, as they can use the same change rooms, toilets, and other facilities.

**Mr. Wright:** What is the cost? Would you consider the idea of special financial incentive by way of subsidy over and above the existing one?

**Mr. HERBERT:** No fear! If we started that sort of thing there would be a row from the organisations that are running on their own. I can understand some problems that we would get. I would like to see anyone draw up guide-lines to give multi-purpose organisations more money than we do give to single-purpose organisations. Many single-purpose facilities begin that way and later they expand and take other organisations under their wing.

There have been several comments in this Chamber on the use of school facilities, which, in essence, is a multi-use of facilities already in existence. It is a shame that for many years in the past one has had to watch swimming-pools and other facilities in schools being neglected because there have not been people prepared to take over the management of them during school holidays. Of course, I can understand the concern of the p. and c. committees about handing them over. National Fitness officers have done much work in this area, and I hope that we find more people who are prepared to help.

I have answered the speakers to date. That will mean that we will be able to go a lot later in the evening before I start replying to the speakers that follow.

**Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (5.20 p.m.):** First of all, I congratulate the Minister on the able manner in which he administers his portfolio. It might be of interest to members to learn that in his youth the Minister was a rather fine sportsman. He was a champion heavyweight boxer, a good Rugby Union player and also a pretty good rower.

**Mr. Marginson:** Did you say he was fine?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** He was a very fine sportsman in his day. I would venture to suggest that even now he would hold his own with many people. I also congratulate the Director of Sport, Mr. Ron Leahy. For an old tennis player, he hasn't done a bad job in his position.

**Mr. Wright:** What do you mean, "he hasn't done a bad job"? He's done a darned good job.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** Unlike the honourable member for Rockhampton, I don't have to crawl to people.

The under secretary of the department, Mr. Cedric Johnson, is a public servant who shows consideration for back-benchers. If other public servants were to do as he does, we would have little to complain about.

I intend one of these days in his Chamber to send off some of the public servants who treat back-benchers like junior office boys.

I can honestly say that Mr. Cedric Johnson is a perfect example of a public servant who gives courtesy and consideration to back-benchers.

Last year the Minister's department spent \$1,320,000 by way of subsidies and grants to sport. That indicates the concern of this Government for sporting bodies that cater for not only juniors but also seniors. There is no justification for throwing people on the scrap-heap simply because they become old. There is no reason why they cannot continue to compete in sport.

Most members think that I compete only in athletics. But, in addition, I play hockey for the Redcliffe Over 30 team in Division 6, and this year we won the premiership.

**Mr. Wright:** Congratulations.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** That shows that an older person can still participate in active sport, provided he does not try to emulate the deeds of younger people and is prepared to tone down his performances.

**An Honourable Member:** Do you run backwards?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** No, I don't. Other people are much better than I am at doing that.

I believe in participation in sport by people of all ages. Older people should adopt a sensible attitude towards sport and not try to equal the performances of their youth. In other words, they should tone down their performance to suit their age.

The member for Rockhampton North spoke about the attitude of Australians towards international sport. I agree with most of his comments. If we send Australian teams to international sporting events we should send them with the idea of winning gold medals.

In Queensland two types of people participate in sport. On the one hand, there is the person who trains and tries to become proficient at sport; on the other, there is the person who competes only on a casual basis. Both types, of course, can enjoy themselves.

Recently a good deal of criticism has been levelled at the Government of Singapore. That Government presents a very fine award for fitness, that is, aerobic fitness of the cardiovascular system. It encourages people of all ages to run the distance of 1½ miles in prescribed times depending on age. Times are set for people of under 30 years, under 40 years, under 50 years and over 50 years. The awards are gold, silver and bronze stars and they are given to anyone who can cover the distance of 2,414 kilometres, or 1 mile, in a certain time. Even the member for Mansfield could win the bronze medal for men over 50 years of age. I am

sure he could run  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in 14 minutes 30 seconds. The member for Archerfield, on the other hand, couldn't do it in 20 minutes.

The Queensland Government should make similar awards to induce the average person—I don't mean a champion—to keep himself fit. Too many people are unfit, and the problem is that half of them do not know they are unfit.

Other members have spoken about Australia's inability to win medals at the Olympic Games. Our poor performance showed that Australia has slipped behind overseas countries. Our athletes simply weren't good enough. I don't want to mention any names, but some of the women athletes could not run 800 metres twice in one day. They had not reached the degree of training that they should have attained. In international sport an athlete cannot expect to run only one race in a day; he might be expected to run in a heat, the second round, the semi-final and the final over two successive days. Many of our athletes were not trained to the pitch that would enable them to run twice on the one day. Most of them were good for one run, but they could not line up the second time.

But what more do our athletes really have to do? Stephen Holland finished third in the 1500-metre swim and won only a bronze medal, yet he broke a world record. What more could we expect him to do? No-one could call him a failure, yet people whinged because he won only a bronze medal. He did pretty well. The fact that he had to break a world record to win a bronze medal shows how intense the competition was at the Montreal Olympic Games.

I agree with some of the things previously said by the Minister for which he was taken to task by the honourable member for Rockhampton North. It has been proved since the Olympics that many contestants were taking steroids. Recently some of the weightlifters and wrestlers were disqualified and made to return their medals. A lot of drug-taking was associated with the Olympic Games. Some of the women exhibited rather masculine characteristics, but others were quite well developed as women. I confess that I like big women, anyway. Some of the women athletes who showed tendencies towards overdevelopment were not too bad when looked at closely. I had intense admiration for some of the big German swimmers and I am not afraid to stand here and admit it.

The Department of Sport has given the Queensland Amateur Athletic Association, with which I am closely associated, a great deal of assistance. I am a life member of the association. I am also a patron of, and competitor in, the Queensland Veterans' Athletic Club. This year the Department of Sport gave a total of \$9,099 by way of subsidy for the coaching of juniors. That

is very commendable and the money was well spent. The department gave the Veterans Athletic Club \$150. That was not a large amount but we were satisfied with it. We thank the Minister and his department for that assistance which enabled the Queensland Veterans' Athletic Club to stage the first Australian Veterans Athletic Championships to be held in Queensland. I invited the Minister for Sport to perform the opening ceremony. He was otherwise engaged, but the Minister for Justice was kind enough to come to Mt. Gravatt to perform the opening ceremony. The Minister for Transport was an interested spectator. There is hope that we may be able to induce him to take part one day.

At this stage I should mention the Sarina and District Amateur Athletic Club. The Minister for Police had a great deal to do with its development. In 1973 I went to Sarina to open the sports meeting held there. I was impressed by the athletic ground that the Minister for Police, when chairman of the Sarina Shire Council, helped to develop. I remarked at the time that I thought the Sarina athletic field was one of the best country grounds in the State. I have been on most of them and was fortunate to compete on the Sarina grounds. The Minister and the Sarina Shire Council are to be congratulated on the facilities provided for athletics in Sarina. Sarina has produced some good athletes.

**Mr. Gunn:** The Minister was chairman of the shire.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** He was a good chairman and, thanks to his efforts, these grounds were developed.

The Minister for Sport and the Government are to be congratulated on providing money for all these things. The Government should give the lead in sport and many sports facilities have been provided in various areas.

Since becoming associated with sport in 1937 (we used to compete at Lang Park when it was a cow paddock), better facilities have been provided by not only the Government but also by local shire councils and parents and citizens' associations at schools. Thanks to this Government, parents and citizens' associations are given a 50 per cent subsidy to improve school grounds.

The honourable members for Rockhampton North and Rockhampton complained about school grounds not being available to the public for sporting events and general use.

**Mr. Yewdale** interjected.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** That may be so, but I can speak only about my electorate.

The principals of the high schools at Redcliffe, Clontarf and Caboolture are always willing to make the schoolgrounds available to the public. Every Saturday

morning two junior cricket matches are held at the Redcliffe State High School. The Clontarf State High School grounds are used by the Redcliffe Australian Rules Football Club.

**Mr. Yewdale:** That's supervised sport. That's right.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** Of course. It has to be supervised sport. I agree with the honourable member there.

**Mr. Yewdale:** Is it supervised at holiday time?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** It has to be supervised by the people responsible for it. In other words, on Saturdays the Australian Rules club is responsible for cleaning the grounds. Any club or group of people using the schoolgrounds must be responsible for supervising the sport and cleaning the grounds. Surely the honourable member does not expect the Government to conduct sport for school-children during the school holidays.

**Mr. Yewdale:** No. I want them to be able to use the grounds.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** Of course the grounds should be used. I agree with the honourable member. They are used in the electorates of Redcliffe and Murrumba and that happens because I have been to see some of the principals about it. I have persuaded them to allow the grounds to be used. If some Opposition members did their job properly, they would have school facilities made available in their electorates, too. I did not have any trouble when I wanted the Redcliffe State High School grounds for two days to run an athletic seminar. The principal gave me the use of the grounds and on each of those two days I had 150 to 200 children from various schools both in and outside my electorate. I had children from schools in the electorates of Sandgate and Redcliffe.

**Mr. Kaus:** Did you coach the Redcliffe streaker?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** No, I didn't. Incidentally, I coached the Redcliffe State High School discus throwers, and in the recent zone sports I had five wins and a second from six entrants. I couldn't do much better than that.

The Redcliffe City Council has a plan to enable schoolgrounds to be used by members of the public. Recently they had a deputation to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing. The Mayor of Redcliffe, who happens to be a relative of mine, put up a very sound suggestion, which was backed by his council, for the schoolgrounds in Redcliffe to be used by the public in that area. The city council is prepared to provide facilities on the schoolgrounds. The Redcliffe High

School is in the electorate of Mr. Speaker. However, as Mr. Speaker is not taking part in this debate and as approximately half the children from that school come from my electorate—

**Mr. Moore:** This is going to make very good reading in 100 years' time. Your ancestors will love this speech.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I think they will love it even now. They won't have to wait 100 years.

The Redcliffe City Council is prepared to provide facilities on the field at that school. The Redcliffe State High School grounds, which are across Oxley Avenue from the school, do not have toilet facilities, which became very evident the day I conducted the coaching seminar. The Redcliffe City Council is prepared to provide toilet facilities on the ground, provided the public of Redcliffe can use it. I understand that a provision of the Local Government Act precludes local authorities from using money on grounds owned by the Education Department. However, I think anything can, and should, be changed if it is for the good of the public. I hope that the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing get together and allow the Redcliffe City Council—

**Mr. Yewdale:** They should communicate better, shouldn't they?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** They do communicate. It is just that nobody bothered about it before. This is the first Redcliffe City Council that has had a mayor with any brains since Mr. Speaker was mayor. When he was mayor, Redcliffe was a progressive city. We had a boofhead for about 12 years after that. Now we have another mayor who is progressive. This is the way in which the sporting facilities of Redcliffe and other areas will go ahead.

I am not going to speak only about the city in which I live. I live in Redcliffe and I am proud of it—I do not want to live anywhere else—but I also represent the area of Caboolture. The Caboolture Sports Centre is run by a fine group of people who have done a lot to encourage sport in their area. They have been given approximately \$11,000 by this Government since 1972, when subsidies for sports were introduced. The Caboolture Sports Centre was established in 1970, but it did not commence operations until 1971. Before subsidies were provided for sport in this State, the Caboolture Sports Centre had constructed a Rugby League field, a soccer field and a turf wicket, and provided the underground drainage and the embankment. Since the subsidy was introduced, they have also built a cycling velodrome. Cycling is being encouraged in a small town such as Caboolture. They were given a reasonable subsidy to develop the velodrome.

The president of that association is a man who is not given a great deal of praise anywhere. Shire engineers are always the ones who are flogged from pillar to post by everybody. However, Mr. Derek Stringfellow is a man who has done a lot for sport in the area of Caboolture. In fact, the full extent of the assistance that he has given is not widely known, because he is not a man who blows his own trumpet. He will probably be embarrassed at the fact that today I am mentioning some of the work that he and his committee have carried out in the Caboolture Shire. It is about time that credit was given to some of these people who are only too willing to get out and do the work. They are always the first to be criticised.

Other members of the Caboolture Sports Centre have worked a long time to develop it and they have done a pretty good job. I am not going to mention all of their names. However, I single out Mr. Jack Lindsay, who has worked untiringly for the benefit of tennis in Caboolture. The Director of Sport would know him quite well.

The \$11,000 that the Caboolture Sports Centre has received from the Government might sound like a lot of money. But I remind honourable members that the committee has spent over \$50,000 of its own funds over the past four or five years in developing sports facilities in Caboolture. That is pretty good and I think the members of that committee deserve to be congratulated.

Other sporting organisations in the area—they are not all in my electorate—such as the Redcliffe Junior Cricket Association, which is in Mr. Speaker's electorate, and the Redcliffe Soccer Club have done much to propagate sport in Redcliffe. Many members of the soccer club and its followers live in my area, although its headquarters are in the electorate of Redcliffe. Over the past 12 months it received \$5,900 to improve facilities.

It is pretty good of any Government to provide money for such purposes. Even pony clubs have been included. I have many pony clubs in my area and they have made good use of the subsidies they have been given by this department. Bowls clubs, too, have their fair share of the money.

**Mr. Marginson:** Do they play croquet in Redcliffe?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** They do. There are two fine croquet greens on adjoining areas at Woody Point, which is also in the Redcliffe electorate. They provide facilities for older people who want to play that type of game. I have had no leaning towards it but I realise that playing it does require a certain amount of skill.

**Mr. Melloy:** What is your favourite game?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** My favourite sport is criticising the A.L.P. and I could go on for hours doing that.

I should like now to speak about the prison at Woodford. It has been established for some time. I can remember when it was opened officially by the Minister for Community and Welfare Services.

**Mr. Gunn:** Did you have a good day?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** It was quite a good day. The honourable members for Somerset and Merthyr, and the former member for Brisbane (Brian Davis), were there. We entertained Brian Davis right royally with morning tea. I can remember the honourable member for Merthyr leading him by the hand up to morning tea and we were criticised by—

**Mr. Gunn:** He had 12 lamingtons.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** By the size of his stomach, I do not doubt it. It is just as well we did not take the honourable member for Archerfield or there would have been no lamingtons for anybody else. Nevertheless, we took the honourable member for Brisbane and showed him every consideration the day that the prison at Woodford was opened.

**Mr. Marginson:** He was a very good member.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** The fact that he is not here now gives the lie to that statement.

The Woodford Prison, which is in the Murrumba electorate, is doing a very good job. There have been a couple of escapes from it. I can recall criticising the prison on one occasion over escapes, but at that time I did not know that the second part of the outside security fence had not been completed. Since it has been completed there have been a couple of escapes, but they could happen at any time. After all, it is not yet a maximum security prison. I think it has been an asset to the community at Woodford. I know that the people in Woodford are pleased to have it there. The prison officers have fitted very well into the local social scene.

**Mr. Gunn:** You would wonder why prisoners would want to escape.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I would wonder why. When I went through the prison I had the opportunity of going into one of the cells and having a look at the beds. The prisoners have better mattresses than the one I have on my bed at home—that is the honest truth.

**Mr. Herbert:** They don't have the same company, though.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** They haven't, I will agree with that. It is much more pleasant in my bedroom at night-time than in the Woodford Prison.

I was impressed by the discipline at the prison. The gentleman in charge will go a long way in the prison service. He is Mr.

Deichsel; I am sure I will not embarrass him by mentioning his name. He has done a fine job while he has been there. He has earned the respect of the young prisoners. The day I went there I had lunch with them and, after speaking to some of them, I realised that Mr. Deichsel is a fairly stern disciplinarian. But he also realises that young people have to be given a certain amount of latitude and he has encouraged their participation in sport. He does not encourage javelin-throwing, for obvious reasons, but he encourages basketball and other types of sport.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. SIMPSON** (Cooroora) (5.41 p.m.): I would like to congratulate the Minister on a well-run department. It must be very difficult to estimate the requirements of the department in a given year. As the department encourages sport and assists clubs with subsidies, it must be difficult to know how great will be the call on the Government to provide funds. The whole concept of encouraging sport and keeping young people gainfully employed and off the street is a laudable one. I think the concept of encouraging people to devote their leisure time to sport and to keeping fit is a very good one that we as a good Government should promote. There are, of course, many ways of achieving this aim.

The provision of playing fields is one that is rather obvious and one which can be quite costly in areas with undulating terrain, as is the case in my electorate. The idea of encouraging sport and providing playing fields is one which spills over into the area of education, and primary schools often have great difficulty in catering for the demand. They are not provided with all the necessary funding, but only a subsidy, and schools which are situated in very difficult terrain find that they just cannot afford to provide playing fields. Obviously local authorities take a certain amount of interest, but in a growing community like the Sunshine Coast one finds that playing fields are in short supply because the population is outstripping the available facilities.

There is also responsibility on the community and on parents to encourage their youngsters to go in for club activities, and although this is good up to a point I believe there is a need to look at the effect that participation in organised sport has on very young boys and girls when they reach the teenage years. In other words, when four, five, six and seven-year-olds engage in competitive sport and continue for some 10 or 12 years, one finds that by the time they reach the age of 18 they are browned off. They lose interest and drop out at a critical time. Instead of being full of enthusiasm for sport and social activities, they are sick of them. They are fed up with being organised and the glamour has gone out of sport. We find that they turn to other

activities to keep them occupied. Some of these include drug-taking and that type of thing, and once they start taking drugs they degenerate and tend to become more and more involved with the criminal element and participate in the other activities of people who have nothing better to do. So we do need to be ever-watchful.

We need to support those people in sporting organisations who are endeavouring to find new activities and new sports which will motivate young people in the right direction, occupy them and retain their interest. One such sport is trail-bike riding. Not everyone would go along with that suggestion, but it is a growing sport and one we have to encourage and cater for.

