

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 1976

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

DOMAN DELACATO PROGRAMME FOR TREATMENT OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (11.4 a.m.): There has been a great deal of discussion over the past few years on various unorthodox treatment principles for intellectually handicapped people. One such method is the Doman Delacato Programme, or the Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential. Because of my concern, I referred this matter to the National Health and Medical Research Committee for investigation, and I now table the report forwarded to me by this committee. I also table a report of a review on this programme by Dr. R. J. Andrews of the Fred and Eleanor Schonell Educational Research Centre of the University of Queensland. I have arranged for copies of these reports to be circulated to all members.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the papers on the table.

FISHERIES BILL

INITIATION

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to pearling, oystering and fisheries generally, to promote the good order, management, development and welfare of the fishing industry, to provide for the protection, conservation and management of the fisheries resources of the State and for incidental purposes."

Motion agreed to.

FISH SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ACT
AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Wharton, read a third time.

RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hooper, read a third time.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (11.7 a.m.), by leave: Last Wednesday I gave the House some background to a body called Action for World Development, and the following morning, Thursday, an A.B.C. interviewer rang and asked would I do a discussion with the Reverend Dr. N. Preston. I readily agreed, setting

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

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Anzac Day Trust, for the year 1975-76.
Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, for the year 1975-76.

Department of the Valuer-General, for the year 1975-76.

Surveyor-General, for the year 1975-76, including Reports of the Queensland Surveyors Board, Queensland Place Names Board and Administration of the Survey Co-ordination Act.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Harbours Act 1955-1976.

River Improvement Trust Act 1940-1971.

Regulations under the State Transport Act 1960-1972.

Reports—

Gladstone Area Water Board, for the year 1975-76.

Brisbane Market Trust, for the year 1975-76.

a time at 2.15 p.m. When the interviewer duly arrived at my room he was accompanied not only by Dr. Preston, but also by a lady to whom I was not introduced. My puzzlement increased when suddenly there appeared at the door a camera team from Channel 0, who said they wanted to film the interview. The A.B.C. man properly demurred, saying that this was his interview, and I concurred in this, telling the TV team that if they cared to wait I would talk to them later about their requirements.

Dr. Preston, indicating the TV men, said, "I can explain this", but in fact no explanation was given. The door was then closed, and it was only at this stage that Dr. Preston informed me that the lady was a Sister Joy Madigan, and she was there to confront me to show she was not the Jan Madigan who was now a Mrs. Callinan. I readily acknowledge this error and apologise for it to Sister Madigan. Equally, it will be understood how easily confusion can occur with so long an arm of coincidence as two J. Madigans in this particular sphere. I should mention, by the way, that both Dr. Preston and Sister Madigan informed me that they were full-time professional promoters for A.W.D.

But this minor matter in no sense injures the points which I made last week about A.W.D., and I adhere fully to them. Certainly there can be no excuse for what appears to be an extraordinary attempt to set me up for an unexpected TV on-camera confrontation, without prior approach from the parties concerned. I should mention that the TV crew did not wait for the A.B.C. interview to conclude, but apparently left almost immediately, telling the messenger they were not interested if they could not film the interview with Sister Madigan.

Now, as these TV people were in the House without sanction from anyone responsibly connected with the House, and as they came without any prior consultation or permission for what I see as a snide purpose to film something that might prove embarrassing to a member, I suggest that the Australian Journalists' Association, which is so concerned when any suggestion is made of pressure or undue restraint flowing one way, might well look at the ethics of this instance that flows the other way. I should also mention that Dr. Preston had in his possession a galley proof of my statement on Wednesday to the House. We all know the legal situation with regard to galley proofs, which do not constitute copies of "Hansard". So it would be interesting to speculate which member of the Opposition, whose champion A.W.D. is, made the proof available to Dr. Preston.

The whole incident has bizarre and unfortunate aspects affecting not only myself but the whole House, and goes to demonstrate the virulence with which the radical Left protects its front-groups and endeavours to destroy the credibility of those who seek to expose them for what they really are.

Mr. DEAN: I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member for Toowong making another speech, or is he correcting a mistake that he made in a speech last week? I certainly object to his remarks this morning relative to the Council of Churches and Dr. Preston.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Toowong.

Mr. PORTER: I have concluded my statement, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. DUES OWING TO QUEENSLAND COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S STATE COUNCIL

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

(1) During 1975-76 and 1976-77, how many fishermen were threatened with prosecution over the non-payment of their dues to the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's State Council?

(2) What percentage of the total membership of registered fishermen does this represent?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The Queensland Commercial Fishermen's State Council, as an autonomous corporate body, has the authority to collect levies in accordance with regulations made. The council is not required to report to me the details of its administration. I am confident of its ability to handle its own affairs.

2. MARLBOROUGH-SARINA SECTION OF BRUCE HIGHWAY

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

(1) What are the short and long-term plans or proposals for the construction to national highway standards of the coastal section of the Bruce Highway between Marlborough and Sarina?

(2) When does the department expect to have this work completed?

(3) What sections will be completed in each financial year prior to the final completion date?

(4) What funds were made available from the Commonwealth for national highway construction in Queensland in each of the last three years?

(5) What percentages of these funds were allocated to the Marlborough-Sarina section?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) The short-term plans are to complete the coastal section between Marlborough and Sarina by 1980, and possibly before that date if there is an increase in national highway funding.

(3) The gap is being closed from both the north and south end, with first preference to bridging to provide reasonable wet-season immunity as an alternative to the inland route.

(4) 1974-75—\$17,520,000; 1975-76—\$22,100,000; 1976-77—\$26,600,000.

(5) 5 per cent, 5 per cent, 12 per cent. Surveys and planning were accelerated in 1974 to late 1975 so that the work-rate could double from 1976 onwards.

3. CARPENTARIA DOWNS STATION

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

(1) Is the Land Administration Commission planning to subdivide 182 square miles of property from the Carpentaria Downs station?

(2) Will the allocation of the areas divided be made by ballot and, if not, by what method?

(3) Are any special qualifications needed by those wishing to acquire this land and, if so, what are they?

(4) Is there a short list of people to acquire the subdivisions and did these people observe all regulations of the additional area review committee held on 30 September?

(5) Who are the members of the area review committee?

(6) What sizes are the proposed subdivision blocks and what is the total number?

(7) What land-use proposals were considered for the subdivision, apart from grazing?

Answers:—

(1) Approximately 456 square kilometres which was formerly part of Carpentaria Downs holding is being considered for subdivision into two areas for allocation to people with substandard blocks in the immediate locality.

(2) It is likely that the successful applicants will be determined by ballot. However, the recommendation of the committee handling the case has not yet reached me and that decision has not yet been made.

(3) No special qualifications are required by applicants. Applicants will be considered on the basis of need, merit and prospects.

(4) I am informed that the committee will recommend that eight applicants who are considered by the committee to be equal on the basis of need, merit and prospects, be admitted to ballot.

(5) The Committee of Review consists of a senior officer of my department nominated by me who is chairman of the committee; Mr. E. P. S. Roberts, who is currently President of the Australian Woolgrowers and Graziers' Council, who was formerly well known as president of the United Graziers' Association, and who is now also a member of the Rural Reconstruction Board; and Mr. W. E. K. Dalzell, who is the grain-growers' representative on the Rural Reconstruction Board and who has been responsible for the development of large-scale marketing facilities in the grain industry.

(6) The committee recommends that the area be subdivided into two blocks of approximately 228 square kilometres, each capable of carrying 1520 adult cattle.

(7) No land use other than grazing cattle was considered.

4. TRADE UNION TERMS FOR LUCINDA POINT BULK-SUGAR TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT

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

What are the implications of the publicly announced proposal by several trade union executives to meet with the successful tenderers for the Lucinda Point bulk-sugar terminal development contracts in order to negotiate the terms upon which members of those trade unions will be employed on the project?

Answer:—

I understand that the Townsville Trades and Labor Council has verbally requested an initial conference with Mr. L. Brown, Project Industrial Adviser for the Lucinda Point Development Project. Before commencement of any major construction job it is normal practice for discussions to take place between the principals of constructing authorities and officials of those trade unions whose members may be employed, to enable all parties to gain a proper appreciation of the extent, the duration, types of labour required and problems likely to be encountered on the project so as to facilitate forward planning for the smooth completion of the work.

5. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR STANTHORPE SHIRE COUNCIL IN MEATWORKS DISPUTE

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

(1) Further to his answer to a recent question dealing with the need for improved water facilities at Wallangarra, does he

agree with my attitude that the Stanthorpe Shire Council should receive the full backing of this Government in its attitude towards the current dispute with the meatworks?

(2) Is any suggestion emanating from people wishing to make political gain from the dispute a handicap to reaching a speedy solution of the problem?

Answers:—

(1) In conformity with its decentralisation policy the Government supports local authorities in providing adequate town water-supply schemes for their areas. To this end, the Government provides substantial subsidies towards the capital cost of new town water-supply schemes and augmentations of existing schemes.

I am fully aware of the water-supply position at Wallangarra and commend the honourable member for Carnarvon for the efforts he has made towards resolving problems that have arisen in relation to the supply of water to the Australian Meat Packing Company. I appreciate that the Stanthorpe Shire Council does not desire to commit the ratepayers of Wallangarra to very costly capital works to give an assured water supply to the meatworks unless the company is prepared to make an equitable capital contribution towards such costs or give a long-term guarantee to pay its fair share of annual costs. I understand the matter is to be further considered by the council.

(2) Suggestions by persons who have political motives in mind will hinder the solution of the problem, and I deprecate the actions of these persons.

6. LOCAL AUTHORITY EXPENDITURE WITHOUT TENDERS

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

What is the maximum amount which a local authority can spend on any one item or group of items, for example, the furnishing of an office, before the calling of tenders is required?

Answer:—

Section 19 of the Local Government Act 1936-1976 provides, inter alia, that except in a case of emergency, before a contract, other than a contract for the execution of any work or the furnishing of any goods or materials to the amount of \$6,000 or less, is entered into by a local authority it must three weeks at least before entering into the contract invite tenders for such contract by public notice published in a newspaper and in such other manner as will ensure that it receives the greatest number of tenders.

7. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HERVEY BAY AREA

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

(1) On whose advice was the site of the industrial estate at Hervey Bay chosen?

(2) How much pressure was brought to bear to have the estate sited at Urangan?

(3) Is he aware that whilst industrial development is advancing at Hervey Bay it is not being established on the industrial estate provided by this Government?

(4) Is he also aware that the Hervey Bay Shire Council is applying for variations to the town plan to allow for further industrial development in a residential area at Pialba?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The site for the Hervey Bay Industrial Estate was selected by the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development in consultation with the former Burrum Shire Council following an examination of available Crown land in the area. The land in question originally formed part of a gravel reserve held under the trusteeship of the council, which volunteered to relinquish approximately 27 hectares thereof for industrial estate purposes.

It is not and never has been the Government's desire to become the sole provider of land for industrial purposes in the State. We believe the private sector should be encouraged to play its part in helping to meet this important need. Particularly is this so in respect of service-type industry, as sites on the department's estates are allocated solely for the purposes of manufacturing industry, which of course in this connotation includes processing and assembly.

The department's policy is to develop industrial estates ahead of need—a policy which, if I may say so, is proving highly beneficial throughout the State. My officers are confident that in line with other local developments, the Hervey Bay Industrial Estate will in due course prove to be of great value to the district.

8. TAKE-AWAY LIQUOR SALES, GOLF AND BOWLS CLUBS

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

As it is now some time since the Government agreed to look at the question of golf and bowls clubs selling take-away liquor to their members, has it made a decision? If so, what is the decision and, if not, what is the cause of the delay?

Answer:—

Due note has been taken of the views expressed in numerous petitions submitted by members of golf and bowls

clubs. The views expressed in the petitions will be taken into consideration when the Liquor Act is next under general review.

9. CAR-PARKING AREAS AT MORNINGSIDE AND NORMAN PARK RAILWAY STATIONS

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

What is the latest position in regard to parking areas at the Morningside and Norman Park Railway Stations and when will they be completed?

Answer:—

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has prepared concept designs for parking areas at Norman Park and Morningside Railway Stations. The proposal for Morningside has been advanced to final design subject to resolution of a problem involving the entrance/exit on Wynnum Road.

Regrettably, however, the Commonwealth Government has not yet approved these and other sites submitted for funding under the States Grants (Urban Public Transport) Act 1974, with the result that the interchange car-park construction programme in general has had to be critically reviewed in terms of priorities. When more funds for such works become available, both Norman Park and Morningside will again be considered.

10. SECONDARY SCHOOL HIGH-TOP FOR CLERMONT

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

As he claimed in his answer to my question that Clermont may just miss qualifying for the new secondary school high-top because the enrolment numbers are just under 150 and as Clermont would qualify if it did not have to send a number of its students to boarding schools and hostels because the secondary facilities are not sufficient at present, will he reconsider this case?

Answer:—

Enrolments at Clermont are significantly below the qualifying enrolment of 150 students in grades 8, 9 and 10 required before the provision of senior classes can be considered. There would need to be a substantial rise in the number of students at Clermont Secondary Department before the establishment of senior classes could be reconsidered.

11. COURT-HOUSE FACILITIES FOR MORANBAH

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

Will he take urgent action to extend the Moranbah Police Station so that court-house facilities could be provided in this large town?

Answer:—

As indicated in the answers to questions by the honourable member on 14 October 1975 and 17 March 1976, this matter has been kept under consideration and it has now been decided that there is sufficient work to warrant the appointment of a full-time Public Service clerk of the court at Moranbah. A request has been made to the Public Service Board for the creation of the position of clerk of the court, Moranbah and for the provision of court-house facilities, and this request is receiving consideration.

12. EMERALD IRRIGATION

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

(1) What is happening about the eastern section of the Emerald irrigation scheme?

(2) Will the scheme have a good future with the opening up of more farms, which will mean more business and expansion for the Central Highlands?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Subject to adequate funds being available, it is anticipated that construction of works on the eastern bank of the Nogoa River will commence during 1977. A total of 41 farms have been opened to date on the left bank behind Emerald and the remaining four farms will be opened early in 1977. Because of the length of carrier channel to be completed on the right bank, opening of additional farms will not be possible for about two years and should then resume at a fairly steady rate.

13. RAILWAY DEPARTMENT SERVICES TO TOURISTS

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

(1) Does the Railway Department offer commission to travel agents for selling passenger travel on the Queensland Railways and, if so, what are the rates?

(2) Does the department offer any special discount scheme to businessmen who travel frequently to encourage them to use rail rather than other forms of transport and, if so, what are the concessions offered?

(3) Does the department offer a motor-rail service to encourage tourists to freight their cars with them for long journeys and, if so, between which stations?

(4) As all of these services are offered by other States to encourage people to use rail transport, when will similar services be introduced in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) Yes—7 per cent.

(2) No.

(3 and 4) No. The introduction of a businessmen's discount scheme or motor-rail services is not contemplated at present.

14. REMISSION OF CROWN LAND RENTALS TO PRIMARY PRODUCERS

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

With reference to the remission of Crown land rentals for primary producers in necessitous circumstances, what amounts were remitted for each of the last two years for (a) beef producers and (b) wool-growers?

Answer:—

Remissions of rent were granted in respect of grazing selections and pastoral holdings used substantially for beef production where rent had already been determined by the Land Court on the 1970 standard. This remission had the effect of bringing such rents back to the 1960 standard and applied for the years 1975 and 1976. The amount of cattle rents remitted for 1975 was \$82,897.27 and the amount for 1976 was \$82,802.82.

Assistance under the Wool Industry Assistance Scheme in respect of drought-stricken holdings was introduced in 1970 and the last rental remission was approved in 1973. However, valuations submitted to the Land Court in respect of further sheep rental reassessment periods as they fell due have had regard to the level of the sheep recommended remissions throughout the State and in effect the court continues to determine rentals in the sheep industry at reduced levels.

15. TEACHERS RECRUITED FROM OVERSEAS

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

(1) How many teachers recruited from overseas during the last five years failed to perform all or any period of service for which they were bonded?

(2) What amount in fares and other expenses provided by the department to bring the defaulting teachers to Queensland, is (a) still owing to the department and (b) has been repaid by the defaulting teachers in accordance with the terms of their contracts?

Answers:—

(1) Overseas teachers were recruited from overseas on a contractual basis during 1974 and 1975 with a very few recruited late in 1973 and in early 1976. 225 teachers have failed to complete all of the period of service required.

(2) (a) 109 overseas teachers who have broken their contracts still owe moneys to the Department of Education. An amount of \$41,595 is outstanding. (b) The total amount repaid by all overseas teachers who have broken contracts is still being calculated and the information will be provided as soon as it is available.

16. SAND-MINING ON MORETON ISLAND

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

(1) Is he aware that many thousands of Brisbane residents who signed protest petitions against sand-mining on Moreton Island are concerned at what appears to be a developing "David and Goliath" situation at the State Government inquiry into future land use of Moreton Island, where mining companies are alleged to be paying up to \$2,500 per day for top legal representation whilst those who want to save Moreton Island as a recreational area have been granted a total of \$300 by the Commonwealth Government for legal aid?

(2) As this obviously uneven representation will make it seem to the many who view the island as a haven that should not be mined that justice will not appear to be done, will his Government give consideration to providing legal assistance to resident groups, as well as the Conservation Council or the Save Moreton Island Committee, so that the report and findings will not be seen to have been influenced by weight of money and representation?

Answers:—

(1) The committee constituted to inquire into the future land use of Moreton Island is not conducting a trial where there are parties. Every opportunity has been taken to allow interested persons to make submissions to the committee. Senior counsel assisting the committee will ensure that all persons and organisations desirous of making submissions are given full opportunity to do so.

In respect of the Conservation Council, I am advised that the amount of legal aid granted by the Federal Government is \$3,000 and not \$300 as suggested. Furthermore, the council will in fact be represented by its counsel at that stage of proceedings which its legal advisers consider to be most appropriate.

(2) In view of the nature of the inquiry, and in accordance with the regular practice of the Government, it is not intended to grant legal assistance to any person or organisation. The fears of the honourable member are groundless and based on a misconception of the nature of the proceedings. He can be assured that the outcome will not be affected by the amount of money spent on legal representation.

17. STUDIES OF RIVER FERRY SERVICES

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

(1) What studies have been carried out on the need for cross-river and down-river ferry services?

(2) Have any decisions been made to extend river services for workers who wish to travel to their work on the river?

Answers:—

(1) Following very strong representations from the honourable member for Merthyr, who has a long and active interest in cross-river and down-river ferry services, the Metropolitan Transit Authority has commissioned and is funding a study by the Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Queensland on the potential use of the Brisbane River as a public transport system. The existing ferry systems have been thoroughly examined, and a major data gathering programme has been completed covering over 15,000 people in a detailed questionnaire survey. We now have good information on current operation of ferries, including the origins and destinations of current users.

(2) With the information available, the study has progressed to consideration of alternative and additional ferry services including up and down-river services, and any decisions regarding the expansion of services will be based upon the findings of the study, the completion of which is expected in the near future.

18. NERADA TEA ESTATES, INNISFAIL

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

Has he been approached for assistance by Nerada Tea Estates of Innisfail and can he do anything to encourage the development of a viable tea industry in North Queensland?

Answer:—

The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development has maintained contact with the Nerada tea project since its inception. Only recently on a trip to North Queensland, in company with the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy and the honourable member for Mourilyan, I took the opportunity of again visiting the estate and inspecting this unique decentralised venture, and I have been heartened by the solid progress since my former visit some years ago.

I am sure that the honourable member will agree with me on the excellence of the tea produced on the estate. This is, of course, confirmed not only by overseas experts who consider Nerada tea to

be of the highest quality but also by the widespread acceptance of the product by the national buying public.

The facilities of the department are at the disposal of the management at all times and the honourable member may be assured that we will be happy to render all practicable assistance in ensuring the viability of the project.

In particular, I draw attention to the generous incentives which are provided by the State Government to encourage the expansion and/or establishment of industry in Queensland. These favour decentralised projects. I would add I would be happy to consider the allocation of a site on the Innisfail industrial estate should additional land be required at any time to cater for the expansion of the tea-processing facilities.

I would mention we now have a Regional Industries Officer permanently stationed in North Queensland, and he is available to confer with the management at any time.

With a view to further publicising the venture we have also featured the Nerada tea project in the department's bi-monthly newspaper, "Industry".

19. PRE-SCHOOL FACILITIES, INNISFAIL AREA

Mrs. Kippin, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

As the pre-schools in Innisfail cannot accommodate the number of children from surrounding country districts who are eligible to attend pre-school, will he consider the establishment of pre-school facilities to cater for the rural children?

Answer:—

My department is most anxious to provide pre-school education for all children in their local areas and without the necessity of very young children having to travel long distances. Already pre-school children who live in areas served by very small class V and VI schools are served by the pre-school correspondence programme and by parent initiated SPAN play groups.

From the beginning of this year my department has introduced a pilot project to study ways of catering for young children who live in areas served by class IV schools. In 1977 this project is being extended and will include two schools in the Innisfail area. These are the schools at Moresby and Flying Fish Point. This provision is in addition to the pre-school centres already operating at Innisfail and Goondi.

Mr. Jensen: You will still lose the seat.

Mr. BIRD: Don't bet on that! If anybody likes to put up some money, I will be prepared to cover it.

20. RESOURCES OR REMEDIAL TEACHER
FOR INNISFAIL DISTRICT

Mrs. Kippin, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

As a recent survey of grades 6 and 7 students in the Innisfail district indicated that there are 69 children who are three to four years behind their class level in reading and mathematics, will he do all in his power to have a resources or a remedial teacher appointed to the district in the next school year?

Answer:—

A remedial teacher, to be located at the Innisfail State School, will be appointed to take up duty on 24 January 1977.

21. AID FOR RESTORATION OF ROADS
DAMAGED BY TIMBER HAULAGE

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

(1) Is he aware of the concern being expressed by the Kilkivan Council with regard to assistance in restoring council roads damaged by timber hauliers when bringing timber out of State forests?

(2) What subsidies or assistance is given by his department to local councils to recompense ratepayers for damage caused by timber haulage?

(3) Are the subsidies or assistance grants subject to negotiation or is the decision made without the right of appeal being given to the councils?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. I wrote a letter to the Premier on 3 September 1976 concerning this matter and a meeting was subsequently arranged between the Premier and representatives from Kilkivan Shire Council on 23 September 1976.

(2) The total subsidies paid to all shire councils in Queensland by my Department of Forestry have been as follows:—

1972-73	\$44,000
1973-74	\$59,000
1974-75	\$104,000
1975-76	\$95,000
1976-77	\$120,000 estimated

Last year (1975-76) a total of 54 shire councils received subsidy payments.

Previous payments to the Kilkivan shire have been:—

1972-73	\$3,200
1973-74	\$6,900
1974-75	\$17,300
1975-76	\$5,500
1976-77	estimated in excess of \$9,600.

(3) Subsidies are normally discussed with shire council representatives before they are offered, and it is understood this has been the practice with the Kilkivan Shire. If the initial subsidy offered to the council is considered inadequate, any further representations are always reconsidered.

I might mention that, in addition to subsidy provision, the Department of Forestry makes allowance for the payment of road maintenance contribution by hauliers in the case of all Crown log timber sold. A proportion of this money is understood to be channelled back to shire councils by the Main Roads Department.

22. TOWN PLAN RESTRICTIONS ON
RIVER-SIDE BUILDING, BRISBANE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to Part VIII River Frontage of the Schedule to the Order in Council under the City of Brisbane Modified Town Plan, wherein the use or development of land within 30 metres of the Brisbane River is prohibited?

(2) As these prohibitions include the erection of any building, the parking of any vehicle or the placing of any goods, has this action been taken by the Brisbane City Council in consultation with his Marine Services Department and how will these requirements affect the sheds and wharfage and other existing structures which are at present within the 30 metre limit?

(3) Will this plan affect the rebuilding of the fire-damaged shed at the McDonald Hamilton wharf?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The honourable member should refer his questions to my colleague the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

23. RENTAL OF RAILWAY HOUSES,
HUGHENDEN

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

(1) Will the rental of railway houses in Hughenden be \$45 per week?

(2) Does he realise that a cost-of-living study indicated that the Consumer Price Index was 20 per cent greater in Hughenden than in Brisbane?

(3) Will his department look at a union submission to cut the initial rental charged on these railway houses and include in this agreement an indexation clause so that the rent could be automatically raised in accordance with the employee's ability to pay, particularly in the light of the fact that existing railway

houses are charged out now at an unusually low rental of in some cases \$7 per week, whereas when the houses were first built 30-odd years ago this £3 per week rental was ridiculously high?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) A review is at present being undertaken of rentals applied to departmental residences generally, and an early announcement of the outcome will be made.

24. ABSENTEE LANDLORDS, FLINDERS RIVER BASIN; MR. MARA

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

(1) Will he assure the House that the Government will not swerve from its unbending opposition to absentee-landlordism and any watering down of the owner-occupied tenure covering most land in the Flinders River basin?

(2) Will he specifically assure the House that the Brazilian, Mr. Mara, will be allowed to take up land in the Flinders basin area from which absentee landlords are now precluded only if he proceeds with plans for a meatworks in North-west Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The bulk of leases in the Flinders River basin area are held under grazing selection tenure and are subject to the statutory condition of either occupation or personal residence. There is no intention of relaxing these statutory conditions.

25. TARIFF RECOMMENDATIONS OF INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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

(1) In view of the drastic consequences for many domestic manufacturing industries of lowered tariffs and the evident trend of Industries Assistance Commission recommendations towards reductions in levels of protection, will he investigate the effects on Queensland manufacturers and negotiate with the relevant Commonwealth authorities to secure relief and continued viability for those industries and firms acutely threatened by this situation?

(2) As there are persistent signs of dumping of manufactured goods by Japanese, South-east Asian and European suppliers, will he check with his Commonwealth counterpart the efficacy of prevailing commercial domestic values for these countries, so as to ensure that local producers may take effective anti-dumping action against offending importers?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) All honourable members are of course aware of the disastrous effect that the policies of the previous Labor administration had on manufacturing industry, not only in Queensland but throughout Australia. I mention textiles, footwear and furniture to name but a few. These industries continue to feel the effects of those earlier policies.

The honourable member may be assured that by both written submission and personal contact with the appropriate Federal Ministers, I have emphasised the need to provide adequate protection for local industry. In particular, I have alerted the Commonwealth to the possibility of goods being landed in Australia at "dumped" prices to the detriment of local manufacturers. I shall of course continue to do all within my power to protect the interests of Queensland's manufacturing industry against any form of discrimination or unfair competition.

26. PRICES OF AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS

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

(1) Is he aware of an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 21 October detailing serious discrepancies between manufacturers' recommended prices and actual retail prices for a wide range of automotive spare parts, as revealed from a survey undertaken in Victoria by the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria?

(2) Will he investigate the possible relevance of the comparative data to Queensland and, if justified, take all possible steps to secure a fair pricing structure for Queensland motorists?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) I will ask the Consumer Affairs Council to investigate this matter and furnish a report to me.

27. UNIFORMITY IN INSURANCE PROPOSALS

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

(1) In view of the plethora of new deals being offered for all forms of insurance and the widely varying terms and premiums applicable, will he investigate the situation and consider the possible publication of impartial, comparative information that would assist thousands of laymen in making their insurance decisions?

(2) Will he inform the public of the basic ramifications of replacement-type insurances and of the pitfalls that confront the average citizen as a result of recent and continuing high rates of inflation?

Answers:—

(1) No. Anybody who requires impartial advice about the insurance best suited to his needs should consult an insurance broker.

(2) It is a matter of individual choice whether a property owner effects indemnity insurance that covers the market value of his property after allowing for depreciation or replacement insurance that aims at providing the cost of a new property. Whatever basis is selected, the prudent owner will regularly review his sum insured and arrange for it to be varied from time to time in the light of changing property values and currency inflation.