The Forestry Department could assist by providing areas suitable for the use of trail-bike riders where they would not interfere with the peace and comfort of other people. Perhaps it could be done on a commercial basis by giving persons a lease, requiring them to provide certain facilities, and allowing them to charge a nominal fee to cover activities of this type. Perhaps it could be handed over to a club that would make the necessary arrangements. I am not sure which would be the better way of handling it. It could also be handed over to local government to supervise, and I think that would be successful in some areas.

There has been criticism from the Forestry Department, which in my area is the authority that one might expect to provide suitable ground away from populated areas on which trail-bike riding could take place. The department takes the attitude that the right way to go about it is to allow the riders to use a track a couple of times, then close it and shift them to another track. In my opinion, that is wrong. Experiments on the Sunshine Coast show that trail-bike riding on tracks incorporating sawdust decreases the possibility of erosion and water cutting gullies in the tracks. That is one method of stabilising an area so that it can be used repeatedly. It can be designed and maintained properly, well away from houses and people. The provision of such a facility would assist in keeping trail-bike riders off the roads. Many young people seem to be motivated to ride trail-bikes, and the provision of tracks for their enjoyment should be considered.

The Government is hoping that the Forestry Department, the Department of Sport, the Department of Lands, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other Government departments will be able to provide recreational interests for the community over and above the usual sporting activities. Hang-gliding is another activity that must be catered for. It is a dangerous sport, but it seems to me that man is always looking for activities in which there is a certain degree of risk, which provide a challenge. In this instance, areas must be provided containing

heights suitable for learners and also greater heights as a challenge for those who are more experienced.

Some sand dunes lend themselves to hang-gliding but pose a few problems because of the terrain, vegetation and so forth. Hang-gliding enthusiasts jump off all sorts of terrain. For example, they jump off Mt. Coolum, which is a big rock. Someone said, "It's all right to go hang-gliding as long as you bury your dead." I think that is rather a brutal attitude. At Marcoola there is a cliff only 25 ft. high which the hang-gliding club uses for learners; then, a few chains along, there is a 50-ft. cliff from which the more experienced members can jump. In areas such as that, learners can be taught and become proficient, thus lessening their chances of being killed as a result of lack of knowledge. That is a responsible way for clubs to undertake training, and I do not think that anyone should take part in hang-gliding without receiving proper training through a club. I do not think that it would be wrong for the Minister and his department to watch the quality of training of these clubs. It would be irresponsible if this were not done. There is also a need for responsible people to be trained in this sport.

The promotion of sport and the need for the public to become fitter requires a flair. As has been said by a previous speaker, it is not easy to interest people in anything but the easy way. Sitting in front of the television set with can in hand seems to be the ultimate for many people. Whether young or not, they will degenerate and will not enjoy life. There is so much that they are missing, as they live only once, and it is about time that they realise the benefit of becoming fitter. Personal participation in something is far more satisfying than watching on TV the performance of somebody else.

I am pleased to say that in my electorate there is a National Fitness officer, Richard Curzon, who has that flair for interesting the public. Together with another squash player whom he thought would be a stayer, Lee Davis, he endeavoured to establish a doubles world endurance record in squash. By doing this they have interested a lot of people in the sport. They played squash for 69 hours, with a break of five minutes every hour, which is no mean feat. "The Guinness Book of Records" lays down this sort of rule for the world. Unfortunately, and I think that it was a bit of a trick on Australians, when they wrote to the Guinness people and told them that they had broken by three hours the previous record of 66 hours, they were advised, "We forgot to tell you; somebody else set a new record a few months ago of 71 or 72 hours." These two men undertook this endurance performance, raised a lot of money for charity and did such a lot to promote sport in the area, only to be denied their record. It is important that officers have a flair for encouraging people to become fitter.

I think that there are many people in this Chamber and in Government departments who need to keep fit. Consideration has been given to the installation of a swimming-pool in the new parliamentary building, no doubt at quite considerable cost. I believe that the fitness of the members would be better served by the provision of a squash court or a suitably equipped gymnasium. These facilities would enable members to attain fitness for the life that parliamentarians have to lead. I trot across to the park each morning and have a run. That will satisfy me. At times it is raining cats and dogs, but I find that once a person gets wet it does not seem to bother him. Keeping fit makes all the difference when we work long hours and lead the type of life that we have to. I would recommend it to other honourable members. I would like to see incorporated in the new building a squash court, gymnastic equipment such as, for example, foot treadles, and whatever other equipment is deemed necessary to keep us fit.

The Australian Assistance Plan has been referred to as an area that would not be funded by the State Government. The way in which it was implemented by the Commonwealth Government is a glaring example of waste of money.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller):** Order! I cannot allow the honourable member to discuss the Australian Assistance Plan. The Chairman has already decided that it is a Federal matter and one not falling within the ambit of these Estimates.

**Mr. SIMPSON:** That is good, Mr. Miller; that saves me from really having to go to town on it.

I move now into the area of parole. The suggestion that service clubs might be used as a means of assisting in the reorientation of those offenders who are deemed fit to be directed back into the community is worthy of consideration. How such a scheme would work, I am not sure. It would certainly be a brave move, and I look forward to it with great interest. The service clubs that I have contacted in my area have indicated their willingness to giving it a trial.

The orientation of parolees in community services is important. There they will see the benefit to be derived from helping other people and also what their responsibilities to the community are. The needs in this field will be ever-changing, and I believe that this form of parole, together with other forms, should be kept before the public and the remand people as a means of evolving a better system of getting parolees back into the community.

The terms "sport" and "recreation" in some ways defy definition. Fishing is termed as both a sport and a recreation, and

there are other similar grey areas. Some people consider the playing of a musical instrument as sport. In fact applications have been made by some musicians for assistance to sport for the purpose of erecting a band hall. It seems to be a grey area.

**Mr. Gunn:** Camping is a grey area. A lot of people like to go out camping.

**Mr. SIMPSON:** A lot of everyday activities are a form of relaxation. Where recreation ends and sport starts, I do not know.

This area should be looked at on the basis of family involvement, that is, activities that involve not only Mum and Dad but also the other members of the family. I commend the Minister and his officers on the work they are doing. May they continue to administer the good health and recreation of the community.

[*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.*]

**Mr. GUNN** (Somerset) (7.15 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I join in this debate. I shall probably cover a lot of ground that has been dealt with already.

**Mr. Herbert:** Record it in "Hansard" that no member of the Opposition is present in the Chamber.

**Mr. GUNN:** That is shocking, Mr. Kaus. I draw the attention of the Chamber to the fact that not one member of the Opposition is present.

This is an opportunity to thank the Minister and his staff on behalf of my electorate for the generous sporting subsidies that country areas have enjoyed over a number of years. I am grateful to the Minister for them because many sporting bodies in country areas would not exist without them. I thank the Minister's staff, particularly his Under Secretary, Mr. Cedric Johnson (whom I have known for years as a first-class officer) for a job well done.

On reading the Minister's speech I noted that he referred to Mr. Clark, who was formerly in charge of the Children's Services Department. I worked with him as a member of a fire brigade board when he was chairman of the Fire Services Council. I pay tribute to him as an excellent man to work with.

I commend the work done by Mr. Barry Nielsen, as officer in charge of National Fitness. When I was chairman of the Laidley Shire Council he was in charge of the Toowoomba region. At that time my council paid a very small amount of money to become involved in National Fitness. Thanks to that move hundreds of children in my area learnt to swim and became involved in National Fitness.

**Mr. Marginson** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** The honourable member was involved with a hospital board for many years. He should know that we have a very good swimming-pool. We read the same paper. I know what goes on in Wolston and I am sure that he knows what goes on in Somerset.

I pay tribute to the coaching of young people in golf, tennis, and other sports in many areas. It has been said that this money is wasted in some areas but I doubt that it is. In my day we did not get the same opportunities. We had to learn football the hard way. We had to run like mad or get tackled and knocked over. There was no science to it.

**Mr. Frawley:** You were a winger.

**Mr. GUNN:** I was.

**Mr. Frawley:** You look pretty fast to me.

**Mr. GUNN:** The honourable member has gauged me rightly. I played on the wing at the time in Ipswich fixtures and rather enjoyed the sport. However, it would have been much easier if we had had the benefit of the coaching that young people receive today thanks to the subsidies provided by the Ministry of Sport.

It seems to me that sporting clubs are getting too involved with social activities. When they get a grog licence it is not long before they are on our backs for a licence to sell bottled beer. It is a shame that they seem to want to become large commercial enterprises. Football clubs are becoming very big business.

**Mr. Herbert:** We do not subsidise the licensed premises. That is not our responsibility.

**Mr. GUNN:** I take that point.

It is a shame that people involved in sport mix social activities with it. I am not a stick-in-the-mud. I like social activities. So many football clubs—and we have them in Ipswich particularly, as the Minister for Health would know—turn into social clubs and become commercial enterprises which turn over something like \$1,000,000 a year. That is a pity. I cannot see that we are getting the full benefits of sport when that happens. Although I am not against the social part of it, I fear what would happen if we ever brought poker machines into this State. That will never happen, I might say. If by a miracle our opponents ever got onto the Treasury bench, poker machines would be introduced fairly quickly. I think we would all agree about that. Fortunately, that will not happen. However, it has happened down South and it has adversely affected the social life of a lot of people. That is most unfortunate.

Over the past few years I have received large amounts of subsidies for clubs in my area. One I received recently was for the Tivoli Raceway. The cheque was for \$10,000, which

is absolutely splendid. The member for Wolston would know that area well. Tivoli started with next to nothing, as he will recall. The other day they had an Australian meeting, and riders came from as far as Western Australia. I might add that I am the patron of the club. At a cost of over \$100,000, they have constructed a large building, which is an asset to Ipswich and the West Moreton district. The Government has provided \$10,000 for the toilets, showers and so on.

One point I want to make is that we are inclined to be derogatory of trail-bike riders. I went with the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service up to the Mt. Coot-tha area. There is no doubt about the riders. I admire their skill. They can go almost vertically down a hill. They seem to pick places such as that in parks. Perhaps we should set aside an area for trail-bike riders. I do not suggest that they would always stay in that area, but such an area would allow them to try their sport out. There must be a lot of skill involved in trail-bike riding.

**Mr. Frawley:** Two of my brothers have bought 400 acres, which they intend developing for trail-bike riding.

**Mr. GUNN:** I am very pleased to hear that. We would welcome them. It is a pastime of skill; there is no doubt about that. If we can get them involved in their own area, it will be of great benefit to us.

We have received subsidies not only for golf and bowls clubs; there is a pistol club outside Toowoomba. In subsidies alone I would say we have received over \$10,000. It has contributed greatly to sport for people of all ages. This raises the point that subsidies have not been provided for young people alone. When we think of sport, we quite often forget older people. However, subsidies are provided for the older generation in bowls and golf, pistol clubs and various other sports requiring skill.

I paid a tribute previously to the National Fitness organisation. I would like to go further and congratulate the Minister. I have done a little bit of reading about the National Fitness Council Recreation Advisory Committee that the Minister intends to form. This must be excellent, because the area covered—3 000 square kilometres—contains about 1,000,000 people, I believe. That is an enormous area. If it is possible to involve the older members of the community in this—and I think that is the Minister's aim—it will have a great amount of merit. I congratulate him on it.

There is no earthly doubt that National Fitness must increase. I can remember its very, very humble beginnings. Today it is still increasing in numbers and growing and growing. We can expect it to continue to grow. An affluent society such as ours has a great need for recreation of various types. We members come in here and it has been

said that we just sit around the place. I find that the tendency today is for people not to walk. Probably the motor-car has been our greatest enemy. We do not walk anywhere. We hop into a car. We expect the car to be there. Members of Parliament probably complain if they have to walk down the street. They look for a car to take them. This is most unfortunate because the most beneficial exercise is the natural exercise of walking.

**Mr. Frawley:** Some of them use a lift to go up one floor.

**Mr. GUNN:** It is most unfortunate. If we are not prepared to have more exercise it will probably be our downfall.

Of a week-end I go out to some of my grazing country where there are pretty big blocks and I spend the whole day walking around them instead of riding a horse or a trail-bike.

**Mr. Dean** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I admire the honourable member for Sandgate, although I realise he is being a little facetious. He does try hard to get around. It is to his credit that he is prepared to do those things.

Plenty of able-bodied men in this Chamber would not walk 5 yards; they are too lazy and this is most unfortunate. When they go home of a week-end they probably go to a bun fight or a lamington party, which does not do them much good. That is one of the big problems we have with the younger people. We have to get back to the exercise of the older times. Most honourable members are approaching middle age. During their lives they have had a tough time but the youngsters have been born into a more affluent society and are not the same. In our young days we rode a bicycle or walked because that was the only way we had of getting round.

**Mr. Moore:** What about riding a horse?

**Mr. GUNN:** Riding a horse is all right but I still think that walking is better. I do not think anybody wanting exercise would do much good riding a horse.

**Mr. Glasson:** I am ashamed to hear you say that.

**Mr. GUNN:** Some honourable members behind me may be getting me wrong. If the honourable member for Gregory had referred to mustering stock I would agree with him, but there is not much exercise in ambling along on a horse.

**Mr. Neal:** That is not riding a horse; that is just sitting on it.

**Mr. GUNN:** Well, they said riding a horse.

Mention was made of using school facilities for sporting purposes. I agree with this suggestion to a point. It would not be worth

a crumplet if it was not well organised. I agree that many of these school sporting fields and ovals are a great Government asset for which a large amount of money has been paid; but we would be very sorry if we allowed vandals and all types of people to use these grounds whenever they wished. Not only has the Government a great asset in these areas; do not forget that the p. and c. associations also have one. They have done a great deal of work to provide them and it would not be long before their work would be spoilt by persons of this type.

So let us use the schoolgrounds, but only provided the use is organised. I agree that this could be organised by the National Fitness Council, as the honourable member for Rockhampton suggested or, as you said, Mr. Kaus, the phys. ed. teacher, even if he had to be paid overtime. I have a lot of respect for these people. I know that I am getting a little away from the subject but the National Fitness people and the phys. ed. teachers do work closely together. If the use of grounds is properly supervised, I go along with the idea. If it is not, I am dead against it.

I have been involved with the work of the Children's Services Department because members of my family work in that department. Of a week-end I hear practically nothing else. It is an area that has grown a good deal. Unfortunately we have these problems in our affluent society.

I pay tribute to the system of foster homes, which I admire very much. They do a terrific job. They are far ahead of any type of institution. They do an excellent job. During my holidays I had the pleasure and privilege of visting a camp in the Gympie area. A foster mother and father from Sandgate were in charge and my daughter-in-law, who is a social worker, went up for some of the time to help them with about 11 children. I think that two of the children were not quite normal. However, I did admire these children. I thought they were extremely well looked after and well catered for. I have nothing but praise for these foster parents. I think the Minister is on the right track in encouraging these foster homes as much as possible provided that the right type of foster parents are available. This is most important. The ones I have struck so far have been the right type.

The Minister also mentioned the time people have to wait before they can adopt children because there is a shortage of children available for adoption. Would not this be caused by the fact that unmarried mothers refuse to give up their children because of the amount of benefits they receive? I am led to believe that most of these unmarried mothers will keep their children for only two years at the most. I appreciate the fact that the Minister would like the mothers to keep their children if they will, but if, for instance, a

16-year-old girl gives birth to a child, she receives about \$55 a week plus child endowment. I do not begrudge her that, but we have to think of the offspring. I would like to know the number of these children who are handed in by the mother when she takes up with another boyfriend. This seems to happen when the child is about two or three years old and apparently children of that age are hard to place. People wanting to adopt a child usually want one which is only a few weeks old, not one that is two or three years old. Although I do not suggest that it happens in all cases, these children are probably neglected and do not receive the motherly care that they should, with the result that quite a number of people would not want to take them if a younger child, perhaps one only a few weeks old, was available. I think that is a pity. I do not know whether I have been right in what I have said, and I would like the Minister to inform me of the true position. But I think the fact is that these unmarried mothers get this large amount of money which persuades them to keep their children.

I would like to pay tribute to the Woodford Prison. The honourable member for Murrumba has already mentioned it. I went through it at the opening, and while—

**Mr. Burns:** How long were you there?

**Mr. GUNN:** I spent a very pleasant afternoon there. I did not see any of the guests because this was before any of them arrived. But it is ideally situated for a prison. I do not think we should build prisons in the same way as the authorities did in the olden days when they thought that the right type of punishment was to place a prisoner in a tiny cell. I do not believe in that. As a matter of fact, I do not believe in capital punishment. I believe that prisoners should be helped to get to the cause of their problem and that we should try to rehabilitate them, and I think the environment of the Woodford area goes a long way towards achieving this. I have heard people say, "Why should they have rubber mattresses; why should they have this and that?" Why shouldn't they? Give them a fair environment, good conditions, etc.—

**Mr. Frawley:** They won't want to come out.

**Mr. GUNN:** They are jumping over the fence there now, but the conditions are good—

**Mr. Frawley:** Aren't they in there as punishment?

**Mr. GUNN:** Yes, but the punishment is that they are kept away from other people, and that is all there is to it.

**Mr. Frawley:** Why not bring back capital punishment?

**Mr. GUNN:** The honourable member may want to do that, but that is where he and I differ. We do not see eye to eye on that.

**Mr. Frawley:** We should bring back capital punishment.

**Mr. GUNN:** I would not do it to one of my dogs. The Estimates of the department are probably not adequate for everything that the Minister wants to do. He is an excellent Minister, and I do not usually give praise just for the sake of giving praise.

**Mr. Burns** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** Every night after the Leader of the Opposition has had dinner he is at his funniest. He comes out with all these funny statements. But the point is that the Minister has done an excellent job—honourable members opposite have said the same thing—and we look forward to receiving more grants from him in the sporting field.

I commend the Minister and his officers.

**Mr. GOLEBY** (Redlands) (7.35 p.m.): In entering this debate I would like to thank the Minister and congratulate him on the work he has done in administering his portfolios. Many of us tend to think that the Minister's portfolio is an easy one. Although the debate so far has centred mainly on sport, I remind the Committee that many other aspects of the Minister's portfolio are of significance. For example, both prisons and children's welfare take up a good deal of time and require a keen appreciation of the problems involved.

I wish first to make some brief comments about sport. The sporting subsidies introduced by the Government in recent years have gone a long way towards relieving the financial burden of sporting bodies in the various electorates. Many sporting bodies, although reasonably strong numerically, were very poorly off financially and it was impossible for them to undertake the capital expenditure necessary to establish facilities for the younger players before the Government provided subsidies on capital improvements. They have also helped the smaller clubs. Because of the nature of some codes of sport, smaller clubs find that the amenities which they require are very costly. Government subsidies have been of considerable assistance in the smooth functioning of these bodies and have enabled them to spread their wings and take in more young people who are interested in the particular code of sport.

The Redlands electorate comprises all of the Redland Shire, part of the Shire of Albert and part of the city of Brisbane. In Redlands there is a central sporting complex—an area of 40-odd acres that was once a tea-tree swamp. I refer to the Redlands showground. This area has been developed since 1952, but largely since the mid 1960s, into one of the finest sporting complexes to be found anywhere on the periphery of Brisbane.

It has been a three-way venture—by the Redland Shire Council, a development committee and the service clubs. It was begun

initially by the Rotary Club, which provided the enthusiasm for its development. Each year for 10 years that club has subsidised work that has been undertaken on the sporting complex, until today almost the whole 40 acres has been reclaimed. Many types of sport are played there and often at week-ends more than 1,000 young people enjoy sport to the full. Soccer, tennis, softball, Rugby League, basketball and cricket are all played there. The development has been carried out so successfully and the grounds and playing surfaces are of such high quality that a few seasons ago the touring English cricket team played a match against a Queensland country XI there. The complex is one of which the people of Redlands are justly proud, and they worked very hard to ensure that it was completed.

A similar project is under way in the Albert Shire, where the Albert Shire Council has recently purchased 98 acres of land for sporting fields for the residents of the northern end of the shire within the Redlands electorate. Again, various codes of sport are being catered for. I inform the Minister that a representative of one of the codes was on the phone to me tonight inquiring about subsidies for the new facilities there.

Work of this type could not be undertaken without Government subsidies, and by providing technical assistance and subsidies the Government has made it possible for sporting bodies to function smoothly. I think the technical officers of the Minister's department for the assistance they have given me and the sporting bodies in my electorate.

In many instances there are insufficient sporting fields, and, particularly in new areas, this is because of the nature of the development. Land that has been set aside for parks and recreational purposes is not suitable for sporting fields as we know them today. Much of the land is in low-lying areas, perhaps with a creek running through the centre, or in very broken country where it is not possible, other than at great expense, to provide a suitable sports oval. I would like to think that local authorities give careful thought when choosing land or having land set aside for this purpose. Local authorities should see that the land is of fair, average quality and that the by-laws are properly enforced. This would ensure that suitable sporting fields can be constructed for the young people of the developing areas without any great expense.

In the Brisbane city area a very fine sporting field has been developed by the Wynnum-Manly Marching Girls Association, known as the MacFarlane field. Quite often girls are forgotten when provision is being made for sporting facilities for the young people in our community but this large area has been developed by a very active committee entirely at its own expense. Recently I investigated the committee's activities very carefully. I contacted the Minister on the subject. The committee has not received

1c of subsidy for work carried out. It is not the Government's fault, because information was sought and was never supplied. The committee failed to make application at the appropriate time to attract the subsidy. To attract subsidy for a sporting venture the plans and specifications must be approved before commencement. This is an example of an organisation which has struggled to provide facilities for girls in an area and has not been aware of the requirement of approval before the work commences. I would like the Minister to investigate the problems confronting this organisation at the present time and ascertain whether his department can give some assistance.

Pony clubs have become very popular over recent years but find difficulty in providing suitable grounds for their members. I thank the Minister for the assistance that he has given the pony clubs in my area. This year it was very pleasing to me to see the Gumdale Pony Club, along with others, participating in our Royal National Show and providing part of the entertainment for the large crowds in the evening.

Young people have a large contribution to make in our community, be it in pony clubs or in other sporting clubs, and it is our duty as members of this Parliament to make sure that suitable facilities are made available to them.

I would like to speak on the prisons section of the Minister's portfolio. There are the high-security prisons, the medium-security prisons and those prisons which one would hardly recognise as prisons. These are the prison farms and, although there is security, it is not as strict as in the other institutions. I have visited inmates at the Brisbane Prison who had lived in my electorate. I find that they have many problems.

**An Honourable Member:** They cannot vote.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** They are still people, and they are very important. The statistics show that two out of three prisoners after release find their way back to prison sooner or later. This is a dreadful state of affairs. It must be very disappointing to welfare officers who work in that field to find that, despite their efforts, so many return to prison. I think that we should ask ourselves why they return to prison. Prisoners I have spoken to say that they feel that this is the only place where they can find security. They become institutionalised; they work like clockwork; they cannot depend on themselves, and their immediate welfare is being provided for them without any contribution by themselves.

It is time that the Government established a half-way house or some other place where prisoners could go for rehabilitation after release from prison. There they could adjust themselves in readiness for their return to society.

In this age when work is hard to find and jobs are scarce it is increasingly difficult for prisoners after release to find their way back into the work-force. Immediately it is known that they have a record of crime, employers become wary and the prisoners do not stand a chance.

Reference has been made to the role that can be played by service clubs in the rehabilitation and assimilation of prisoners. Perhaps there is a role that such clubs can play, but I believe that the lead should be given by the State Government. For many years churches have played a leading role in this field.

**Mr. Herbert:** We have some big employers of labour who are very good in this area. They make a point of assisting the rehabilitation of prisoners by employing them. The problem is that prisoners take that employment immediately after they get out; they get a few dollars, and then they disappear.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** This comes back to the point that they have to be completely rehabilitated and taught the values of life, of money and of a free society. A problem could arise when a prisoner meets up with a fellow former inmate and is faced with the temptation of again embarking upon a life of crime. Before long he could find himself back where he was.

As I said before, we often hear it claimed that sport is the be-all and end-all of everything. It has been suggested that if more sporting facilities were made available, many young men who are in prison would not be there. I was alarmed to see that the greatest number of prisoners in the Brisbane Prison at Boggo Road are the 17 to 24 age-group. Many of them have no ambition and are faced with the likelihood of spending most of their lives there. Is sport the answer? I don't think it is. There is another side of life, the spiritual side. I would hope that our prison system affords prisoners every opportunity to avail themselves of spiritual counselling so that they can see that besides the freedom of being outside there is a more important and more lasting side of life.

**Mr. Herbert:** The chapel that was opened recently at Wacol and built by the prisoners is an example of that.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** Is it being used to the fullest extent?

**Mr. Herbert:** Yes. All the chaplains use it.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** I am aware of that, but I am thinking more of the prison at Boggo Road. The chaplains and others who advise and counsel prisoners could be allowed to play an even greater role there.

Child welfare is another problem area. As I said at the commencement of my speech, the Minister's portfolio is not an easy one to administer. I am sure many

members have been confronted with problems of child welfare. Recently these problems were accentuated by the payment of additional social service benefits to unmarried mothers. Like the previous speaker, I do not begrudge unmarried mothers financial assistance, but the payment of this money is a tremendous temptation to unmarried mothers to keep their children. This may be good in some instances, but the child's welfare is of paramount importance.

In my electorate I have seen instances where, once the child reaches a certain age, the mother has other interests and no longer wants her child. It is then taken by the Department of Children's Services and cared for in one of the State homes. If, alternatively, it is taken into the care of another family the mother will not give consent to adoption and the child is reared by foster parents. Quite often in those circumstances the mother wants to take the child back when it is old enough to work and earn a few dollars. What chance does such a child have in life?

The waiting time for adoption these days is six years or longer. It has lengthened in line with the increase in social service benefits to unmarried mothers. As I said before, this may be of some advantage in certain areas, but the child involved is not always getting the best end of the stick.

**Mr. Marginson:** How many years did you say?

**Mr. GOLEBY:** At least six years. Many families who could provide a very fine home environment for unwanted children are either waiting for the opportunity to adopt one or are unable to get one.

I support the concept of the Family Group home with foster parents caring for six, eight or 10 children in a home environment. Under the old system brothers and sisters—in many instances they were orphans—would have been placed in various homes, but under this new concept the family is kept together. The children live together, go to school together and live as a family unit. We must continue to follow this course that the department has mapped out. Many of our church organisations were responsible for establishing this system, which has worked very well.

House parents are dedicated, but we need more of them. I feel that their task of giving love, care and consideration to the children under their care is not easy. House parents are doing a wonderful job for society. At the same time, I am sure that they get great satisfaction in giving love, care and affection to the children thus giving them an opportunity to become good citizens of the State.

**Mr. Gunn:** The children never forget them.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** No, the children do not forget them.

I have met some of these children who have left the homes, gone out into the world to get a job, and moved into society as honoured, respected citizens. If more children were given a similar opportunity we would not have the child delinquency problems we have to meet today. I commend the Minister and his officers on the job being done and hope that the foster children and family group homes will be given every opportunity to prosper.

**Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (7.52 p.m.):** The portfolio we are discussing is very diverse and involves many intensive human responsibilities that have to be administered with tact, sensitivity, forbearance and a great deal of long-term wisdom. I am sure all will agree that this department has shown those characteristics and most of us are extremely grateful for that.

It was unfortunate that the Opposition debate commenced with a catalogue of so-called shortcomings mainly revolving around the fact that this Government and the department are not doing as much in terms of social welfare as the Opposition would like. The Government and the department are doing what is really necessary in social welfare. We would all like it to develop. This is a matter of spending money and seeing that it is well spent.

In the years of the Whitlam regime social welfare went into a stage of absolute insanity. One of the interminable committees established by Mr. Whitlam discovered that it cost \$1.10 to spend an effective \$1 of welfare money and, in the field of Aboriginal welfare, it was costing \$1.35. In other words, for every \$2 spent 65c went to the real recipients. I suggest that anybody who imagines that the underprivileged in the community benefit from that sort of operation should think further on the subject.

We are doing well in the social service area. I believe quite firmly that the great bulk of social services, apart from the major pensions, should be under State administration. This is where they can be administered with the tact, local knowledge and sensitivity that they need. The money will be better spent if controlled in this way.

Another aspect of the Minister's portfolio relates to the vexed problem of prisons and punishment. This is not a happy area but it concerns all of us. I quite realise that one cannot talk about the role of punishment in terms of the way that it flows from the courts. After all, that is a matter for the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. However, the administration of prisoners and of the factors that are involved with prisons are the concern of the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and his officers.

Ours is a very violent age. It has become one that is characterised, if I might put it this way, by a diminished sense of personal responsibility. There are far too many people

who feel that they owe nothing to anybody but themselves. This sense of irresponsibility becomes very dangerous if it is felt by young people who then believe that, because the world owes them something, they are entitled to get that something by whatever means they find ready to hand. Violent crime among young people is becoming constantly more irresponsible, more irrational and more savage.

The result is that many people wonder what we should do about this. That applies particularly to the way in which we administer punishment. I know that many people feel that punishment in prison should be a case of a person going there to be rehabilitated—recycled, as it were—and returned to the community from being a second-hand object to being one that is relatively new. But it does not work that way. I think most experience throughout the world suggests that the attempt to regard prisons as places where we rehabilitate, reform and re-educate prisoners is not feasible. Therefore, we must not attempt to see punishment in that light. Punishment must be seen for what it is—punishment for not doing what the community is properly entitled to expect.

Lord Justice Denning, Lord Chief Justice of England a few years ago, put it that punishment inflicted for grave crime should adequately reflect the revulsion felt by the great majority of citizens for it. The important thing is that a modern society is held together by the fact that all its members, all of its citizens, have a mutual respect for each other and a mutual regard for each other's privacy, for what they do and for how they do it. The community is expected to feel that this thin fabric of tolerance is going to be protected whenever somebody strays from this area and outrages the conventions of society. It is entitled to feel that punishment will follow and that the graver the crime—the graver the commission of the outrage—the more sober and the more extreme should be the punishment. In other words, people should be expected to feel that they will abhor committing crimes because that is not the proper thing to do if a modern society is to exist.

Punishment has to be seen in that light. It is in this area that I wish to comment briefly on the role of parole and imprisonment. I know that this is a very vexed area, but a great many studies have been done on this in Australia and throughout the world. It is very doubtful indeed whether the system of parole achieves anything at all in providing for a better citizen when a prisoner reaches the outside world.

Certainly, the community is entitled to wonder just what the system of law and the system of punishment of offences is when offenders, having been given a sentence which they see as being for three, five or seven years, are released when half of the sentence

is served. I know that it will be said, "Yes, but the sentence still exists." The fact is, of course, that as far as the community is concerned the offender is not in prison—he is at large—and I think that is a very serious thing. If we are going to have a system where people who are sent to prison for a given number of years because the offence is seen as serious enough for that length of incarceration in fact serve only half of this, that shorter term is in fact what the public should see as the punishment imposed. If somebody serves three and a half years' imprisonment and not seven years, we should say three and a half years' imprisonment with perhaps another three and a half years under supervision and control.

I find overwhelmingly that people are deeply disturbed at what they regard as not only a soft attitude by the courts in sentencing but an extremely soft attitude when it comes to the length of the prison term that will be served. Equally, most people do not want to see our prisons become something like holiday homes, and the Minister is to be commended for having said this publicly. Prisons are prisons and imprisonment is punishment and must be seen to be such.

The other aspect that I want to talk about—and most honourable members have talked about it—is the other hat that the Minister and his officers wear in terms of the sustenance of the world of sport in this State. It is a very important area. "A sound mind in a sound body" is as true today as it was in the past when this was described as the main regimen of the school at Rugby in England. The famous Dr. Arnold prescribed it. We have a community where all too often young people get into trouble because they become aimless and feckless, and cannot find enough to occupy themselves. The growth of urban areas makes this an even greater threat to our young people.

It is very important that we develop a system which induces more and more young people to take part in competitive, organised sport. We have to give them an opportunity in a healthy way to get rid of their excess energy, to be able to show themselves as capable among members of their peer group and to satisfy that instinctive longing to distinguish themselves that is in all young people; it is part of growing up. This will be done only by a properly organised system of sporting assistance. We in this State have gone a long way—further indeed than any other State in Australia. The Government can take a great deal of credit for being a trail setter in this field.

I believe we have to go further. A couple of honourable members mentioned the seeming failures of this country in the recent Olympic Games. It is true that in terms of successes we had a disastrous period in the Montreal Games. We won nothing beyond a few silver and bronze medals. It

is quite proper and easy to say that any encouragement of sport should not be aimed at producing super champions. We do not want to turn out machine athletes who may be able to break records and win world championships but are perhaps incomplete human beings. I want to assure the Committee that this is not what happens with super athletes.

As honourable members may know, I have had a long experience in the fields of both international athletics and swimming. I can assure honourable members that most first-class sportsmen and women are very capable, very intelligent, very well-integrated and very well-balanced human beings. They are not able to subject themselves to the rigorous discipline and dedication that top-flight sport requires unless they have these characteristics. So the—how shall I put it?—the ragamuffin sportsman or sportswoman is really the exception and not the rule.

I agree that we should not have a sporting plan that aims only at producing champions. Champions we do need because international competition—whether it be Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games or other international meets—are yardsticks by which other nations measure this nation. They are important measuring rods. Other nations see us in terms of our sporting achievement and they look at this and measure our capacity in terms of looking after ourselves, our external policies, our capacity to successfully absorb migrants, our capacity to deal economically with the outside world and so on. We make a far greater impact on the rest of the world in terms of our sporting capacity on the international stage than ever we do with enunciations of our foreign policy or anything of that nature.

I well remember, in the 1960 Games in Rome, that the international people I met on the various training arenas could not have told me who the Prime Minister of Australia was or anything about Australian policy, but they knew who Percy Cerutti, Herb Elliott and others were.

Impacts are made by achievements, and it is important to Australia that we garner some of these achievements. Therefore I would hope that the State, having already instituted an excellent plan for giving subsidies to sporting bodies, will take this further and provide a long-range plan which aims at the greatest possible absorption of young people in the greatest possible range of sports and which at the same time ties this in with the fullest availability of expert and sophisticated coaching. There is not much use in people being absorbed in sport if from an early age they are not being taught to do whatever may be their specialty in the right way. The difference between doing something the right way—whether it be high jumping, throwing the javelin or shot-putting—and the wrong way is enormous, and it is important, if we want to finish up with people who are a credit to their sport and themselves, that they learn to do it early.

So to be really effective any assistance to sport must have as a parallel operation the development of a very large and capable scheme of providing expert coaching, and in with that we must have what every modern country in the world today has, and that is a recognition that there must be a complete study of physical movement—physiological engineering, whatever you like to call it. This is done to a very considerable degree in Russia, East and West Germany, America, England, Canada and other countries, and we simply must do it.