28. COMPULSORY THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE PREMIUMS

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

(1) Has the Government received submissions from the State Government Insurance Office and the Insurance Commissioner for increases in compulsory third-party insurance premiums for cars and motor-cycles?

(2) If so, when are these increases likely to take place and how much will they be?

(3) How many increases have been made in third-party insurance since it was made compulsory?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) No.

(3) It would be a complex task to enumerate all the changes that have occurred since compulsory third-party insurance was introduced in 1936, especially as many reclassifications of types of vehicles have occurred. Since 1961, the annual premium for ordinary motor-cars has increased from \$18.00 to \$20.00 in 1967, \$26.50 in 1968 and \$40.00 in 1974. There have been no further increases to date.

29. REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF PETROL SERVICE STATIONS

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. Armstrong**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

Has the State or Commonwealth Government requested oil companies to reduce the number of service stations selling petrol in Queensland and, if so, when was the request made and to which companies?

Answer:—

At present discussions are being held with industry organisations about a number of matters including that of a rationalisation of service stations. Whether or not the Federal Government has requested oil companies to reduce the number of service stations is not known to me.

30. STATUS OF BABINDA STATE SCHOOL

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

Has he or his department given any further consideration to raising the Babinda State School to full high-school status and, if not, will he have the matter further investigated?

Answer:—

Predictions of enrolments at Babinda Secondary Department for the years 1977-81 are 175, 160, 155, 145, 145. The school is within daily travelling distance of Innisfail State High School, so would not qualify for senior classes under the terms of the recent Cabinet decision. Enrolment in grades 8, 9 and 10 must reach 200 before schools in a situation such as Babinda would be considered eligible for senior classes and eventually for full high school status.

31. RELIEF FUNDS FOR HAILSTORM VICTIMS, TOOWOOMBA

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

Has he had any reply to his latest submission to the Prime Minister regarding disaster relief funds for victims of the hailstorm disaster in Toowoomba on 10 January?

Answer:—

No, but I am looking forward to hearing from the Prime Minister in view of the statement he made at Toowoomba at the time of the Liberal Party Convention.

32. POLICE PROTECTION FOR KARALEE

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

(1) Is he familiar with a problem existing in Karalee, near Ipswich, concerning police protection for that area?

(2) Is this area serviced by one policeman from Marburg, which is situated some miles away?

(3) Will he have this situation rectified?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes. Representations have been made to me for a resident police officer at Karalee. Arrangements are being made to incorporate the area with the Ipswich Police Division and it will then receive adequate coverage from Ipswich and North Ipswich Police Stations.

33. STOCKING OF WIVENHOE DAM WITH FISH

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

As it is the recommendation of his department not to have fish-ladders erected on Wivenhoe Dam, what steps will be taken to stock the dam with fish?

Answer:—

Engineering advice indicates it is not practicable to incorporate a fish lift in the construction of the Wivenhoe Dam to provide passage for fish, principally mullet. The stocking of this and other water impoundments with suitable edible game fish is currently being studied. I am confident that an economic and practicable solution will be forthcoming when steps can be taken to provide basic fish stock for impoundments.

34. RESIDENTIAL LAND PRICES, BRISBANE

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

(1) Will he list monthly the number of allotments sold in the Brisbane metropolitan area for residential use since January 1975?

(2) What was the average price and size of the blocks?

(3) What is the average price of a block of land for home-building purposes at the present time in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide?

(4) Does the Government plan any initiatives to bring about a reduction in land prices and, if so, what are the methods proposed?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) There is no recorded data of this nature available to answer the involved statistical parts of the honourable member's question and any research undertaken would more than tax the resources of the department.

(4) The proposed joint scheme between the Commonwealth and State Governments designed to provide residential land at reasonable prices has not yet come to fruition. Owing mainly to the past attitudes of the Whitlam Government, Queensland has been disadvantaged by the lack of Commonwealth money compared with other States who have shared in Commonwealth funding of urbanisation schemes. However, overtures are still being made to the Commonwealth with a view to having the position rectified.

35. AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN

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

(1) What steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that the A.A.P. officers, who are engaged in community development and who are the only social welfare personnel in many country towns throughout this State, will continue to be employed after June 1977?

(2) Did the Prime Minister write to the State Government offering Commonwealth moneys, not a s.96 grant, to ensure the continued running of the A.A.P. programme in Queensland and, if so, what was the Government's response to this offer?

Answers:—

(1) The honourable member no doubt is well aware of the fact that the responsible attitude which our Government adopted, from the very start, towards the A.A.P. has been completely justified in the face of events in the past two years.

We investigated the implications of the scheme very thoroughly and our initial reservations have since been proved to be correct. Advice was sought from the Federal Government as to its intentions in relation to the continuation of funding of A.A.P.

As the honourable member would know, the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security, Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, released a statement earlier this year indicating that the Commonwealth had agreed to the extension of the funding of the scheme to the regional councils up to a maximum of 12 months from 1 July, 1976.

As to the question of funding beyond that date, the Commonwealth has made it known that it believed that the programme, if adopted by the States, should be funded from within the grants made available to the States and local authorities under the new federalism policy. In giving consideration to this matter, the Queensland Government is fully conscious of the high proportion of administrative costs which existed in relation to the distribution of grants made under the A.A.P. and would need to be satisfied that continuation of such a programme on the previous basis would not be an inefficient use of public funds. At present it is far from satisfied in this respect.

As to the contention in the honourable member's question that CDO officers are the only social welfare personnel in many country towns, I should point to him that the definition of social welfare personnel as welfare service personnel is not the definition operative under the A.A.P. The continued use of CDOs, while legitimate in the formation of self-help groups, does not provide access for Queenslanders to social welfare services.

(2) No.

36. EROSION AT LABRADOR; PARADISE
POINT FLOOD-MITIGATION
SCHEME

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

(1) Is he aware that the mouth of the Nerang River has moved north and that at present it is opposite Labrador?

(2) Is he aware that the position of this outlet is having some effect on the salt-water flooding and storm surge on the esplanade at Labrador between the Lands End bridge and the Gold Coast highway?

(3) Is it possible for the Gold Coast City Council to use loan money from the Beach Erosion Control Loan 75051 for flood-mitigation works related to the Brisbane road to Paradise Point flood-mitigation scheme, which includes urgent works to minimise salt-water flooding?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) I understand that the esplanade is affected by storm surge in the Broadwater but that this is related to the level of the water, and the location of the river mouth has little effect on the problem.

(3) No. The loan funds for the beach erosion control works were approved by the Australian Loan Council, as a special allocation for such purpose, not to be transferred to any other project. The proposed work at Labrador is outside the area of the Beach Protection Authority.

To finance such work, the council might give consideration to making application to the Treasury to utilise the tentative debenture loan of \$400,000 included in its current year's approved loan programme for flood mitigation works 1976-77. Alternatively, other approved funds might be re-allocated.

37. CHIROPODY

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

(1) Is there a shortage of qualified chiropodists registered in Queensland?

(2) What has caused the delay in commencing the chiropody school?

(3) In view of the increasing need for qualified people in this area of medical practice, does a case exist for allowing qualified nurses to sit for an examination to qualify for a chiropody certificate?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that there are 118 registered chiropodists in Queensland and that this number is inadequate for the chiropody needs of the State. I am also advised that the majority of registered chiropodists are in the middle or older age range.

(2) The Queensland Institute of Technology has been offering a diploma course in chiropody since the beginning of 1975 but there have not been sufficient applicants with the requisite enrolment requirements for the course to commence. It is hoped that there will be sufficient numbers to commence the course in 1977.

(3) The Chiropodists Act 1969-1975 requires that a person be the holder of a degree, diploma or certificate in chiropody from a recognised institution.

38. REMOTE-AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

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

(1) Were all Senior remote-area scholarships allocated for this year and, if not, how many were not allocated?

(2) Will he give consideration to raising the means test applying to the scholarships, on a sliding scale, so as to more favourably cater for parents who may have to send more than one child away to school at the same time?

(3) What steps are being taken to ensure that parents of remote-area students are fully acquainted with all forms of available assistance for which they may apply?

Answers:—

(1) Of the 500 senior remote-area scholarships available in 1976, 433 have been awarded to date. The remaining 67 scholarships are still available to eligible applicants and are payable on a retrospective basis.

(2) The present means test gives favourable consideration to families with more than one child attending school at grade 11 and 12 levels. A deduction of \$500 is made for each of these children before eligibility is determined. The possibility of applying this deduction for children in other grades in 1977 is being considered at the present time.

(3) For a number of years my department has published a comprehensive information booklet titled "Financial Assistance to Parents of Students in Queensland Schools and to The Schools From The State Government." This publication lists all forms of financial assistance to parents including those available to parents in remote areas. The publication also includes details of Commonwealth allowances.

From time to time parents are advised of the availability of this publication in articles on educational services placed in country, provincial and city newspapers. Copies are also sent to parents and citizens' organisations.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise honourable members that investigations are in progress to determine ways of providing a wider Press coverage for student allowances and scholarships.

39. CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS REQUIRED TO REPEAT GRADES

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

As students doing a correspondence course in approved subjects for grades 11 and 12 have to repeat those grades if they are later able to attend a normal school, what are the reasons for the Board of Secondary School Studies not recognising the achievements of such students?

Answer:—

It is not expected that a student who has undertaken a correspondence course in approved subjects in grades 11 and 12 repeat those grades when later he is able to attend a normal school.

As a general rule, a student who undertakes grades 11 and 12 studies by correspondence receives a certificate of achievement based on the Senior examination. It is not feasible to base assessment of achievement, for the purpose of the Senior Certificate, on work which has been done as part of a correspondence course and which therefore has been done without any direct supervision.

However, if a student completes a grade 11 course by correspondence and then attends a normal school for grade 12, he does not have to repeat grade 11, but may be assessed on his work in grade 12. In such circumstances the principal of the school which he attends will advise the student on the appropriate course of action.

Any special case may be referred to the Board of Secondary School Studies for special consideration.

40. KEL-MAR IMPORTS

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

(1) Is he aware of a company trading under the name of Kel-Mar Imports, which has defrauded Queenslanders of thousands of dollars through the sale of fish lures?

(2) What action has he taken to apprehend the people involved?

(3) Since it is quite common for white-collar criminals to make hit-and-run raids on Queensland, what action will he take to monitor and control such activities before the public are again fleeced?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) Complaints received are presently under investigation by the Police Department. Should evidence be obtained of the commission of offences, appropriate action will be taken.

(3) In the absence of information of the commission of alleged offences, police have no basis on which to initiate investigations. The public are warned to examine closely all potential transactions involving the purchase of goods and services below what could be considered a fair price.

41. PRICES OF AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS

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

(1) With reference to the article on the front page of "The Courier-Mail" of 21 October headlined "Car Parts Rip-off", will he obtain a copy of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria's report, which says that nearly every dealer was overcharging heavily for spare parts, and make it available to interested members of the Queensland public so that they can study its findings?

(2) Has any investigation been carried out in Queensland into the price of spare parts and, if so, was there any evidence of overcharging?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I refer the honourable member to my answer earlier today to question No. 26 asked by the honourable member for Kurilpa.

42. GOODS LABELLED QUEENSLAND-MADE

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

(1) As he has called for the use of Queensland-made labels and indicated that the label was synonymous with quality, design and craftsmanship, is there any requirement on retail or wholesale outlets to make sure that the use of the label is confined to bona fide Queensland-made products?

(2) If a business displays such labels on products that are not Queensland-made, has his department any power to deal with the business and, if so, what action can be taken?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The department sponsors the "Buy Queensland Made" campaign with the object of encouraging support for local industry. To assist the promotion, point-of-sale material is supplied, free of charge, to Queensland manufacturers.

Before issuing any decals, tie-on tags, etc., the department makes appropriate inquiries to ensure as far as practicable that the items to which the symbols are to be attached are in fact produced in this State.

As the honourable member will appreciate, the department makes this promotional material available to the manufacturer in good faith, on the understanding that it will be attached only to articles that are manufactured locally. We have no reason to believe that this trust is not being honoured. If it did come to the department's notice that the labels were being misused, action would be taken immediately to withdraw supplies from the manufacturer concerned.

It is likely also that the matter would be referred to the Crown Law Office for advice as to any legal action that might be instituted.

43. CONDITIONS AT MARK-IT FOODS
WAREHOUSE, GEEBUNG

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

(1) Has he been informed of the segment on the Channel 7 news broadcast on 15 October at approximately 6.10 p.m. concerning filth and thawed food at a Mark-It Foods warehouse at Geebung?

(2) Did his health inspectors who visited Mark-It Foods on 14 October find a freezer unit operating with two inches of frost on its sides and containing thawed pizzas and meat-balls?

(3) If this freezer was still covered with two inches of hard frost, would he regard it as still operating?

(4) Was the owner of Mark-It Foods, who claimed to Channel 7 newsmen that the goods thawed when a freezer broke down, as broadcast on 15 October, in fact telling a deliberate untruth?

(5) Did his inspectors find that the thawed food had been transferred from another broken-down freezer to a working freezer in the hope that unsuspecting customers would buy these spoiled foods, indicating that the proprietor was not only a liar but a scoundrel?

(6) What was the state of cleanliness at Mark-It Foods on 14 October and any later date?

(7) How does he regard the party-line attacks by Vilma Ward and Haydn Sargeant in defining this contempt for the consumer?

Answers:—

(1) I have been advised that a segment of the Channel 7 news broadcast related to this particular subject but I am not aware of the details.

(2) Yes.

(3) The freezer was not operating efficiently.

(4) I have already advised the honourable member that I am unaware of the details of the news segment.

(5) No.

(6) The visit on 14 October 1976 was made for the purpose of examining freezer foods. An inspection in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council Health Surveyor on 18 October 1976 revealed that the state of cleanliness was unsatisfactory.

(7) I am unaware of the details of the comments of the two persons mentioned.

44. "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the recent report of the Literature Board of Review, which notes that "Playboy" magazine has been the subject of a prohibition order since 25 June 1963?

(2) As there are far more salacious and objectionable publications freely available on news stands and as many serious articles and interviews published in the magazine are of high quality and merit and of considerable interest to many responsible people genuinely interested in the American political and social scene, will he ask the Literature Board of Review to re-examine the content of the magazine and reconsider the need for the blanket prohibition order?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. The report is submitted to me by the board.

(2) The Literature Board of Review is a statutory body and as such is not subject to my direction. The board has power to revoke an order made prohibiting the distribution in Queensland of any literature if it is satisfied that the literature has been reconstructed so as to be no longer objectionable or, in the case of a writing published periodically, accepts an undertaking by the publisher to eliminate from it in future all parts of it which, in the opinion of the board, are objectionable.

If the publishers of "Playboy" want the order revoked, the obvious course to follow is to interview the board, ascertain the view of the board in regard to the elimination of objectionable material, and give an undertaking to eliminate those parts from future publications.

45. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF
HARBOURS AND MARINE TO PORT OF BRISBANE
AUTHORITY

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

In view of the proposed appointment of the Director of the Department of Harbours and Marine as one of the seven commissioners of the proposed Port of Brisbane Authority, will there be any conflict of interest in the director's position, as harbour boards throughout Queensland compete for trade and the director is the communication link between the Minister and harbour boards?

Answer:—

I would remind the honourable member of three things. First, a Bill to set up a Port of Brisbane Authority of nine members with the Director of the Department of Harbours and Marine as an ex officio member has been passed by this House after lengthy debate, which included no reference by the honourable member or any other member to any concern as to the director's impartiality. Second, the director has been the chief executive of the Harbours Corporation since his appointment as director in 1961. The Harbours Corporation is the authority which until now has controlled the port of Brisbane as well as many other Queensland ports, including Weipa, Hay Point and Mourilyan. Third, during that period major development has been approved by Cabinet on the advice of his department for almost every port in Queensland. The conflict of interest suggested by the honourable member has never emerged during the 15 years the director has been the chief executive of the Port of Brisbane Harbours Corporation and could not be expected to exist where he has the lesser responsibility as one of the port authority of nine members.

46. RE-ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS OF DIRECT MILK SUPPLIERS

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

(1) When direct-milk suppliers leave the industry, what action is taken as far as the re-allocation of their quotas is concerned?

(2) How many quotas have been surrendered and re-allocated in each of the past three years?

(3) What is the largest single quota granted to a dairy farmer or farm and what is the smallest?

Answers:—

(1) Re-allocation is reviewed by the Quota Advisory Committee which makes recommendations to the Milk Board.

(2) Quotas outside the Brisbane milk district are determined by individual factories for their own suppliers, and this information is not collated. Within the Brisbane milk district the numbers were: 18 in 1974, 2 in 1975 and 8 in 1976.

(3) Again, this is not known, because quotas outside the Brisbane milk district are determined by individual factories for their own suppliers.

47. SALE OF MODIFIED MILK

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

(1) What regulations or laws apply to the sale of modified milk?

(2) Is it true that milk paid for at manufacturing prices can be used to produce flavoured milk products, which are sold at a price that undercuts locally produced flavoured milk made from milk paid for at whole-milk prices?

Answers:—

(1) The provisions of the Health Act 1937-1976 and the Dairy Produce Act 1920-1974 and regulations made under the provisions of those two Acts apply to the sale in Queensland of all milk, including modified milk.

Also the provisions of the Milk Supply Act 1952-1974 and regulations thereunder apply to the sale of milk as defined in that Act, as hereunder:

"Milk"—Includes whole milk and milk in any standardised or other prescribed form: the term does not include, however, milk used for the manufacture of butter, cheese, condensed milk, dried milk, concentrated milk, evaporated milk or ice-cream.

(2) Yes, under the present pricing arrangements this can occur. However, it should be remembered that flavoured milk drinks have to be competitive with other flavoured drinks sold to the public.

48. ALLOCATION OF COMMONWEALTH FUNDS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

(1) What formula was used for the distribution of the \$24,200,000 Commonwealth Government funds to Queensland local authorities?

(2) What weighting was given to each of the factors involved in the formula?

(3) Who is on the committee appointed for this purpose, as referred to in the Treasurer's Financial Statement?

(4) Why was the 30 per cent to be distributed on a per-capita basis not distributed in that manner between regions?

(5) If the lesser populated regions could prove greater need, why did the committee not assist them further from the 70 per cent to be distributed on a "needs" basis, rather than tamper with the per-capita entitlement of the more populous regions?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) The honourable member will find the answers to these portions of his question in the answers given by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads and the Treasurer to questions asked by the honourable member for Landsborough and the honourable member for Hinchinbrook on 29 September.

(4 and 5) There was no requirement that 30 per cent of the available funds be distributed on a pure per-capita basis as

assumed by the honourable member. The Commonwealth Government, which stipulated that the grant was to be divided into two elements, indicated that it would be satisfied with a distribution of the 30 per cent element A on a basis which introduced a weighting for area as well as population. It was considered that such a basis would be more appropriate to assist those local authorities with small populations but large areas. The fact that these authorities received higher per-capita amounts in element A meant that they needed a smaller share of the distribution of the 70 per cent element than would otherwise have been the case. If the honourable member wishes to advise the point of his question, the Treasurer may be able to inform him more fully.

49. POLICE RAID ON CEDAR BAY
COMMUNE

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

(1) Does he still stand by the statements he made in this House on 8 September that the people in the northern end of Cedar Bay were living in complete squalor, that they were on a State timber reserve and not on a perpetual miners' lease, that the raid on Cedar Bay was intended to capture an escapee from the Cairns watch-house and that a shot-gun was discharged in a struggle with police?

(2) As he gave his full support to the police involved in the raid, does he still accept responsibility for their actions?

(3) Does he still stand by his claim of 14 September that residents of Cedar Bay had manufactured evidence in an attempt to slander the police?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) As the honourable member's question refers to a number of matters which are shortly to come before the court, I am unable to make any comment at this stage.

50. FLASHING-LIGHT SIGNALS FOR LEVEL
CROSSINGS ON BRUCE HIGHWAY NEAR
CARDWELL RANGE

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

(1) When will flashing-light signalling be installed at the two rail level crossings on the Bruce Highway just north of the Cardwell Range?

(2) In view of the many near misses and the recent incident when the "Sunlander" collided with a semi-trailer loaded with empty banana cartons, causing the diesel locomotive and four air-conditioned carriages to become derailed, what was the cost of (a) damage to the "Sunlander" and (b) re-railing the locomotive and coaches?

Answers:—

(1) Following very strong representations made by Mr. E. C. Row, M.L.A., the member representing the area, the Main Roads Department has agreed to meet the cost of the installation of flashing lights at these crossings and orders have been placed for the supply from overseas sources of the necessary equipment. As soon as the material is to hand, the carrying out of the work will be programmed.

(2) The detailed information sought is not yet available.

51. REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES,
CAIRNS

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

(1) Further to his answer to my question on 14 October concerning registration of motor vehicles at Cairns, has the concession rate as applied to age pensioners as from 24 September been altered and, if so, in what manner?

(2) Does a standard concession rate now apply to T.P.I. repatriation pensioners and, if so, is an extra \$10 fee applicable which did not apply previously?

(3) As there appears to be some degree of growing confusion in the public mind since changes were implemented in March, particularly in respect of motor vehicle registration and driving-licence fees, and as it seems that the changes were not widely advertised, will he undertake, as a matter of public education, to disseminate information on the new procedures, costs and fees now involved in renewal of car registration?

Answers:—

(1) As from 24 September 1976 all concessions with the exception of those granted to charitable organisations were altered to a flat rate of \$10 motor vehicle fee. Charitable organisations continue to be free.

(2) T.P.I. repatriation pensioners now pay \$10. Previously they did not have to pay motor vehicle fees.

(3) Motor vehicle fees were amended from 24 September 1976 and reference to alteration in driving fees comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Honourable K. Hooper, Minister for Transport. Fees payable for renewals of registration are clearly shown on the notice to renew and, where a concession applies, the amount of reduction is printed on the face of the certificate. If payments were made in accordance with the total fees shown, there would be no confusion.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

PHANTOM VOTERS ON ELECTORAL ROLLS

Mr. DOUMANY: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: In view of the disturbingly high incidence of missing voters from addresses shown on the State electoral roll, as revealed by the recent check carried out by the Minister's department, will he investigate the situation closely to determine the extent of deliberate phantom voter enrolments by A.L.P. sources, particularly in inner suburban electorates? Will he ensure that those responsible for such culpable distortion of the electorate are dealt with as severely as the law will allow as dissuasion to others contemplating similar subterfuge against the public interest?

Mr. LICKISS: I know of no phantom voters on the electoral roll. If the honourable member would care to put his question on notice, I shall give him a more complete answer tomorrow.

Mr. DOUMANY: I place it on notice.

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—
THIRD AND FOURTH ALLOTTED DAYS

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1976-77

ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT
AND FISHERIESDEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AND
ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (12.1 p.m.): I move—

“That \$14,104,695 be granted for ‘Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement’.”

On many occasions we have heard charges of “racist” and “repressive” used against the Acts administered in Queensland by my Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. The charges are made by individuals or groups who have ulterior and, more likely than not, political motives. The evidence is deliberate deceit, half-truth or rumour. But this Government, in its defence, can stand on its record of performance and achievement, which has been attuned to the Aboriginal situation in this State for almost 100 years.

The Acts refer only to the residents of Crown land set aside for their use and benefit, or those who choose to be included. This represents more than half of the

Aboriginal and Islander population of Queensland. Those who want the benefits of the Act do so by their own choice.

For those who are only too willing to shout “repressive”, let me spell out the position clearly.

- * The Acts were drafted in consultation with elected representatives of the people to whom they apply.
- * They can be amended or repealed at any time when recommended by the advisory councils.
- * And they place no compulsion on any person, as residents are free to leave reserve land at any time and departmental services are rendered only on request.

To its credit, Queensland is—

- * the only State with Aboriginal representatives elected to both State and Federal Parliament;
- * the only State to have elected local Aboriginal councils on communities;
- * the only State to have a democratically elected council to advise the Government of needs of Aboriginal people;
- * the first State to have Aboriginal university graduates;
- * the first State to have Aborigines working to preserve their material culture under the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1967-1976, ideas from which have been adopted since by Western Australia and Canada; and
- * a leader in bilingual education, a programme started more than 30 years ago in the Torres Strait and developed throughout the State to include indigenous pre-school and primary school teachers and indigenous teacher aides.

The present Acts under which the Department functions are the Aborigines Act 1971-1975, the Torres Strait Islanders Act 1971-1975, and the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1967-1976.

Efforts and expenditure of the Department are guided by the Government's policy—integration of all Australians into one homogeneous social unit. By integration we mean living side by side, accepting each other's ways while retaining our own identity. Government policy steers away from assimilation, which indicates that one group must sacrifice their ways and their beliefs to become a part of the community. In reality, the opposite is true. The Australians of European descent have much to learn from the ways and culture of the first Australians.

To help in this process of integration, the Government has set aside more than 3,000,000 hectares of land for the use and benefit of Aborigines and Islanders. The purpose of these reserves, which I must stress are only temporary, is to give the Aboriginal people the opportunity of enjoying a “traditional” life-style with the benefits of the 20th

Century, including education, health, housing, water and sewerage, electricity, and so on. The purpose is to provide an area for a transition period during which the Aboriginal people will be able to integrate at their own natural pace.

On the other hand, if they do not wish to integrate, that is their right; and they are free to remain in the reserve areas. The reserves are similar to any country town, with a local elected council to maintain by-laws and local Aboriginal police to maintain law and order. Aboriginal people living on the reserves have the benefits of housing, health services and education facilities which give their children the opportunity to obtain self-satisfying employment in the future and, as a result, independence and pride in their own achievements.

To help integration, the Government has a social welfare programme which provides some assistance. For example, it maintains houses throughout towns and cities in the State, which can be rented by the Aboriginal people wanting to share in the average Australian way of life. Rental is based on family income. Further assistance is available in budgeting, home care, health and education. The Government goes out of its way to ensure that this assistance is not misinterpreted as a free hand-out where the people are able to obtain something for nothing—a reward for showing no personal effort.

In Queensland the Aboriginal social welfare dollar has been well spent, and spent by the Government to more advantage than by any other organisation or Government agency in this State, or in any other, as I am sure will be proven when findings of the Hay Report are made known.

Of a total budget last year of \$27,000,000, less than \$50,000 was spent in direct personal aid. In other words, less than \$50,000 was spent in a way which could be construed as a hand-out. The bulk of that \$50,000 was not in cash, but in the form of travel costs to assist in finding employment in distant areas, or on food and other necessities to deserted wives or unmarried mothers. The bulk of the Queensland Aboriginal budget was spent in providing houses, health and education facilities, community centres such as libraries and sporting fields, employment, and development plant and equipment.

Since the Estimates of the department were last debated in 1973-74, expenditure has increased by 83 per cent, reflecting the Government's continuing and developing commitment to this area of social growth in the State. The Government sees spending in Aboriginal areas as an investment in the social future of the State and, as a result, as money well spent.

Since the Commonwealth Government became actively involved in Aboriginal welfare programmes in 1968, grants approximating \$49,000,000 have been spent throughout the State, mainly on capital development works in

the fields of housing (\$24,400,000), health (\$9,700,000), education (\$6,500,000), employment and recreation facilities (\$2,900,000) and town management and public utilities (\$4,800,000).

Radical changes in policy implemented by the Commonwealth Government in recent years seem likely to extinguish completely or, at least, drastically reduce the levels of Commonwealth financial aid to Queensland for matters associated with Aboriginal welfare. This has developed from a doctrine of exclusive rights by the Commonwealth to supervise and dominate Aboriginal affairs throughout Australia, which was generated and fertilised during the Whitlam Labor Government's administration and produced a philosophy of isolating, bypassing and ignoring my department. A more co-operative and decentralised attitude was hoped for from the present Commonwealth Government following its success in December 1975, but unfortunately this has not become evident and indeed a continuation of the philosophies to which I have referred, conceived by the previous Federal Government, seems likely to continue.