There is a tremendous wealth of knowledge we can call on. We already have in Australia a department under Dr. Coles at the university here which is well in advance of similar departments in any other university in Australia, so that we in Queensland are very well placed to take advantage of particular situations; and I believe we should. So I would hope that we can consider augmenting and enlarging the present schemes that we have for assisting sporting activities to provide for a long-range plan which will provide the largest nursery possible of young performers over a whole host of diverse sports and this will be geared into an expert coaching scheme. This in turn will be based on the very best physiological, psychological and other knowledge that is available to produce sporting people who, when they go away, will not feel as though they are the poor orphans of the storm. When they get overseas they will not discover that other countries have been used to facilities and training methods of which we never dreamed, but they will be able to go over there and meet competitors from other nations on equal terms. This is all we ask. We have tremendous natural talent in this country, and in this State, and I am sure that if we can provide these youngsters with this sort of assistance, then in the future we will not need to have any qualms about the quality of our teams which go into international competition.

This State has done extremely well and the Minister and his officers must be commended for undertaking a very difficult task and doing it with a great deal of satisfaction, and also a great deal of success. I hope that we can still go a long way further.

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (8.9 p.m.): I want to make a few comments tonight about the community and welfare side of the Minister's portfolio and the work his officers are doing in my area, particularly in children's services. This work has recently been enhanced by the Minister's announcement of the imminent appointment of an early-childhood officer. I was a bit concerned originally when the word got around that no suitable people were available for this office. This furphy was circulating in my area, but my fears were allayed by the Minister's recent communication. I am pleased to note that the only hurdle to the appointment is the lack of office accommodation

in Cairns. From my own experience, I know how difficult it is to obtain office accommodation. However, I am sure that the problem will be overcome in the near future and that the officer will soon be accommodated and active in Cairns.

Another aspect of welfare services in Cairns that is worrying the community, particularly church groups, is the difficulty being experienced at present in detaining juveniles and women in the Cairns watch-house. This problem has been well canvassed with the Minister, as well as with the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Police, and I am sure he is well aware of the situation. The Cairns Combined Churches Community Child Care Centre has a project well under way—I am sure that the Minister knows that, though other members of the Committee would not know—that will cater for juveniles, at least, in the future. I am sure that this will assist greatly in overcoming the problem that has existed there for years. Without labouring the point, I say that the sooner the project gets off the ground, the better it will be, and I hope that the Minister and his departmental officers will give what assistance they can.

Some comment has been made about foster parents. I have nothing but praise for their efforts on behalf of the waifs and other disadvantaged children in my area. As the Minister said earlier in his speech, there are many areas in the field of community and welfare services that are mind-boggling, and he is looking for new ideas, but I cannot think of anything better than having a foster mother looking after orphaned or deserted children.

Recently the foster mothers of Cairns have, of their own volition, formed an association. They now get together socially, compare notes, give each other encouragement and support, and exchange ideas and visits. This is probably of great advantage to them.

**Mr. Herbert:** That is Queensland-wide. They have branches all over the State.

**Mr. JONES:** It is a recent innovation in Cairns, and it is proving to be a great morale-booster to the women concerned.

I have heard in the Chamber today some denigration of deserted wives and unmarried mothers. Honourable members should remember that many foster mothers are widows, deserted wives or unmarried mothers. They look after deserted children, children who have got into trouble, or children who are in need of love, care and attention. I refute the suggestion that they are not as good as other mothers. In most instances they are better, and they are certainly as good as the average mother. The foster mothers in Cairns are doing a wonderful job and I commend them for that and for the work they are doing with the children.

Let me now comment on the other aspect of the Minister's portfolio—sport. I wish to refer particularly to a matter on which comment was made earlier in the debate and about which a question was answered this morning. As a former motor-cyclist, I noted with some concern the adverse criticism of speedway activities at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground. There was talk about noise, dust, and all sorts of things. I suppose we could say that people generally do not regard motor sports as constructive in the sense of being character-building or morale-building. Looked at from the aspect of road safety, it might be desirable to have such a facility so that a young motor cyclist can leave the road and practise on a speedway track. If he has a desire to burn up the road, he should go to the speedway track and there he will discover if he is a good rider. That is the test. If on dismounting after a few laps of the track his hands are not shaking and he has no butterflies in the stomach, he will have proved himself to be the equal of anybody on the track. That should be self-satisfying.

There has been some comment in the Press recently about off-road vehicles such as four-wheel-drive vehicles, trail-bikes and mini-bikes. The owners of these vehicles are concerned that they are to be warned off, as they have been in Victoria. I believe that this is another sport that we should encourage. It is one that should not be excluded from the assistance given by the Government. I know that in my area it has not been.

In my electorate there is a project for a new motor-sports track at a site which was allocated from an old fishermen's reserve near Edmonton. The project has received very satisfactory allocations of funds from State and Federal departments, which will enable it to be developed into a very high-class motor-racing track. It is hoped that motor cyclists and car drivers from all over Australia will be competing on this track in the near future. I do not want to boast, but it will be a world-class track.

This sporting complex will be floodlit and there will be other activities in centre-field such as athletics, soccer, hockey, and other night sports.

**Mr. Gunn:** Is it a speed track?

**Mr. JONES:** Yes. The Cairns Competition Car Club actually inaugurated the project, but it has already aligned itself with the Cairns and District Motor-Cycle Club and the Mini-Bike Club. Even though the complex is not completely developed, it is being used for this type of activity. When we get the lighting installed and the athletics track and sporting fields developed in the centre of the complex, it will be possible to conduct soccer, hockey and those other activities. It will then come within the concept of a sporting complex.

When initially outlining the Estimates today, the Minister spoke about the need to extend sporting complexes and broaden the whole perspective of participation in sport, rather than fence off a particular sporting area and restrict its use to winter sports such as football. The amalgamation of year-round sporting activities and particularly the incorporation of women's sports, is very commendable as the whole sporting complex will then conform to the concept of family participation. It is important to involve the family in sport so that both the parents and the children can participate in it.

**Mr. Herbert:** The netball girls in Cairns haven't got a home yet.

**Mr. JONES:** I am sorry to hear that. I am sure that quite a number of club-houses in Cairns could accommodate them. The National Fitness centre comes to mind. The Minister kindly visited this centre while Cabinet was meeting in Cairns and there he interviewed a number of sportsmen and sportswomen. I cannot understand why the netball girls could not be accommodated in this centre.

This brings to mind the club-house at the Barron Valley Sporting Club at Stratford. I have played netball there. It has ample room to accommodate the girls' netball team. I am sure it would be only too pleased to house them.

The premises occupied by the Cairns Rowing Club were burned down, and the club is now reconstituting itself with a view to joining with the Cairns Aquatic Club or, as it is now known, the Cairns Sailing Club, and the motor-boat club to establish a maritime sports centre. That is the type of thing we are trying to encourage so that year-round sports can be accommodated in one complex.

The Minister outlined the difficulties confronting teams that travel to compete in sporting events. As is known, this year Cairns won the Foley Shield. The premiership team has an advantage, but the other teams such as Eacham, Innisfail, Tully, Mt. Isa, Ayr and Mackay may not be as financially sound as the Cairns team. The requirement to travel to compete in sport places a heavy financial burden on them. I am sure the Minister is aware of the situation and of the need to assist teams like that.

Perhaps such assistance could be obtained from the soccer pools. I suppose that the way that the pools operate needs to be explained again. The revenue that it is hoped to obtain from the pools could, in effect, wither on the vine. The first rush of funds from the pools may not last. It may be that we cannot count on that source of revenue once patronage levels out.

Teams in Cairns suffer a financial disadvantage in that quite often they are forced to meet the costs of travel. Furthermore, the individuals in the teams are not given

much opportunity to represent their part of the State or their State as a whole. This fact was brought to our notice in relation to the Cairns and District Hockey Association. It expressed great concern at the imposition of the 6 per cent permit fee on amateur sporting bodies. To say the least, it was a demoralising move. However, with the new approach that has been adopted by the Justice Department, I am sure that the association faces a brighter outlook.

It must be remembered that all the work involved in filling out applications for permits to conduct raffles and all the fund-raising activities are carried out by volunteers. Club officials are dedicated to the particular sport in which they are involved. They see the imposition of the 6 per cent permit fee as a drain on their hard-earned cash. This loss of revenue deprives some of their members of the opportunity to travel to other centres to participate in sport or to test themselves against the metropolitan teams. That is the most important feature.

Last week-end I was in Papua New Guinea with the Cairns team that won the Foley Shield and became the champions of Far North Queensland. We made what could be called a social visit but we were able to persuade the Papua New Guinea Rugby League Association to enter our champion-of-champions contest, which was inaugurated in Cairns this year. This contest involves the premiership teams of all Rugby League teams in Far North Queensland. They meet in Cairns towards the end of the year and now that Papua New Guinea is incorporated we will technically be having an international team in this event.

**Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt:** Did Cairns win the Foley Shield?

**Mr. JONES:** Of course it did, and it won it well. The team might have slackened off towards the end when it won by only 11 to 10, but the result was never in doubt. We were over the line twice before the other side started to make tries.

The same principle will apply to soccer and Australian Rules. Teams from Papua New Guinea are already visiting Cairns to play junior and senior teams. In the future we will be expected to make reciprocal visits. We learned that the New Guinea teams are getting coaches from Sydney and they are doing quite a good job.

**Mr. Moore:** Do they play with boots on?

**Mr. JONES:** Yes.

We played a Combined Services team, which we beat 55 to 3. In deference to the fellows who played, I should point out that it was not a fair competition. Their season was over and we played a reserve grade team. A day earlier, when I kicked off in the game between the Cairns side and the Papua New Guinea side, the game was of

a higher standard. Because they were up there only for a social game, our fellows did not really mind. They would have had to play a harder game against Papua New Guinea's national team. I am sure honourable members will recall that the Papua New Guinea national team belted North Queensland and almost every other team it met during its visit. For the information of the honourable member for Windsor, I mention that they, too, wore boots.

Consideration must be given to the allocation of funds for the training of junior referees and umpires. To a degree this matter has been overlooked. If we are to have coaching schools, we should look after people who may not be so robust and do not have high ball-handling qualities, but wish to play their part as umpires and referees. They are just as important to the games as the players. The present guidelines do not provide for an allocation for their training. Rather than have umpires who have gained only a scant knowledge of the skills of refereeing or umpiring from playing the game and who later on have to undertake an intensive course to become adept at refereeing in the lower grades, we should train young people in this profession. At the best of times it is not a very easy job but, with a professional approach umpires would be more highly regarded if they were trained as Australian Rules umpires are. Australian Rules umpires are respected by the crowds. They would receive then respect both on and off the field.

**Mr. BYRNE** (Belmont) (8.30 p.m.): In speaking to these Estimates, I wish to refer specifically to that section of the Minister's speech in which he said—

"The Juvenile Aid Bureau continues to work within the Department of Children's Services and this group of dedicated police officers is an effective course in helping children."

Indeed, those statements are very true. However, I think the statements made by the same Minister at the introduction of the Estimates in 1973 perhaps explained the situation even further. The fact that between that time and now the same quandary has existed over that section of juvenile crime in relation to the Juvenile Aid Bureau reflects poorly, I think, on some areas of our administration. We must ask ourselves: who is it or what is it that causes this bad reflection?

It is interesting to note that when these Estimates were debated in 1973, many speeches were made by members on both sides of the Committee in an endeavour to elaborate on the circumstances that existed at that time. Those circumstances still exist today. In fact, the situation of the Juvenile Aid Bureau has probably been downgraded even further since that time. I quote from the Minister's speech in 1973—

"The Juvenile Aid Bureau was transferred to the Department of Children's Services on 1 January last, and this group of dedicated police officers continued to be an effective force in helping children. I have been observing closely the case statistics of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, and it continues to grow. In fact, the references from the community are higher now than they have ever been. The community, therefore, has confidence in this service. In the general review of the facilities to prevent juvenile crime now being undertaken by a subcommittee of Cabinet, I am sure that its value will be recognised and its services, whether within the Police Department or the Department of Children's Services, could be extended to all parts of the State and not just to Brisbane, as is the situation at present."

That was the statement of the Honourable the Minister in 1973 when the Estimates of his department were debated. Unfortunately since that time we have not seen a great degree of change. In fact, as I have pointed out on previous occasions in speeches to this Chamber, the situation appears to have become somewhat worse.

The fact is that at that time those statements were true. The fact is that today those statements are still true. So we have to ask ourselves: as members of this Government, both at that time and now, and as members of the Opposition, both at that time and now, spoke on this matter, why is it that the circumstances have not changed? I put it to the Committee that the main instigating force in seeing that these changes have not come about is the Police Commissioner (Mr. Whitrod) himself. The unfortunate truth is that the Police Commissioner thinks that he is totally in charge of the Police Force; that he is the one who is going to make all the decisions, determine all policy matters and run the force as he sees fit, rather than as the Government of this State thinks it should be effectively run.

I point out also that at that time in that debate many other statements were made. I refer to comments made at that time by the member for Merthyr—

"It is because the staff of the Juvenile Aid Bureau are police officers—many of them experienced detectives—that the bureau is able to handle the situation of juvenile crime satisfactorily. It is only because of the staff's experience and their power to arrest that they are able to handle juveniles in a specialised way and bring to justice so many persons who prey on our young people."

The statements and sentiments that were expressed there were expressed by other members at that time and have been since that time, but still the Police Commissioner has insisted on maintaining that sort of attitude

which I spoke of and which he himself adopted in the Police Department's Annual Report for 1974-75—

“Young persons need to be brought face-to-face with authority and made to account for all their unlawful activities. Research has not given any support for the view that sentimental caring is an adequate substitute for appropriate discipline in providing youngsters with proper guide-lines for future conduct.”

The only conclusion that could be drawn from those statements and the statistics that have been released since then is that if you want to show that you are improving your crime rate, you get young children, take them to the Children's Court and book them on multiple offences. If the children are counselled instead of being charged, the apparent clean-up rate as shown by the figures will not be as good. I am afraid to say that that is just not good enough.

Very shortly after the Juvenile Aid Bureau was transferred to the Children's Services Department—I am sorry to say, rather conspicuously shortly after—what is called the Education Department Liaison Section was set up. It was interesting to read a recent article in the “Sunday Sun” in which the writer stated, in effect, that the Government had changed its mind and realised that it should not have abolished the Juvenile Aid Bureau and a new body called the Juvenile Delinquency Squad was to be set up and headed by Sergeant John Dautel.

The intimation that rested in that article was that the Juvenile Aid Bureau had actually been abolished. This sleight of hand, this endeavour to fool the public, to dupe the public, into thinking that the Juvenile Aid Bureau not only was useless but in effect had been abolished, I consider to be most shameful. The Juvenile Aid Bureau has continued to work, as the Minister pointed out in his speech, to the very great benefit of the community, all young people in Queensland and those children who find themselves in circumstances which, often except for their environmental situation, they would not find themselves in.

So we have seen an endeavour by the Police Commissioner to have the Education Department Liaison Section extended and broadened across the State, very much at the expense of the Juvenile Aid Bureau. The endeavours that have been perpetrated there have been to transfer the experienced staff that the honourable member for Merthyr spoke of in the Estimates debate in 1973 and in their place put in those people from other sections of the Police Force who were discontented and uninterested.

If there is one area of greatest importance in this community, it is the area of children. If we do not take as a priority today the circumstances children find themselves in

and try to correct them, we are imposing upon ourselves a burden for the future. The children of today are the society of tomorrow. As long as we ignore that fact and as long as we ignore for statistical reasons or for reasons of personal pride, or because “I was not the Police Commissioner who set this up and it is not going to last” —if they are the reasons that are entering into this circumstance and children are not being put first—the commissioner or anybody else who finds himself in those circumstances finds himself in damnable circumstances indeed.

It is most important that the Juvenile Aid Bureau finds itself fulfilled in the manner in which the Committee of Inquiry into Matters Relating to Youth concluded. In his Estimates speech in 1973 the Minister said that it was important that it be broadened across the State—that is indeed what the committee of inquiry found; that it should be broadened across the State—and that the expertise of the members of the Juvenile Aid Bureau should be used and their resources should be sought to make it possible to find and staff the Juvenile Aid Bureau concept right across the State within the Police Force.

There has been an endeavour to short circuit that. The commissioner decided, “There are some good ideas in the Committee of Inquiry into Matters Relating to Youth but, rather than let the Juvenile Aid Bureau be the instigators and force within it, we will remove those capable and experienced people from that section and will turn this Education Department Liaison Section into a section somewhat like what was intimated by the youth inquiry.” When it finally comes round to fulfilling the proposals of the youth inquiry and following them up, the Police Commissioner is then able to say, “There you are. We have this Education Department Liaison Section. It has already fulfilled those functions so now we can do away with the Juvenile Aid Bureau.”

I am afraid to say that counselling is far more important and far more successful than charging. If a child of 10, 11 or 12, or any age up to 16, has committed a first offence and is found out, or admits guilt, I do not believe that the most sensible thing to do is to take him before the courts; I do not believe that he should have that blot against his life.

I refer to a statement by Senior Sergeant Lewis as he was at that time. He was the person who with the previous Commissioner Bischof set up the Juvenile Aid Bureau in 1963. He said, on the aims of the bureau—

“The main aim of the Bureau is to turn potential delinquents into law-abiding citizens and to prevent them from incurring a conviction which would leave a permanent blot on their character.”

**Mr. Moore:** They pinched them for stealing a pigeon or a guinea-pig or anything like that.

**Mr. BYRNE:** As the honourable member for Windsor points out, the child could be picked up for anything but, because it enables a conviction, because it enables an increase in statistics and because it enables the commissioner to try to show that he is doing a better job than possibly he is, the child does not matter; what counts is the number of offences and the number of convictions that it is possible to get. That situation is certainly not desirable.

I go further and point out that at the time of the last Estimates debate, my predecessor in this Parliament (Mr. Fred Newton) also spoke on this matter. I concur with his sentiments and also those of the previous member for Everton, who raised this matter as well. It is most important that we realise the place the child has in the community. It is most important that we do not just let the circumstances exist where the child is charged before the courts—taken before the Children's Court—admonished and discharged, and out he goes. The intention behind the Juvenile Aid Bureau is and was that there be experienced police officers with those powers as the honourable member for Merthyr pointed out in the quotation I gave before. They should have the power of police officers to be able to find out the offenders, see them in their home environment, find out their circumstances at home, at school, and among their friends, be able to counsel those children for up to 12 months or so afterwards, to pursue them with the sort of empathy that those people from the Juvenile Aid Bureau have shown, and make sure that those children do not suffer later in life from the blot of that one failure.

How many people in the community have committed offences and never been found out? I say that as I have said it on previous occasions. How many people in the community have done that but, because they have not been found out, have not suffered that blot, and indeed have bettered their ways themselves? But suppose everyone in the community had been found out when he had committed a minor offence, been taken before the courts, admonished and discharged. The minds of honourable members can reflect back on their own past and they might perhaps think of some minor thing that they did—stolen a biro from a shop—or of people they know who have done things like that and have not been found out.

But simply because these children have been found out on the first offence, in order to achieve statistics what happens? They are taken before the courts. In they go, rubber-stamped, admonished and discharged and never seen again—unless they come in for a future offence—with no possibility of that

sort of counselling which the Juvenile Aid Bureau provides. That is just not good enough.

I wish to quote from a letter which was read to this Parliament on a previous occasion. It was sent to the Premier by the Queensland State Secondary Schools Principals' Association dated 24 July 1973, and stated—

“The Executive of the Queensland State Secondary Principals' Association wishes to express its unanimous and strong support of the work of the Juvenile Aid Branch in the metropolitan area.

“Since its inauguration, the officers of the Juvenile Aid Bureau have consistently been of tremendous assistance to principals of high schools in Brisbane in many ways. Their firm, but friendly and understanding counselling, backed by official authority, has been responsible for keeping many young boys and girls on the right track. Parents also have, on occasions, appealed to them with success for assistance and advice with problem children. They met with prompt and worth-while co-operation.

“Although conselling is their principal method of operation, there have been instances when incorrigible juveniles have been put before the courts for their own protection.”

It is not as though the Juvenile Aid Bureau take every last child they find and say, “We are going to stop this child going before the courts no matter what happens.” They do not do that. They are sensible and rational in their approach and they look at the circumstances in which the child finds himself or herself. The letter continues—

“We believe that the reported high incidence of juvenile crime does not indicate any definite failure on the Bureau's part. On the contrary, we believe that the incidence of Juvenile crime would have been higher had it not been for the work of the dedicated officers of the Bureau, despite an apparent tendency for juvenile crime to be increasing in many parts of Australia and elsewhere.

“We deplore the system of prosecution of most young first offenders, particularly those of tender age and inexperience who yield to sudden temptation. We do not contend that prosecutions are not necessary in most serious cases, nor in the case of seemingly incorrigible youths, but we feel that careful consideration is most necessary before such action is proceeded with. We, too, pay a tribute to the excellent work and co-operation with school principals, of the uniformed officers of the Police Department both in metropolitan and provincial areas.

“In conclusion we repeat that our Association commends the officers of the

Juvenile Aid Bureau for their prompt, efficient and humane assistance. We would be loath to see any reduction in their influence and would like to see the Bureau preserved and strengthened.

"Trusting our views and request meet with your approval and your support."

A similar letter was sent to the Premier by the Association of Senior Mistresses of Queensland State Secondary Schools. It is quite obvious from surveys that have been made that there is strong public support, strong Government support and strong Opposition support for the concept of the Juvenile Aid Bureau to be enhanced and broadened, certainly in the terms of the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Matters relating to Youth.

If the Education Liaison Unit is to be increased and enhanced at the expense of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, as is happening at the moment, then it courts nothing but disaster for those juveniles who find themselves in these circumstances. It is most important that that circumstance not continue. For the Juvenile Aid Bureau to have been decreased from 24 to 27 members down to 16 members when I spoke on the matter last year, and down to 13 members now, and for endeavours to be made to down-grade the quality of those members continually by transfers is indeed a most shameful circumstance. So the Police Commissioner, almost by obvious intent, has tried by various means to see that the Juvenile Aid Bureau dies. Statements released to the Press indicated that the attempt has almost been successful, with the Press itself thinking that the Juvenile Aid Bureau has been abolished.

In fact, it has not been abolished, it is still alive and well. It is my hope that it will be alive and well in years to come and that its capacities will be enhanced, broadened and increased, not only in the Brisbane metropolitan area but also throughout the whole of Queensland. If that can come about, then the Commissioner of Police can be shown that he does not have the sole responsibility for policy matters and for making decisions relative to the Police Force, that he is a public servant and responsible to the Government, and that he must realise that the decisions and desires of governments must be recognised.

One of those desires that is becoming increasingly obvious, and has been obvious over the years, is that the Juvenile Aid Bureau perform an essential and important function and that the men appointed to it should be of the highest calibre. They are given the responsibility of counselling children. If the Commissioner puts men who may not be of the highest possible calibre into jobs in the bureau, he is failing in his responsibility, because in the area of juveniles his responsibility must be to find the most

competent men, men who are very interested, men of empathy who will show the sympathy and understanding required in counselling and correcting juveniles.

I conclude by saying that if there is not a broadening of the Juvenile Aid Bureau in terms of the recommendations of the inquiry into youth, if there is not a seeking out of the experience and expertise that members of the bureau have shown over the years, if there is not an endeavour to enhance the capacities of the bureau, we will see an increase in juvenile crime far greater than we ever thought possible. We will see children being brought before the courts simply for the sake of increasing statistics and with no real concern for those children. The premise on which all sections of children's services must always operate is that the child is most important. The child is a person who has to be moulded for the future, for the children of today are the society of tomorrow.

**Mrs. KYBURZ** (Salisbury) (8.47 p.m.): In speaking to the Estimates before the Committee, let me first pay a tribute to the officers of the various departments within the Minister's portfolio. I have always found them to be very courteous and informative, which is more than I can say for some officers in other departments.

I wish to refer briefly to some of the sections that come under the Minister's jurisdiction. As honourable members are aware, they are many and varied. The first is the Relief Assistance Branch. I note that \$408,988 was expended during the last financial year on relief assistance, and I was particularly interested to read the list issued by the department showing people who are specifically excluded from relief assistance. It includes the various classes of pensioners, people on strike, people who refuse to accept employment that they are capable of undertaking, small shopkeepers, keepers of boarding houses and residentials, jockeys, horse trainers, taxi drivers, fishermen, bottle gatherers, hawkers and farmers. I wonder, Mr. Kaus, whether the list might be a little too comprehensive, because I cannot see that very many people could in fact apply for relief assistance. I am particularly worried about such assistance for women. The office is situated in South Brisbane, and it is probably there because it is close to the railway station. Various charitable organisations now affiliated with the Queensland Social Services League are also being subsidised, and that is very desirable.

Under the schedule of expenditure for youth organisations, I was very pleased to see that the Scout Association of Australia has been allocated a grant of \$14,000 and that the Girls Guides Association of Queensland has been allocated a grant of \$9,400. Of course, they are brother and sister associations, and they certainly deserve an equal grant because they do equally good work.

I cannot see why the boys' association should receive more than the girls' association.

**Mr. Herbert:** They both received the full amount that they applied for.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** In that case, I will have to go to the Girl Guides Association and find out why they did not get the same as the boys.

**Mr. Herbert:** Come to me; I am a State councillor.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** I was particularly interested to see that the Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Brigade, which are two important bodies in Queensland, did not in fact apply for very large grants. I know of one Boys' Brigade in my electorate which could in fact use a large grant. I do not know of the Betar Machoz, but the annual report shows that it is situated in Brisbane and has received a grant of \$300. I notice from the report also that the other youth leadership training grants have been distributed widely throughout the State. This is most important.

The introduction in June 1976 of the Volunteer Service for Handicapped People has been of great assistance to the community and to handicapped people in particular. The interaction between handicapped people and the volunteer helpers will bring about a specific response from the community. The report discloses that there are five families who have contacted the division and expressed interest in meeting a volunteer.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Kaus):** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** In fact, there would be more families who would like to avail themselves of the services of these volunteers. I will certainly do my best to inform people of this service.

The department's report in Appendix A covering the operations of the Industrial Institution for the Blind reveals a sad state of affairs there. It discloses that, because of the drop in demand for millet brooms, it was found necessary to reduce the rate of production in the millet shop, and that many straw brooms that are being retailed in Queensland are undersized and of inferior quality because of the addition of grass to the millet. I think there should be a sales promotion of millet brooms made at the Industrial Institution for the Blind and that Government departments should purchase only brooms made there.

The basket shop would probably have the second highest sales figure of the various workshops at the institution, and there was an increase of \$8,839 in its sales for the year. This workshop is still affected by competition from plastic and imported goods.

It would seem that some members of the public do not know where they can buy the baskets and other articles that are made at the institution.

The furniture shop, too, has provided an excellent avenue of employment for blind people.

I was a little disturbed when I read in the Press towards the end of last year that two blind workers had in fact been retrenched because they had not been allowed to take their guide dogs into the Industrial Institution for the Blind. I do not know if the public has actually heard the full story. It is not mentioned in the report, but it shows that two people left the employ of the institution. It was pleasing to see that in the institution 44 blind people and only 19 sighted people are employed. This is an excellent employment coverage figure.

Previously I have spoken in this House about women's shelters. It was pleasing to see in a recent Press release from the Minister that he is investigating the necessity for a 24-hour crisis care centre. The need has arisen because officers of the department are receiving phone calls, probably most of them from desperate mothers, during the night and at week-ends. I assure the Minister that there is a necessity for this crisis care centre and I feel that social workers must be available at all times for the functioning of the centre. I know that Life Line provides a 24-hour counselling service, and there is no proposal to duplicate that service. I agree with that entirely because it provides a wonderful service which is used by many people.

Like the Minister, other members referred to adoption. I will not belabour the point except to say that I find it rather strange that a religious denomination is placed upon a child who is put up for adoption. People who have come to see me for advice on adoption have wished to adopt a new-born babe. I did not know that a new-born babe had a religious denomination upon birth. The waiting time is now 30 months, depending on religious denomination, for a male and 39 months for a female. The religion of a baby is neither here nor there. If a person cannot overlook the fact that a baby was perhaps born to the wrong parents, it is very sad.

**Mr. Herbert:** The natural mother is given an opportunity, if she so desires, to nominate the religion of the family to which her child shall go. Certain religious denominations have very strong views in that area.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** In that case, I have made a mistake. I did not know it was the natural mother who was entitled to say into which religious denomination her baby should go. I thought the situation was vice versa. I was being extremely uncharitable in my thoughts towards adoptive families.

**Mr. Moore:** You should be ashamed of yourself.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** I'm not, I assure you.

I should also like to see a responsive service provided in instances of child abuse. In previous speeches I have referred to child abuse. I shall not traverse that ground again except to say that I am gravely concerned at the high incidence of child abuse arising from the abuse of alcohol. As has been reported in the Press over the past week or so, there is a great deal of correlation between the two factors.

I have studied the Estimates carefully, but there is so much to look at that it is difficult to formulate questions. In the section devoted to the Children's Services Department I do not see any Vote for Outlook. I and other members attended its opening this year.

Under "Assistance and Encouragement to Sport," this year's Vote is \$1,350,000. In view of the fact that \$2,000,000 is expected to come from soccer pools and the fact that the Minister referred to an estimated expenditure of \$1,750,000, I would ask him what will be done with the remaining \$250,000. I presume that it will be spent on youth. There are many deserving youth associations that could well use the money.

I also note that subsidies to charitable institutions and expenditure on children's homes amount to \$300,000 and that the appropriation for 1975-76 was \$500,000. I know that many honourable members share my view that charitable institutions and religious organisations are best able to conduct homes for children and deserted mothers and, for that matter, any other people who require alternative accommodation. Perhaps we should be looking at giving higher grants to these homes in order to keep people housed in a more suitable environment. It is not the State's prerogative, nor is it the most happy way of providing accommodation for these people, to place them in a State home. Therefore I would question the extremely small Vote for that purpose.

In the section devoted to prisons, I find under "Contingencies" that maintenance, incidentals and gratuities to discharged prisoners for the next financial year will amount to \$4,316,937.

Does that mean maintenance for prisoners? What are the incidentals, and what are gratuities to discharged prisoners? I was unaware that prisoners were paid when they left prison.

My next point relates to deserted youngsters and the new deal publicised some time ago. I was very pleased to read about it. Many people are concerned that there are so many two and three-year-old tots in homes for one reason or another who are either

not visited or whose parent or parents visit them only rarely. These children cause a great deal of heartache, particularly to women who would really love to adopt them. Under the present law they are unable to do so. I hope this new deal will make the rights of the deserted child more important than the rights of the parent. This relates to children abandoned into State care, who, I hope, will be available for adoption. I applaud the Minister and the department for considering this move. It will have major legal consequences, but the social consequences far outweigh any others. These tots are entitled to as happy a life as possible.

I saw in today's Press that the Children's Services Department has started a social aunts and uncles programme to give abandoned children a home during the school holidays. I hope that I am able to have one of these children. I would dearly love to. I intend to publicise this move throughout my electorate in the hope that many good families will take one of these children. I know that I, as a woman, would be extremely sad to return the child, but I am sure that there are many women who would be delighted to add a child to their families for the Christmas holidays, particularly as so much money is wasted at that time of the year.

The Department of Children's Services offers a wide range of services such as residential facilities, foster care, day care and family care. These services are so important to the community that I sometimes wonder if this part of the Minister's portfolio is overlooked compared with those of other Ministers. Everyone knows about transport and the responsibilities of other portfolios, but how much do people know about community and welfare services?

I was particularly pleased to note in the Budget that from 1 November next substantial increases are to be made in payments to foster parents and denominational homes for children in care. This is particularly important to parents who are concerned about the future of children.

I was also very pleased to hear an answer to a question directed to the Minister last week in which he said that service clubs will assist in the reorientation of parolees. Because I am waiting on further guide-lines, I have not as yet canvassed this very important matter.

The Minister said that social welfare services are experiencing increased demand. That is as a result of the welfare state that is fast encroaching upon us. Very few people throughout their lifetime have not received some pension or hand-out from one or other of the Governments. I am a major supporter of self-help groups, even if only as morale boosters. I was pleased to see that next week a women's group in Brisbane will be opening a budget counselling service. I was displeased to see that it is to open

in the Valley, as this means that many women will not be able to get to it. If women who are prepared to do budget counselling work (which is about half the work I do in my electoral office) would travel around the outer suburbs, they would be able to give much more assistance.

**Mr. Herbert:** Life Line travels around. It has a budget counselling service.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** A similar group is attached to the Liberal women's group. Many women do not know where to approach these counselling services. So many women need this help that we should do everything possible to publicise such services.

I turn briefly to the annual report of the Queensland Probation and Parole Service. Table 4 relates to the number of probationers admitted. It is extremely interesting to compare the number of males with the number of females on the various charges. I notice that 184 males and 74 females were admitted to probation for stealing or attempted stealing. In fact, of the total number of offenders admitted to probation 956 were males and 150 were females.

I think the figures are of great consequence when one looks at Table 3, which deals with the age of probationers admitted. The majority by far—in fact, 60.76 per cent—were under 21 years of age. The next highest is the age group 21 to 25 years, which accounts for 20.25 per cent of the total. That, to me, bears a direct relationship to today's juvenile delinquency rate and the fact that so many children are not trained to use their leisure time wisely. Equally, many parents are not trained to use their leisure time wisely. How, then, can they inculcate in their children a directly resourceful use of leisure time?

Table 5 relates to the successful completions of probation and the breaches. Of those who successfully completed their probation, 881 were males and 100 were females. On the other hand, 121 males and only 9 females committed breaches. I am pleased to see that total. I presume I can read into it the fact that females make a deliberate attempt to complete their probation successfully.

I think that that is the major point I wish to make. No longer are we training people because we now exist within the limited bounds of the nuclear family; no longer are we training people—young or middle-aged—to enjoy the fruits of old age. Neither are we, the youth of today, enjoying the experiences of our aged people.

**Mr. MILLER** (Ithaca) (9.7 p.m.): The Estimates before the Committee would, in my opinion, be one of the most important to come before us. The department deals with the problems of certain handicapped people in our community as well as with many

aspects of our lives as we grow up. Firstly, it deals with sport, which involves us as children and adults. To me, sport is very important indeed in ensuring that our young people are kept off the streets and given an interest in life, because to me a lack of interest is one of the most dangerous problems for a young person. Secondly, it looks after those people who have, for one reason or another, been involved in trouble. The Committee would know of many reasons for people being in trouble and coming under the Minister's jurisdiction. Thirdly, it is responsible for the prisons, where rehabilitation of offenders takes place.

This evening I wish to deal with the last-mentioned subject, prisons, because like most other persons in the community I am concerned at what it is costing to rehabilitate people who have committed crimes. As punishment, they are sent to prison and subsequently they are returned to the community. Every year—but more particularly since inflation became such a significant factor—this aspect of the department is costing more and more. Frankly, I do not believe that we can continue to have in prison people who are not doing sufficient work to meet the cost of their imprisonment.

**Mr. Moore:** They bake good bread.

**Mr. MILLER:** They do. That is one of the services in the prisons that is of a very high standard. The prisons laundry service caters for our hospitals. But these two departments within the prisons cannot employ every prisoner who is put behind their walls, whether it be Boggo Road, Wacol or Woodford. The more prisoners we get, the more it is costing.