In 1975-76, in response to a request by Queensland for a total of \$26,500,000, an amount of \$11,000,000 was granted. This year, 1976-77, a request for a total exceeding \$30,000,000 has been met with an allocation of just under \$7,000,000 whilst further millions are diverted under Commonwealth policy to various organisations, many of which have been unable to exercise the degrees of economic management necessary to ensure maximum benefit from the funds provided.

The stark reality of the cut-back can be seen in the Aboriginal rehousing programme. Since my department's housing programme began eight years ago, 1,516 homes have been bought or built to rehouse more than 10,000 Aborigines and Islanders. While the State contributes to housing costs, it depends heavily on Canberra. Allocations from Canberra gradually built up from \$500,000 in 1968, when we purchased or erected 52 homes, to a peak in 1973 when, with \$7,000,000, the State provided 400 homes.

The cut-back began in the dark days of Whitlam, a trend which has not been reversed, and today, only three short years away, we find ourselves with an allocation of less than \$1,000,000 which will not even complete the homes we presently have under construction. In other words, this State housing programme for Aborigines is virtually dead and there is nothing in its place to provide the volume of housing we saw previously from my department.

Housing is an example of the grass-roots success this State has with its programmes. The same applies to advances in Aboriginal health, education and social welfare—in fact, any area in which my department is involved. Provisions by this Government have been quite remarkable and have contributed significantly to social growth. I shall mention some for the benefit of honourable members.

Utilizing the services of the Department of Local Government and private consultants, my department has been able to undertake major work on various community water supplies. These are in the northern peninsula area, Palm Island, Edward River, Aurukun, Lockhart River, Mornington Island, Kowanyama, Hope Vale, Doomadgee and Woora-binda.

The foregoing programme for water supplies will provide safe, adequate water for all reserves in Queensland, with sufficient to meet requirements for sewerage also. It is proposed that all communities will be fully sewered progressively, and this is expected to be achieved in seven years. It represents expenditure of \$1,000,000 over three years.

A programme to establish 240 V electricity supply to all major communities on the mainland, as well as Palm and Mornington Islands, has been completed.

Equally important to the isolated communities of North Queensland and Torres Strait are transportation and communication. Four airstrips have been completed, in the Torres Strait at Yorke, Saibai, Yam and Sue Islands, another is under construction at Badu and a sixth is planned at Murray Island. The airstrips, boats and two-way radio are the major transport and communication links of the strait. Airstrips have also been upgraded on Cape York for all-weather operation of light and heavy aircraft.

A major building programme for the North this year is a new retail shopping complex at Bamaga, embracing a self-service store, butcher, bakery, cafe, and post office. Total estimated cost of these facilities is \$575,000.

Because of its involvement over a long period in Aboriginal matters, the department has developed grass-roots liaison with the Aboriginal people, not only in every corner of the mainland but also on the scattered islands of Torres Strait. As a result, the department is able to assist on a personal level rather than to follow bureaucratic rules which provide blanket solutions, forgetting that not all difficulties stem from the same source and that difficulties are those of individuals, not of a people.

Indications come to me that the Aboriginal people do not want hand-outs but rather the opportunity to do something for themselves, irrespective of whether they live on reserve land or in the urban areas with employment in the shops, factories and offices of our towns and cities. Instances that come to mind of the desire for self-help are:—

* On Palm Island, where the local council has taken over the construction of major community projects providing employment and training, and the incentive for pride in the community's development. At present they are building their own canteen, estimated to cost in excess of \$150,000. They recently completed construction of a bakery. They are building their own homes and they are helping in the construction of a \$2,000,000 dam.

* In Torres Strait, people have welcomed an experimental brick-making industry so they can build their own homes.

* At Mornington Island, the people have bought their own boat and, with the assistance of freezing equipment supplied by this Government are setting out to establish a local fishing industry.

* The situation is the same at Lockhart, where a fishing industry is being established and vegetables and fruit from a new community farm went on sale in the local store just a few weeks ago.

* At Bamaga, the people are helping in construction of a water-reticulation scheme and a sewerage scheme. Already experimental locally produced bricks have been made for housing.

* At Cherbourg, a prefabricated housing workshop is providing homes to communities throughout the State.

* On the department's properties, Aboriginal workers are maintaining a viable grazing industry, and at other centres they are establishing farms, piggeries, and other industries.

In time these communities, it is hoped, will become country towns. The time for conversion will depend largely on the people, but the amenities being installed now are town-planned to cater for needs for the next 25 years and are reviewed regularly. As integration takes place, the foresight of this department will result in a smooth and economic change-over.

Other areas of investment in the future include Aboriginal housing, health, education and employment, each of which is a link in a chain reaction which will achieve the goal of integration—equal citizens, equal opportunity, equal responsibility. Honourable members should be aware that without proper housing a good standard of health cannot be expected. Without health, education suffers. Without education, the prospects of employment are dim. Without employment, there can never be self-sufficiency and independence.

While the Aboriginal advisory councils are able to guide decisions affecting those on reserves, the Government has felt a need for direction from the Aborigines and Islanders who have already integrated into towns and cities. Once again it is our attitude that there is no point in providing benefits if they are not in tune with the needs of the people. The Government has decided to establish an Aboriginal and Islander Commission to fill this need.

It is expected that this commission will consist of four commissioners, including representatives of Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders and descendants of the South Sea Islanders, to operate throughout the State, speaking to the people, looking at situations and conditions, and advising me of areas of concern, particularly those in urban areas. All our policies are based on need rather

than race. People who do not need our assistance—and there are many of them—do not have it forced upon them.

Being in tune with the needs and desires of the people, the department almost 10 years ago made provision for the location, recording and preservation of Aboriginal relics under the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act. We realised at that time the importance of the past to the people of today and tomorrow. The service was the first of its kind in Australia and remains unique, with a team of Aboriginal rangers, which has been expanded to six, now patrolling the State. This concept has provided ideas for other teams, both in Australia and overseas.

Our concern for the past and the future, and the importance of both to the Aboriginal and Islander people, has been guidelines in our State over our stand on the Australia/Papua New Guinea border. While negotiations between Australia and Papua New Guinea have had the silence of closed doors, shutting out any voice from the Torres Strait Islanders and the Queensland Government, I would like to reaffirm that I still stand rock-solid behind the Islanders and their view, "no change in the border." Queensland is not opposed to compromise, and believes a satisfactory solution is possible without moving the border. We propose an international protective zone in the Torres Strait, to be managed by a board containing Torres Strait Islander representatives and representatives from Papua New Guinea. This would not involve changes in territorial status but would create an area for the freedom of movement, and fishing on the traditional basis could continue uninterrupted.

I would like to point out to honourable members that the work of my department and its dedicated staff is not only assistance for the Aboriginal people who have been disadvantaged in the past, but also assistance for all citizens. We want to develop good race relations as a long-term investment in the progress and harmony of this State. And for their efforts to achieve that I would like to record my gratitude to my director, Mr. P. J. Killoran, my departmental officers and staff, and also to community councillors and officers and members of the Aboriginal and Islanders advisory councils. Particular appreciation must go to members of other Government departments and local authorities, particularly clerks of the court and district officers, who carry a heavy burden in the field.

QUEENSLAND FISHERIES SERVICE

I turn now to another very important aspect of my responsibility—the Queensland Fisheries Service. The importance of the fishing industry to Queensland is reflected in the recent elevation of the Queensland Fisheries Service to a subdepartment in my portfolio. Commercial fishing operations in

Queensland produce in excess of 21 000 tonnes of seafood annually, with a value of an estimated \$15,000,000.

The role of the Queensland Fisheries Service is to so manage the State's fishery that it will be a permanent State resource of benefit to all, rather than a short-term bonanza to be exploited for quick profit and pleasure by a few. New fisheries legislation is expected to be introduced in the current session, and the service presently maintains many research projects which will help formulate management policies of the future. The recent establishment of a research centre at Cairns and a field station at Bundaberg, together with the existing facility at Deception Bay, enables the service to provide fisheries research coverage along the Queensland coast.

A master plan of the State's fisheries aimed at protecting natural habitat and maintaining the fishery as a renewable resource is currently being drawn up as an estuarine inventory project which will blueprint the State's future coastal development and conservation areas. It is desirable to strike a balance between coastal development and maintenance of conservation areas providing food and breeding areas for aquatic life. This work will eventually provide data on the whole of the Queensland coastline and the establishment of priorities for future fisheries management policies, both for conservation and development.

The first study area selected was the Gladstone area with the first stage along 140 km of coast between Round Hill and Tannum Sands. The second stage will cover the area northward to The Narrows. Similar estuarine inventory programmes are under way in the Wide Bay/Burnett region and between Innisfail and Mossman in the northern region.

Other specific research projects presently in progress or under consideration include—

- * Mud crab fishing is under investigation, aimed at evaluating some aspects of the biology of the mud crab and in particular to assess the mud crab population of Moreton Bay.
- * The oyster fishery in Moreton Bay is being resurveyed. The Queensland Fisheries Service is also currently assessing the status of oyster-fishery in Moreton Bay and investigations are being made into various alternate methods of culture.
- * Commercial and recreation fin-fish investigation in progress at Deception Bay is aimed at the seasonal aspects of distribution and abundance of species of commercial and recreational fish. This project, which requires the collection of numerous specimens, also provides an ideal opportunity for further study into fish disease.
- * Investigation of the scallop fishery is being conducted from the Bundaberg field station to determine the current status of scallop fishing in the region from Yeppoon south to Maryborough.

- * A survey on the effects of trawling on local recreation fishing is also under way at Hervey Bay and is being carried out by personnel from the Bundaberg field station and Brisbane headquarters.
- * The mackerel fishery in Queensland has expanded rapidly in recent years and now ranks second to the mullet fishery in terms of commercial fish landings in this State. A tagging and log-book programme has been initiated in North Queensland to provide additional information on Mackerel species.
- * Coral reef investigations are being conducted from the Cairns centre on an area of the Barrier Reef from Lizard Island south to Bowen.
- * An underwater robot which will operate at depths in excess of 500 metres is currently being developed by a service biologist in Cairns. The machine is believed to be the only one of its type in the Southern Hemisphere, and indicates development and potential presently in the Queensland Fisheries Service.

A major function of my Fisheries Service is the licensing of commercial fishing operations. Licensing fees were increased from 1 January 1976, and they are now comparable to those of the other Australian States. 2,371 master fishermen's licences, 2,398 employee fishermen's licences and 3,349 commercial fishing vessel licences were issued during the last financial year, and I am glad to inform honourable members a licensing backlog that existed has now been cleared and licensing is up to date.

When the Queensland Fisheries Service was established, responsibility for marine parks was included in my portfolio. The staff of the then Marine Park Section of the Forestry Department were transferred to the Queensland Fisheries Service at Cairns and are presently working on a project on the location and description of coral reef areas suitable for setting aside as marine parks. It is intended that legislation in relation to marine parks will be introduced to the Parliament in the near future.

The Australian Fisheries Council, of which I presently hold membership, is instrumental in co-ordinating fisheries policy throughout Australia. A wide range of matters come before the council, and in certain cases advisory committees have been formed to provide information and advice, and the Queensland Fisheries Service has membership on several such advisory committees.

One such committee—the Education Committee—was instrumental in organising the recent fish expo and seminar in Melbourne, the theme of this expo being the catching, processing and marketing of fish, in which the Queensland Fisheries Service participated. Another advisory committee in which the fisheries service is an active participant is the Northern Fisheries Committee. Other

members of this committee include the Commonwealth Government, Northern Territory, Western Australia and the C.S.I.R.O. As the name implies, this committee is concerned with the welfare and development of fisheries resources in Northern Australia.

The establishment of the research centre at Cairns was a major step forward for the Queensland Fisheries Service. At the present time, research facilities are fully committed. However, I foresee the necessity for greater activity in offshore research in the future.

I remind honourable members that it was only recently that this Committee heard my introductory speech for proposed amendments to the Fish Supply Management Act, which, through the Queensland Fish Board and depots, administers the marketing of products of our State fishery in the best interest of the producers and consumers. I told honourable members at the time that recent years had been unprofitable for the board owing to unfavourable market conditions, but the financial year just passed indicated a marginal profit. I believe it was due largely to the efforts of the board, changes they have made, new plant installed, and to the work of board employees.

The Queensland Fish Board of seven is made up of consumer and fishermen representatives, with a chairman drawn from the Queensland Public Service. All are appointed by the Government. At present board members are Messrs. N. H. Hall (Chairman), A. A. Evans, F. C. B. Haly, B. Marr, P. J. Conaty and B. Cameron. The late Mrs. I. A. Grafton resigned as a board member in December last year, after holding the position for 13 years.

The board is a statutory body and the addition of non-fishermen by Government appointment gives the opportunity to draw upon a diverse range of practical business experience from commerce and industry. The appointment of board members from different areas of expertise complements the contribution of the fishermen's representatives and assists in the framing sound policy in terms of the board's responsibility.

In recent years the chairmanship has been a part-time appointment, but on 24 June 1976 the current chairman was seconded by the Government to be a full-time executive, thus supplementing significantly the senior managerial strength of the board. Mr. Hall is experienced in marketing and is well known in fisheries.

The fundamental purpose of the Queensland Fish Board as a statutory marketing authority is to undertake the sale and orderly distribution of product, with the objective of securing, for the producers, an equitable share of the price paid by the final consumer. The board also supervises the quality of fish offered for sale in Queensland. The board's powers include the buying, selling and distribution outside the State as well as within. It is also empowered to assist fishermen by guarantee of loans, subject to approval of

the Minister, for any purpose connected with the fishing industry. The board has established 20 markets throughout the State, of which three are operated on an agency basis.

In addition to obtaining an equitable price for fishermen, other important services provided by the Queensland Fish Board in pursuit of the objective of marketing product to the better advantage of the producer are—

- (a) Handling and storage;
- (b) Processing;
- (c) Price stabilisation.

The board is playing its part in reducing pollution in our rivers and sea and has plans for, or is committed to spend, \$125,000 in water quality control at various markets throughout the State.

As well as in policy and manpower, improvements have been made to equipment and facilities, including the commencement of a new fish market at Townsville, and in other areas new wharves, cold rooms, refrigeration systems, storage areas, weighing and bulk-selling facilities and the purchase of land and equipment for handling, storage and processing of produce.

I draw to the attention of honourable members the following State-wide developments to the Fish Board facilities:—

Townsville: Work commenced on the construction of a new fish market at Ross River. The estimated cost of providing a modern complex, incorporating processing facilities, substantial cold storage capacity and administration is now \$700,000 compared with the original estimate of \$613,000 in March 1975.

Scarborough: The construction of a new wharf, three additional cold rooms and improved refrigeration capacity was completed at a cost of \$230,000.

Bundaberg: Work was completed on widening the main working area and providing storage for insulated containers. The cost of this work was \$25,000. A mobile ice crusher was provided at a cost of \$2,825.

Wynnum: An additional weighing-in area and bulk-selling facilities were provided at a cost of \$4,151.

Cleveland: An additional area of land adjoining the Cleveland market was purchased at a cost of \$64,683. Included in the purchase was a shop and store shed, and a 350 ft. causeway terminating with a ramp into the water.

Colmslie: Bulk-selling facilities to provide for sales to the public were constructed at a cost of \$4,905. A fish-scaling machine was installed in the filleting section at a cost of \$2,347.

CONCLUSION

In the area of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement, the past year has been one of continued progress following beliefs

formed in consultation with the advisory councils, beliefs which have proved to be relevant to social progress.

In Fisheries it has been a year of taking stock of the situation, following the establishment of the Queensland Fisheries Service as an autonomous unit in my portfolio.

It has been a year of defining policies and objectives and planning for the future. It has been a difficult year, but my departmental officers and staff have been dedicated in their work. The time ahead will see the benefits of this year's efforts. The basic plan has been drawn up. The time ahead will see consultation with all sectors of the fishing industry to keep the plan on the rails. The enthusiasm of the people in this industry, both inside and outside the Government, I am confident, will give fisheries in Queensland the impetus it needs to develop and expand to its full potential.

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (12.28 p.m.): In discussing the Estimates of this department I find myself speaking about one of the most tragic areas of this Government's administration. Much hardship and suffering occurs as a direct result of the Government's policies in this area. It could be said that it is a scenario of the administration of the National-Liberal Government's Aboriginal and Islander policies.

I refer particularly to a report in "The Cairns Post" which indicated that at its State Convention in Cairns the National Party had seriously discussed the adoption of special ethnic tests to determine who is and who is not an Aborigine. That comes as no surprise, because Queensland has the worst record of any white European country in its attitude towards the indigenous people of this nation. From the National Party's proposals in Cairns one can only assume that shortly the Government will be introducing blood tests and cranium tests not unlike those adopted by the racist administration in South Africa. At a time when Gallup polls showed that 50 per cent of Australians considered that both the Federal and State Governments were not doing enough for Aborigines, this Government in 1975-76 returned to the Commonwealth \$2,000,000 that had been provided for assistance for Aboriginal people in this State.

The first matter to which I want to direct my attention is the legislation that enables this type of institutionalised racism to persist and subsist, and in collating my story, I refer to a book written in 1973 by W. C. Wentworth, entitled "Aboriginal Identity in Contemporary Australian Society". It was edited by D. Tugby. On page 10, it reads—

"Legal discrimination against Aborigines has virtually gone, except in Queensland, and even there the Queensland Premier has given a public pledge for its swift removal."

Far from removing the discriminatory provisions, this Government reinforced them in its Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders Acts of 1971.

If Government members are sincere in certain comments they have made, it would appear that that legislation will be wiped off the Statute Book by the end of the year. As that legislation affects approximately 55,000 persons throughout the State, it is worthy of discussion during the debate on these Estimates.

The present position in relation to Aborigines and Islanders is the subject of an investigation currently being conducted by the International Commission of Jurists. The Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales, Professor Garth Nettheim, has published two volumes detailing the serious breaches of commonly accepted civilised standards of human rights.

Back in 1971, at the time of the introduction of those Bills, there was no consultation on the part of the Government with the community as a whole, nor was there any consultation with the people most directly affected by the legislation—the Aborigines and the Torres Strait Islanders. Even Senator Bonner admitted that he had not seen the draft legislation. The Bills paid little regard to the wishes of the Aborigines and the Islanders, and there was little evidence of genuine consultation between the Government and the residents of Aboriginal communities and settlements. Little opportunity was given for public debate on the Bills and there was not very much parliamentary debate on them, either.

Another problem is created by excessive delegation by Parliament of legislative and other powers to the administration, with inadequate limitations and little real prospect of effective parliamentary review. In other words, what we are doing is allowing the department to run the Minister; it is as simple as that.

Mr. Frawley: The Q.C.E. runs you. What are you talking about?

Mr. JONES: As parliamentarians, we are not effectively involving ourselves in these matters. All that Opposition members get when they try to make worth-while contributions to a debate such as this are derisory and inane interjections such as, "The Q.C.E. runs you."

An Opposition Member: The Minister is a puppet of his department.

Mr. JONES: I do not believe the Minister makes enough effort on Aboriginal and Islander matters. He fails to administer in his own right and leaves too much to his department.

In the Queensland legislation there is also a series of major and minor violations of fundamental human rights as formulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in successive pronouncements of the International Commission of Jurists. Of course, the problems of Queensland's Aboriginal and Islander systems could not be solved instantly by the repeal of the entire legislation. I think we are all aware of that.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! I would like to point out that the Chairman ruled at the beginning of the Estimates—and I will read it again for the information of the Committee—

"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."

I remind the honourable member of that ruling.

Mr. JONES: I note your remarks, Mr. Miller, and I will make no further reference to the need for particular legislation. I think that there is an indication in the report and also in the Address in Reply of pending legislation for the establishment of a commission. We as parliamentarians have not been informed whether the purpose of that commission is to determine land rights or the administration of the department. So I suppose we will bypass that aspect of legislation.

I still believe that this Government has a lot to answer for in the serious health problem among Aboriginal and Islander people in this State.

Dr. Lockwood: How does it compare with the Australian average?

Mr. JONES: In April 1971 no less a person than the Director of Maternal and Child Welfare Services in Queensland, Dr. Jean McFarlane, was reported as saying that the death rate from malnutrition of Aboriginal children up to the age of four is 17 times greater in Queensland than the Australian average. It was also pointed out that Aboriginal babies up to the age of 12 months faced 10 times the risk of death that white babies faced. Indeed, across the State the percentage of children under the age of 10 infected with the eye disease known as trachoma ranged at various centres from 32 per cent to 76 per cent., and, as the honourable member for Toowoomba North, who has been interjecting, would know, if left untreated these children could go blind. It has been estimated—of course, in comparison—that 7 per cent of Western Australian Aborigines have been blinded. Two per cent of the total Australian Aboriginal population are already blind because of this disease. The infection can be treated and ought to be treated.

I would like to see the Minister's department with its own health officers and doctors to alleviate this problem. Recently there was a scheme under which Aboriginal health and welfare officers were recruited from various avenues, and then suddenly the project was abandoned. Apparently money was not available. When the scheme was in operation the officers were not given the facilities or the authority. They were brought to Brisbane on courses and allowed to sit around; they were not taught anything or

shown anything. It was an abortive attempt at what appeared to me to be only window-dressing.

I believe that the Minister in his statement today has glossed over the health problem in the State and that he is not truly aware of how bad it is.

I do know that medical teams from the National Aboriginal Congress worked in the communities and assisted the Queensland Aborigines. When a team toured Queensland this year, one of the first places they visited was Mareeba. The first three children they saw there had aural discharges or perforated eardrums. In the second house they entered was a young Aboriginal adult who was suffering from severe pneumonia. He said that he had attended the hospital two days before that, from 9 p.m. till 4 a.m., without receiving medical attention, and he went to the hospital again, with the same result.

At the Gorge Aboriginal Reserve near Mossman, middle-aged Aboriginal women were found to be suffering from asthma and bronchial pneumonia of many months' duration. Following that visit, those people were given medical and hospital attention and discharged from the local hospitals when they were medically fit. However, it is obvious that those people are in need of specialist attention.

I am aware of the problems. In 1967, I think it was, a group of us travelled with the then Minister through the Torres Strait. While we were in Mabuiag, a woman was discovered to have a gangrenous leg. She had crawled off into the bush. Emergency steps were taken to get her to the Thursday Island Hospital. The people and their nature must be understood. When they are sick, they have to be found. They have to be drawn out of their homes. In the more primitive communities, of course, the difficulties are compounded.

When considering preventive health measures, we should be looking at nutritional education programmes. I am aware that in my electorate at Yarrabah, near Cairns, some effort has been made to teach Aboriginal people the importance of correct diet. However, that is only a token attempt in what is an advanced community. I think one person there is being given some assistance to grow fresh fruit and vegetables to be sold on the settlement at a just rate. That concept should be expanded.

I am endeavouring to be constructive. If I am critical, it is in an attempt to be constructive. When this department's Estimates were debated previously, the idea of an afforestation scheme was put forward. That is now under way at Yarrabah. I said at that time that any schemes instituted should be pilot schemes. I believe that the growing of fresh fruit and vegetables on the reserve is one such pilot scheme that can be followed through for the betterment and development of the communities.

The projects should be undertaken in the correct way. Even though the Aboriginal people are working on the reserves, they receive low rates of income. As a consequence, if fresh fruit and vegetables are brought onto the reserve, they will be sold at prices which the people will not be able to afford. So it is no good teaching them about preventative health measures or nutritional educational programmes if the fruit and vegetables are too dear for them to buy. It is no use our teaching them to eat those foods if they cannot afford to pay for them.

A co-operative bakery was set up at Yarrabah. A good job is done of baking white bread. Over a long period fellows have been sent to the co-operative training school, in which the Reverend Clint has been a great force, and been taught to be bakers. Percy Neal is the baker. However, wholemeal breads and other foods of nutritional value should be encouraged on the reserves.

It is also important to make sure that the meat taken onto the reserves is the best that is available. If cattle are killed on a reserve, they should be killed under the conditions that apply in all other places where stock are slaughtered.

It is obvious that educational programmes on nutrition cannot be effective if the people on reserves either cannot obtain the right food or cannot pay for it. Common sense demands the establishment in each community of vegetable gardens and orchards, and irrigation programmes should be encouraged if they are necessary. Those who tend such gardens and orchards should have some agricultural training. Quite a number of those on Yarrabah, for instance, are good farmers and should be given the opportunity to put their knowledge to use. In some other reserves training would probably be needed in all aspects of farming and gardening.

With the people on Aboriginal reserves today, the big issue is land rights. While the Minister expressed an avid desire for the preservation of land rights in Torres Strait, he said nothing about the position on reserves, settlements and missions. I think he should have done so. We should hear from him what is to be done about the land on those reserves. It is rather hypocritical to talk about land rights on Torres Strait Islands when similar rights do not apply on the other reserves and communities. Aurukun is a case in point. Nobody seems to be much concerned about land rights there.

Mr. Lindsay: Have you been there?

Mr. JONES: Yes.

Mr. Lindsay: When?

Mr. JONES: On several occasions. I think I was there last time with the honourable member for Everton.

Mr. Lindsay: When was that?

Mr. JONES: If the honourable member cannot remember, I shall have a talk with him on the veranda later.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated.

Mr. JONES: Whilst we are guaranteeing the land rights of Torres Strait Islanders—I have no quarrel with that—we are actively rolling up the land rights of the people at Aurukun. By the legislation we took away the traditional land rights of the Aboriginal people at Aurukun without, it seems, the consent of the people. What we decided in this Parliament, for which we must accept responsibility, is that mining companies shall have the right to disturb those parts of the surface of the reserve included in the special bauxite mining lease to the extent necessary for mining operations. But disturb it on behalf of whom?

(Time expired.)

Mr. DEERAL (Cook) (12.48 p.m.): In speaking in this debate today I wish to commend the Minister and his department on their foresight and the stand they have taken on behalf of the Aboriginal and Islander people of this State. The last five years should be written into the history books as the Second Coming of Cook—a day of reckoning for Aborigines and Islanders. In this period many things have happened to hinder our way of life, this time in the implementation of the integration policy which was working slowly but surely. When this happened my people found themselves being brain-washed by those who were acting for their own political reasons or who were just plain dogooders who did not know anything about Aborigines and Islanders or their wishes. Our people have been, and in some areas still are, confused.

There are two major issues that confront Aborigines and Islanders today: land rights, to which the honourable member for Cairns referred, and the Queensland-Papua New Guinea border. Many of the Aborigines to whom I have spoken have stated that all of the reserve areas set aside should be given to the residents of those reserves—in other words, total control by the people concerned. I also got this feeling from some people in the Torres Strait and on Thursday Island. While I have some reservations on land rights, I am pleased that the Government will not back down on its stand on the Australian Papua New Guinea border. I was especially pleased to hear the Minister reaffirm that he will stand rock-solid behind the Islanders and their view—"No change in the border". In his speech the Minister said—

"To help in this process of integration, the Government has set aside more than 3 000 000 hectares of land for the use and benefit of Aborigines and Islanders.

"The purpose of these reserves, which I must stress are only temporary, is to give the Aboriginal people the opportunity of

enjoying a 'traditional' life-style with the benefits of the 20th Century, including education, health, housing, water and sewerage, electricity, and so on. The purpose is to provide an area for a transition period during which the Aboriginal people will be able to integrate at their own natural pace. On the other hand, if they do not wish to integrate that is their right, and they are free to remain in the reserve areas."

People on the reserves have the benefits of housing, health services and educational facilities, which give their children the opportunity to obtain self-satisfying employment in the future, and as a result independence and pride in their own achievements. The Government sees spending in Aboriginal and Islander areas as an investment in the social development of the State, and as a result money well spent. Yet radical changes in policies implemented by the Commonwealth Government in recent years seem likely to extinguish completely or, at least, drastically reduce the levels of Commonwealth financial aid to Queensland for matters associated with Aboriginal and Islander welfare.