It is very hard to estimate the cost of maintaining the prison services per prisoner. The only figure available to me is the amount the Commonwealth Government is prepared to pay the State Government for any prisoner in prison for committing a Commonwealth offence. It is startling to see the figures. The reason for my concern is obvious when it is remembered that in 1973-74 it cost \$10.18 a day or \$71.76 a week to keep a prisoner in gaol whereas today it costs \$21.37 a day or \$149.59 a week. How can any community afford to meet these increases? We have the Federal Government trying to reduce the amount of income tax that people are forced to pay for social services, yet here we have costs nearly doubling in two years. The cost of maintaining a person in prison has increased by nearly 100 per cent since 1973-74. This is alarming.

**Mr. Lindsay:** That is because they have colour TV.

**Mr. MILLER:** It is not because of that.

It must be realised that the cost of maintaining our prison services rises every time there is an increase in wages. Every time

maintenance is done on prison buildings, the costs of our prison services increase. No matter what is done within the prison service, whenever there is an increase in wages it costs the Government and in turn the community more to maintain those prisoners. Therefore I make the plea to the Minister that he try to get every prisoner out into the community to work. How can we possibly meet all of the services that are being asked for by the people in our community today when we have increasing costs continually before us? How many local authorities could use these people in one field or another? In Brisbane, how many roads, how much kerbing and channelling and how much drainage is inadequate?

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. MILLER:** Opposition members are concerned! We have heard the cry time and time again that if we employ prisoners so that they can earn their keep, we will be putting unionists out of work. We have so much work to do in Brisbane that there are not enough union men to do it.

**Mr. Houston:** Give the unemployed a job.

**Mr. MILLER:** That is the attitude of the Opposition. Give all the unemployed a job. The Opposition seems to isolate its thoughts from the fact that Boggo Road and the other prisons in Queensland are costing more and more to maintain. Irrespective of how many people are out of work, we cannot ignore that fact.

**Mr. Lamont:** Which Government gave this country the greatest unemployment since the depression?

**Mr. MILLER:** The people know, because they put that Government out of office. It was the Federal Labor Government; everybody knows that. But what everybody does not know is what it is going to cost to maintain, year after year, the number of prisoners going into our gaols. We are continually hearing cries from every local authority in Queensland about costs, and frankly I do not blame them.

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. MILLER:** If Cairns does not have any problems and if the honourable member for Cairns is not concerned about the amount of work that his local authority would like to carry out; if they have no problems and if they have plenty of money to do all the things they want to do, I can tell him that in Brisbane we do not have the money to do what we want to do. As far as I am concerned the drainage system in Brisbane is most inadequate to cater for any heavy rainfall. We have seen it time and time again. The year before last we saw areas flooded for the first time in 100 years.

Why? Because the drainage system was not built originally to cater for the number of houses that have been built in these areas.

So I say, Mr. Kaus, that we should ensure that the work the local authorities want to carry out is in fact carried out. Why should we say to the people of Queensland, "You must pay more rates to your local authority because it is costing your local authority more to do the things that you require" when at the same time we have all these prisoners in gaol, and most of them are sitting down doing nothing. I want these people brought out of the gaols. I want them working on our drainage system, in our creeks and on our roads and railways. The Opposition has been very critical of this Government about the electrification of the railway system.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. MILLER:** The honourable member for Bulimba has had his opportunity to speak; it is a pity he did not use it. At the moment I am speaking and I do not require any help from him. What I am suggesting is that some of these people could well be used by the Railway Department to electrify the railway system, especially when we cannot get from the Commonwealth Government the amount of money we need to do that work. There are so many avenues of employment into which these people could be placed. We all know that we cannot employ them behind the walls of the gaols. The gaols are not big enough to take the industries necessary to provide full employment. One has only to look at the gaols in Japan, America, Great Britain and many countries in Europe where every prisoner has to work at least eight hours a day—

**Mr. Moore:** Hard labour means cracking stones.

**Mr. MILLER:** I do not care if they crack stones provided the stones are used to build roads or to build something useful for local authorities in Queensland, because we cannot maintain people who are sitting down in our prisons doing nothing. What is it going to cost next year to maintain a person in gaol? As the cost has gone up 100 per cent in two years, what is it going to cost next year? What is it going to cost the year after?

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. MILLER:** This is not going to put unionists out of work; it is going to provide extra people to work. Frankly, I do not care if the prisoners are paid award wages. I would be very—

**Mr. Houston:** Who is going to take the place of these other employees, if that is the case?

**Mr. MILLER:** Just a moment. I would be very happy indeed if the prisoners were paid award wages provided they meet the

cost of their keep in gaol, which at the present time is \$149.59 a week. What is left over should go into a bank, I suggest, so that when they get out of gaol they will have something to go on with. It has been said on many occasions that it is cheaper to keep a person in Lennons Hotel than it is to keep him in hospital. The same could be said of our prisons, I believe that it would be cheaper to keep a prisoner in Lennons Hotel than it is to keep him in the Brisbane Prison or any of our other gaols.

The figures that I have quoted are only estimates, because one cannot ascertain the cost of maintaining a person in gaol. They are prepared for the benefit of the Commonwealth Government, and I cannot imagine the Commonwealth Government or any other Government paying more than it actually costs to keep a person in gaol. If we really delved into the matter, we would probably find that it costs much more than the figures I have quoted.

Simply because there is unemployment in the State, the fact that it is costing the State \$149 a week to allow people to sit down and do nothing cannot be ignored. I want something done for that \$149. I do not want to see the homes of people in the Ithaca electorate flooded because the drainage system cannot cope with the rainfall.

**Mr. Lamont:** It is the city council's fault.

**Mr. MILLER:** Of course it is. I do not care whether they work for the Brisbane City Council or the State Government. The point is that the community, through the taxes it pays, is keeping these people in gaol. I do not care whether they work for local government, the State Government or the Commonwealth Government.

Having made the point that I wished to make relative to prisons, I shall now turn to sport. One or two honourable members who spoke earlier in the debate dealt specifically with trail-bikes. I should say that trail-bike riding is one of the fastest-growing sports in Queensland and trail-bikes seem to be of great interest to young people. I know that the Minister, in attempting to overcome problems associated with trail-bikes and other noisy instruments such as model aircraft (he was aware of the problems many years ago), wrote to every local government in Queensland and asked for suggestions as to where trail-bikes and model aircraft could be used so that they would not be a nuisance to the community generally. As yet, the Brisbane City Council has not submitted a suggestion to the Minister as to where trail-bikes should be used.

One of the problems that has been brought to my attention on many occasions is the noise from model aircraft and trail-bikes. Schools in the Ithaca electorate are prepared

to allow young children to use model aircraft in their grounds. At first sight, that seems reasonable; but if 20 model aircraft are flying in the grounds and one lives within a couple of hundred yards of the school, it does not seem reasonable. I do not think it is reasonable.

The young children who use model aircraft and the young children who use trail-bikes are entitled to engage in those sports. They are entitled to choose their own interests. However, people living in areas where model aircraft and trail-bikes operate are also entitled to peace and quiet. That is why the Minister, many years ago, wrote to every local authority in Queensland, and many local authorities responded. Many of them have set aside for sport of this type areas that are isolated from residential areas. I again ask the Minister to get in touch with the Brisbane City Council and ask it to set aside areas in which young people can engage in these sports without upsetting the community as a whole. That is not an unreasonable request. A modified town plan is before the public at present, but I cannot see in it any mention of trail-bikes or model aircraft.

Pony clubs are increasing in number in Queensland, and particularly in Brisbane, at present. Where are these pony clubs to function? The Minister also wrote to every local authority on this question. Again, unfortunately, I have to tell the Committee that the Brisbane City Council has been reluctant to say "We will set aside this area for use by pony clubs."

Persons with horses are forced to use the roads as no special areas are set aside for this form of recreation and in Brisbane the riding of horses on the roads is one of the greatest dangers. The roads were constructed for cars only, not horses. I want the Brisbane City Council to tell the Minister where the areas are in Brisbane that can be set aside for pony clubs, for model aeroplane clubs and for trail-bike clubs, as the members of these clubs are entitled to the same privileges as people in country areas.

Some comment has been made about the Juvenile Aid Bureau. I believe that the Juvenile Aid Bureau was one of the best organisations to be established in Queensland. One has only to speak to people who have availed themselves of the services of the Juvenile Aid Bureau to learn how its work is appreciated. I am talking of business people who did not want young offenders charged but wanted them to be placed in the hands of responsible people so that they could be given training and help for a period of time to make sure that they never offended again.

Unfortunately the Police Department believed that there should be a rotation of officers in the Police Force. I can see no sense whatsoever in a system of rotation

for the Police Force. There are specialists in certain fields who should be left in those fields. One field that I believe should be left alone is that of the Juvenile Aid Bureau.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. GIBBS** (Albert) (9.27 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to speak in support of the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport. As I know that the Minister would like to begin his reply at 9.30, I shall restrict myself to a few brief comments on the activities of the departments under his control.

**Mr. Houston:** That is half your time.

**Mr. GIBBS:** You're a great laugh. Your mouth is like a sewer. You should be put down with the Boggo Road blokes helping to fix the sewers.

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

**Mr. GIBBS:** I commend the Minister and his officers for the great work they do in welfare services. I support many of the remarks made by the honourable member for Belmont about juvenile aid. I should like to mention in particular a police officer stationed at Southport on the Gold Coast, Irwin Blowers. He is to be commended for the wonderful job he does with the young people on the Gold Coast in putting them on the right path. Many other people, too, speak highly of this police officer. I believe that more juvenile aid along these lines would be of great assistance in overcoming the problems we face with youth.

The National Fitness Council does a great job throughout this State. From the 1950s I have been involved with the National Fitness Council, and have had the pleasure of running many leadership-training courses. I was a member of the Gold Coast City Council for six years, and knew one of the representatives of the council on the National Fitness Council, Alderman Athol Peterson. Mr. Peterson is no longer an alderman of the council but still retains a great interest in the National Fitness Council and works very closely with Brian Czulowski, the local National Fitness officer.

I think that the greatest feature of National Fitness is the manner in which the Government co-operates with voluntary workers. In effect it is working in partnership with the local people. I do not think that there is anything better than public participation in this type of activity.

I would like to commend the activities that took place at the Musgrave Hill School and other centres on the Gold Coast during the school vacation. I never thought I would see the day when young children wanted to go back to school during the holidays,

but I saw that happen at that school. The children were there, with busy fingers, doing all sorts of arts and crafts. They were being taught these activities by dedicated people, of whom many are volunteers and others are paid a small sum for doing the work.

I commend the Minister and his officers on the efficient job that is done in all the departments under his control. It is good to see that the sum of \$26,959.25 was made available by way of grant to the Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association on the Gold Coast. Many other sporting groups both on the Coast and in the Albert electorate have received worth-while subsidies from the Minister.

**Hon. J. D. HERBERT** (Sherwood—Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport) (9.31 p.m.): I thank honourable members for the way in which they have handled my Estimates. If there were a prize for the member who did the best job in debating the Estimates tonight, it would go to the honourable member for Salisbury. She was the only member who went through the Estimates in the way that we were accustomed to seeing it done some years ago. I congratulate her on the way she tackled the problems. Furthermore, she picked out the points that I would have settled on if I had to "get into" my own Estimates.

I shall go seriatim through the speeches since my contribution before the dinner recess. I thank the honourable member for Murrumba for his contribution to the debate. As one or two members are aware, he and I went to school together. I am quite sure that quite a large number of the traumatic experiences suffered by school-teachers in that era could be directly attributed to the fact that he and I shared a desk. I know that he looks older than I do, but in fact he is not.

The honourable member for Murrumba has established for himself a record in the sporting field. He is a veteran athlete and was no mean athlete in his younger days. His contribution to the debate was a valuable one. I was particularly interested in his comments on the Singapore fitness award. Something similar might be of assistance in Queensland.

As he has suggested, the Caboolture Sports Centre Committee is another example of a multi-purpose sporting organisation that is being fully used. As a matter of fact, it was the first of this type that came to my notice. Many have come in subsequently.

I noted his comments on the Woodford Prison and his tribute to the superintendent. He is doing an excellent job. It takes a long time to develop a prison like the one at Woodford, and I am looking forward to the day when it becomes a real training prison. We make no secret of the fact that eventually the Woodford Prison will be

a very hard prison for young incorrigible prisoners. Unfortunately there are too many of them.

The honourable member for Cooroora referred to the problems faced by all quickly developing areas—his area is one—in the provision of playing-fields. He also commented on the fact that children start playing competitive sport at too early an age. Unfortunately, particularly in the football codes, there seems to be an idea of “get 'em young and train 'em”. If one code introduces an under 6 team, another code forms an under 5 team and the ultimate result is that youngsters who are forced by their parents into playing competitive football at a very early age lose interest by the time they get to the age when they should just be starting to play football. All football codes should take a very close look at the very early age at which they start competitive games. The age is far too low. I have played all football codes at various levels.

Like other honourable members, the honourable member for Cooroora referred to the trail-bike problem, which is a very real one. In the Cooroora electorate damage is done to the dunes by people who have no appreciation of the problems they are creating in the environment and the nuisance they create for people who visit the area on holidays. The inter-departmental committee examining this matter is still awaiting replies from some local authorities. Eventually, we hope, we will have some sort of an answer, but this is a very difficult problem. Trail-bikes can be a nuisance in areas a long way from where they are ridden. They do terrible damage. The Forestry Department and the National Parks people all have problems. A suggestion has been made to local authorities that old quarries, mining areas and rubbish tips could be used, in which the damage to the environment would not be any worse than has been perpetrated. We hope that this committee will come up with a solution.

Hang-gliding was also referred to. Although it is taking place on the coast, I have received no application from the hang-gliders for any financial support for their operations, burial expenses or anything else associated with the sport. It is surprising that I have not, considering the number of organisations that have approached the Government through their State associations.

The honourable member for Cooroora also spoke of community service orders and wondered how successful they would be. When I was in London last year, I was very impressed with the scheme in the Hammer-smith area. If it works there, it can work here. It has not been going long enough for a full assessment to be made but it has all the hallmarks of success.

The honourable member for Somerset spoke about sporting clubs becoming social clubs. I see nothing really wrong with that.

In many country areas the only social life is to be found in the local sporting club. That is not a bad environment for it, particularly bearing in mind that the profits from the social side of the club are used to benefit the sport. It is probably better to have the profits from the clubs, if any, being channelled into funding sporting propositions. Quite a number of them use their profits for coaching juniors in the sport followed by the club.

The honourable member also referred to setting aside areas for trail-bike riders. This matter kept cropping up in each contribution. It is very definitely a problem of interest to most honourable members.

He also spoke about the lack of children for adoption. Many factors are involved in this. It is not merely the fact that unmarried mothers now get money but, unfortunately, that is the matter we are worried about. If an unmarried mother, for one reason or another, decides to keep her child, that is her decision. But when she keeps it for a monetary return, she, her child and the community have a problem, because ultimately she finds out that the financial return is not worth the problems that anyone has to meet with a child. These are the mothers we are deeply concerned about. They are the ones who put children into institutions. Because there is some emotional involvement, they will not cut the tie entirely by giving up the child for adoption. They want the child to be kept by someone else, in an institution or a foster home, and to visit it occasionally to see what progress it is making. I believe that if a woman makes the decision to do that, she forfeits the parental right unless she is forced into it by a particular set of circumstances. All cases are treated individually, but when a woman leaves a child for someone else to look after because it interferes with her life-style, I believe the child deserves something better than either the somewhat insecure life of a foster child or the institutional life that it will otherwise have to face. That is why I am asking my department to look at these cases. Each one is an individual case. However, if necessary, we will take steps to see that the child's interests are protected rather than those of the natural mother. We do not have any figures at this stage, but in the past they have been high. There is certainly no way in the world that a natural mother can take her child out of a foster home or an institution when the child is old enough to earn money. That game stopped some time ago. The reason for taking the child back has to be a satisfactory one in the opinion of the department.

The honourable member for Redlands referred to the development of the sporting complex at the Redlands showground. It is pleasing to note the part played by Rotary—it is an example of what can be done by community-minded service clubs—and the work of the Albert Shire in the development of that sporting area.

He referred to the plight of the marching girls down in his area. I will ask him to give me the full details of that case. It has been a firmly established policy not to pay retrospective subsidies on expenditure carried out on projects—that is, without prior approval having been given for the payment of subsidy. However, I might be able to do something in his particular case. I am patron of the State organisation for marching girls and I know that there was a very big problem over the secretaryship and the records last year. The story that they did not get any of the information may have considerable substance. We will have a look at that one.

I noted, too, the reference by the honourable member for Redlands to half-way houses. The experience of penal authorities is that their value is limited. Many desire to return to their own homes.

We are giving up a lot of thought to all the alternatives to the very expensive penal institutions that were mentioned by the honourable member for Ithaca. Their establishment, of course, depends on priorities and the availability of funds.

I comment, too, on the subject of the 17 to 24-year-olds remaining in the Brisbane Prison. The Woodford Prison, of course, was set up to cater for those people. It is hoped when it is fully operational to have educational facilities not only of a general type but also as an encouragement to young prisoners to take up apprenticeships. However, they are not yet available at Woodford. Many of those who do an apprenticeship in prison turn out to be very good tradesmen and do not trouble us at any time in the future.

The submission of the honourable member for Toowong was, as usual, reasoned. He referred to the increase in violent crime amongst young people, which of course is a disturbing factor of modern life. He commented on the aspect of prison terms being punishment and not rehabilitation. He then went on to refer to parole. I can only say to him that it has been found in Queensland that the rate of re-offending by parole prisoners is significantly lower than the rate by prisoners completing their term of imprisonment. So, by placing them under parole supervision, the term for which they are effectively controlled under supervision is increased. I might also mention that it is certainly not automatic for parole to be effective after half of a prison term has been completed. It is only granted after an in-depth consideration by the Parole Board, usually with the benefit of considerable advice from Prison Department officers and probation and parole officers. It is by no means automatic although, judging from the letters written to me, some prisoners seem to think it is.

The honourable member for Toowong referred also to encouragement to sport, and

particularly to the need to involve the greatest number of young people in playing sport. He also pointed out the obvious need for first-class coaches and for priority being given to subsidies for sporting bodies coaching juniors. I hope that these sporting bodies will take even greater advantage of the money available in this area in future.

The honourable member for Toowong referred also to the need to ensure that the public is protected from those who offend against the laws of society. In the department we have quite a bit of literature on this matter. The senior judge in the Adelaide Juvenile Court, Judge Wilson, in his fifth annual report on the administration of the Juvenile Courts Act said in relation to juveniles—

“The court needs to have the power to ensure that any young offender who presents a real threat to public safety is detained in a secure enough place and for long enough so as to provide a greater measure of public protection than hitherto.”

I agree with him. The problems that we used to have with residents in the Westbrook area will be remembered by most honourable members.

The honourable member for Cairns referred to the appointment of an officer of the Early Childhood Services Unit. That was the subject of a deputation to me when I was in Cairns. We have made the decision to place one in Cairns but office accommodation is the problem. Some was offered to us while we were up there but the Public Service Board advised us that it is not adequate. The board has been caught before by putting officers into inadequate surroundings and then running into all sorts of union problems—and justifiably so if the accommodation is not adequate. I have taken active steps to secure suitable accommodation. All we can do is wait and hope that we do get a final answer there.

The honourable member referred to a lock-up. We call it a remand and assessment centre, which sounds better. It is planned for Townsville and we hope that work on it will commence this financial year. If we can get that in Townsville it will solve a lot of the problems that we have at the moment with kids being held overnight in police stations. That is hoped to be done this financial year.

In the longer term, a small holding centre for juveniles is planned for Cairns but a number of other projects will have to take precedence over it. The Townsville set-up will make a significant difference to the situation in Cairns at the moment.

Comment was made on Family Group homes. We are actively pursuing the question of the establishment of Family Group homes with various denominational groups. I would

like to see one in Cairns. It is strange that all of the Family Group homes are centred in the south-east corner of the State. We want to see the homes in operation. We have limited facilities in some of the other coastal cities but we would like to see some established right throughout North Queensland. There is also a need for them in the West because if a western kiddie with a traumatic experience is taken into care and brought to the coast, he has climatic problems. He feels more at home nearer to his own environment so there is a need to spread Family Group homes further. I can understand the problems of the churches in attempting to control these homes from Brisbane.

I noted the honourable member's comment on motor-bike sports. All I can say is that we support them in the same way as we support other sports.

He mentioned the problems of teams required to travel long distances. I have already dealt with this matter in replying to the comments made by the honourable member for Mt. Isa. This is a real problem. The Foley Shield highlights it every year.

Comments on the coaching of referees and umpires have been noted. Again it is a matter of priorities and the availability of funds.

I think honourable members should know that the story on the front page of the "Telegraph" about \$2,000,000 from soccer pools being extra money for sport has caused me more trouble than any other headline in all of the years I have been in Cabinet. Almost every sporting organisation in Queensland wrote to me and said, "We can spend the \$2,000,000 straight away. Send us the cheque tomorrow" or sent a similar message. Practically every active honourable member has done precisely the same thing. I would like to get hold of the wretch who was responsible for the story.

The plain facts are that that figure was projected on the initial return into the pools. What happened to the pools was that there was initially a terrific rush. Then someone was paid \$500,000 and a terrific amount of money poured in. Somebody looked at that figure, multiplied it by 52 weeks in the year, and said, "This is what we are going to get." But that is not what has happened. The flood of money has dropped to a trickle. We do not know at this stage how much money we are going to have by the end of the year. In her usual way the honourable member for Salisbury found out that there was a little bit of "funny money" in the figuring, and the plain fact is that if we come up with a new assistance scheme for sport based on the pools money and next year the money is not there—although there is quite a nice lump this year we started off with—the sporting organisations are not going to be very happy

at all because they have the idea that, once the Government starts something, it goes on for ever.

**Mr. Jones:** We had an analogy in Cairns with "Find the Ball".

**Mr. HERBERT:** Yes. The "Courier-Mail" contest of "Find the Ball" is the one I am thinking of. When it started, for quite a while there was big money in it and then it gradually trickled away and finally stopped. I do not think the pools are going to stop—they have not stopped in other areas—but, as soon as they switched over to the English games, boom, there was a cut-off, and the only way we are going to get people rushing back again is when someone gets \$500,000. I cannot follow that. I think statistically one has a better chance just before someone gets \$500,000 than just after, but, leaving all the psychological questions out of it, I think all members should be aware that this has happened. Please do not write to me telling me that you have bright ideas for spending the \$2,000,000 I do not have.

The honourable member for Belmont referred to the operations of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, which, of course, has been the subject of full-scale debates in this Chamber. After a Cabinet decision, the Juvenile Aid Bureau was seconded to the Department of Children Services. The individual officers are administered by the Police Commissioner, but functionally they are responsible to the Director of the Department of Children's Services. I do know that my colleague the Minister for Police is having a very close look at the question at this moment. He has expressed his own view on it on a number of occasions, and I am hoping that what has been, admittedly, a difficult situation for some little time is pretty near to being settled.

Now I come to our prize contributor, the honourable member for Salisbury, who is worried about the possible exclusion of women from the relief assistance grant. She need not worry. The girls are looked after because generally the problems of women in need of assistance involve children as well and they are dealt with by the Department of Children's Services. The department looks after them, and the office in Mary Street is probably a little more attractive than the office we have over in South Brisbane for general relief assistance.

The honourable member also referred to the handicapped neighbour programme. I instigated this programme, and I owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Sylvia da Costa Roque of the "Sunday Mail" because she publicised it and treated it very sympathetically. The end result has been that a lot of people—the shut-ins—confined within their homes who would not normally get any help at all are now being very adequately cared for. We are hoping to have a repeat

programme shortly to get more volunteers for the service. I might also inform the honourable member that she can buy a good broom. They are better than some of the are made of millet and do not have grass on the inside, so if she sends her husband over there, he will be able to buy a good broom. They are better than some of the poorer-quality brooms that I am told are available commercially, and cash sales are made at the institute itself.

The honourable member mentioned a number of financial provisions and I can assure her that they are all quite safe. "The Outlook" is in fact included in the Estimates but it comes under the heading of Maintenance and Incidentals because it began only a short time before the end of the financial year. In the Prisons Estimates the heading of Maintenance, Incidentals and Gratuities to Discharged Prisoners refers to the day-to-day expenditure of running the prisons, in addition to some of the small gratuities that are shown there.

The honourable member for Ithaca made his usual fighting contribution on the situation in the prisons.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Miller): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 19 October, I shall now put the question for the Vote under consideration and the balance remaining unvoted for Community and Welfare Services and Sport.

The questions for the following Votes were put, and agreed to—

Community and Welfare Services and Sport—

Chief Office	\$ 4,249,551
Balance of Vote, Consolidated Revenue and Trust and Special Funds	36,975,604

Progress reported.

## FISH SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### SECOND READING

**Hon. C. A. WHARTON** (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (9.57 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

During the debate at the introductory stage, honourable members spoke at some length on matters relating to the fishing industry generally. I informed members that I would deal with matters which did not relate specifically to the Fish Board when the Fisheries Bill came before the House.

As I had opportunity during the introductory debate to reply to comments raised by honourable members which concerned the Fish Board, I intend at this stage to again summarise the proposed amendments to the Fish Supply Management Act and indicate the reasons for such changes. Before I do so, however, I must compliment honourable members on the interest displayed in the Fish Board and its activities.

I appreciate what the board is trying to do, but there seem to be some misconceptions amongst some honourable members as to the board's role, what it is trying to do, and how it is going about its business. I propose, therefore, to preface my summary of the Bill with a clear and concise resume of the Board's role.

First and foremost, the Queensland Fish Board provides receival facilities at fishing ports along the Queensland coast from Cairns to Southport. In conjunction with receival, it conducts auction sales where any person who takes out a prescribed licence can buy.

The board is primarily a wholesaler selling to licensed buyers, whose business is the resale of seafood products as secondary wholesalers servicing small shops and the catering trade, or as retailers. The general public also buy at auction. The board also distributes to interstate and export markets, but its activities in this regard are directed mainly towards preserving a stable Queensland market and are of a secondary nature.

I must stress that the board recognises that its prime responsibility is to Queensland—to Queensland fishermen, Queensland fish retailers and Queensland consumers. As part of its over-all service, the board has opened retail outlets at its various port markets and depots. To some extent these are an adjunct to the board's entry into processing.

As I mentioned in my introductory speech, the board processes to export standard and maintains the same quality standards in the preparation of processed seafoods for the local and interstate markets. Processing is not simply an extension of marketing opportunities for profit. It is the backstop whereby the board evens out the fluctuations in supply to maintain continuity of product on the market and stabilise prices.

Some honourable members have labelled the board a monopoly and criticised it on that score. It is far from being a monopoly. I should point out that many competitors have come and gone—come because at times the industry appears to be highly profitable; gone because they recognise it is a high-risk industry so they take their profit and go, or gone because they fell by the wayside.

Even today, its competitors are looking for means of diversification for protection, and are entering into amalgamations to secure

greater liquidity. The Queensland Fish Board stands alone in its commitment to the Queensland fishing industry and Queenslanders. Fishermen wishing to land fish in gazetted fish supply districts for sale in Queensland are required to deliver their product to the board. But, as I said earlier, the board is far from being a monopoly.

To turn then to the proposed amendments—Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 relate to appointment of members to the board. The amendments are minor, but give a greater degree of flexibility in selecting the three representatives outside the fishing industry and give due recognition to the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's State Council as the body to nominate representatives of fishermen and prawners. The present composition of the board provides for one representative of consumers and of fishermen to be drawn from North Queensland. The new provision, by enabling selection from the widest possible area of expertise, will improve the board's efficiency and its service to the fishing industry.

Clause 6 of the Bill, which inserts a new section 26A, corrects a deficiency in policing the Act and regulations by providing for inspectors under the Fisheries Act to be inspectors under the Fish Supply Management Act.

Clause 7 relates to advances by way of overdraft, and in effect removes the word "temporary" from the existing wording.

I should explain that the board receives no handouts from the Government. It must stand on its own resources. However, its borrowings are subject to the approval of the Treasurer and are guaranteed by the Government.

The board's working capital has been financed to some degree by guaranteed overdraft and it is unlikely that sufficient funds will be available from its own resources for this purpose in the immediate future. The word "temporary" is inappropriate.

Clause 8, which amends a reference in section 46, is merely a correction. The reference is to funds kept under section 43 whereas the funds are described in section 42.

The proposed amendment of section 51 will exclude from the prohibition of certain sales any fish purchased from a retail outlet conducted by the board.

A new section 51A is inserted by clause 10. This section requires all persons purchasing fish for resale to obtain a docket covering the transaction and to retain the docket while the fish is in his possession.

All fish sold through the board is inspected for quality and condition. Avoidance of the requirement that fish be delivered to the

board for sale and/or inspection when quality is doubtful is not in the interests of the industry or of the consumer. Obviously, some products bypass the board for other reasons—and such can only prejudice the industry. The docket provision is not the complete answer, but it will help.

Clause 11, which amends section 54, merely clarifies the right of any person to buy fish from the board's bulk retail outlets without having to take out a buyers' licence.

Clauses 12 and 13 increase the penalty provisions of the existing Act in relation to general offences and regulatory offences from \$200 to \$100 respectively to \$500 in both cases. The increases are necessary if penalties are to be a deterrent.

The amendments which I have just outlined are principally in the areas of management and the prevention of illegal activity. They will assist the board to carry out its statutory obligations in conjunction with its trading activities.

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (10.4 p.m.): In introducing the Bill the Minister spoke about the need to change the composition of the Queensland Fish Board so that people with expertise in finance and management could be appointed to it. I often wonder whether it is necessary for such people to be board members or whether their expertise could be used by hiring them to assist the board.

The annual report of the Queensland Fish Board for the ten months ended 30 April 1976 contains this passage—

"The Board of seven persons is made up of three representatives of fishermen and prawners and three consumers representatives (one from each group coming from North Queensland) and controlled by a Chairman drawn from the Queensland Public Service. All are appointed by the Government . . .

"The advantage of appointing non-fishermen to the Board as consumers representatives includes the opportunity to draw upon a diversity of practical business experience through a knowledge of commerce and industry. It complements the contribution of the fishermen's representatives and assists in the framing of the Board's policy in terms of the Board's responsibility."

In the board's report this year it is not said that some finance and management experts should be added to the board.

Under the Bill not fewer than three persons will be nominated by the Minister from a panel of seven selected by the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's State Council, which, I understand, is not the most popular body in the fishing world today. This morning I asked a question to determine whether

it even represents the majority of people engaged in the fishing industry and whether the majority of its members have paid their fees or are currently under threat of some sort of coercion from that body.

I ask why it was decided not to have consumers' representatives or to spell out the representation as clearly as it was done in the past. I also ask why prawners, crabbers, people engaged in mackerel fishing and people from Karumba, in the Gulf, are not going to be added to the board. The only reference is to finance and management personnel.

The Minister went on to say that the only alteration would be that it would no longer be mandatory that two representatives come from South Queensland. I am not too sure that this will improve the operations of the board. Whether representatives come from South Queensland or North Queensland is not important. The board needs on it people who are involved in the industry, have some expertise in it and can be of assistance. The addition of a consumers' representative is very important.

I am a strong supporter of the Fish Board; I am not one of its critics. Nevertheless, the board took a long time to move into the area of marketing and of preparing its own fillets and some of the other materials that it sells retail. Whilst I support the idea of bulk retail sales, I cannot see any reason why the board should not sell smaller quantities if it so desires. People like the idea of going to a fish board or a fish market where the product is brought to the wharf by the fishermen. The public believe that the fish are fresher than the products that are allowed to lie in cold rooms for days on end before they are delivered to the markets.

I know that I cannot mention clauses at this stage, but I ask the Minister why he did not spell out consumer representation and representation of the prawners, crabbers, the mackerel industry, the Gulf prawners and others, instead of working on the basis of the 22nd Parallel. I do not believe that the 22nd Parallel is some magical line north of which people possess the necessary expertise and knowledge to make them good representatives. All the Minister is doing is playing the North against the South and falling into the trap that existed previously when this State had a North Queensland Fish Board and a South Queensland Fish Board. One side of the industry was played against the other.

Why does not the board include a representative of the fish vendors themselves—the people who are buying at the market and selling the product to the consumers? Quite often they are fairly critical of some of the methods of the board as well as of the fishermen themselves.

One clause of the Bill provides—

“At least two months before an appointment of members of the Board . . . is to be made, the Minister shall request, in writing, the State Council to furnish to him a panel of at least seven names of its nominees,”  
and so on.

Later, the same clause provides that if at any time the Minister fails to comply with subsection (1) within the time limited therein, it can be wiped aside. In other words, there is no real reason for this clause.

On the one hand, it provides that the Minister shall take certain action at least two months before an appointment is made; and, on the other, it provides that if the Minister fails to comply with that provision he may at any later time “issue his request in writing therein prescribed and such issue and all action taken thereon as prescribed shall be deemed to be sufficient to comply with this Act.” There is not much reason for laying down the period of two months if provision is made that if the Minister does not take the action within the time limited it does not matter.

The Bill also provides—

“If at any time default is made in furnishing as requested by the Minister a panel of names or the panel of names furnished is, in the opinion of the Minister, inadequate as to the number or the description or the fitness of persons named therein the Minister may at his discretion nominate a person or persons sufficient as to number or description or fitness to comprise the panel in respect of which default is made or, as the case may be, to make adequate the panel furnished.”

In other words, the rules state that the Minister has to write to the State council two months before the event. They then provide that if he does not do that, it does not matter. The rules also say that he shall ask the State council to give him a list of names. If for any reason the Minister does not like the people named—if they are inadequate as to number, description or fitness—at his own discretion he may add names to the list and say that they satisfy the clause.

When we write legislation we should be basically honest. We should say here that we leave matters completely to the discretion of the Minister. If he wants to pick seven people from the industry he will ask the members of the State Council to supply names but, if they do not suit him, he will pick seven of his own. As I see it, that is what the Bill provides.

A further section makes provision to control illegal practices. I know that people sell fish other than through the board, but I

do not think the docket idea will work. From my recollection of buying fish at the market and hawking it, I know that many people attend, such as ship's providers, Barrier Seafoods, Freeleagus and Fresh Food and Ice. They probably buy half the fish on the floor each morning and resell it to retail vendors, the average fish shop proprietors in the suburbs who do not want to go to the markets, and to many cafes, hotels and restaurants in the town.

It seems to me that it will be very difficult for an inspector to ask a proprietor of a shop for a docket for a tray of mullet. As long as he has the docket from Fresh Food and Ice for fish that he buys on a regular basis, or as long as he has a docket to show that he has bought 40 lb. of mullet from Fresh Food and Ice (although he may have sold 180 lb. in the past few days) it will be hard to prove anything. I am not saying that anything is wrong with the operations of Fresh Food and Ice; from what I know of this firm, it is a first-class operator. The wholesalers buy at auction and resell to the retailers. The system is such that the fish cannot be traced. That has been proven dozens of times.

Although the Minister is trying to tighten up the legislation, I do not think the docket system will work. However, if it does and we start catching illegal operators, the increase in fines is not sufficient. The Minister said that the large corporate enterprises in the fishing industry make it necessary to increase the fine from \$100 to \$500, but that is not a heavy fine for people with millions of dollars invested in the fishing industry. A \$500 fine would not be much to Queensland United Foods or Markwells. If such fines are imposed, with the normal delays associated with City Council or State fines—months elapse before offenders are brought to court—the firms believe that it is cheaper to pay the fines than to comply with the Act provisions.