As the Minister said, this has developed from a doctrine of exclusive rights by the Commonwealth to supervise and dominate Aboriginal affairs throughout Australia which was generated during the Whitlam Labor Government administration thereby bypassing the State Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. It appears that the present Government also has adopted this policy.

The Minister also referred to the stark reality of cut-backs that can be seen in the Aboriginal and Islanders rehousing programme. I could not agree more with the Minister that the State housing programme is virtually dead. There is nothing we can do, for, while the State contributes to housing costs, it depends heavily on Canberra.

In recent tours through my electorate I found that the most affected areas are the northern peninsula area, which includes Bamaga and its satellite reserves, and Thursday Island. Even though a number of houses are being erected on Thursday Island, they will not overcome the problem.

I am very happy indeed to see that the Government, while getting valuable information from advisory councils on reserves, has seen the need for directions from Aborigines and Islanders who have already integrated in towns and cities, and I am sure that the establishment of the Aboriginal and Islanders Commission will fill this need.

This brings me to what is happening today. I find that all Aborigines and Islanders want to be identified and want to be counted, and I am happy to see that the Government has seen fit to include South Sea Islanders in its programmes, because while the three races have different cultures we are proud that, with our individual cultures, we can still share in the achievements of this wonderful State of ours. If the Government continues

what it has already begun, it will succeed. With the opportunities offering today, young Aborigines and Islanders should work their way out of reserves and stand up and be counted. As you, Mr. Miller, and other honourable members are well aware, many Aborigines and Islanders have already been integrated into the community, and I am sure that that trend will continue.

Having listened to the speech of the honourable member for Cairns, I think I should make a few more comments. I do not wish to mention the need for legislation, but the honourable member was wrong in saying that the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement has not done anything for the Aboriginal and Islander races. It has done a great deal for them. For example, the educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Islander children today are marvellous. The only thing that the department really needs now is more flexibility. It should get its officers to look at the present situation on Aboriginal reserves.

If we look back through history, we see why reserves were formed. I was born on a reserve, and I left that reserve only six or seven years ago. People on reserves have grown up in an area where, to put it bluntly, they have been spoon-fed. I referred earlier to the integration programme. It was a success until three or four years ago, when people visited the reserves and told the people living there what to do. Many Aboriginal people were integrated into the community at large and lived their lives as members of this Assembly live theirs, and they really enjoyed it. But when the Whitlam Labor Government came to power in Canberra and opposed the policy of the Queensland Government, Aboriginal people living in Queensland who were doing all right for themselves got on the bandwagon and are now receiving Government assistance.

However, everything is not so bad, because I am in touch with many Aboriginal people who could be very helpful to the cause of Aboriginal advancement today. That is why I ask the Minister and the department, through you, Mr. Miller, to be more flexible when looking at the situation on reserves. People who wish to hold meetings on reserves should be allowed to go there and share ideas. They should not be knocked back. A change is taking place on Aboriginal reserves and the Aboriginal people are looking for their own identity. Flexibility is what is needed. The three parties in this Chamber should work together to further what the Government, the Minister and the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement has achieved already.

[*Sitting suspended from 12.59 to 2.15 p.m.*]

Mr. DOUMANY (Kurilpa) (2.15 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the Minister's Estimates. In doing so I compliment him on a very fine speech, and I compliment his respective departments on the very good

presentation of the material used and their obvious dedication to the work they are performing in their essential areas.

I should like to refer the Committee to the letter to the Minister which is included in the Annual Report of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement for the year ended 30 June 1976. Those members who are prepared to take a common-sense and realistic view of things would regard the statement by Mr. Killoran as a very sensible one. It states the terms of Aboriginal advancement in as clear a way as I have seen. This is particularly relevant at a time when not only our community but the world community is suffering a spate of renewed reaction against established and traditional regimes and when there is a lot of instability in many countries where indigenous people have been subject to the Governments of persons of European descent, as applies in this nation.

It has become fashionable for the critics, the alarmists and those who are sheer opportunists to criticise existing administrations. That applies particularly to the Government of Queensland in latter times. Those people criticise the existing administration and blame it for many things which in fact are a characteristic pervading the whole of the community. We saw that this morning in the contribution by the honourable member for Cairns. He chose to ignore much of the solid achievement by the State Government in the area of Aboriginal advancement and welfare, and instead pursued the spectacular and disastrous line followed by his party in Canberra over the three years which ended last December.

I believe that he did so in all sincerity as a member of his party, because it has been the policy of the A.L.P. to plump for fairly massive, spectacular schemes. He suggested that little was being done in the area of health education, particularly in the field of nutrition, the control of internal parasites, etc. I would refer the honourable member to the section headed "Aboriginal Health Education Project" on page 4 of the Annual Report of the Queensland Health Education Council for the year ended June last. The honourable member will have received a copy of that annual report.

Mr. Jones: Be careful now.

Mr. DOUMANY: I shall take counsel from the honourable member and be careful.

Some months ago I had the privilege of meeting the staff employed in that section at the Princess Alexandra Hospital when it had a display in the nurses' career exhibition. I am satisfied that the people involved in the Aboriginal Health Education Project are earnest people and that they are working very closely with the Minister's department. I am also certain that they are making progress. The difference between the Government and the Opposition, of course, is that, unlike the Opposition, we are not so foolish and naive as to expect results overnight.

When talking about the high incidence of affliction of Aboriginal children with certain ailments, it is important to remember that the vast majority of Aboriginal and Islander people in Queensland live in tropical and immediate subtropical zones where susceptibility to such ailments is a great deal higher than in the States in the temperate zone. It is only natural that the incidence of internal parasites and many other ailments that afflict children and infants will be high. Bearing in mind the wide spread of our population and the enormity of the task involved in dealing with these problems, we should not expect a rapid solution or an overnight miracle cure. The job of tackling this problem is one for dedicated, hard-working people.

The nurses who are working on this project, together with the various people who are assisting them—many of whom are Aborigines and Islanders—are ordinary citizens not motivated by political ends. They are trying to do their job as well as they can. It is a great pity that so often political figures do intrude into the everyday affairs of these dedicated people who are trying to do their job within the limits of money, time and resources that prevail whether we like it or not. Those limitations are with us. With that hard-working, common-sense approach adopted under the Aboriginal Health Education Project I would contrast the sort of thing that happened under the Federal Labor Government in Canberra.

I have here a newspaper headline "Labor Row on Turtle Farm Sack", which appeared on 4 December 1973. I am sure all honourable members will recall the part played by Senator Georges and Dr. Bustard in the abortive turtle farm project in Torres Strait.

A Government Member: Ask Mr. Jones what he thinks of that.

Mr. DOUMANY: I would very much like to ask him what he thinks of it, but I do not have time to do so at the moment; I am very busy. I know he is very eager to talk about it.

The article is very interesting. It reads—

"Senator Georges was chairman of the company, Applied Ecology Pty. Ltd. His abrupt dismissal followed his announcement on Monday—against Senator Cavanagh's wishes—that Australian National University scientist Dr. H. R. Bustard had been sacked as manager of the turtle farm project.

"Senator Cavanagh told the Senate yesterday that Dr. Bustard would remain a member on the board of Applied Ecology."

Later the article goes on to say—

"Senator Georges was extremely angry yesterday and is understood to have confronted Senator Cavanagh in his office."

There is one thing about Senator Cavanagh that I have always respected: at least he is a straightforward fellow. But that could never be said of Senator Georges.

This is the sort of performance—the massive, spectacular project—which the people on the other side of this Chamber love to see when they talk of Aboriginal and Islander advancement. They can understand only the great spectaculars like the M.G.M. films of the 1950s. In respect of this problem they do not like to admit that, like the dripping of water on granite, the wearing-away occurs only little by little. There will be a gradual solution before we achieve the end result we are looking for.

The sort of end result we are looking for is important also. On this side of the Chamber we have never set out to encourage those militants and dissidents who claim to speak for all Aborigines and Islanders. They want to see nothing but strife, confusion and division among the rest of the community. They are virtually apartheid-believers. In a dynamic age such as this when things are moving so rapidly and when there is a need for the community to live in harmony, the last thing that we should do is deviate from the patient and hard-working progress towards integration of these people in to the general community which the Minister's department has tried to achieve. The letter from Mr. Killoran to the Minister, which appears at the beginning of the latest annual report of this department, is a very fine expression of that philosophy.

We see on page 1 of the report under the heading "Policy" what I think is the kernel of this Government's honest attempts for the welfare of the Aboriginal people. It reads—

"As more and more people move into the general community the number of people on reserve Communities will stabilize.

"Those who look after themselves in the general community are not categorized and it is difficult to retain correct assessments of numbers.

"But this is the aim of the Department in Queensland.

"It is a sign of the success of the policy and the attitude towards integration that on electoral rolls, hospital and social service registers and business books no special records of indigenous people are maintained. And on census returns many people of indigenous descent refer to themselves as nothing other than Australians."

This is the way that we want to see it.

It will take time, but it is happening. We all know of people of Aboriginal and Islander descent who have integrated into our community and live as Australians and who do not want any of this ballyhoo, militance and trouble-making that comes from so many sources.

Mr. Powell: You wouldn't know they were in any way different.

Mr. DOUMANY: That is very true indeed.

Unfortunately there is a very small minority in the community who are just as bigoted as the black militants. This bigotry is reserved not only for Aborigines and Islanders but also for anybody else who is different. I think that we have to accept that this attitude will always be with human beings. It is a reciprocal attitude but, fortunately, only a very small minority feel that way.

In the remaining time that I have, Mr. Gunn, I would like to move to the Estimates of the Queensland Fisheries Service. I am very concerned about the enormous amount of fish imported into this country. I wish to quote some statistics to illustrate my point. In 1974-75 more than 14 700 000 kg of filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, etc., fish, chilled or frozen, in packs not exceeding 500 g came into this country. In excess of 2 500 000 kg of fish, fresh, chilled or frozen, whole or beheaded, came into the country. Something like 1 700 000 kg of filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, etc., fish, chilled or frozen, in packs exceeding 500 g came in. That is a very considerable amount—a total approaching 19 000 000 kg.

Mr. Jones: What were the main countries of origin?

Mr. DOUMANY: Japan is one country. Obviously New Zealand is another major contributor. South Africa is another.

It is regrettable that the frozen-fish trade is so extensive. I believe that the quality of fish deteriorates markedly once it is frozen. I am yet to be convinced that with existing technology it is possible to freeze fish and maintain its palatability. I appreciate the efforts of our Fish Board to improve the merchandising of fish and to present an attractive product. I commend it for the breaded prawns, oysters, scallops and various other new products that have been put onto the market. However, I believe that the Fish Board, too, has perhaps gone overboard in freezing fish. It is difficult these days to get a decent feed of fish and chips in Brisbane. Whether it is any better in the cities and towns along our coastline, I do not know; but in Brisbane I am very disappointed.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: It is part of a declining standard.

Mr. DOUMANY: Yes. A declining standard of fish is being offered by fish and chip shops. Much of the fish we eat comes from fish and chip shops. It is regrettable that so much frozen fish is entering that channel of the trade.

It is also regrettable that so much frozen fish is imported. In fish shop after fish shop one is offered New Zealand schnapper, South African cod or whatever it is that has been frozen in great big packs. It is tasteless. One might as well eat chaff. If the Minister can do anything to crack down on that trade and encourage, by whatever means, the trade

in wholesome fresh fish so that we can enjoy a good quality product again, he will thoroughly deserve the highest commendation.

I sum up by again complimenting our Minister on the presentation of these Estimates. I trust that in the sphere of fisheries he will try to encourage a greater degree of farming of oysters and shell fish—crabs and so on—because Queensland should be the leader in the production of that type of seafood. I expect that in the implementation of these Estimates the Minister will do the State proud over the coming year.

(Time expired.)

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (2.34 p.m.): It gives me much pleasure to take part in the discussion on these Estimates, which affect this State very greatly indeed. With his double-barrelled portfolio of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries, the Minister certainly has some real problems. I believe he is overcoming them in a particularly pleasant manner. Of course, it is the way he goes about his work that makes him so popular with the people he deals with.

I have had the distinct pleasure of being present with the Minister on two parliamentary trips to the northern part of the State, where we have been able to visit Aboriginal and Islander communities in the peninsula and Torres Strait, as well as gaining some measure of understanding of the problems faced by people who live in isolated areas. In considering the plight of people in the far-flung areas of this State, I tend to look at them as a people in toto; I do not separate them into ethnic, ideological, religious or other categories. Certainly those who live in the communities conducted by the Government and by the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches in the peninsula have many problems that they are attempting to overcome. To begin with, the problem of living in an isolated area is one that requires a considerable amount of time and effort to overcome. There is also the problem of insufficient job opportunities. When people in isolated areas are trained to become expert in one field, where can they be employed economically after their training? This is a problem to which the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement is giving close attention and it is to be hoped that in the future they will have found a satisfactory answer to it.

I think—certainly I hope—that most people are concerned with advancing the interests of those who live in isolated areas, whether they are Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders or of some other racial extraction. The problem is not unique to one race; it faces everybody. One of their major problems is simply being so far away from the hub of activity. Another is the difficulty of integrating with a new community should people leave their own centres.

It is here, I am sorry to say, that many Aborigines and Islanders seem to drop out. They leave their family circle and travel

many miles to the cities to look for jobs, and here they are likely to be exploited. Many of the problems of Aborigines and Islanders stem from this. They leave the life and environment that they know so well to go to an entirely different environment. There they do not receive the love and compassion that they received in their home communities; hence the unfortunate situations that we see in the streets of Brisbane and other major cities. These problems would not arise if there were an easy way for Aborigines and Islanders to integrate with the community. The blame cannot be placed on one group or the other; both share the responsibility. Those who come to the larger communities and those already in them have barriers confronting them, and until those barriers are surmounted the problems of today will persist.

In visiting all the Aboriginal communities in the North I was impressed with the sense of direction of those who are trying to guide Aborigines. School-teachers, administrators, doctors and nurses all have at the core of their concern the future life of the people with whom they are working. This was no less evident in Government missions than it was in church missions.

Although I hesitate to single out any one mission as being better than the others, the one that impressed me most was Doomadgee Mission, just north of Mt. Isa. The whole atmosphere and tone of this community seemed far above that of the others we visited. I was most impressed with the work being done by the people guiding the Aborigines there. Of course, they face the same problems as the people at Aurukun, Mornington Island and all the other mission stations—that once they have trained young people, where do they send them; what do they do with them? For some there is an opportunity for a job within their own community, but for others there is not that opportunity, and it is those, unfortunately, whom we seem not to be placing and about whom we seem not to be caring.

It disturbs me greatly—and I think the Minister alluded to it this morning—that there are those within our community who are attempting to make political capital from manipulating the people on the mission stations and their way of life. I would have hoped that we as Queenslanders and, further, as Australians, would look upon the problems of isolated communities with a little more compassion. They cannot be solved in a short time. When one has some knowledge of the past history of the communities—I have some knowledge of the Presbyterian missions—and thinks about the work done by the MacKenzie family, one wonders at what is going on at the moment on some of the mission stations.

I would hope that the people on these stations are given proper values to live by, that they are not shown a double standard, that they know what to expect when they go

out into the community at large, and that people stick by them and help them to become integrated and to take an active part in the everyday life of the community. I believe that each and every one of them has a real contribution to make. The problem at the moment seems to be that there are those who are trying to manipulate the weaker persons on the mission stations so that they have less opportunity to realise their ability than the stronger members of those communities.

The Minister also has under his control the fisheries of our State. Just before he resumed his seat, the honourable member for Kurilpa said that he is most disturbed at the amount of imported fish being marketed in Queensland. I, too, am most concerned about this, especially as my electorate is particularly concerned with fishing. The report of the Queensland Fish Board for 1976 shows that a total of 2 906 million kg of fin fish was received through all fish markets in this State, and the consumption of fish in Queensland is much greater than that. The figures set out in that report indicate that the Bundaberg market has sold through it more school mackerel, sweetlip and coral trout than any other market in Queensland.

At the moment there is a controversy raging throughout the community, especially the fishing community, over the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation, which is doing all it can to prevent amateur fishermen selling fish. I cited the figures from the Bundaberg market for a specific purpose. I am fairly certain that, if it were possible to take out the figures, one would find that most of the school mackerel, sweetlip and coral trout—certainly school mackerel and sweetlip—is put through the board's market by people whom the commercial fishermen refer to as amateurs.

Mr. Jensen: What do they do? They freeze them at the board and send them to Brisbane. We don't buy them fresh in Bundaberg.

Mr. POWELL: No. If the public of Bundaberg were prepared to go to the auctions and bid for them, they would be able to buy them; but, generally speaking, they are not prepared to bid for reef fish. The reef fish are then sent to Brisbane. They are not frozen; they are packed in ice.

Mr. Jones: You can't go into the market.

Mr. POWELL: The honourable member for Cairns obviously does not know what can be done at the fish market. Members of the public can go to the market and buy fish whenever they like.

Mr. Jones: What is the limit that you have to buy?

Mr. POWELL: I have no idea what the limit is, but it is a reasonable limit, one that most people would be able to accept quite easily. The point that I am making is that

if amateur fishermen are refused the opportunity to sell fish through the Fish Board, they will sell them on the black market. The quantity of fish that they supply will not then be recorded in the report of the Queensland Fish Board. The establishment of the Fish Board is an attempt at orderly marketing, and there should be orderly marketing in this field. Much more fish must be sold to satisfy the local market, but it certainly will not be if people who are called amateur fishermen are not given the opportunity to sell their catches.

The Queensland Fisheries Service is at present undertaking a survey in the Hervey Bay area into the effects of trawling on fishing for line fishermen. I am pleased that the Minister has seen fit, after I have made a number of representations to him, to order that the inquiry be carried out, because, as honourable members would be aware, a controversy is raging as to whether or not the trawling industry in Hervey Bay is detrimental to amateur line fishing, on which the tourist industry is based. No-one has carried out research to determine whether it is detrimental. However, it is rather difficult to tell a person who is a some-time visitor to an area—he may turn up there once a year—"Look, that trawler out there isn't doing any damage to the few whiting or the few mackerel you want to catch. You go out there and anchor near it and you will be able to catch your fish." Nobody in a 12 ft. or 13 ft. aluminium boat feels like anchoring close to a 35 ft. or 55 ft. trawler—and they range from 35 ft. to 55 ft.—while it is trawling. It must be detrimental to the tourist industry to have trawlers and line fishermen mixed up. I am very happy that the Minister has ordered that the survey be carried out. I hope it will solve some of the problems at Hervey Bay.

On behalf of some constituents, I tried to carry out research into the behaviour of tailor, Spanish mackerel and school mackerel, to find out where those fish go when they cannot be caught. I suppose that sounds rather strange to those who do not know anything about fishing. However, most honourable members would know that at certain times of the year one can catch mackerel or tailor and at other times one cannot. The question then is: where do they go? It is obvious that they are there in such numbers that they are not fished out.

The search for material on this subject was interesting, but it was very disappointing to find that no research material on it here is available. For example, on tailor I obtained an abstract from the Transactions of the American Fisheries Society in which the spawning habits of the tailor, there called the bluefish, are outlined. The report indicates that the major spawning sites are in the Chesapeake Bight area, located over the outer half of the shelf between 55 and 148 km offshore. The report goes on to say that they spawn in water temperatures of 22°C or higher where surface salinities are 31 per cent or greater, and minimum temperature at the

onset of spawning is 17°C with minimum salinity of 26.6 per cent. No research of that sort has been done in Queensland. We should be carrying it out.

A recent letter to the editor of "The Courier-Mail" referred to the activities of tailor fishermen on Fraser Island. I have seen the area, and although I cannot agree with everything the writer of that letter said, certainly the letter contained some sense in what was written about the rubbish left behind by some of the fishermen.

The point is that we need more fish. It appears that the tailor is a prolific breeder. It is one variety that we could be marketing far more than we are at the moment. It would seem that the majority of the schools are getting away. I understand that mackerel is one of the highest protein-providing fish. There is almost no data at all about mackerel. All that we can find out is that the Spanish mackerel, for example, first reaches its sexual maturity at about three years of age when it is 3 ft. long. Many Spanish mackerel under 3 ft. in length are being marketed at the present time, which indicates that they are being caught and marketed before they have had an opportunity to spawn and reproduce. That is a very bad thing. Of course, that leads into another argument about the minimum size. Should we have such a minimum size laid down that the fish would have a chance to spawn at least once before being caught and marketed?

I would make the plea to the Minister that in his future representations to the Treasurer for more funds he make a strong move for extra finance for research. I believe that more fish at a more reasonable price would be available on the market if the necessary research were carried out so that we knew where and when the fish could be caught. Many people would enjoy doing that research; I might be one of them. Research is needed to put the fishing industry on a sound economic basis. There is not much use a person spending \$80,000-\$100,000 on a boat and equipment if he does not know the opportunities for a return on his investment. I am sure that if the research results were available, the industry would be on a far sounder basis than it is at the moment.

With those few remarks I once again congratulate the Minister on the way he goes about his duties. I make a plea to the community for an understanding of the Aboriginal people, particularly those in the remote areas of the State, so that they may be better integrated.

(Time expired.)

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (2.54 p.m.): I listened very carefully to the Minister's introduction of his Estimates. Judging from what he said, one would think that the innovative and rather positive programmes he enunciated place Queensland in the lead in Aboriginal advancement in this nation. One would also think that the Aboriginal

people in this State live in some type of Utopia. That is what the Minister would have us believe, as would some of his top departmental officers. Despite the Minister's self-praise, considerable criticism has been levelled at the department, at the Minister himself and at the Queensland Government generally. That criticism was levelled by the Australian Labor Government when it was in power in Canberra, and it has been followed since by that of Mr. Fraser and the Minister's Federal counterpart, Mr. Viner.

Severe criticism indeed has been levelled at the Government. It has been charged with not co-operating and with not showing any interest in co-operation. Even the man who is often held up by the Government as one who should know about Aboriginal problems, Senator Bonner, made a rather disturbing comment when he was involved in the Senate investigation team. He stated that the Queensland Government was not prepared to co-operate in the investigation that took place.

The report is an interesting one. It blasts the Queensland Government as being responsible for the conditions under which many of our Aboriginal people live. It blasts the lack of co-operation on the part of the Queensland Government. Surely the first thing we should realise in this nation of ours is that the Aboriginal problem is a nationwide one. It will not help anyone—either the white community or the Aboriginal community—if we try to pigeon-hole the problem, saying, "This is not our responsibility, but let us look after it the best way we possibly can."

The Queensland Government was wrong in not allowing the Senate committee to involve itself in the situation that prevailed in this State. It was wrong when it said, "You look at the annual report. Don't bother coming to us; we are not going to make submissions. We are not going to talk to you in any way at all. Just look at our reports and you will see the wonderful things we have done."

It is time that we looked at some of the problems arising in Queensland. Whilst I accept the Minister's good intentions and the fact that he is concerned for these people, I wonder how far he has shown his concern in carrying out his administrative responsibilities.

The study to which I refer pointed out that, of the estimated 150,000 Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, something like 4,455 Aboriginal families are living in makeshift shelters in Queensland. It points out that surveys have been carried out into the high incidence of disease amongst Aborigines. The study revealed that 18 per cent of Aboriginal and Islander people suffer from visual defects in both eyes and another 22 per cent suffer from defects in one eye. The study conducted into socio-economic status pointed out that 35,000 Aboriginal people were registered as unemployed. As their economic purchasing power is so low, is it any wonder

that they can never get above their problem? As they cannot afford the homes that the whites take for granted, is it any wonder that they live in substandard accommodation?

The Minister has said that he has done everything possible and that his officers are working very hard. But has he put his money where his mouth is? If we go back to the 1975-76 financial year, we note that a lot of the money that was available for the care of Aborigines in this State simply was not used.

I refer first of all to Commonwealth assistance to Aboriginal funds. The fund created for the erection of housing, the acquisition of land, education facilities, health facilities and vocational training had remaining in it the sum of \$1,720,004.73. In the area of community welfare and sport, the Children's Services Special Standing Fund for Aboriginal Welfare remained at \$143,000. That is a lot of money, which again could be used to assist Aboriginal families in this State. The special standing funds in Aboriginal cultural affairs remained at \$26,678.11. In the Health Department fund there was \$2,200,933.40.

The Minister says that he hasn't got the money. The money is there, and it has not been used. Is that because the Government does not have a set policy and simply wants to let the status quo prevail? Is it because the Government does not want to spend this money? Something is wrong in the budgeting processes of the Minister's department.

I am sure that the Minister, who has travelled around the State, is well aware of the problems that exist. He has received reports from his own officers, who try to do a darned good job in carrying out their very difficult task. But wherever we go in the State, among the Aboriginal people we find despair, distress and depression. This should not be part of the Australian scene, let alone the Queensland scene, in 1976.

The non-political welfare groups throughout Queensland have stressed the need for homes. They have stressed the need for hundreds of homes to house Aboriginal people. They have described accommodation in places such as Camooweal as being utterly deplorable. Honourable members know that some Aborigines are forced to live in tin huts, tin sheds, drain pipes, tanks and old sheds on disused sporting fields. We know they live on riverbanks. Yet nothing has been done. The Minister says, "There has been a cut-back in Federal finance, so there is little we can do about housing." The lack of housing is the crux of the problem, yet it seems that the Minister is not prepared to go to Canberra to exert pressure on his Federal counterparts to obtain money. Nor is he prepared to use money that is already available to carry out the construction of these facilities.

I wonder if the real attitude of this Government as it pertains to Aborigines can be summed up by happenings in the Aurukun

dispute, because we had the overlord tactics used there. Regardless of the requests made by recognised church leaders and community leaders in this State, this Government was not prepared to listen to those claims. In fact, it refused to acknowledge the value of consultation. Apparently all one has to do is to go up there and speak to a couple of people, and that's consultation according to the Government. Yet there have been reports time and time again that consultation is a long, drawn-out process when it involves the Aboriginal people.

The Government bowed to the mining industry and persistently refused to meet with the people involved, be they the Aboriginal people or the Presbyterian Church. The Government attacked the Presbyterian church. It attacked those who stood up and spoke on the Aurukun issue, referring to them as Communists or anti-Government.

This is typical of what is happening now. The other day the honourable member for Toowong stood up and attacked the Action for World Development, again referring to it as a politically biased group. These people have suddenly realised that it is no longer good enough to maintain law and order; there has to be some type of justice in our community. The moment some type of church group speaks out on justice in our community, it is tagged as Communist.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. WRIGHT: It has a lot to do with the Aboriginal question, because the same is true here. The moment somebody stands up and tries to put up a fight for Aboriginal issues, he is said to be leading them astray and making them politically biased. There are political overtones. In the director's own report the attacks occur and he talks of political bias. When it comes to the Aborigine or minority groups in this State, it would seem that the only time politics is allowed is when it is biased towards the Government.

The State Government has adopted a paternalistic attitude. It talks about democracy in the communities. There is a pseudo democracy here. I have had many people complain that the councils do as they are told. I know that many of them try very hard to do what is best for the Aboriginal people. I know that they try very hard to carry out their responsibilities in the positions they are given, but the image of the Great White Father is still maintained. This is going to stay with us while we have this total centralisation of control. We have had much talk about devolution of control and authority but it has been slow and haphazard. Whenever problems have arisen, the Government has adopted the cosmetic approach.

There is one exception, and I give credit where credit is due. This is in the area of education. An effort is being made to overcome education problems. Courses have been

conducted at the Townsville Advanced College of Education where teachers have been trained and have gone into Aboriginal communities.

But the recognition of the educational difficulties is not enough. I have heard the honourable member for Sandgate and other honourable members raise this in the Chamber before; the alcoholic problem of the Aboriginal people. What is really being done? We hide our eyes to it. We say it is a social problem. We accept the fact that alcohol is destroying the Aboriginal community. We acknowledge that the vast majority of the Aboriginal people do not seem to be able to cope with alcohol. We have opened up canteens and we simply expect them to cope with situations that have confronted whites for over 200 years in the use of alcohol. Many of these people are not able to care for themselves. There is a flow-on effect to the families. It destroys the home life and the children, and it deprives them of any chance to purchase or rent decent accommodation.

This is the core of the problem. What is really being done? In the Minister's reply, instead of talking about all the wonderful things that he says are happening in some of the communities, maybe he can speak for 20 minutes on just how his department is coping with the Aboriginal drinking problem in this State, because it is a big problem. Yet we hear nothing about it. It creates myriad difficulties within the Aboriginal people. It certainly lessens their employment potential. I have had people come to me and say, "I would like to employ them, but they come to work three days a week. They miss a couple of days; they're drunk. They can't cope with their jobs." We must recognise this and accept that this is so. Let us try to do something about it.

The Government is not accepting its responsibility. Instead, it is trying to shift the blame. It irks me when the director puts in his report a subtle criticism of the churches. The churches have carried the Aboriginal care of this State for many, many years; but now, when they want to get involved and when they start trying to get a balance between order and justice, they are criticised for being politically biased. It is not good enough for the churches, who have a social responsibility, to be expected just to say to the Aboriginal who is unemployed, who is unhoused and who is unfed, "God bless you.", and then leave him in his state. That is not the way to overcome the problem.

The churches have a social consciousness and they are trying to do something about the position. I welcome the stand that has been taken by the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church in particular on this issue. They have seen through the Government's camouflage in its so-called care of the Aboriginal people. They realise that there is a problem

and they are trying desperately to do something about it. But the moment they do, they get attacked.

I turn to another point that was raised by the honourable member for Cairns. The honourable member for Cook also spoke briefly on this point. I refer to land rights. If we are going to give people status, surely there has to be some type of status symbol. To the Aboriginal people, land is a status symbol. What has been done in this State to give land rights to the Aboriginal people? We lack real respect for the Aboriginal culture. We seem to forget that they have a language and that it is their right to be bilingual. It is their right to pursue their own culture and their own education in our schools. But instead we try to mould them into the white society. We seem to have a preordained mould that has been established by the bureaucracy.

Mr. Jensen: Keeping them in their own communities is apartheid. That is all the Government is doing.

Mr. WRIGHT: That may be so, too.

Has anyone ever noticed how Mr. Smith from Rhodesia and Mr. Bjelke-Petersen are very much alike in their manner of speech? There is a strange similarity in their voices. Perhaps they also have a similarity in their racial attitudes.

If we can give excuses for not overcoming the cultural problems—and there is no ready answer; there is no short-term solution—no real excuse exists for the housing problems in this State. There is no excuse when Aboriginal people live in such shockingly substandard conditions. We know that they are semi-skilled. We know that many of them are unskilled. They are among the low-income earners. Because of that, their purchasing power is limited. We know, too, that there is always a backlash in the community. The moment one says to an owner who is renting his house that Aboriginal people are wanting to go into it, he says, "I am very, very sorry. It is not that I have anything against Aboriginal people, but it is the neighbours that I have to think about." There are grounds for attitudes such as that. I have written to the Minister about a couple of problems in our community in Rockhampton. However, we often forget that, whilst there might be six or seven troublesome families, 230 or 240 have been effectively assimilated into the community.

We need to look realistically at the problem of Aboriginal accommodation. It is not good enough for the Minister to say that no money is forthcoming from Canberra. We have to provide the money. The present accommodation crisis has to be overcome. I wonder if the Minister has put Queensland's case adequately. We have more Aboriginal people per capita than any other State; we have the greatest number of unemployed; we have the lowest socioeconomic status groups—yet we are

not getting the care and attention that should be forthcoming. Many experiments were started by the Federal Labor Government in the area of housing co-operatives. Some of those have been very successful. They have to be expanded and continued, not scuttled by the lack of finance.

I suggest that the Minister give this matter his prime consideration. There are two aspects—housing and alcoholism. While he is at it, he might try to overcome some of the existing problems. The member for Cairns raised this matter at the week-end. The existing situation is rather ridiculous. The ordinary Aboriginal woman who is deserted cannot get the family assistance allowance. The Minister replied, "We care for them in another way." I think they receive \$15 or something like that. What happens when that assistance is not forthcoming and they want to stay in the community? They must bludge—and that is virtually what it is—on the other people there. They have an alternative—either live in substandard conditions in the community, getting a small hand-out from the department, or leave the community and live outside where they can get the allowance.

That is not good enough. I believe it contravenes those Acts on the Statute Book aimed at overcoming discrimination against minority groups and, in particular, against Aboriginal people. The Minister must come to grips with this. It is all very well for him to get up at some Press conference over the week-end and say that he will look into it. More is needed than just looking into it. Letters have been received—and I have one here from the Department of Children's Services—in which it is clearly stated that the department is unable to assist financially anyone who resides within an Aboriginal community and is being supervised by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. This seems to be departmental policy. It is time that the Minister approached the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and straightened out this situation. This money is forthcoming from the Commonwealth Government and it should be passed on to those who are in need. We encourage them, on the one hand, to stay in their communities and, on the other hand, we deter them from doing so by saying, "If you stay there, you will not get the normal assistance a white person or Aborigine receives if living outside a community."

Mr. Jones: They are being less favourably treated.

Mr. WRIGHT: That is so. They are being discriminated against.

I accept that the Minister is at least trying. He has a shocking portfolio. There would be very few members in this Chamber who would jump at the opportunity to take it on. It is a tough one; it is one that is fraught with difficulties, but they have to be

dealt with. It is one that requires massive amounts of money to overcome the problems inherent in it.

I therefore repeat my points. If we are to do two things for Aborigines in this State, let us, firstly, get down to dealing with the accommodation problem; and, secondly, let us turn to the alcohol problem, which is destroying so many of these people.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (3.12 p.m.): I rise in this debate to make just a few points. I heard the honourable member for Rockhampton refer to land rights. When Bills dealing with Aborigines were brought down in 1971, I think it was, I mentioned giving to Aborigines the land in their communities. I also referred to giving them mineral rights. I was just about expelled from the Labor Party because I advocated those things in this Chamber. I was told that if that had been reported in "The Courier-Mail" the next day I would have been expelled. The Australian Labor Party did exactly what I suggested when it tried to keep Aborigines in their communities and advocated land rights for them.

I went to the islands this year with the Minister and other parliamentarians to have an unbiased look at conditions there. Aborigines have land rights to those islands and the chairmen of the councils on the islands are like little kings. They have the power to tell people if they can land on an island or stay on it. That is the land rights issue in operation. It is in effect apartheid. We talk in one breath about integrating these people into our community, and in the next breath we say, "Keep them where they are." On the one hand, the Government practices apartheid; on the other, it condemns it. I know what trouble I was in when I said that Aborigines should have mineral rights in their communities and freedom in those areas to do what they liked. I also suggested that they should be taught to build homes and to establish factories.

When I went to the islands I saw some of those activities being carried on, especially at Bamaga. There is no better example of what I had been suggesting. The hospital was quite beautiful and the whole community seemed to be interested in their way of life. These were people who came from Saibai. I think it was Mr. Hanlon, the Premier of the day, who settled them at Bamaga. Those people today have their own furniture factory, slaughter yards and butcher shop. They are growing cane and vegetables. They can do a mighty job when they are allowed to do it.

But on some islands they are not doing enough; they could be doing more. I saw the turtle farm and I saw turtles starving. I saw tanks with not a skerrick of water in them. A fellow was paid \$6,000 a year by the Federal Government to look after the turtles. He was given a boat free. But when the pump broke down that fellow, who was supposed to be looking after the turtles, did

not get anybody to cart water to the turtles that were dry and starving. And he was getting \$6,000 a year from the Federal Government to look after the turtle farm!

I said to that same man, "Why are those fellows carrying up cement when you have a tractor? Why don't they bring it up with the tractor?" He said, "That's our tractor. The Federal Government gave us that. The cement is for a State Government school. We're not carting it up." That is the type of thing that happened when the controversy between the Federal and State Governments was raging. When the Federal Government gave them a boat or tractor, they regarded it as theirs to use as they wished. When it could have been used to help out, they didn't want to use it. They could not be bothered to cart water up to those starving turtles. The Minister was with me and we saw those turtles climbing over each other trying to get out of the tanks. They were eating each other.

Mr. Warner: It was their wives who had forgotten to take the water up.

Mr. JENSEN: That's right; their wives had forgotten. I know that the honourable member's wife carries the water upstairs to him every day, too. Just the same, when I saw what was going on on those islands I was astounded. The people were living in reasonably good conditions but I thought they should be out doing a bit more work to earn those conditions. The men should be doing more fishing. We have heard enough here today about the amount of fish we import. We hear enough about Taiwanese trawlers being caught practically every week and held in Cairns, Mackay and the Gulf. Those fishermen come all the way from Taiwan to fish in our waters. Why can't we spend some money to provide decent fishing boats for some of our Islanders? Not enough is being done for the fishing industry in this State. The people from Sigabadu, 800 yards away across the water, are bringing fish over to Saibai to sell in order to be able to purchase flour in our stores.

One has to remember the conditions under which the people live in Papua New Guinea and its nearby islands. They do not receive social services with which to settle down and build houses or walls. Those poor beggars have to cross the border and sell a few fish in order to get a pound of flour from our stores. The Islanders do not want the border changed. They do not want to come under the control of New Guinea. They get their food from us, and they certainly do not want that to change.

Some of those islands are very pretty. They could be developed as tourist resorts, but there is no suggestion of any resort being developed. The island councils do not want it. The development of tourist resorts on certain of those islands would be another source of revenue. The Islanders should do more fishing and on some of the islands vegetables should be grown. But we look

after the Islanders so well that they do not want to do any of those things. Kiddies do not run naked round the islands. They are dressed reasonably well and they are all healthy. I did not see a skinny kid the whole time I was up there.

Mr. Powell: That's not what the honourable member for Rockhampton said.

Mr. JENSEN: I do not care what the honourable member for Rockhampton said; he was not there. He said that we should give them their land rights. I was nearly expelled from this party for saying that. I had to face a commission on the question. But this is the type of thing that goes on. I do not like these two-faced people. I say what I believe in. I went up there to have an unbiased look at how these people were getting on. I wanted to see how the Islanders were treated—I had heard stories about it—and I saw it. I believe that today we could do more by giving them fishing vessels. The Federal Government gave them hydroplanes, which proved useless up there.

Mr. Powell: Hovercraft.

Mr. JENSEN: Yes, hovercraft, and they proved useless. The Government built little runabout boats for them which were supposed to be used to take the sick from one island to the other. They are probably used for that purpose, but they also use them to go over to Daru to buy wine. How many boats does one really see on those islands?

Mr. Warner: Hundreds.

Mr. JENSEN: The honourable member would not see 100 boats in all the islands, apart from trawlers.

Mr. Warner: Sailing boats.

Mr. JENSEN: There was not a sailing boat or a rowing boat. In the old days they had canoes which they used to attack each other. But there is no such thing as a canoe in the islands these days. In the old days when they were head-hunters they had canoes, but not now. New Guinea has canoes cut out of logs. We saw hardly one rowing boat up there. The only boats we saw were outboard-powered, provided for the use of nurses and the chairmen of councils. The chairmen can use them as they think fit. They are little kings; there is no doubt about that. They say whether you can or cannot go onto the island. I do not think that is right. Landing rights should be the same there as anywhere else.

I thought that the set-up at Bamaga was very good. A Queensland Labor Government established Bamaga; today it is a thriving settlement. However, more could be done there. For example, the size of the furniture factory could be doubled. It cannot now supply sufficient furniture for the houses on the islands and furniture is being brought from the South. The Islanders there are making excellent furniture for their own

homes, but they could double their production. The size of the bakery could be doubled and fresh bread could be supplied to some of the other islands. Perhaps a bakery could be set up on one of the other islands and boats could be used to ferry fresh bread from one island to another every couple of days. Poultry is not being raised at Bamaga. People are buying frozen poultry from Cairns or somewhere else. They are not doing enough for themselves.

An Honourable Member: Growing vegetables.

Mr. JENSEN: As someone said, growing vegetables.

Mr. Warner: They get their poultry from Thursday Island.

Mr. JENSEN: Yes, but where do Thursday Islanders get their poultry? They do not raise poultry. They get them from Cairns or further south.

In my opinion, the points that I have made should be considered. I believe that the people want to work; in fact, in some farming communities they are working. However, there is no doubt that they could do much more.

I become fed up when I hear about the poor Taiwanese fishermen who come all the way to Queensland waters to try to catch a few fish that we are too lazy to catch, then have their boats taken from them. That is what it amounts to. The Fish Board is there only to double the price of fish to the consumer. The honourable member for Isis talked about mackerel and other fish supplied through Bundaberg. I invite him to see whether he can buy it cheaply in Bundaberg. He will not be able to. The price in Bundaberg is the same as it is in Brisbane. It is just put through the Fish Board and sent to Brisbane each day. When there is a glut of fish, it is never any cheaper in Bundaberg. That is all the Fish Board is doing today. It stores fish and supplies it to the capital cities. Once we had fresh fish all the year; we do not see it today.

I wished to mention a few of these matters because I visited these areas with an unbiased mind. With the exception of Bamaga, I have not seen the Aboriginal communities on the mainland; but if they are similar to Bamaga, I think they would be doing all right. I should like to see what they are doing. I did make a short visit to Weipa, and I heard what was happening with the drink there.

It was a National-Liberal Government that opened the wet canteens on the islands. The honourable member for Rockhampton spoke about drink and housing. People cannot have them both. Either they cut out their drink and have a house or they continue drinking. In many instances, white men cannot have them both, either. White men who spend \$30 or \$40 a week down at the pub cannot pay their rent or pay off their house. We cannot give Aborigines money

to spend on booze and then expect them to pay off their houses. That is all there is to it.

One should not speak with two tongues in this Chamber. Members should get up here and say honestly what they think. We are not here to protect people; we are here to try to look after them. I do not believe in protecting them by hiding behind curtains. I will say what I believe about the way these people live. In my electorate, I see both the white man and the Aborigine. I see how the decent one lives; I see how the others live. White or black, there is no difference when a low standard is reached. While he is drinking, he cannot pay his rent, and that is why he is kicked out.

I only hope that the wet canteens on the islands do not turn the inhabitants into drunkards who will never go out and do any fishing or pearling. Some of the young Islanders work in the pearling industry; others come here and work on the railways, and they do a good job. Many of the lads who remain there could work in the fishing fleet and catch fish for the people of this country; others could grow vegetables, or perhaps go pearling. There is only so much of that today with the Japanese taking over with cultured pearls. These are things that have to be looked at. It is no use my standing up here and saying that the Government had all this money, that it is not building houses or doing this and that. I am not going to say that. I merely ask the Minister to look at the lack of a proper fishing industry. We have to import 50 per cent of our fish. There are Islanders in the North who could do the job better than anyone else in the world. They have done it all their lives; that is what they have lived on. Today they are sitting on their behinds, not fishing. Only a few go out on pearling and fishing luggers. A fleet of fishermen could be operating up there. The Federal Government could have put a fleet of fishing boats up there instead of going in for turtle farming and some of the other rot it wasted money on. If that had been done, those men would have had a trade and we would have been supplied with fresh fish.

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (3.26 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to support the Minister and his department. I congratulate the director, Mr. Pat Killoran, on his opening letter in the annual report. I agree with everything he said; it was about time it was said. Of course, it has been said in the past, but it is not the sort of thing that gets very much publicity. It is the truth, but it is not sensational and therefore does not appeal to the sort of people the media seem to pander to.

As chairman of the Minister's parliamentary committee, I congratulate the Minister on his efforts to give his committee a first-hand knowledge of the conditions and workings of the Aboriginal and Islander communities.

In the term of this Parliament his committee has visited the Torres Strait islands and the Aboriginal communities of the Far North and the Peninsula. Familiarisation tours such as those are essential for comprehension of the complete situation, as indicated by some of the comments of the honourable member for Bundaberg. It is a pity that many of the self-appointed spokesmen on the solution of Aboriginal problems have not the benefit of such familiarisation and understanding. In the past few years a horde of non-Aboriginal Australians have been trying to dominate the scene and make decisions for our indigenous citizens, who themselves are quite capable and willing to make those decisions on their own affairs. I am sure the do-gooders and the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs would learn a lot if they could forget their self-orientated interests and take an objective look at the handling of Aboriginal advancement by the Queensland department.

As we toured the Peninsula and the Gulf communities this year, I could not but feel proud of this Government's achievements, particularly in the field of health and education. Every Government-backed community has a modern hospital and a staffed maternal and child welfare clinic. This is doing much for the young women and young families growing up in those communities. The European and indigenous staff alike do an excellent job. The more seriously ill patients are flown out to Cairns. Expectant mothers are flown to Cairns to have their babies, just in case complications arise. The schools were a joy to behold. Most southern members would be envious of those schools. Most of them are modern because they have been built only in the last few years. It is no wonder the children are very enthusiastic about school attendance.

The little ones really enjoy pre-school. The teachers told me that they often have trouble in sending them home in the afternoon. This is a very different story from what I am told by teachers of Aboriginal and Islander children in the towns. Truancy is one of the biggest problems with Aboriginal children in the towns, but that does not seem to occur on the reserves, which certainly says a lot for their education system.

Some of the community schools have bilingual programmes, as mentioned by the honourable member for Rockhampton. I must confess that I was a bit hesitant when I heard about this. I felt that our education system should be aimed at integrating these people into the Australian community, and it should fit them to earn a living as they become older.

Once we had a look at this, however, the reasons for the bilingual system became apparent. The children use their own language until grade 4, but after that English becomes the principal language. The children have a grounding not only in English but also their native tongue. This seems to be helping them in their transition period.

These schools are doing a marvellous job at primary school level, but it seems that there is a breakdown once the children get beyond that. It is a shame that we should give children six or seven years' education without training them to become self-supporting adults. A lot of the children leave school and return to their communities, and that is as far as they go. The department must take a very close look at the need for providing some sort of manual training or nursing training or some other training that can be used by the children even if they do want to remain in their communities in later life.

Because of their limited social experience, the children have difficulty in coping with secondary education as we know it. An attempt has been made to overcome this problem by taking the children out of their communities and on tours during the year. The teachers claim that these tours are very valuable.

I found it most interesting to compare the four church-conducted communities that we visited, particularly on the Peninsula and in the Gulf Country, with those controlled by the State. As has already been mentioned today, Doomadgee stood out from the other Aboriginal reserves. It is located north of Mt. Isa and west of Burketown, close to the border in a very dry, hot region. Whilst it suffers from climatic and communication problems, it has benefited tremendously from continued sound management and sincere pastoral care. In fact, the managers, Mr. and Mrs. Hockey, have been there for over 25 years. Mrs. Hockey has reared her family there, and she says that she misses them when they leave home. I pay her a special tribute for rearing her family in an area that is not a pleasant one in which to do that. Mr. and Mrs. Hockey have stayed there because they claim their first duty is to Doomadgee.

A Government Member: They have made a wonderful contribution.

Mrs. KIPPIN: Indeed they have. They have made many sacrifices. The headmaster, Mr. Fawcett, has been there for over 20 years. His efficiency is reflected in the children. They were dressed in uniform, were most pleasant and were eager to entertain us. In fact, all the people at Doomadgee were quite happy and enthusiastic to talk to us in their own quiet way.

Doomadgee is one example of the attempts made to overcome the problem of secondary education on Aboriginal reserves. At Doomadgee there is a scheme of manual training for children who complete their primary education and do not wish to go any further. This scheme has provided North-west Queensland with a large number of Aboriginal stockmen.

Those children who can cope with secondary education are encouraged to go to the Doomadgee associated secondary residential home conducted by the Brethren outside Malanda. It used to be a State school

and when it was closed down Mr. Killoran was instrumental in helping procure it for Doomadgee.

Over the years Mr. Hockey has encouraged young people, and this certainly seems to be paying off. The idea of encouraging young people to learn a useful trade is a most commendable one and it is important that it be followed by the State department.

The community at Doomadgee are a credit to the Brethren Assembly, the religious order that conducts the mission. It is also a tribute to its relatively small number of parishioners, who have done such a wonderful job over many years.

Another interesting feature of Doomadgee was its housing. There were various standards, and we were told that as more houses were built people who had proved that they knew how to look after houses and to care for their belongings were moved up into new houses and ones from further down the line were moved up into the less elaborate accommodation. This seems to me to be a very good idea, and it is something that our State department could look at.

In some of our northern areas we are buying and building very nice homes for the Aboriginal community, but we find that they are being wrecked in a very short time because the people do not know how to look after them. I wonder if we are not a little too generous at times and if we should try to give these people a transition period in housing before putting them into nice homes.

Another thing we could look at is the design of these houses. I inspected houses built recently at Ravenshoe for Aboriginal people. In my opinion these houses are not of suitable design for the climate. They are on high blocks. Although Ravenshoe is in the tropics, it has a very cool climate. This type of housing seems to be more fitted for the tropical climate than for the cool wet climate that Ravenshoe experiences.

I feel that the design is not quite what it should be. The children have to traipse all the way through the house before they eventually get to the bathroom and the toilet, and in red-soil areas with a wet climate every mother knows that this is most undesirable. It is better to have the bathroom facilities close to the outside of the house.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Why do you say that?

Mrs. KIPPIN: Because the mud won't be transferred all through the house as the children go to the bathroom. Children, black or white, always have muddy feet.

Mr. Goleby: Red soil is the same.

Mrs. KIPPIN: Anyone who lives in a red soil area knows the problems of the red stains throughout the house.

Another point I am most concerned about is the effect that the most generous and widespread hand-outs from the Federal Government are having on our Aboriginal

people. These hand-outs are supposedly aimed at giving our indigenous citizens a sense of responsibility in handling money and an opportunity to advance themselves. Unfortunately, the results are far from desirable. I am continually receiving complaints from teachers that parents in receipt of the education allowances are not using this money to provide their children with textbooks and wholesome meals.

In Ravenshoe and Mt. Garnett truancy is a serious problem among Aboriginal children. As I mentioned before, this contrasts strongly with school attendances in our State communities on the Peninsula and on the Gulf.

When I was door-knocking during the last election campaign, I was appalled at the number of school-age children not at school and the general low standard of health of these children. I realised that there was an urgent need for a health sister to investigate this problem. I must thank both the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and the Minister for Health for their prompt action in this matter. Subsequently they sent a health team from the Aboriginal Health Programme to Ravenshoe in September 1975. The health team found that, of the 55 children screened, only 11 had normal weight for their age, 18 were in the first level of malnutrition, and 26 were in the second, third and fourth levels of malnutrition. This meant that they were severely underweight for their particular age group. Twenty-eight, or 51 per cent of these children, were anaemic according to world health standards.

Since that time the team has been making weekly visits to Ravenshoe and spending a couple of days a week there. It has carried out anti-anaemia therapy, and given referrals to dental and medical officers for all children in need of these services. The team has continued advice and instruction to parents of the children and have also administered prescribed nutritional supplements to six severely malnourished children. By May of this year 23 of the 28 anaemic children had higher haemoglobin and only two had marginally lower readings. So they really have had quite a deal of success in that area. Of the 44 children found to be suffering from malnutrition, 35 had gained weight at a much faster rate than normal, indicating that a significant growth spurt had occurred.

In September 1975 the health team also noted that a number of children were not adequately immunised. Immunisation for all children in that area has now been arranged. That is most important. Only last year we had a severe outbreak of diphtheria and a number of Aboriginal children died because they had not been immunised.

The health team has made a significant impact on the children. I am very pleased to see that it intends to continue the visits for as long as is necessary. In fact, I would like to see them extend their services to the Aboriginal children at Mt. Garnet. There have been a few visits, but I would like the

team to spend a little more time there and undertake the same programme as it has in Ravenshoe.

While I am on the subject of visiting health teams—I have received quite a number of complaints from country people who say that the Aborigines are receiving preference in treatment when the health teams visit country centres. I have questioned a number of the health teams about why they do not investigate white children when they are in isolated areas. One reason given is that their finance is provided by the Federal Government for the specific purpose of treating Aboriginal children. I believe the Federal Government should reconsider that attitude. Those teams should in fact investigate all children with health problems in country areas. The other reason is that often the parents have objected to the Aboriginal health teams looking at white children. That is rather foolish and a rather unfortunate example of snobbery, in my opinion.

Another instance of the Ravenshoe Aboriginal community's falling down on its commitments is the non-payment of its debt to the ambulance. The majority of members of the Aboriginal community refuse to pay their contributions to the ambulance. They ran up a debt of over \$2,600 for the 1975-76 financial year. The ambulance bearers have threatened that they will not transport the Aboriginal people who are in need, but of course the Aborigines know very well that if they are seriously ill the ambulance will give in and provide them with the care and attention that they require.

Until recently those bad debts would have been met by the Federal Government under its Ambulance Bad Debts Reimbursement Scheme. However, the Federal Minister (Mr. Viner) has decided to terminate that scheme. That is one cut-back in the Federal Aboriginal Department's budget with which I cannot agree. Quite a number of ambulance centres in small Queensland towns with relatively large Aboriginal communities cannot withstand losses of over \$2,000 each year just because the Aboriginal people will not meet their debts.

The Federal Government must give guidance as well as hand-outs. Too much hand-out money goes on liquor and results in the degradation of the Aboriginal families as a whole. The allowances are not being used for the benefit of the education and the nutrition of the Aboriginal children. The adults are not accepting the responsibility expected of all other members of the community. It was hoped by the Federal Government, no doubt, that they would meet their commitments if they had enough money. Unfortunately, as has been said by other members in this debate, alcoholism is a serious problem amongst Aboriginal people and its effects seem to override any sense of responsibility.

A lot of Aboriginal people residing in Mt. Garnet and Ravenshoe have over the years been able to earn a decent living for

themselves. They have reared quite respectable families. However, in more recent years when they have been able to get money without having to work, they have gradually succumbed to alcoholism. Their families are beginning to disintegrate and it is quite sad to see the situation we have placed them in. For that reason, I think we must take a very close look at the direction in which Aboriginal advancement is heading. I think the Queensland department has the right idea. Very little of its budget is spent on hand-outs. Its funds are spent on the provision of facilities for these people to give them the opportunity to advance and integrate with the general community. I believe that this should be their ultimate aim.

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (3.46 p.m.): I am very happy to enter the debate on the Estimates of the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries. In doing so, I should like to say that in such a debate there is one speech about Aborigines that is easy to make. It is often a speech that catches the headlines and it is both easy and noisy, like kicking a bucket along the street. It is so very often made. It usually starts by declaring that Queensland has a shameful record in Aboriginal advancement. It then proceeds, with one adjective after another, to blame everybody else for this situation.

The speaker then usually cries out about neglect, without saying precisely what is being neglected. He demands action without saying precisely what action is needed. The orator beats his breast on account of the sins of the nation and pats himself on the back because he has been so fearless as to confess other people's faults. This tactic of public confession in respect of Aboriginal advancement does nothing to solve the problems in this field.

I do not want to make that easy and noisy speech this afternoon. In the past I have criticised those who have made it. I should like to accept the challenge to make a few frank and open comments on this problem and the results of excessive Government involvement in Aboriginal affairs in this country.

In the first place, it is false to say sweepingly that Aborigines in Australia are neglected. Such a statement overlooks the devoted work of hundreds of missionaries in scores of missions supported by a number of Australian churches that are all playing their part in this work in the Outback and the far-flung northern region. It overlooks the provisions made by Governments and people throughout Australia, particularly in this State and the Northern Territory, in the field of Aboriginal welfare.

Government members accept a responsibility in Aboriginal welfare. The Liberal and National Parties recognise the enormous social problems facing Aborigines in Australia and the advance of the Aboriginal people. Their advance is one of the greatest

social challenges facing the nation. It represents a challenge to not only Aborigines but the whole community in understanding the special and diverse needs of these people. The Government's policy is to ensure that all possible steps are taken to enable the Aboriginal people to assume their proper place as respected and equal members of Australian society and to accept their responsibilities towards it and gain the full benefits from it.