I support the intentions in the Bill but I do not like the idea of establishing the board on the basis of a line drawn across the State, with so many people north of it and so many people south of it. The consumers should be represented and specific sections of the industry, such as crabbers and prawners, should have representation in their own right. The people involved in selling fish should also be represented.

**Mrs. KIPPIN** (Mourilyan) (10.13 p.m.): I have much pleasure in supporting this measure, which is designed to assist the Queensland Fish Board to carry out its statutory functions. I agree with the Minister that not enough is known about the Fish Board by members of the general public and members of this Assembly. Perhaps the fault lies with the board in not selling itself to the extent that it can and should. On the other hand, perhaps we are a little too ready to listen to its critics. In any case, I am happy to

place on record my appreciation of the efforts of the board to provide scope for the development of the fishing industry in Queensland.

We might have been excused for doubting whether the amalgamation of the North Queensland and the South Queensland Fish Boards in 1972 would be in the long-term interests of the North, although we appreciate that at that time it was a rescue operation. I am aware that the board has given very close attention to the staffing of its northern markets to increase efficiency and drive. This is prudent management. Over all, the fish board at Innisfail has been trading quite well. It is now starting to make its presence felt as a market for local fishermen. Because of bad weather, May, June and July of this year were very difficult times for the board. Fish had to be imported from Townsville. However, it is expected that the board's operations will pay for themselves this financial year.

The board manager, Mr. Rus, is endeavouring to improve the retail trade. This is a relatively new venture for the fish board, but I do think it is going to be of value in due course. The retail fish trade through the Innisfail board has doubled in the last six months. That is very much to the credit of the board's employees. We expect that the retail section will improve further as satisfied customers tell their neighbours of their purchases.

I am particularly pleased with the way the board handled the heavy intake of mackerel in 1974. The intake was a record of over 755,000 kg. On only four occasions has it exceeded 600,000 kg. In only one previous season—1953—has it exceeded 700,000 kg. In 1975 the board undertook a very successful promotion campaign in North Queensland and also introduced mackerel to southern markets. It extolled the virtues of the species, and I am sure that the foundation has been laid for another successful marketing programme should the need ever arise. Mackerel is one of the most important commercial fish species in the North, where its worth as the principal cooking fish in the fish shop trade can only be gauged by the recognition that it is also a favourite restaurant and exotic table fish, preferred by many even to reef fish.

The 1975 promotion campaign consisted of a TV programme "Big Mac", supported by posters displayed in fish shops from Rockhampton north to Cairns. The campaign billed the Barrier Reef mackerel as "King of the Sea". More importantly, I think, the promotion was aimed at weight-watchers, a group whose numbers are rapidly increasing. Mackerel has one of the highest food values of any fish in the world. Its high protein with low fat and low cholesterol content must make it a favourite with weight-watchers. This, of course, will be an improving market.

**Mr. Goleby:** Do you eat it?

**Mrs. KIPPIN:** Yes, I do. I prefer mackerel for numerous reasons.

The season for catching mackerel is comparatively short—usually three months—yet thanks to the board this prized fish is available to the trade and to the public for the greater part of the year. Naturally, continuity of supply is most important. Fishermen and North Queensland consumers should be very proud of the board's achievements in this regard, and very thankful. More recently, the board has improved its service to mackerel fishermen based from Cairns to Mackay who fish the waters north from Princess Charlotte Bay, the Torres Strait and the Gulf of Carpentaria. The agency arrangement with Norshrimp Pty. Ltd. at Thursday Island has given the fishermen in the northern areas a further outlet for their catch and this will encourage them, it is hoped, to increase their fishing effort. This is something that northern fishermen have sought for a number of years—in fact, since the fish board began its operations.

One aspect of the northern fishing industry which concerns me greatly is the price of fuel at Thursday Island, where fishermen are paying as much as 61c a gallon compared with 45c a gallon at Weipa and about 28c a gallon at Cairns.

**Mr. Goieby:** That is for diesel?

**Mrs. KIPPIN:** Yes.

I am told that this differential is being exploited by fleet operators in Darwin and Townsville, who are virtually trading cheap fuel for prawns and mackerel in the Torres Strait area. Of course, that can only react against the orderly marketing that the board and the developing local fishing industry are trying to encourage. The pricing structure in Torres Strait for fuel and stores generally needs very close scrutiny. The board has certainly not neglected the North. Its new market processing complex to be opened in Townsville on 6 November will be a show-place. I trust that it will also be a milestone in the development of the fishing industry in North Queensland and of benefit to the State as a whole.

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) (10.20 p.m.): I shall be brief in speaking to the Bill. I did intend to speak on the introduction but missed the call so that I cannot say tonight all that I would have said then.

From studying the principles of the Bill I agree with the Leader of the Opposition about the lack of consumer representation on the board. I agree with him also that more tangible action could have been taken about consumer interest in the fishing industry.

Certainly I believe in the principle of the board—I think that over the years it has

done an excellent job for the fishing industry—but in some cases it could have done a little better.

The facilities at Sandgate are a positive disgrace. I do not know whether the Minister has seen that great edifice on Cabbage Tree Creek. It is a tin shed. It has been like that for a long time.

The board's activities there have been widened in that it now supplies fish to the consuming public. That was brought about by the formation of the Sandgate Fishermen's Co-operative Society, which has spent a lot of money not a great distance from the Fish Board facilities. Once that came into being, the Fish Board was forced to compete with it and sell direct to the public. It is unfair that the Fish Board should have such a very low standard of facility in that part of Moreton Bay.

I agree with the Leader of the Opposition also that the variation that the Bill makes to the constitution of the board will improve the lot of professional fishermen. I am sure that we all agree with that proposal. I do not think that anybody works harder than the professional fisherman. Like the man on the land, he is subject to the elements. On many occasions he cannot go out to catch fish. This makes it difficult for him to balance the economics of his operations.

With this Bill, like other legislation that prescribes penalties, the enforcement of the law is most important. Enforcement of the law in the fishing industry has been very lax for many years. I realise that, because of the peculiarities of the industry, it is difficult to police the Act. To do so would require a large fleet of patrol boats and a lot of inspectors. It would be very costly to police all of Moreton Bay and the estuaries adequately. I think that some improvement should be made for the apprehension of illegal fishermen.

I am told by reliable sources that many back-yard fishermen do get licences. They are amateur fishermen or people who fish as a hobby. This acts to the detriment of the professional fishermen. I hope that the board, following the improvement to its constitution provided by this Bill, will be able to enforce the Act more than it has been able to in the past.

Like the Leader of the Opposition, I am a little disappointed about consumer interests. We seem always to forget that important person in the community—the consumer. I do not think he has been taken into consideration by the Bill as much as he should have been. Time will tell whether the Bill will bring about the desired improvement. I

sincerely hope it does, especially for the professional fisherman because, as I said earlier, no-one works harder for his living.

**Hon. C. A. WHARTON** (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (10.25 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions. It has been most interesting to learn that some members do appreciate the virtues of the Fish Board.

The Leader of the Opposition made a reference to the constitution of the board. I would just like to say that it is, of course, a statutory board. If it were just a co-operative board or a marketing board, all of its members could be fishermen; but it is a statutory board, and therefore its composition must remain as it is today. The amendments proposed permit the widest use of the expertise available, either as members or servants of the board. Every section of the industry has access to the board through the local marketing committee or the central fishermen's committee or, in the case of the vendors, through their organisation. The imaginary line across the State is brought about because at one time there was a North Queensland Fish Board, but the division has to some extent been reduced by the Bill because we have one fishermen's representative and one Government representative from the North, which does at least recognise that they do not all come from the South, and I think this is important. On the other hand, as I said, if we restrict membership to only one representative from each sector from the North we do get a wider basis of selection for the rest of the membership of the board.

Reference was made to the proposed new section 16. This amendment is simply to preclude the invalidation of appointments. It is only to safeguard the nominations made by the State council and ensure that two months' notice is given by the Minister. It also ensures that if there is any default, at least a complete panel is available.

I turn now to the comments made by the honourable member for Mourilyan. I am fully aware of the disparity in the fuel price in the Torres Strait. It is one of the tragedies of the area, but one has only to go anywhere in Far North Queensland—say, to the Gulf, the Torres Strait or Thursday Island—to see the problems caused by the cost of fuel. It was a great shame that we had to lose the uniform price scheme

for petrol. I can assure the honourable member that I have already tried to have the scheme reintroduced and I will be most diligent in my continuing endeavours to have it reintroduced. I would like to compliment the honourable member on her knowledge of the fishing industry in the North, because it is an important industry and one which we intend to expand. The North is a very important area because of the large amounts of fish which can be obtained from there. I see no reason why at some future time the activities of the board through its agencies in the Torres Strait, at Thursday Island and at Karumba should not be expanded. The board will then accept its full responsibilities and progress will be made in serving the far northern area of our State. I can assure the honourable member that we are looking to the future and that this expansion will occur. It is very important that the board should play its part, and this is an area in which it can do so. With the constitution of the board and the things we are doing to make it more progressive, I believe we will achieve that objective.

I thank the honourable member for Sandgate, too, for his comments. I realise that the fish market at Sandgate might not be the mansion he would like to see there, but planning has begun for a new fish market at Sandgate, and I trust that in the not too distant future we will see a better facility there. I appreciate the other matters the honourable member raised, such as the selling of fish by backyarders. The real objective of the docket system is to try to overcome that sort of thing. When the wholesaler buys from the Fish Board he gets a docket—the Leader of the Opposition also referred to this matter—and this is one way of tracking back where the fish come from. So we are countering any illegal trading and by this means we hope to ensure that most of the fish sold will be sold through the Fish Board to the benefit not only of the fishermen but of the consumers of Queensland.

Motion (Mr. Wharton) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 13, both inclusive, as read agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

## RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## SECOND READING

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (10.31 p.m.): I move—

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

In moving the motion for the introduction of the Bill, I clearly outlined its contents. The amendment made is minute and simply creates the position of Deputy Commissioner and Secretary and the position of Assistant Commissioner. That is the only provision in the Bill. No expense is involved, as there is no increase in staff or in salaries. I have nothing further to add.

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (10.32 p.m.): As the Minister indicated, the Bill simply provides for the position of Deputy Commissioner and Secretary, instead of Secretary, and Assistant Commissioner (Electrification). Of course, the latter position is subject to regulation rather than statute.

I noted that the Minister said that salary rates would remain unchanged. Obviously the list of duties will not be the same, but the Deputy Commissioner will now be able to deputise for the Commissioner and exercise all the powers and authority of the Commissioner.

The Act provides that the appointment of the Commissioner for Railways shall be for a term not exceeding seven years. The appointment is made by the Governor in Council, and reappointment is also provided for. The Commissioner's salary is spelt out in the Act. In the present inflationary period, that provision appears to be redundant. In my opinion, there should be an attempt to make better arrangements, and I suggest to the Minister that a more concise and expedient provision might be included when the Act is next amended.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** The tax man is very happy with the salary.

**Mr. JONES:** So he should be.

The Commissioner for Railways is more than a person. In the position that he occupies, he is the railways—a corporation, capable in law of suing and being sued, with power to hold property and land in the name of the Commissioner for Railways, and with perpetual succession. He may exercise all the powers, privileges, rights and remedies of the Crown, and his actions are always under the shield of the Crown, with the endorsement, of course, of the Governor in Council.

Honourable members may be interested to know that the Commissioner can be sacked. He is first suspended for seven days and then the Minister reports to the Parliament the full circumstances and the grounds for the suspension. It is this Assembly, within 21 days of a resolution of the whole House, that decides and advises the Governor in

Council to remove or reinstate him. Of course, the Commissioner for Railways cannot hold two jobs. And if he becomes bankrupt, he, like members of this Assembly, is automatically disqualified. He is bound not to go absent without leave for 14 days, and if he is proved to have pecuniary interests in railway contracts or if he is incompetent or shows incapacity, he is liable to be suspended or removed from office. I cannot recall a case of a vacancy arising in that way, but, no doubt, like all other railway employees, he would have prior choice of resignation in those circumstances, and the termination of his employment would be in definite terms of his own choice under certain circumstances, and particularly in those circumstances that I have outlined.

I wonder if in respect of the new designations it was thought necessary to specify any particular conditions whereby the office would be vacated or deemed to have been vacated. Do the terms of these new positions give this Parliament or the Minister any way to dismiss them or do the conditions applicable to the old designations continue?

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** Yes.

**Mr. JONES:** I thought that would be the case. Now that we have technically appointed a board of commissioners, the Minister has assured me that the conditions have not been altered and that they will be the same as those applicable to the office of secretary.

On behalf of the Opposition I reserve judgment on the offices of Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner and their appointment as a board of commissioners.

It is a new approach to have appointees from different branches of the service. Mr. Goldston came from the engineering branch. I cannot recall a commissioner coming from that branch. It probably is a refreshing change.

The Deputy Commissioner, formerly the Secretary, is well known as a railway administration officer. The decision will be proved or not according to the results. I suppose that we could liken it to tempered steel; the quality will be tested by time and stress.

I can assure the Commissioners that railwaymen respond to leadership. The morale of the employee is very important to the service. I am sure that the officers and staff are prepared to grant the Commissioner and his new Assistant Commissioners every opportunity to lift the railways from the quagmire of inertia in which the previous administration has allowed it to settle. The new board of commissioners, as I will term them, have a heavy responsibility. If they transmit the strength of their administration through their make-up, and if this is combined with the courage of their convictions, I am sure a response will come from the railwaymen as it has in the past. I am sure that the degree of confidence which is presently reflected in

the Commissioner because of the high standing in which he is held will increase if he can hold this confidence by continuing to lead them as he has done in his previous position. I am sure that not only the staff but also the users of the railways will benefit and, therefore, Queensland and its people must benefit. We certainly have many problems in the railways today.

As I have said on earlier occasions, the previous commissioner did everything off his own bat. He would not allow anyone else to make decisions, nor would he delegate authority or trust his confreres with making decisions. He had more power than the Minister and he wielded it. I note that this aspect was mentioned at the introductory stage. The previous commissioner's attitude had dire results that reflected on the service and on the administration. Because he would not delegate authority, he became bogged down in an administrative morass and the administration of the Railway Department ground to a halt. The whole service suffered as a result. I hope that the appointment of a board of commissioners will work as well here as it has in other States. I am sure that the establishment of the board will give the Railway Department added impetus.

Finally, I regret the fact that I was not in the Chamber at the introductory stage. It appeared to me to be a breach of parliamentary practice to bring on the Bill during my absence. I was absent because I had obtained a pair on the information and assurance from both the Opposition and the Government Whips that this Bill would not be initiated in Committee on the evening of last Thursday, 14 October.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** I did not know anything of this.

**Mr. JONES:** I am not blaming the Minister. I don't know what happened after I left the House. I left with a pair, and it is a matter for regret that both Whips, under whose control the House should be, were superseded by either the Leader of the House or someone else.

**Mr. Wright:** It was Joh's fault.

**Mr. JONES:** I don't know whose fault it was. It is the practice to ascertain what Bills are coming on and to allow country members to arrange pairs and leave. They obtain the pairs from the Whips.

The practice that was followed in this instance is pretty poor comment on the conduct of this Parliament as well as on our parliamentary procedure and system. They are being bypassed. My comments are worthy of notice, and I hope that this sort of thing does not occur again. It is a shame that this occurred.

I have a responsibility on behalf of the Opposition and I would have been prepared to remain here and not seek a pair.

**Mr. NEWBERY:** I rise to a point of order. I did not make any mistake. The Bill was on the Business Paper.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Let's get on with the Bill.

**Mr. JONES:** With deference to you, Mr. Speaker, it was on the Business Paper and I did everything in my power to ascertain what the proceedings would be on that evening. I spoke to the Opposition Whip and obtained a certain assurance from the Government Whip. I arranged a pair with both Whips. What else is required?

If the Leader of the House is responsible for this, surely the Whips should have been told prior to 4 o'clock in the afternoon what the proceedings would be later that day.

**Mr. NEWBERY:** I rise to a point of order. The Bill was on the Business Paper and the Business Paper was followed. That is the position unless I say otherwise.

**Mr. JONES:** I accept the explanation given by the Leader of the House. I take it that in future the Whips will be superseded and we will have to deal with the Leader of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! This has nothing to do with the Bill before the House. I have given the honourable member the opportunity to make his point. Is there any further debate on the Bill before the House?

**Mr. JONES:** I accept your explanation, Mr. Speaker, and that of the Leader of the House.

As we have passed the introductory stage and as the procedures of the House are involved, I thought that this was the time to raise these matters. I am not blaming the Minister, but I thought that I should say something at this stage.

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (10.46 p.m.), in reply: I regret that the honourable member for Cairns was not here at the introductory stage. I had a copy of my speech ready for him, but I was unable to find him. I discovered that he was on leave.

**Mr. Lane:** What standing has he in the place?

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** I always pay the Opposition spokesman on transport the courtesy of letting him have a copy of my speech while I deliver it.

**Mr. Jones:** That is appreciated, too.

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** Normally, every Minister does that.

**Mr. Moore:** Back-bench members get a copy if they need it.

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** They do, if they require it.

Unfortunately the honourable member was not here but, as he said, the Bill contains very minor amendments. However, I shall correct a misconception that he seems to have. He said that a board of commissioners is involved. In fact it is not. At the introductory stage I explained that the idea was to give authority to these people who, although they hold senior positions, do not have the right to direct other senior officers. That is what the Bill is all about. It gives them that authority.

I appreciate the kindly remarks made by the honourable member for Cairns about the new commissioner, the secretary, and other members of the executive staff of the railways. I shall make sure that they are made aware of his comments.

Motion (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 5, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

The House adjourned at 10.49 p.m.

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