I should like to dwell for just a moment on the comment that it is necessary that indigenous people accept their responsibilities to the community. As many of us who have had experience in this field know, there is a wide range of life-style among Aborigines and part Aborigines in this State. It is attempting to differentiate between people on the basis of their content of Aboriginal blood that produces inaccurate assessments and causes us to waste much time and money. I am probably the only member of this Assembly who has served in the capacity of protector of Aborigines. Under the old Act, which was repealed some years ago, I had the responsibility in an Outback police station for a number of years of handling funds held in trust for Aborigines and attempting to assist and guide them in their way of life. I had the responsibility for housing them when they came down from the mission stations in the Gulf country, securing their transport arrangements, assisting them to buy a new pair of elastic-sided boots or perhaps a guitar or radio, issuing them with pocket-money and supervising their daily lives to see that they did not fall foul of the dreaded demon drink while they were in what was to them a comparative metropolis, the town of Cloncurry, a town with a population of about 1,000 people.

Cloncurry was the base for the transfer of Aborigines to bigger hospitals on the coast and in the South. It was a place where they could come for essential medical and dental treatment and to see something of the outside world. They used to come to Cloncurry in quite large numbers on special flights from Doomadgee and Mornington Island to attend the Merry Muster Rodeo, which in those days was conducted by the ambulance committee. The leading personality on that committee, indeed the man who founded this traditional western activity, was a gentleman named Bob Katter, whose son is a member of this Assembly. Indeed, Bob Katter is the Federal member for the area. So this task of supervising hundreds, indeed thousands, of Aboriginal people as they passed through Cloncurry fell to me in my role as a protector of Aborigines under the Act which governed such things. That gave me some experience of this kind of thing. I was always conscious of the great responsibility that was placed upon me by the Government in those days. I must say that I think the amendment of the original Act was in many ways regrettable. I know there was great pressure and agitation to do

away with the concept of protectors. I am not sure that that was the soundest course that the Government could have taken at that time. In recent times we have seen some of the results of that action.

At that time Aborigines working on cattle properties in the Outback would come to town and be under the supervision of the local policeman or perhaps, if he was in town, an officer of the Department of Native Affairs. These people enjoyed a good and wholesome life. They reared their families on properties in an environment they understood. They had employment, and they responded to the attempts at assimilation by the station owners who, in most instances in my experience—indeed, in almost all instances—were kindly people who had a genuine interest in the many families they supported on their properties in Far North-west Queensland. It was not until we saw the trade union movement force itself upon those properties, demanding full adult wages for Aborigines, that it was no longer an economic proposition for station owners to maintain an Aborigine and all his relatives—the aunts, cousins, grandmothers and grandfathers. They had to feed all these people merely to have one or two men working as ringers or station hands on the property. And so, as it became a less viable proposition for station owners, these people were put off and stockmen from other areas were employed. The men who were put off had nowhere to go, and they could not place themselves in the care of the local Protector of Aborigines because at around the same time as the trade unions moved onto the stations the position of full protector was eliminated from the Act.

Many of these people came to the cities and towns of the West and took up residence on camping reserves in shanties built from old pieces of galvanised iron, kerosene tins and other building rubbish. They erected some of the dreadful dwellings that we have so frequently seen portrayed on television programmes in recent years and about which many of the agitators have complained. These same agitators were the ones who broke down the old system of Aborigines being housed on station properties where the station owner was not required to pay the full adult wage or the basic wage to the wage earner in the family. If one goes to towns such as Cloncurry, Mt. Isa, and Julia Creek, one sees literally hundreds of Aboriginal men and women sitting round the streets—in the gutters or on the footpaths—and in the parks, totally unemployed and with nothing to do with their time. When they see the reality, there must be a great conflict of conscience for the people who, perhaps knowing nothing of the problems, forced this situation upon the Aboriginal people of this nation.

Recently, of course, we have seen an equally ill-advised approach by another power group in the community. I speak of the attitude to Aboriginal advancement of

the former Federal Labor Government, which seemed to think that the only solution to the problem was to provide large amounts of money to be spent wantonly on schemes dreamed up by people who were not expert in this field.

In my opinion, there is a great need for the dignity of the Aboriginal people to be restored, and I pay a compliment to the director and officers of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement in this State for their very practical approach. In many instances it is based on the lifetime experience of men who have had first-hand knowledge of the problems, men who have nothing in common with the southern dogooders or the ill-informed Canberra politicians. I should like to see these southern dogooders and Federal politicians—and I do not exclude the present Federal Minister (Mr. Viner)—mind their own business on Aboriginal affairs and leave them in the hands of the people who know something about them and who have had first-hand experience.

I find it difficult to reconcile the approach by the Federal Government, either Labor or, more recently, Liberal-National Country Party, to the allocation of funds for Aboriginal welfare. In a recent debate I gave some figures relating to Aborigines hostels operating in the New Farm area. I mentioned that, in the first instance, the Federal Budget for the current financial year provided for a direct grant of \$153,000,000, and the two hostels in New Farm received quite a sizeable slice of that money.

The Elan hostel in Moray Street, New Farm, which has a bed capacity for only 48 persons in motel-type accommodation, cost the Australian taxpayer \$241,675 to purchase and furnish to bring it up to the standard—I might add that it was a fairly first-rate motel—suitable for occupancy by itinerant Aboriginal men. Fortunately it is currently occupied by women and children and, to some extent, is not the disruptive element that it was when it was established by the Labor Government. I am concerned that each week the Australian taxpayer pays \$38.93 per person towards the accommodation of the residents of that hostel. Almost \$39 per person per week is contributed by the taxpayer after a contribution has already been made either from social service payments or from money earned by the resident towards his upkeep.

The other hostel, Apia, near the commercial area in Brunswick Street, New Farm, was a much more expensive establishment. It cost \$410,363 to set up and establish that place. Over the last 12 months it has been accommodating an average of 33 itinerant men a week.

On average a total of 61 Aboriginal people are accommodated in those two hostels, which between them cost almost \$750,000 to establish, and which currently cost the taxpayer over \$134,000 a year to maintain, in addition to the contributions

made by the residents themselves. I find this very hard to reconcile with other accommodation.

Although the standard is not as high, the only similar accommodation is at the St. Vincent de Paul Hostel in Margaret Street, which mostly accommodates white people. Not many Aboriginal people line up in the queue for a free meal down there each evening. The reason for that is very simple. Aborigines are accommodated in motel-type of accommodation at New Farm, which is costing the tax-payer \$134,000 a year to maintain. The Aborigines do not come up to the church-run St. Vincent de Paul Hostel, where destitute white people find a bed. Each night about 85 people are accommodated at that hostel, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul manages to run that place at an annual cost of \$66,000. The people who live there are not charged anything for accommodation or meals. We see the contrast between what the Commonwealth is prepared to pay in taxpayers' funds towards the accommodation of men who claim that they are of Aboriginal extraction and what it is prepared to contribute towards the accommodation of those whose skin happens to be white. It is a racist approach that more money should be provided to accommodate Aboriginal people. Well over twice as much is given to accommodate them, simply because of the colour of their skin. It is a racist approach to social welfare, and I don't like it. It does nothing towards uplifting our society. It does nothing to encourage Aboriginal people to get off their backside and work and strive for themselves. Until that is accomplished we will get nowhere with it. Most of the Aboriginal people who find themselves in destitute circumstances in Brisbane are not the type of people one would normally find on the missions in North Queensland under the control and care of the churches and the State department. Most of those people are very simple souls who are in need of direct and meaningful assistance, and that is what they are given by the State department.

Recently I was encouraged to read some remarks made as long ago as 1959 by a gentleman who is probably one of Australia's leading statesmen—now Sir Paul Hasluck. He delivered an address in 1959 on Aboriginal advancement.

(Time expired.)

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (4.6 p.m.): Previous speakers have referred to trips made by the Minister to certain Torres Strait and other northern islands. It would appear that only those members who are on his committee—not a parliamentary committee, but a party committee—are invited to accompany him on those trips. The practice followed in the past by Ministers was to extend to all members an invitation to participate in such tours. By doing so members could gain first-hand knowledge of the various problems that arise on the Torres Strait islands and in the communities and reserves on the mainland. I

suggest to the Minister, and to all other Ministers, for that matter, that by inviting all members to accompany him on these tours he would find that those who are able to accept his invitation would be better able to discuss the activities of his departments. A higher standard of debate would result.

I want to direct my main comments at what I regard as the biggest problem confronting Queensland's fishing industry and one that has been referred to over a number of years by the professional fishermen of this State. The fishing industry is suffering badly at the hands of foreign vessels that intrude into our offshore waters. It is incumbent on the Queensland Government to apply pressure not only through its own departments but also through the Federal Government on other nations to stop their fishing boats and trawlers from plundering our fishing grounds.

Many of the marine products that are taken by foreign fishermen from our waters are sold back to us over shop counters. Today during the luncheon recess I inspected the grocery sections of some of the major department stores in this city. Certainly I saw on sale fish products, such as sardines from Norway, that are not available in Australian waters. But I also saw large quantities of so-called tinned salmon from Taiwan and tinned crab meat from Taiwan. I would venture to suggest that the contents of many of those tins would be tuna caught in our east-coast waters or other fish caught in the Gulf of Carpentaria. I have no doubt that the so-called crab meat from Taiwan is in fact clam meat taken from the Great Barrier Reef.

These products are being deliberately poached and plundered by foreign fishermen. There is no other way of describing their actions. They are taking clam meat, which is not normally taken by our own fishermen, and processing it in such a way as to enable it to be sold over the counter as crab meat.

Queensland is faced with a serious problem in that the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Great Barrier Reef are two areas with the greatest fishing potential in Australia. We must remember that waters within three miles of the outer edge of the reef are also territorial waters. A problem arises, of course, from the delineation between Federal and State responsibilities over offshore waters.

I have seen private vessels chartered by the Queensland fisheries inspectors sailing from Mackay in an endeavour to catch foreign fishermen who are poaching in our waters. When the inspectors arrive at the spot where the vessel was last reported, it is found that it has moved cunningly out a few miles immediately the inspectors' vessel was spotted coming over the horizon. These vessels, which come mainly from Taiwan, move out of Queensland waters, and if it is a Commonwealth vessel approaching, sometimes they have got time to move out of Australian waters.

Unless some actual photographic evidence is obtained from an aircraft to show that the vessel is operating in reef areas, it is very difficult indeed for the Royal Australian Navy or our Queensland Fisheries Service officers to board these vessels and take possession of them in accordance with the Commonwealth or State law. This is an area that has to be looked at fairly quickly.

The Mackay Harbour at present is being filled with Taiwanese vessels that have been boarded by Australian authorities. The masters of these vessels have been unlucky. The Kangaroo II exercise still going on brought the greatest conglomeration of shipping and air power seen off the Queensland coast since the Coral Sea Battle. Five Taiwanese vessels were apprehended and another was wrecked on a reef, all in the period of about a month. There have been many other sightings as well. Sightings are being made by our own professional fishermen all the time. I suppose the fishermen on the Taiwanese vessel wondered what hit them when they saw the aircraft carrier "U.S.S. Enterprise" bearing down on them.

It is a serious problem. In recent days I have gone aboard and inspected some of these vessels in Mackay Harbour. I have seen the type of catch that they have taken from our reef. To my amazement there was a tremendous amount of undersized fish amongst it. It seems they will take anything at all. They even had porpoises in their hold. People pay a fortune at "Marine-land" to see the friendly, playful porpoises. When travelling on a cruise ship in the Great Barrier Reef waters, it is a joy to see the porpoises playing close to the vessel. They sometimes get right under the bow of the boat. I understand that the water displaced by the thrust of the boat scratches their backs as it were. The porpoises love this. The tourists enjoy it. Tourists would be very, very sad indeed, as I was, to see in the holds of some of these vessels half a dozen porpoises cut up and frozen to be taken back to Taiwan. Some of this might come back to us in Australia as tinned salmon.

The plundering of clams is a tragedy. All that they take is the small muscle from the clam. It is a piece of flesh approximately the size of a fist. Honourable members who have been on the Reef and have seen the varying sizes of clams there can well imagine how many of those muscles it would take to make 8½ tonnes of clam meat. One of the vessels captured the other day and brought into Mackay Harbour contained that tonnage of clam meat. The rest of the clam is left to rot on the Reef.

It is time that direct action of some sort was taken by both the Federal and Queensland Governments. I believe that we must set up additional and special patrols of our Great Barrier Reef. I have the greatest admiration for the three Royal Australian Navy patrol vessels based in Cairns. These

vessels do a tremendous job. They have to cover a coastline from the Gulf right down to the end of the Barrier Reef, almost 2,000 miles of coastline. It is an impossible task.

The Queensland Fisheries officers stationed in the same area have to go out at times as well. They are trying to cover all this coastline for illegal net fishing and other branches of the Fisheries Act, in addition to their ordinary departmental duties. Their task is an absolute impossibility.

The Federal Government transferred the Neptune base from Townsville to South Australia. In normal times—when there is no Kangaroo II exercise—if a Queensland fisherman spots a vessel from Taiwan or some other nation operating in an area on the Great Barrier Reef, he has to wait several hours for a long-range Neptune reconnaissance aircraft to fly from South Australia, instead of getting it fairly quickly from Townsville. As has been said before, once the boats know they have been sighted, they can get away very quickly indeed.

The living conditions on those boats and the diseases carried by the crew are appalling. One of the vessels presently in Mackay Harbour has been completely quarantined as a result of an inspection of the crew by quarantine officials. The situation is tragic. In addition, our courts should be empowered to dispose of the complaints much more speedily. The crews from impounded boats should be got out of the country as quickly as possible. I believe that drastic measures will have to be taken.

I move on now to a couple of aspects of the Fish Board report. The board says that, as it is an instrumentality of the Government, it operates along much the same lines as the Australian airline industry where there is competition between private enterprise and the Government instrumentality. That is a lot of hooey. It is just not so. In addition to being a marketing agent of the Queensland Government, the Fish Board is also the law-enforcement agency of the fishing industry. It is responsible for checking on what is happening in an area. Drawing an analogy between it and the airline industry is the equivalent of claiming that T.A.A. spies on Ansett all the time.

In many cases in Queensland the fisherman, the retailer and the consumer get a much better go by bypassing the Fish Board. That is because of certain practices engaged in by the board. I make an urgent appeal to the Minister to carry out a full investigation of all fish-marketing in Queensland.

The board's report contains only scant information on the amount of seafoods marketed in Queensland. What about all the products that come out of the Gulf each year? We have no idea of the quantity of fish and other seafoods that come from there. Most of its goes directly overseas or interstate. There is no record of it in the board's statistics.

I was surprised to hear a Government member say earlier in the debate that Bundaberg, I think it was, handled the greatest quantity of coral trout and other reef fish of any fish board market in Queensland. That is a lot of rot, too. Obviously he has not looked properly at his report. The three northern ports of Cairns, Townsville and Mackay are heavily involved in the fish-fillet trade. The operators there process at sea and on the shore. People are employed within the industry. It is not all left to the Fish Board. Certainly a quantity of reef fish goes through other markets. I shall elaborate on the position with fish fillets. Almost 75 per cent of the filleting trade of Queensland goes through the ports of Cairns, Townsville and Mackay. Most of that goes directly interstate. Almost 42½ per cent of the fish sold in Queensland comes from the Moreton Bay area—Cleveland, Wynnum, Scarborough, Sandgate and others in the Brisbane area. I repeat that the bulk of the northern catch goes to southern States.

Because we have not kept records of the amount of fish going to private buyers interstate and overseas, the people of Brisbane are probably being denied access to some of the best fish in Australia. Breakfast served on the aircraft coming down from the North this morning consisted of a beautiful fillet of a reef fish. At lunch-time today I had to attend a function at the so-called major hotel in Brisbane, which served a fish luncheon. Compared with the fish that I was served on the aircraft, it was shocking. It was of very poor quality indeed. I believe that, as a result of the marketing arrangements in Queensland, the people of Brisbane are missing out on the best fish.

I should now like to make a few comments on the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. During the debate there has been much talk of reserves and the various mission stations and settlements conducted by the Government and churches. We have also heard much talk about integration of coloured people with the general community.

If one studies the annual report of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, one sees quite clearly that there is already a very high degree of integration in Queensland, despite what is said in other places about problems in Queensland. When speaking of Aborigines—one trouble spot often mentioned is Palm Island. The Committee may not be aware that statistics show that there are almost as many children of Aboriginal and Islander descent attending schools in the Mackay city area as there are on Palm Island. There is a very large integrated population of coloured people in various areas of Queensland who are already obtaining employment and housing and who are in all respects living as ordinary members of the community. I am not speaking of racial or ethnic standards; I am speaking of general community standards. They are people who have become integrated

over a series of generations and who are now living as ordinary Queenslanders and Australians.

In my area a high proportion of these people are descendants of South Sea Islanders. Without meaning any disrespect to Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders or other ethnic groups, I might say that people of South Sea Island descent are wonderful folk. There is no better ethnic group in Australia. Many of these people I consider to be among my best friends in the Mackay area. The only difference between us is not so much the colour of our skins as the fact that their ancestors came from an island in the Pacific Ocean whereas mine came from an island off Western Europe.

These people have great faith as Christians and they had this faith instilled into them by the Christian churches. The Christian churches in Queensland, indeed throughout Australia and in many other lands, went among the people, as they are still doing, when Governments were not prepared to help them. The Christian churches in Australia went among the Aborigines and succoured them, helped them and nursed them whilst Government police were still riding them down on horseback and shooting them because they may have stolen or speared some cattle somewhere along the line. The record of Governments in this sphere is not very good and it ill-behoves Governments to criticise churches on their work among Aboriginal people.

If one looks into the field of welfare and social matters generally, one finds that churches came to the fore long before Governments ever got themselves involved. In the care of the elderly and sick, and in so many other fields in general social welfare, Christian men and women worked much harder and longer, and with a great deal more experience, than has any Government in Australia or elsewhere.

There is a tendency with Governments today, particularly the Queensland Government, to brand all who criticise as knockers. Everybody who has something to say about what the Government has done, or has a point of view different from that of the Government, is said to be misguided. If a person wants to put forward something that is contrary to Government policy, he is said to be talking through his hat. This type of derision is found throughout Queensland today. One does not have to look very far to find a comparison. One has only to look at the Bible, the greatest story ever written, and compare these people to the Pharisees of old and the comments they used to make about what went on in their day.

(Time expired.)

Mr. LINDSAY (Everton) (4.25 p.m.): In rising to speak on the Estimates for the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement I am reminded that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and on this subject nobody has a monopoly on the truth.

But equally a picture is worth a thousand words and in this regard, mainly through the initiative of the Minister (Hon. Claude Wharton) and his able director (Pat Killoran), it has been my pleasure, with the Minister's entire committee, to travel extensively throughout Queensland's Aboriginal reserves.

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. LINDSAY: The taxpayers of Queensland paid for the trip, and I think it was money well spent. On my own I would never have been able to visit those places. We went to Cairns, Bloomfield River, Cooktown, Hope Vale, Lockhart River, Bamaga, Weipa, Aurukun, Edward River, Kowanyama, Normanton, Burketown, Doomadgee, Mt. Isa, Mornington Island and the islands of the Torres Strait, some of which I had visited prior to entering Parliament. I have been to Saibai, Boigu, Darnley, Yorke, Murray, Horn, Thursday and Badu Islands. I mention those places because I want to elaborate on what we saw.

Before doing that, I would point out that there are some 35,000 Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders living in the communities I have mentioned, plus another 20,000 living in various towns throughout the State. So we have 55,000-plus people who would be termed Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

In his report the Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement said this—

"Aboriginal peoples are part of the Australian society which now has the opportunity to become a multi-racial unit.

"Efforts at segregation and discrimination will split that unit into factions that will rush headlong, dragging the country helplessly with it, into violent racial strife so commonly seen in the world today but so far avoided in this country."

One could ask why it has been avoided so far in this country. Perhaps it is because of the innate common sense of all Queenslanders, regardless of the colour of one's skin or where one was born, but all believing in the State of Queensland.

In this regard I think the firsts that Queensland has achieved are worth repeating. I think it is to the credit of my own State that we are the only State with an Aboriginal representative elected to both the State and Federal Parliaments. Already today we have had the pleasure of hearing the democratically elected representative for Cook (Mr. Eric Deeral) speak. In the Federal Parliament we have another very dedicated man in Senator Neville Bonner who, of course, depends for his position on the very strong support of his own Liberal Party. We are the only State to have elected local Aboriginal councils on communities. We are the only State to have a democratically elected council to advise the Government of the needs of the Aboriginal people. We are the first State to have an Aboriginal university graduate. We are the first State to have Aborigines working

to preserve their material culture through the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act, ideas from which have since been adopted by Western Australia and Canada.

So I think that we in Queensland can be proud of our achievements to date, and I feel that rather than adopt a backward-looking sort of attitude towards what we have done we should in fact be proud of what has been achieved.

If one looks quickly through the report, Mr. Dean, one sees, for example—

"Development continues at Woorabinda on a steady and planned progression.

"This year has seen the following capital works. . . ."

At Cherbourg a new retail store has been built, while at Palm Island it is expected that November will see the completion of a new dam. The report says also that the installation of sewerage has progressed over the year, that the island's airstrip has been maintained at a high level, and that a park area has been constructed.

Yarrabah had a progressive year, and the report says—

"New programmes proposed for the 1976-77 year include the upgrading of the community power supply, a new workshop complex and relocation of the sawmill."

At Normanton, through the drive and initiative of departmental liaison staff aided by members of the advancement committee, a vegetable garden at the reserve has been established and is in production. A community recreation hall has been established at Mornington Island. At Kowanyama, two new 145 kW generating sets were commissioned during the year. A self-draining system for ducting and service pits was installed to eradicate a water nuisance.

The report also says—

"This year has seen the horizon of Edward River change dramatically as building developments have commenced or been completed."

It has been my pleasure to go to Edward River on two occasions in recent months. The projects there include a primary school complex, a new hospital, Aboriginal health programme buildings, a maternal and child welfare building, a library, a new retail store building, a principal's residence, three departmental staff homes, four Aboriginal residents' homes, and so on.

Then the report says—

"Construction began at Aurukun on a library by the Public Works Department in March, 1975, and continued during the period but is not yet complete.

"The new school complex construction continued and there were a number of classrooms ready for occupation at the end of the year."

When I was there a few months ago, those classrooms were certainly in use.

In the Weipa region, a new poultry shed has been erected and a concrete swimming-pool constructed. The bulk store at Lockhart River was built by local labour, and the new kindergarten and library were built by the State Works Department, which is at present engaged in the construction of extensions to the primary school. Progress has been made on the new water reticulation scheme at Bamaga. And so the report goes on.

Far from being a sort of retrograde, inoperative organisation, the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement is progressing at a very steady rate. I can confirm that because I have been to the settlements and seen them.

Of course, there are problems in relation to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. One of these is that there is a population explosion on each and every one of the reserves. The reason for this is the improved hospitalisation and maternal care that I have outlined. With the vitamin additives given to mothers and children each morning by the nursing sister in charge of each reserve, there is an improved infant-survival rate. I can assure you, Mr. Dean, that, as the honourable member for Bundaberg said earlier, we did not see many starving children. On the contrary, we saw very well-fed children, and we saw children and mothers being given additional vitamins. That is very good, and I am all for it; but it is creating a population explosion on the reserves.

The other big problem arises from the downturn in the pastoral industry. In past years, many young Aboriginal men, once they became of age (in some instances even before that), were involved in the pastoral industry. With the present downturn, jobs are no longer available for them. In Queensland, we now see the beginning of a new generation of Aborigines, and the councillors on quite a number of the reserves have told me that they are concerned about them. These boys are in no way related to the pastoral industry. They are not sympathetic to it; the opportunities are not there. They cannot ride a horse; they cannot herd sheep and cattle. So there is a change in the career opportunities and a change in the life-style of many young Aboriginal men and, as a result, problems certainly will arise.

In recent times we have heard a number of people argue that we should not go ahead with the development proposed for the Aurukun area, despite a very similar proposition already operating successfully at Weipa, which is a couple of hundred miles further north along the west coast of the Cape York Peninsula. Weipa is going fine. It is a great revenue-earning, job-providing operation. Apparently to some people Aurukun is a different proposition. Perhaps that applies to people who have not been there.

From the departmental annual report we see that there are 768 people living in Aurukun. Of those, 102 are employed and 254 are being educated in a very good

school. It has electric fans and wall-to-wall carpet in part of it, and it is a school that I would be proud to have in my electorate. That makes a total of 356 out of the 768 people at Aurukun.

What does Aurukun consist of? It is a very remote area—remote in terms of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, but not remote in terms of Timor, Port Moresby, the Philippines, Malaya and Japan. One gets depressed at Aurukun. It is a depressing situation. I am the first to admit that the housing is disgraceful. It has a preponderance of galvanised iron housing. In most buildings the walls are galvanised iron and the roof is galvanised iron. The cooking fire is on the floor inside, as are the pigs, etc., together with a large number of adults and children. To me, this is subsistence living. To leave Aurukun like that is just terrible. As I said, we are educating 254 children and we are doing a good job there, but what are we educating them for? At the end of the school day they go back to that environment.

I would argue strongly for the continuation of the Aurukun project. It must be remembered that that project is not exactly going to take place on the mission itself, but some 15 miles up the road from it. My basic belief is that if through education we are going to encourage Aborigines to develop and to come into the 21st Century (that is where we are all headed) we have to provide them with meaningful career opportunities and meaningful work situations in the areas with which they are most familiar—not in the ghettos in South Brisbane.

If I have a criticism I would relate it to my experiences in Papua New Guinea. In my time there in the late '50s and early '60s we all used to say, "This place can never run on its own. They'll get their independence too early. They shouldn't have native officers and N.C.O.s." We were saying that sort of thing but the decision was made, and I think it was the right decision. Local people in the various areas were integrated with the staff throughout Papua New Guinea. On all Aboriginal communities we need to have greater career opportunities for the oncoming Aboriginal boys and girls. I know this is happening in some areas, but it is not obvious.

Every manager of every island and Aboriginal reserve should have an understudy. Such an understudy should be an Aborigine. I would go so far as to say that a career pattern should be laid out for him so that after he spends a certain period of time in one community he could be transferred to another to obtain wider experience in a particular job.

We must, of course, look at the situation that applies at places such as Cherbourg. How long will it remain a ward of the State, so to speak? How long will it be before it develops into a normal town? It has a population of 995, with 233 persons employed and 466 being educated. I am concerned

for the 466 who are being educated. They cannot be left at Cherbourg, nor can they be educated there, be put out the front gate and be told all of a sudden, "You are on your own." We must set out a transitional career-type pattern for them. I could talk at length on this aspect.

In my maiden speech in this Chamber I expressed the thought that the Papua New Guinea border would prove to be one of the more interesting topics for discussion during the life of this Parliament. On 16 September 1975 Papua New Guinea took the tremendous step of becoming an independent nation. Prior to that date I had argued for the withdrawal of the border further south to approximately 9° 30" South latitude. I put that argument forward before Papua New Guinea was granted independence. It must be appreciated that, with both Australia and Papua New Guinea independent nations, there is no border as such; it has not been agreed to. At all events, now that Papua New Guinea is independent, there is not the public support for lowering the border. On the contrary, public support throughout Queensland, not only on the Torres Strait islands but also in the Everton electorate and in other electorates that I have travelled through, is strongly in favour of the retention of the border at its present location.

I will go along with that, the will of the silent majority, but having spent almost a lifetime defending some border for one reason or another and some country for one reason or another, I would stress to the Torres Strait Islanders that they are vulnerable to attack from outside unstable influences and also to health hazards.

The Torres Strait Islanders should start moving towards the formation of a coast-watcher organisation made up of members fully trained in the operation and maintenance of radios, reporting and so on. They should also embark upon a programme of citizen military force training. I am sure they would be the first ones to agree with that. Many of the older Torres Strait Islanders fought for Australia against the Japanese in World War II.

The Islanders should establish a paramilitary reserve of that type and we, in our turn, should take a keener interest in that area, because, as history will record, if again any foreign nation tries to attack Australia it will do so not through South Australia—Don Dunstan does not even bother to have school cadets in his State; he knows he does not need them—but through the islands of the Torres Strait. Just as there has been such an attack in the past, history will show that there will be one in the future. The islands of the Torres Strait are indeed vulnerable.

I have patrolled extensively in the Bensbach River, Moorehead River and Wassi Kussa areas, which are in the western part of Papua and along the border of West Irian. Then there were strong and viable medical facilities at Daru and the other

places I have mentioned, at Moorehead in particular. Those medical facilities no longer exist, certainly at Daru. At my first visit the Daru hospital had a back-up of three doctors and nursing sisters, just like a normal Australian country hospital. What we found there recently—and, of course, the Australian presence had gone—were grey sheets and one 27-year-old Filipino lady doctor, who is about to go home.

Mr. Jensen: If she came to Australia they would say that she was not qualified to get a job here.

Mr. LINDSAY: Yes. She is servicing some 8,000 to 10,000 people, all of whom travel regularly throughout the Torres Strait. I think that there is a potential risk to the health of Queensland citizens from disease because of the regular commuting between Daru and the Torres Strait Islands which are in close proximity to Queensland.

The drug traffic is another problem. We are terribly close to Asia there. We see the headline in today's paper, "Drug Scene Gun Murder". There is no doubt that the drugs coming into Australia are not coming up from Tasmania. It is no secret that people going up to Cairns and to Cedar Bay and other places do not take drugs with them; they pick them up there. I think that the Federal member for Petrie, Mr. Hodges, found that the drugs are being smuggled from the North. Again the Torres Strait Islanders stand at the cross-roads there. It will be an area that they will have to look at and we, in turn, will have to protect them in whatever way we can.

In closing I would just like to say a few words about the dedicated people at those outstations, and they are outstations. They are some of the most far-away places imaginable. I would like to pay a personal tribute to each and every one of them, to all those people on those reserves and in those areas which we visited. They are doing a marvellous job for Queensland and for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders of the Queensland community. I wish them well and look forward to visiting them at some future occasion, I hope at the taxpayers' expense.

Mr. M. D. HOOPER (Townsville West) (4.48 p.m.): Very early in this Estimates debate I was quite astounded at the statement made by the honourable member for Cairns about the alleged neglect by this Government and the sorry state of affairs in the education, housing and health care of Aborigines. Of course, the A.L.P. has a very long history of using the Aboriginal people as political footballs, and its members are constantly making inaccurate and untrue statements about alleged mismanagement of Aboriginal people's affairs by the Queensland Government.

Mr. Houston: Your own colleague just condemned them.

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: The honourable member for Cairns lives up amongst Aborigines and should know better than to say what he did.

It is the vain hope of the A.L.P. that, by constantly attacking us on the Aborigines, it will be able to stir up some feeling of sentiment in the community and people will get an atmosphere of ill will against the Government because allegedly it is not looking after the Aboriginal people.

Mr. Houston: Of course you aren't!

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: The A.L.P. has tried it for years. It has not worked. People are getting tired of hearing it, particularly the Aboriginal people themselves. They are starting to reject every policy which the A.L.P. pursues. On many occasions they have asked that the A.L.P. get rid of some of the stirrers in the settlements in Queensland and allow the Aborigines to get on with the job of looking after themselves.

I think one of the most disgraceful utterances that I have heard in recent times was made by Alderman Sheila Keffe of the Townsville City Council. I have here an extract from "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" in which she described the situation on Palm Island. She said that the people lived on an island without hope and that they had a water supply which was totally inadequate; there was insufficient sewerage; there were no bitumen roads on the island; transport services to and from the island were inadequate; and malnutrition was rife among the people.

Mr. Powell: Is that any relation to Senator Keffe?

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: Yes, I think it is.

The allegations made by Alderman Sheila Keffe were quickly rejected by the chairman of the Palm Island Community Council, Mr. Jacob Baira. He classed the statements as completely irresponsible and out of touch with conditions on Palm Island at that time.

Mr. Powell: Does she treat the truth as carelessly as her husband?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dean): Order! The honourable member for Townsville West will address the Chair.

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: In answer to a question I subsequently asked about the statements made by Sheila Keffe, the Minister provided some information on what the State Government has spent on Palm Island in the past five years. I will repeat that information for the benefit of honourable members. The Government has built a modern primary school at a cost of \$264,000, a kindergarten for \$74,000, a library for \$21,000, a retail store and butcher shop complex for \$135,000, a maternal and child welfare clinic for \$75,000, a new bakery for \$65,000, new homes for Aboriginal people at a cost of \$1,100,000, an aged persons'

complex for \$200,000, industrial training areas at a cost of \$60,000, a new jetty and swing basin for \$300,000, and an improved water supply and sewerage, which although not quite finished has to date cost over \$2,000,000. All in all, something in the vicinity of \$4,500,000 has been spent in the last five years on a community of approximately 1,600 people. I am sure that every local authority in Queensland, whether it caters for a black or a white community, would be very grateful to a Government that spent that sort of money on improving the area's quality of life.

The accusations of Alderman Keffe stirred up quite a lot of concern among residents of North Queensland. Many people wrote to the paper and said that it was about time the Queensland Government did something. The Townsville newspaper, a very unbiased publication which is always concerned about community affairs and wants to see that justice is done, sent an independent journalist—not a resident of Townsville—to conduct a survey on how things really were on Palm Island. The journalist spent two days on the island and was given access to all the areas on the island where people lived—their homes, their canteen and their store. His report is most enlightening and quite contrary to some of the statements made by the honourable member for Rockhampton, who said the socio-economic situation of Aborigines in Queensland is deplorable. The statements by this independent journalist completely contradict what the honourable member for Rockhampton said. I will not read the whole of the article, but I will give it to the honourable member to read for himself so that he will be a more enlightened member.

As to the island's work-force—there are 266 men fully employed and 110 people receiving welfare benefits. In other words, fewer than 30 per cent on the island are unemployed. That is a very low figure when compared with the 80 per cent unemployment figure in mainland Aboriginal communities.

Mr. Wright: You have just backed up what I said.

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: I am speaking of the reserves. The honourable member said that we did not look after people on the reserves. We do.

At the present time the Islanders have one of the highest colour-TV-ownership figures in Australia. A new water reticulation system is being completed and hooked up to every house on the island. A sewerage treatment plant is being completed, and sewerage will soon be available to every island dwelling. There are two doctors and 11 nurses on Palm Island. Whereas for Townsville the doctor-patient ratio is about 1 to 1,800, on Palm Island it is 1 to 700—quite obviously a plus for the people on the island. At the Palm Island State School there are 240 pupils and 23 teachers. Rarely

is there a class with more than 20 children. The staff includes 15 white teachers and eight Islander teacher assistants.

So conditions on Palm Island are not too bad at all, and completely contradict the statements made by Alderman Sheila Keffe. When that article appeared, Alderman Keffe pulled her head in and quickly disappeared from the media scene. We have not heard from her since. In the meantime, the issue has been taken up by Senator Jim Keffe. He is not to be outdone and is trying to stir up trouble again. He has brought up his old mate Bill Rosser and another heavy, Bruce McGuinness. They have both been in Townsville in the past week and have done their utmost to stir up trouble with the black community, implying that they are a very underprivileged class in our city. Bill Rosser is, of course, the person who, as I told members about a year ago, went to Palm Island and published a booklet he calls "Smoke Signals". It is a very damaging little journal that he distributes among the Island people and in many other places throughout the world in an attempt to show that the State Government is grossly unfair in its treatment of people on Palm Island. I quote one of the statements attributed to Bill Rosser in his own publication.

"We want an immediate end to police brutality, murder and rape of black people. We believe we can end racist police oppression and brutality in our Black community. There is a need to make policemen out of the 'pigs' that are presently acting as law-enforcement agencies. The only way that this can be done is to give communities control of the police. Without this, the 'pigs' will continue to be used as tools of the Fascist system. When the Government becomes a law breaker the people must become the law enforcer."

That was written by the person—Senator Keffe's buddy—who was in Townsville last week inciting discontent in the community. He had a group of 40 to 50 Aboriginal people living under a tree in a hospital reserve in North Ward, in a very densely populated area. They were up to their old tricks of polluting the area, engaging in brawling and drunkenness and being generally a source of embarrassment to nearby residents and pupils of a convent school.

As the residents were aware of the interest taken by Senator Keffe and the A.L.P. Townsville City Council in Aboriginal affairs, they asked them both what they would do about trying to relieve the plight of the people under the trees. The reply from Senator Keffe's office was that he was not interested; let the people themselves and the Queensland Government do something about it. He was not going to take any action. That was also the attitude of the A.L.P. Townsville City Council.

When I approached the office of the State Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, assessors were quickly sent to the area. They asked the people where they came from, what their problems were, and why they were creating a nuisance in that spot. It was quite surprising to find that most of those people had not been thrown off Palm Island, nor were they homeless. Quite a few could return to Palm Island when they wished and others were living in homes with their families in Townsville. When they were told that they were creating a nuisance, they dispersed and went back to their homes. Some returned to Palm Island. The area is now clear. Once again the Aboriginal people realise that they were the innocent tools of an attempt by an A.L.P. organisation to incite discontent with the Government.

I mention these facts only because I was concerned at some of the remarks made earlier in the debate concerning what the Queensland Government is supposed not to be doing for Aborigines. I thought this matter should be brought up to show how much the State Government has done, particularly at Palm Island, and how much the Aboriginal people are doing. They want to be left alone. They are on the right track and if we do not interfere and try to lead them too much, they will solve all their own problems. They hope eventually to become self-sufficient, and I am sure they will.

The Minister's portfolio also deals with fishing, and this is a matter that concerns me greatly. Although I would not go so far as to say that the fishing industry has been neglected, it has been left to look after itself in North Queensland, and possibly the rest of Australia, for many years. It is also an industry which, because of inflation and the rising costs that go with it, is finding it difficult to survive.

The Minister mentioned that he is to open a new complex, costing close to \$1,000,000, at Ross River, in Townsville next week. There will be new buildings and new freezer facilities, and I hope they will lead to a marked increase in the number of fishing and prawning boats operating in the coming year through Townsville. In the past year or two, boats and fishermen have been lost to Townsville because facilities at the old building were so poor. Fishermen were not game to leave their catch there for fear it went bad. I hope that the new facilities will produce a marked increase in fish products passing through the Townsville fish market.

Even with the agency facility, it is interesting to note how important the Fish Board at Townsville was in recent years and how much fish has been processed through the depot at Townsville. I speak of the two most popular varieties of fish in North Queensland, and probably the best in Queensland. As for barramundi, we processed 11 853 kg through the Townsville market, or 25 per cent of the State total for the 10

months ended 30 April 1976. As for mackerel, the big fish that all fishermen chase because it provides the best return, a total of 107 000 kg passed through the Townsville market, or more than 30 per cent of the State total. So the fishing industry makes a very valuable contribution to the economy of Townsville and North Queensland, and I trust that with these new facilities an even greater amount of seafood will pass through the Townsville market in the coming years.

I have also been concerned about the lack of Government research into the preservation of our fishing industry. In Townsville recently there have been cases of people suffering from ciguatera, or fish poisoning. As a matter of fact, at the week-end friends of mine caught a big coral trout, and after they had eaten it, the husband, wife and two children contracted ciguatera and had to seek urgent hospital treatment. I know that research is being undertaken by a number of doctors in a private capacity, but I believe some research grants should be made to either the James Cook University or the Australian Institute of Marine Science at Townsville in an endeavour to find out the real cause of ciguatera so that in years to come reef fish will become a more popular meal than at the moment. They are very tasty fish and look great on a plate. I know some people who will not eat reef fish simply because they have this fear of ciguatera.

Another issue which I believe we should be looking at is the establishment of fish hatcheries.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: I was born and bred in North Queensland, and I can recall that in my youth fish were plentiful off the beaches, off the rocks and in estuaries, but today they are very scarce near all the populated areas of North Queensland. Bait is also scarce. Even the fish eaten mainly by people in Southern Queensland, mullet, which we in North Queensland eat only rarely and use mainly for bait, is extremely hard to catch. The bait men have to go out and work long hours to get enough bait to supply amateur and professional fishermen.

I am not an expert, but I have read a lot about this subject written by Mr. Keith Bryson, a man who has been a professional fisherman in Townsville all his life. He has written some expert articles on how we could set up fish hatcheries, firstly to provide fish for bait purposes, and secondly, to rear barramundi fingerlings for release into our northern waters to become eventually a permanent harvest for our professional fishermen. I am always asking Mr. Bryson why the number of fish taken each year in North Queensland is reduced whereas in Southern Queensland fishermen seem to have no trouble at all catching increasing amounts of prawns and fish each year, whatever may be the quality. Mr. Bryson's theory, one that is shared by quite a few fishermen, is that inside the Barrier Reef we do not have

the benefit of the deep ocean currents which come from the Pacific Ocean and strike the Queensland coast south of Gladstone. He says that these ocean currents carry more food for the younger fish to feed on. His theory is that inside the Barrier Reef the currents are not fed by these great ocean currents and therefore we do not have the prolific amount of food for the younger fish which we see further down the coast. I hope some notice is taken of articles by Mr. Bryson and fishermen like him who have suggested that we could perhaps set up fish hatcheries on Palm Island, where there is a 30 per cent unemployment rate at the moment. There are many small tributaries which flow into the secluded parts of Challenger Bay, and if the Aboriginal people, who like fishing as a hobby and a way of life, were assisted financially they could set up these fish hatcheries and then Palm Island and other areas along the Queensland coast could assist in restocking the northern waters with mullet, barramundi and so on. I think they are the only matters I wished to cover in this short address.

Mr. MOORE (Windsor) (5.4 p.m.): In speaking to these Estimates, I do not intend to go into the figures relating to departmental spending. In fact, I doubt whether anyone in this Chamber would have sufficient background knowledge to enable him to do so effectively. Knowing the way in which Government departments operate, Mr. Dean, I know that this department could do a job at Weipa and book the cost of it to Mornington Island and no-one would know the difference. Because it would simply be booked to another job, the Auditor-General would never pick up the discrepancy. Every Government department indulges in a little bit of manipulation of that type. When departments are asked to submit their Estimates, no-one in the department can be certain what the Estimates should be, and I do not suggest that there is anything wrong with a little bit of manipulation in order to do the right thing by everyone concerned. However, knowing that, when I look at the Estimates I know that I have not the expertise to say that so much should be spent on housing, so much on cattle-raising, and so on. Therefore, as I said, I do not intend to go into that aspect of the Estimates.

There has been a fair amount of talk over the years about Aboriginal land rights. No white Australian has any land rights as such, and if this is to be one community, I do not think that Aborigines should have land rights to a greater extent than anyone else. If the Aborigines are not paying rates on it, it is certainly not Aboriginal land. When we talk about Aboriginal land rights, Mr. Dean, what we are really talking about is Crown land that the Government has set aside as an Aboriginal reserve.

I should hate to think that a situation could ever arise when, because of the increase in numbers and the isolation of the North

and the Gulf country, a line was drawn round an area and it was decided to make that an Aboriginal State similar to those being set up in South Africa. The more we educate the Aboriginal people and the more that radical elements brain-wash them, the more likely it is that that state of affairs could come about. I certainly would not like to see it happen.

If there are to be Aboriginal reserves as such, white people should not be excluded from them. Generally speaking, the white population has greater skills and expertise than the Aborigines. If white carpenters, plumbers, motor mechanics, well-borers and other types of tradesmen were allowed to go to the reserves and mix with the Aborigines, some of their expertise would wash off. It would be to the advantage of the Aborigines to have an integrated society, and we should not allow a state of affairs to arise in which there could eventually be a black State.

One hears talk about tribal lands on the reserves that now exist. Many of the Aborigines now on the reserves do not belong to the tribes that were in the area originally. As a matter of fact, they would not have been welcome there. The original inhabitants would have had them to dinner, but they would have been on the menu, not sitting at the table, as they are now. The Aborigines were very jealous of their own piece of territory. However, the Aborigines at Aurukun, for example, said, "No, this was not our territory. Our territory was 60 miles away", or, "100 miles away. We are here, but these are not our tribal lands."

In educating the Aboriginal children, Mr. Dean, we are saying, "Well, let us not completely detribalise them. Let us try to retain some of their own culture." We now have Aboriginal teacher aides who are attempting to teach Aborigines their own language in written form. Previously they never had a written language, but here we are trying to teach the Aborigines their own language in written form. I do not know whether the idea is simply to put their language into a phonetic form so that, to some extent, they will all speak the same dialect. Actually they are being taught a foreign dialect because the majority of them are not learning the dialect of their own tribes. That does not make very much sense to me. If we are talking about keeping their culture, let's not teach them a foreign culture. I don't see much sense in it at all except for the airy-fairy university people and the do-gooders who, while pretending to be on the side of the Aborigines, look upon them more as museum pieces or something of that nature.

Mr. Lowes: Ethnic curios.

Mr. MOORE: That is a very good point.

If we are going to educate the Aborigines, let's not waste time taking them back in time. The very idea is for them to be assimilated. They should be taught white men's skills so that they can take their place in white

society. When we talk about the Aborigines in the reserves we are not talking about tribal people at all. They enjoy the normal food we eat. Those with cattle slaughter a certain number of stock each week. Their meat diet is equal to or better than that of average John Citizen in the suburbs. Generally speaking they are not agriculturists; like me they live on baked beans for breakfast, and they have bacon and eggs and canned peaches, with the kids all eating arrowroot biscuits and other sweet biscuits, with resultant bad teeth. They are not running around looking for a rotten sapwood tree in which to find witchetty grubs or the black cockatoos that are attracted to them as a food source. We are keeping good Aboriginal people on reserves.

One has only to fly over the Gulf Country to see how the shoreline has moved out. One can see the old beachheads as the sea has receded over hundreds of years. That territory is gradually improving but it will never improve sufficiently in the next few hundred years for living there to be a viable proposition. The Edward River area is very low-lying, swampy country. At the best of times the water-table is about 3 ft. below the ground. During the rainy season that area is isolated from the rest of the State for four to six months. Perishables to feed 400 or 500 people have to be flown in. We are building houses up there at a cost of about \$40,000 each. Tanks are erected on high stands to provide water pressure. Volvo diesels are being provided to generate power. Just name it; we are putting it there. It is true that as yet the area has no bitumen roads, but in such low-lying country it would be almost impossible to construct them.

At Kowanyama it is difficult to build a house or even find a block of land that is not under 6 ins. of water for about four months of the year. Yet septic systems are being installed there. Owing to lack of proper drainage, they do not function well. The river is close by and a large amount of drainage work needs to be carried out. As I said when I visited the place, the quickest way of draining it is to do what the Yanks did during the war—lay some plugs of gelnignite a few feet apart and press the trigger and there is a ready-made drainage trench. That method was very effective in the southern part of New Guinea.

As to helping the Aborigines at Edward River—all we are doing is educating them and paying child endowment as well as the supporting mother's benefit. There are unmarried girls—they may later marry—with as many as two or three children and some married mothers with eight or nine children. The maintenance of these large families places a considerable drain on the taxpayer. We like to think that this is only a transitional period before the people enter the work-force; but what do we do when the kids leave school? We are training them to secondary level, but what's the good of a person's being

able to do calculus and that type of thing when all he has to apply it to are the aerodynamics of a boomerang?

Mr. Lowes: Mrs. Ghandi would educate them.

Mr. MOORE: She, too, has the problem of a population explosion. I have no objection to an increase in the number of Aborigines. What I am saying is that the taxpayer cannot be expected to pay the bill for every Aborigine who sits on his backside and does nothing. The only payments that most Aborigines receive are those for taking in one another's washing, looking after the butcher shop, looking after the general store, and so on. Apart from the few bob they get from cattle, the funding is coming from the taxpayer. He is the one who is footing the bill.

This may sound hard and callous, but it is my view that if we were to take away the canteen and the hand-outs and tell these people that the canteen is in, say, Sydney, Melbourne or Hobart and that the hand-outs will be given there—in areas, incidentally, where there is a good chance of obtaining employment—tribal lands or no tribal lands, the vast majority of Aborigines would be off looking for the soft life.

The Minister's committee visited Mornington Island, where we found toilets overflowing and not even cleaned out. The local people said to me that a sewerage system should be installed on the island. I agreed with them. But then I said, "Cripes! What's that smell?" They replied, "Oh, that's the toilets." So I went and had a look, and found all the pans overflowing. In contrast, we saw the new canteen, with refrigeration facilities supplied by the breweries, a nicely polished bar, tiles on the floor, tables and comfortable chairs.

Mr. Doumany: Next door.

Mr. MOORE: No; 50 yards away. There were billiard tables at which the locals were playing pot black. Others were merely sitting around the place. Our truck became bogged in the sand and we asked them, "What about giving us a hand to push the truck out?" "Oh no," they replied, "we want to play billiards." The Minister would have been happy to put his shoulder to the wheel, as I would have been, but what did the local people do? They brought up a tractor and tied what was nothing more than a piece of cotton onto it and tried to pull the truck out. Of course the rope broke, so they decided to go and get another rope. I said, "Oh, cripes! Get those fellows out of the canteen to help us shove the truck out of the way." They said, "No, boss, we will go and get another tractor." That is where they were when we were visiting the place. There's something wrong with us when we let contracts. When they were putting electric light on Mornington Island, the only fellows sweating were the white blokes digging the holes in the

middle of the day while the Aborigines were in the canteen living it up—and living it up quite well, too.

There is something wrong with us. When there is work to be done we do not say to the Aborigines, "We will have someone stand by you to show you the expertise—how to dig the holes, how to put the cross-arms on the poles, how to line them up, and how to stay the poles beneath and above the ground." There is something really wrong with the present system. The taxpayer is paying the Bill.

Take a place like Thursday Island. Almost all of the Islander people there are living on hand-outs. Virtually all of them are in the pub, although they all seem to be respectable. The women play darts. They are all boozing the money. They buy a small amount of rice, or something like that. They make do and Mum goes and sits on the wharf and throws a line in and catches a turrum (whitefish). So she has the evening meal. They use the money to buy booze. The kids are looked after up till a certain age under the scheme for supplementary feeding.

The pregnant women from the various islands are brought in at the taxpayers' expense, housed for six weeks before the baby is born and for six weeks after. I believe that the time may have shortened a little. The taxpayer is paying all of these bills.

On the other Torres Strait islands the kids are being well educated. They are good penmen and they are good at maths. We say, "What future is there for them? What can we do for them?" One could liken what is happening there to what happened in Ireland. It produced good citizens and they all ended up in New York as policemen.

Mrs. Kyburz: Which "island" is that?

Mr. MOORE: I am speaking of "olde" Ireland. The same thing is happening in the Torres Strait islands.

What industry could we have on Thursday Island? There is the pearl-shell industry. On the island there is a great tin shed and the Islanders are stacking pearl-shell in boxes to be sent away for manufacture into high-class buttons. If we want to establish an industry there, we already have the raw material. Why not have on the spot the simple drill-press or whatever sort of machine drills the shells, punches the holes, and gives them a polish, because there are not many sources of pearl-shell. The Islanders are stacking pearl-shell neatly in the boxes—nobody could see a neater piece of stacking—and it is sent away for someone else to do the job.

I want to reinforce the stand which the Premier has taken on the Torres Strait border issue. I agree with him entirely and I think that the Government to a man is behind him. I agree with Tanu Nona, George Mye and

all the other Islanders when they say, "Not a grain of sand; not a cup of water." This is their land. We are not going to hand it over to Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea feels that we only want the Torres Strait islands because of the oil potential which the geographical survey has shown to be round Daru, Saibai and Boigu. It considers that the Kennecott investigations disclose a great oil potential around the Upper Fly and Eastern Fly Rivers.

(Time expired.)

Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) (5.25 p.m.): First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister on the work that he is doing on this difficult portfolio. No-one says that any portfolio is easy, but anyone who has the Minister's portfolio, or anything to do with the various departments under his control, would agree with me that it is a complex portfolio to administer.

The Minister has devoted himself to the job. He is hard-working and has thrown everything into his portfolio. He is the first Fisheries Minister in our State. As I have said before, Fisheries has been chopped and changed from department to department and portfolio to portfolio. Only now is it receiving its due recognition.

Quite often Press reports about Aborigines are, to say the least, slanted very much one way to try to create a dramatic story and paint the picture as being a lot worse than it perhaps really is. In some cases the reports put a completely different slant altogether on the true facts. I do not believe that sufficient credit is given to the Aboriginal community. I agree that all communities contain those who could not be said to be the best ambassadors for their race; but many of our Aboriginal folk are very fine citizens and have made worth-while contributions in many ways to the State. They have done so in the past, are doing so at present and will continue to do so in the future.

The criticism that is often levelled at them can only make them despondent and worsen their state. Many of the militants who supposedly take up the cause of the Aborigines are doing nothing more than degrade the people they are claiming to help. I refer particularly to Brady, Davidson and others who have staged great demonstrations in the past, only to discredit the people they were supposedly helping.

In my own electorate I have quite a number of Aboriginal folk, most of whom reside on Stradbroke Island. What a fine community they make—an integrated community living side by side with white members of society. In the main, they are well housed. Speaking generally, they are fully employed. They work in the mines, the fishing industry and the oyster industry. Just like others in any community, they are involved in community affairs, and are to

be found in service clubs, on school committees and in various other community organisations helping their society and helping their fellow man.

The problems of alcohol and the Aboriginal people have been referred to many times in this debate. I am not going to say that there is no alcohol problem among Aborigines. However, it would be equally foolish to suggest that there is no alcohol problem among the white community. Both communities have their problems in coping with alcohol. However, much more attention is drawn to the Aborigine who is the worse for wear from overindulgence in that drug. Possibly more notice is taken of him because he is coloured. I can only speak of those I have seen myself.

Perhaps we tend to sneer at the misfortune of those who have been overcome by that drug; but I would like to think that as a Government we will do more to teach the community generally about the evils and shortcomings of alcohol. I know that some work is being done amongst our young children in the schools. However, I feel that more should be done through alcohol education. I repeat that it is a problem not only for the coloured community but also for the white community.

In his opening remarks the Minister referred to Aboriginal relics that must be preserved. On Stradbroke Island there is quite a lot of evidence of early Aboriginal life, particularly in the many midden heaps that lie along the coastline. There are some on Fraser Island as well, but on Stradbroke Island many of them contain a tremendous amount of evidence of the large number of Aboriginal folk who lived there for centuries. For those honourable members who do not know what a midden heap is, I mention that it is a large collection of shells of pippies, oysters and other crustaceans that have been eaten by the Aborigines.

Many of the areas would be half the size of this Chamber. Unfortunately, many of them have been destroyed by the sand-mining companies on the island. We as a Government should ensure that those not in the road of progress are not lost. Although it is not necessary to retain all of them, some of the fine specimens should be kept. I should like to think that, through the efforts of Mr. Killoran and the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, every effort will be made to retain them, particularly those on the northern end of Stradbroke Island. Sand-mining has been responsible for the demolition of quite a number of them. I am not suggesting that sand-mining should be restricted or stopped because one or two midden heaps are in the way, but sufficient of them should be kept for posterity.

There are those who say that these midden heaps were not of Aboriginal origin. As they have been disturbed, it has been interesting

to note that quite a few Aboriginal weapons, particularly stone axes, have been found among the shells. That clearly indicates that these heaps had their origin with Aboriginal tribes many years ago.

Whilst I am speaking about Stradbroke Island, I must refer to a problem that has arisen following the arrival in the area of a group of fishermen from Thursday Island. I have no axe to grind with the people concerned; they are good citizens who have come to Stradbroke Island under a Federal grant to learn fishing. I cannot for the life of me see why people from Thursday Island should come to Stradbroke Island to learn the fishing industry. The waters of the North have more fish, and provide more opportunities to learn fishing, than could ever be found in Moreton Bay.

These people are at present camped at Amity Point and they have been receiving tuition from one who is supposed to have great knowledge of the fishing industry in that area. Unfortunately, they are having little success and they are causing quite a few problems with professional fishermen on the island and in Moreton Bay because they do not appreciate the correct methods of fishing in this region. Many shoals have been lost to both the Thursday Island fishermen and professional fishermen in the bay because of incorrect methods used by the Islanders.

There is also some jealousy because the Thursday Island fishermen are in receipt of a large subsidy from the Federal Government. They are paid to catch fish and to learn the ramifications of the industry in what to them are foreign waters in which they do not understand the techniques necessary for successful fishing. The indigenous population of Stradbroke Island, many of whom engage in fishing, have to work for a living. They are paid only for what they catch and they have to battle against not only the elements but, as has been the case this year, a scarcity of fish. They do not receive any subsidy. They are good, honest workers. It is therefore easy to see that there will be jealousies when a section of the coloured population is subsidised to catch fish whilst professional fishermen in the same area have to work to make a living.

I have made representations on this matter to the Minister and I know that he has made representations to Canberra. However, Mr. Viner will not heed those approaches; he continues to say, "We prefer to subsidise them. We have to teach these people to fish." I agree, but for goodness' sake teach them in their own areas in which they know the fishing methods used.

The honourable member for Bundaberg referred to the tremendous waste of money on Aboriginal development in some areas. I must agree with what he said. When Mr. Whitlam was in power, we said that he wasted millions of dollars in the Torres Strait area on a turtle farm, hovercraft and

so on. Unfortunately, the present Government has in many cases done little to rectify those errors. Too many Government advisers live in the South and have little appreciation of the problems confronting Aboriginal people and their priorities in needs.

If the money set aside for Aboriginal welfare had been used in ways that would give most benefit to these people, many more homes would have been built. In Queensland last year very few homes were built for Aborigines. Tenders have been called for two homes on Stradbroke Island. As I said earlier, most people there are housed very adequately, but one section of the community living at the One Mile, Dunwich, are living under very poor conditions. They are squatting, as it were, on a reserve in old tin shacks awaiting decent homes. These people are not wasters; they are working in the community. They are supporting their families and are not living on the dole, like so many others in the community. However, as things stand at present it is impossible to have them adequately housed. As I said, tenders have been called for two homes, but this will not go very far towards solving the problem of poor housing on Stradbroke Island.

The Minister's portfolio also covers the very important fishing industry, an industry which has been operating on a large scale for many years in Moreton Bay and is responsible for the employment of many people. Like other members who have spoken in this debate, I believe more research should be carried out into fishing, and this should begin in Moreton Bay because there is no area which attracts more fishermen, both professional and amateur, than do these waters. Little is known of the habits of the fish that frequent these areas. Mullet should be investigated very thoroughly indeed.

The prawning industry is to be catered for by the new C.S.I.R.O. establishment at Cleveland, but as more crabs, both sand and mud crabs, are marketed through the board from Moreton Bay than any other area in Queensland, I believe an approach should be made by the State Government to have the C.S.I.R.O. look into the problems confronting the crabbing industry, and, indeed, the fishing industry as a whole, instead of devoting all their time to prawn research. This would do a great service not only to the industry but to those who are engaged in it, both privately and professionally.

We have heard many suggestions that Moreton Bay should be closed to professional fishermen, but I do not go along with that suggestion at all. I believe there is plenty of room for both the professional and the amateur, but those areas which have been set aside as fish habitats and those areas where net fishing has been banned must be strictly policed and the regulations strictly adhered to. Unless we farm carefully the

resources of Moreton Bay, we will find that many of the species of fish which have been found there in abundance in the past will be fished out.

Suggestions have been put forward in my electorate that the net fishing on the ocean beaches of Stradbroke, Bribie and Moreton Islands be banned at week-ends. I would like to point out that many of the fish caught on the ocean beaches—I refer particularly to mullet and tailor—never enter Moreton Bay. If these fish are not caught as they pass up the coastline, they will move out to sea and never be caught.

I referred earlier to the mullet. The last year has been a disaster for mullet fishermen. Very few mullet have entered the bay at all. In fact, a large professional fisherman at Amity Point, an area which is usually noted for prolific catches of deep-sea mullet, has not been able to catch any mullet inside the bay at all. They just have not entered the bay in their usual numbers, or if they have, they have not fed at their usual spots.

I referred earlier to the crabbing industry. Nowhere in the State are more people involved in the crabbing industry than in my electorate. Unfortunately, crab numbers have been depleted, and, as I said, little work has been done on finding out their life cycle. Unfortunately, some crabbers are exploiting the resources. One particular fisherman is well known to the Boating Patrol because his practice is to take home every crab he catches, even if they are female or undersize. I understand they are marketed in Sydney and other towns along the New South Wales coast where the fishing regulations do not prohibit the marketing of undersize or female crabs.

The oyster industry is a developing industry along the shores of Moreton Bay. I am particularly interested in Stradbroke Island, where many new leases have been taken up. I congratulate the Minister for having a survey carried out by the department recently in an attempt to solve many of the problems arising from the overlapping of boundaries and from leases being in areas in which they prevent professional fishermen from running their nets successfully. Everyone will now know where his lease is, and professional fishermen will have easements into the banks where they can shoot their nets, and drainage areas into which the net can successfully be tunnelled.

Oyster culture varies from one locality to another, and many different methods have been tried along the shores of Stradbroke Island. I pay a tribute to the work of Mr. Bonty Dickson, the man who could be said to be the father of the present-day industry in the area. He has done a great deal to establish an economic oyster industry there.

I look forward to a big expansion in the activities of the Queensland Fish Board. I have always contended that distribution is one of the main problems confronting the

fishing industry today, and the board is fortunate in having as its chairman Mr. Hall, who has expertise in this field that should assist the board greatly as it extends its activities throughout the State. He has had long experience in the marketing of fruit and vegetables, so he should be well equipped to adopt in the fishing industry many of the methods of transporting perishable goods that were used in the field of fruit and vegetables. As I have said in this Chamber before, on occasions it is almost impossible to buy fresh fish 10 miles from the coast, and in most instances the problem is one of distribution.

As the Minister said when introducing the Estimates, additional land has been purchased for the expansion of the fish market at Cleveland. I hope it will not be very long before the land is used for the purpose for which it was purchased, that is, to give ship to shore service for the fishermen using that part of the bay. They now have the arduous task of unloading their fish from the boat and then transporting it by trolley one-third of a mile along the Paxton Street jetty to the market. Needless to say, it is a very dangerous exercise in rough weather.

I am sure that the fishing industry will benefit from the efforts of the Minister and his officers. As I said earlier, it is an industry that has been shifted from one portfolio to another. However, the board has now been firmly established and commercial fishermen are forming themselves into a solid organisation, so the industry must forge ahead.

Mr. LOWES (Brisbane) (5.44 p.m.): I congratulate the Minister on his presentation of the Estimates, and I commend him particularly for the forthright statement he made relative to the Torres Strait islands, in which he said—

“The resources of my department and of this Government justifiably will uphold the wishes of our citizens who are totally opposed to any scheme or arrangement which will cede Queensland territory, whether land or sea, surface or subsurface, to Papua New Guinea.”

I support that contention fully, as I believe do most people in Queensland. The Minister deserves credit for spelling it out so clearly.

On the other hand, I regret the lack of forthrightness by the Prime Minister in failing to come to grips with something that has become a problem and has been allowed to fester for far too long. If the problem had arisen in Bass Strait instead of in Torres Strait, it would have been resolved long ago. If, by innuendo, I do not spell it out clearly enough, I would say that but for the fact that Torres Strait is so much farther from Kooyong than is Bass Strait, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peacock, would have resolved that problem long before today.

This unhappy state of affairs has been allowed to continue. While it does continue Queenslanders who inhabit the islands close

to the mainland of Papua New Guinea are suffering a great loss of sense of security. As fellow Queenslanders it is our duty to give them the reassurance they so rightly deserve. They have been inhabitants of those islands for centuries.

We can read reports of the early discoverers of Australia—Torres and others—who referred to the existence of natives similar to the natives on those islands today. The Papuans were not inhabitants of those islands. Ethnically I am assured that the people on those islands in Torres Strait are there as of right. Unlike the Papuans, who have not been there, they have inhabited their islands for centuries. The Queenslanders who live on those islands—the islands of Boigu, Dauan and Saibai in particular—are entitled to have the reassurance that we give them here now. Legally and historically those islands belong to Queensland, and so they shall remain.

It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister, no doubt because of the many calls on his time, had to travel overseas. I believe he should have gone to Torres Strait to see the situation and thus be able to decide the matter himself. This is one visit he might well have made by this time. I look forward later this week to meeting Mr. Olawale from Papua New Guinea. I hope then to have an opportunity to put to him the attitude of the majority of the members of this Assembly towards the Torres Strait issue.

It is not just a matter of territorial rights; it is not a matter of shipping lanes; it is not a matter of mineral resources, whether it be oil or anything else that is there. It is purely a matter of people, and it is for people that we sit here. We represent them, and it is our bounden duty to protect them. Matters such as shipping lanes can always be resolved. There is nothing novel about having a narrow boundary. The distance from the islands to the mainland of Papua New Guinea may be only short—under a mile. So, too, is the distance between Rhodes and Turkey. Would anyone suggest that Rhodes should become part of Turkey, and not remain part of Greece? The same thing happens with Cuba and the United States. Look at the confrontation that exists there, not because of proximity but for ideological reasons. There are plenty of examples of narrow boundaries.

We do not even need to look at narrow boundaries; we can look at boundaries which are mere lines and have no breadth whatsoever. They may be only the breadth of a river, at the most. Such boundaries have existed throughout all time to divide tribes, countries and nations. Those are boundaries that can be recognised by countries and upheld by international law, so surely a boundary such as the one between the islands of the Torres Strait and the coastline of Papua New Guinea can be recognised by international courts. Not only does Papua New Guinea have a narrow boundary between itself and Australia but to its west it has a

boundary with West Irian which is a mere line, and an unsurveyed line at that. I see no legitimate problem with the boundary just because there is such a narrow stretch of water between the islands and the mainland.

These days, when we look at international law and territorial rights we look not only at land masses, the seas and what is under the seas but also at air space. Air space must be considered and resolved in the determination of national boundaries.

As to the Great North East Channel, the situation is similar to that of the English Channel between England and France, the strait between Singapore and Indonesia or the Straits of Malacca between Malaysia and Indonesia. Problems that arise in waterways such as that can be overcome by recourse to international law.

We must reassure the Torres Strait Islanders of our support for them. We must let them know that we will not continue to adopt a benevolent attitude towards Papua New Guinea by giving away the Torres Strait islands. In fact, it would not be benevolent of us to give up to Papua New Guinea any more than what that nation is justly entitled to, and it is not entitled to the Torres Strait islands.

As benevolent custodians of Papua New Guinea during the term of our mandate, no doubt we were quite generous, and when we departed we left behind a reasonable Public Service and an economy that was self-maintaining.

Papua New Guinea has its own problems. It is faced with the prospect of the secession of Bougainville and the threat of partition between the two parts of the country. It also has the uncertainty of its own internal politics. The people of Papua New Guinea would be preoccupied with those matters and there is no reason why they should be looking southwards for expansion. Their problems are as many and varied as those confronting any new nation, but territorial expansion should not be one of them.

Mr. Moore: Look at Bougainville and the Solomons, too.

Mr. LOWES: There is a great problem in Bougainville, where lie the vast resources of copper and from where much of the income flowing to the new nation in years ahead will come.

The Minister's portfolio covers many important activities. The first to which I have referred is the one which I believe to be the most important. He is responsible also for matters concerning a creature with which the honourable member for Cairns would be well acquainted, the *istiompax australis*, or black marlin. I was appalled as, I am sure many Queenslanders were, to read an article in "The Courier-Mail" last week concerning a visiting American who had caught a 478.6 kg black marlin. The photograph accompanying the article is there for all to see. From it some idea of the

sheer beauty and majesty of this fish can be gained. But the sting is in the tail. The last sentence in the newspaper article simply says—

“The marlin was taken out to sea yesterday and dumped.”

How many marlin are being caught, taken into Cairns for photographing as this one was and then taken out to sea and dumped? How long can the marlin population continue to withstand such attacks?

I remember that only 12 months ago or so the honourable member for Chatsworth gave quite an enlightened address to the Assembly during the debate on Matters of Public Interest at a time when the Frenchman Pierre Clostermann was here and commented on the extensive taking of marlin by Japanese fishermen. He had found that on one trawler alone something like 6,400 lb. of marlin had been taken by Japanese long-line men. This is of considerable concern to Australia, and particularly to Queensland, because it is mainly off our coast where the large black marlin are being taken.

It is a unique species found only in the Pacific Ocean and it is found only in certain places in the Pacific. It is not extensive in its spread throughout the Pacific. Little is known of its habits, and its spawning grounds are not well known. Because it is such a large fish, it has been referred to as the elephant of the seas. Lots of stories have been told about it and the great attraction and loyalty that a marlin has for its mate. It has been suggested that the marlin is monogamous. There is a story that, if one marlin is taken, its mate will follow the boat even though it may lead to its own destruction just out of its affection and attachment to its mate. This is the sort of fish that we are seeing being taken and massacred in large numbers just for the sake of a trophy. Visitors come from all over the world to exploit Queensland's fishing resources.

I am assured that the Japanese are using some restraint, but they, too, are coming to the Barrier Reef well inside our boundaries and taking our fish. I am informed that the Japanese are compiling comprehensive statistics on such matters as the hook rate and the catch rate of the long-liners and this information is available to fishing authorities throughout the world.

The marlin, of course, is the animal at the top of the food chain, and its existence may well be in jeopardy not only because of the raids made on the marlin itself but because of the break in the food chain. Marlin depend on tuna, vast quantities of which are caught by the Taiwanese, particularly inside territorial waters.

Mrs. Kyburz: What about whales?

Mr. LOWES: The marlin is in a category similar to the whale. Perhaps when the Minister is considering the saving of fish and

fish species he might do the same with fish as is done with bird life; that is, protect certain species.

I am informed on very good authority that one of the problems with the fishing industry is the lack of statistics and research. I am also satisfied that there is a great interchange of information between the States and the Commonwealth through the C.S.I.R.O.

The honourable member for Redlands spoke before about Moreton Bay and the production of fish from there. When Queensland's annual income from fish is something like \$10,000,000 and half of that is from activities in Moreton Bay, it is clearly seen that as so much of the income comes from this south-east corner, it is only reasonable that a fair amount should go back into the researching of fish in these particular waters.

A lot more should be done on the biological research of fish and also on socio-economic research, just who takes fish and why and what sort of fish they take. We know that more people are able to fish because of the increase in leisure hours and the affluence of society. As more people are able to go fishing, more fish are taken from the sea. The south-eastern corner of Queensland is well stocked with fish. It is only through the efforts of the Minister and officers of his department that those stocks will remain. It is interesting to note that recently Canada found it necessary to double its annual commitment for the surveillance and protection of its fishing grounds. I can well understand that in his Estimates the Minister has to consider a similar increase in expenditure in his own portfolio.

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

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (7.15 p.m.): I welcome the opportunity to take part in this debate. It gives me a chance to make some comments about this portfolio as well as to congratulate the Minister on his achievements since attaining Cabinet rank. We all recognise—and this has been said on many occasions—that his portfolio is a difficult one to manage because it has been used as a political football over the years. I personally have had quite a lot to do with Aboriginal people. While it is correct to say that many of them are easily led, I support the view that as a race they have achieved quite a lot. The department has gone a long way in assisting the Aboriginal and Islander people.

Members of the Opposition have said that we have done nothing to combat alcoholism among the Aborigines. I well remember the cries from the Opposition in support of installing wet canteens in all the mission areas. Now they are telling us that we should be combating alcoholism. I would not know how to combat alcoholism among the Aborigines. We cannot even do it amongst white people. I do not know the percentage of white people who suffer from that disorder, any more than I would know

the percentage of coloured people. All I suggest is that the figures are probably on a par. But how we deal with the problem, I do not know—and I doubt whether any of the authorities know.

The department has a definite policy on the integration of Aboriginal and Islander people. That policy has been carried out with great success. The indigenous people have kept their identity and cultural background and have benefited greatly from their experience with Europeans. They have proved that they can take their place in society and are very proud to call themselves Australians. I remind the Chamber that in every field of sport we have seen them compete with great distinction. They have brought great credit to this State and our nation. They have fought in two world wars, once again with great distinction.

According to the records, Queensland has 55,000 people of Aboriginal and Islander origins. Of that number, half live in towns and cities and the other half live in Government and church-sponsored communities on the mainland and in the Torres Strait. At this stage I pay a tribute to the part the churches have played in the welfare of our Aboriginal people. In the very early days they played an extremely important part in the management of the various missions. They still manage those missions very well.

I mention one settlement that is close to my electorate—almost on its border—and that is Cherbourg, which has a population of 1,000 people. Much has been done on that settlement. My records show that at present it has 126 houses as well as a number of official buildings. One thing I have noticed is how neatly the girls and boys are dressed. It would be very noticeable to the communities of Nanango, Kingaroy and other nearby areas. This has been reported on by the director.

I am not quite certain how many pre-school centres there are on Aboriginal communities. Mornington Island and a couple of other areas may have such centres. I believe that Cherbourg is one of the few communities that have one, but many of the children go to school in Murgon and other nearby areas.

I pay a tribute to the Minister's department on the way in which Aboriginal communities are set up. I believe there are 16 of them and each has a council of five elected members. The chairmen of the groups form an advisory council and this council has direct liaison with the Minister. I think this is excellent because it is one very good way of finding out the needs of these people. As I have been speaking of Cherbourg, I should like to pay a tribute to the council of that community. There is no doubt that the judgment of its members has always been excellent. I have spoken to some of the elders in the community and there is no doubt that they are very sincere people.

Queensland is the leader in health education programmes for Aborigines. This is a field in which this State has never been given full credit. Very often photographs are published of Aborigines, mostly in the Northern Territory, who are suffering from glaucoma and other diseases that occur in that region. In the closely settled Queensland areas, I have never seen this disease. It is probably a disease connected with nutrition, as are quite a few other diseases. I read in one booklet that many Aborigines in the Northern Territory could be blind by the time they were 40 years of age. There is a great need for the Federal Government to give attention to the health of Aborigines in the Northern Territory, and that Government could well heed what the Queensland Government has done in this field in this State.

During my first year in Parliament I travelled through the islands of the Torres Strait and I must say that I fell in love with the area. I think that everyone should see Bamaga. I was very impressed with it and with what the Aborigines and Islanders were doing in that region, particularly in farming. As you well know, Mr. Miller, I come from a farming area that probably has no equal in Australia. When I went to Bamaga I took particular notice of what the young people there were doing. Their agriculture was excellent. Their crops were quite good and the irrigation was well handled. If I found any fault at all, it was probably with their herds. This was no fault of theirs because at that time there was a great deal of trouble with the buffalo fly and the cattle were suffering badly. I do not know how that problem could be overcome.

In all other areas I was greatly impressed by what I saw. If I remember correctly, at that time there were about 300 primary school children and about 100 secondary school children. I went right through the schools, and one point that I should like to make is that most of the scholars were indigenous people. I should like to know if there are any white children there. I looked at all the facilities available there and I could not fault them. They were excellent. In fact, I would not mind a couple of high schools of such a standard in my electorate. The children at Bamaga were very happy.

I grit my teeth when I read statements in "Nation Review" and the outpourings of other hick groups in the South that Queensland is a racist State, a bananaland, and so forth. I do not see how anyone can brand us as racist when so much money has been well spent to give Aborigines and Islanders every opportunity in life.

It was very interesting for me to go back to Thursday Island and see some of these girls who had been trained on computer machines, etc. They were working very well. There is nothing these people cannot

achieve, but integration is the secret of it all, and I think integration is mainly up to them. We will see the process improve greatly. One thing that strikes me is that we do not see many of these people entering our universities. I think this is unfortunate because it is within the capacity of any of the people I met up there. Some of the girls working up there using typewriters, adding machines and computer machines were very smart. They were very well dressed and they are a credit to the department.

Mr. Moore: They've got good teeth, too.

Mr. GUNN: Their eating habits would probably account for that. Aborigines, as distinct from Islanders, are at home in any area of stock-raising. In my young days there were quite a few Aboriginal stockmen around. A neighbouring block of ours which was known as "Churchable" was managed by an Aborigine. I think he had been educated at the Edward River Mission. We knew him as "Paul". He was an excellent type of man and he lived to the ripe old age of, I think, 74. The property was a black poll stud and he managed it very well for an Agricultural Bank inspector named Spencer. I well remember this elderly person and his wife. He was one of nature's gentlemen. I think at one time he received the George Medal for saving someone from the Bremer River when it was in flood. My father had quite a lot of time for him, and we regularly dined at his place and he at ours. I think that raising and mustering stock is something these people like very much. They are excellent horsemen, and if one gets right types they are reliable. Of course, some of them are scallywags, but there are plenty of those with skin the same colour as ours.

Although this might relate more to the Estimates of the Health Department, I was most impressed by the beautiful hospital at Bamaga, which is no doubt a great comfort to the people of the area. One of the islands we visited with which I was very taken was Yorke Island. It was a very pretty little island and I liked the community activities I saw there. I visited the kindergarten and had the opportunity to watch the children being taught by the coloured teachers, to whom I pay tribute. There was a turtle farming project in operation when we visited the island, which was an absolute tragedy. No doubt the scheme had some merit, but when we were there the turtles were badly neglected and were attacking one another. I noticed bite marks on quite a few of them and there was fungus adhering to their bodies. It was not a very pretty sight. I think the scheme broke down because the watering facilities were not the best and the carriage of water was a fairly big job.

Mr. Moore: In a goatskin water bag.

Mr. GUNN: I do not know how they carried the water, but I think they had pretty modern facilities. I had dinner there, and the cooking was certainly excellent. I inspected the whole of the island and they were not wanting for anything. The department provided everything, although that day the chairman of the island council was fairly cunning. We went over with the administrator, and the chairman put in a fair order for everything he needed.

In the time remaining to me, I wish to touch briefly on the activities of the fisheries section of the Minister's portfolio. The activities of the Queensland Fisheries Service are expanding considerably, and I am interested in this expansion because one of the best known dishes in Australia today—and it has been for a long time—is fish and chips. If the Minister supplies the fish, I will supply the chips. It is a meal that is eaten all over Queensland, and I should say that it probably is one of the cheapest meals available.

I enjoy eating smoked fish, and my wife buys smoked haddock, which I am told—I am not certain of this—comes from South Africa. I wondered whether the Queensland Fish Board provides smoked fish of various types, because it is a favourite dish of mine.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. GUNN: I suppose one could smoke one's own fish, but I have no time to do it.

Mullet is one of the principal fish in Queensland streams. On one occasion I ate mullet that had a kerosene taint and it put me off eating mullet for a long time. I know that the kerosene taint has been detected on a number of occasions, but I do not know what causes it.

Mr. Moore: A bit of sewage.

Mr. GUNN: I do not know where it comes from, but I do know that it is a problem. The other fish commonly found in Queensland waters—flathead, whiting, tailor, and so on—are as good as one would find anywhere, and in North Queensland the reef fish are absolutely superb. Mackerel has been mentioned earlier in the debate. No doubt it is an excellent fish, but it is not to my taste. I have always found it to be a little bit dry.

I am interested more in freshwater fish than in salt-water fish. The Brisbane River, Stanley River and other rivers flow through my electorate, and fishing in them used to be a week-end sport. We only caught jew and eels and they gradually became scarce. I do not know what the reason was. What we called jew would probably be called catfish here, but they were good fish to catch.

I asked a question in the House today because people in my electorate are very concerned about the drop in numbers of all types of fish and they would like the Minister to look into the matter. Most of

the major dams in this part of the State will be in my area—Somerset, Atkinson, Wivenhoe and Cressbrook—and I would ask the Minister to endeavour to obtain some funds from the Treasury for a fish-breeding project similar to those being implemented overseas. When the Wivenhoe Dam is completed, tourists will certainly be attracted to it because it will be within easy reach of a population of about 1,000,000. People now visit the Somerset Dam and the Atkinson Dam regularly.

When the Wivenhoe Dam has been completed, there will certainly be an influx of tourists. I suggest that it will be necessary to have fish for them to catch, and I ask the Minister to see what can be done to provide them. Perhaps he could send one of his officers overseas to see what types of fish could be best used in Queensland. I have heard about Nile perch, but I have never seen one. What I am suggesting would not be of much importance to the fishing industry, because fish of the type that I have in mind probably would never be marketed, but it would be of importance to the tourist industry.

Mr. Lane: What about the Somerset Dam?

Mr. GUNN: I just mentioned that; the honourable member probably was not listening.

In conclusion, I congratulate the Minister on his presentation of the Estimates.

Mr. WARNER (Toowoomba South) (7.35 p.m.): It is pleasing to see that the performance and achievements over the last 100 years have continued with the work accomplished by the Minister and his department. That fact cannot be challenged by anybody in the Chamber. The Minister's work will continue in the interests of Aborigines, as there is yet much to be done. No-one can say that the Minister and his officers have not made great strides and brought about many changes for the benefit of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Perhaps it could be said that in some respects we are doing too much for them and that too much is expected from the Government. In this category I would put housing, and indicate how that concerns me in Toowoomba.

Many Aborigines are put into first-class housing at very low rents. In residential areas the people expect a certain standard of living and behaviour. Unfortunately, in a small percentage of cases that standard of living is not maintained by Aborigines, with the result that their relationship with neighbours deteriorates greatly. In many quarters that relationship has become very strained. Aboriginal families can have their relationship with neighbours jeopardised by relatives and friends who descend on them from time to time and cause disturbances of all kinds. I have seen this happen myself, and I know what goes on. When they depart they leave behind them chaos and very upset neighbours who threaten all kinds of retribution.

I do not blame them when that type of behaviour occurs. These visiting Aborigines slaughter pigs and sheep in the back yard because they do not know any better. The residents have to take the blame for it afterwards. It is not always the Aboriginal tenant who is the cause of the trouble. In most instances he cannot stop these other people descending on him, but he incurs the wrath of his neighbours. In those circumstances we have to be careful that we do not blame the resident. The Government's policy is one of integration, which means living side by side. It is a difficult policy to administer and to get people to understand. When things of that nature take place the department tries to help the people concerned. It is a problem that we will not solve easily or quickly, but I believe that the Minister and his department are making headway.

Thousands of Aborigines and Islanders have yet to be housed. In the eight years since the departmental housing programme began 1,516 homes have been purchased or built, which is not a bad effort, but certainly I would agree that it is not enough. We need many more, and the department would build those houses if it had the money. Like all other departments it is dependent on its allocation, and the allocation has had a severe cut-back this year to less than \$1,000,000 to complete its housing programme. Of course, that is a nearly impossible task.

In the 1973-74 Budget a total of \$7,000,000 was received. The years from 1973 to 1975 saw the implementation of a large building programme, with 183 houses under construction, 156 completed and 532 purchased. But now it looks as if the whole housing programme must come to a halt through lack of funds. We do not want to see this happen.

I have no doubt that, as has been pointed out to me, these funds have been redirected into self-help organisations, but I doubt whether the people to whom the money is intended to go know how to avail themselves of the opportunity to apply for it or how to use it.

Without a housing programme controlled by the department, which is essential, we will not be able to obtain for these people a high standard of help, education and employment. Housing standards vary among Aborigines from the sublime to the hideous.

The housing that is available at Aurukun for Aborigines is a shocking indictment of those responsible for its provision. I visited Aurukun with the Minister and I am not so concerned for the standard of buildings there—which is, of course, totally inadequate—as for the conditions under which the Aborigines live. Those conditions have already been referred to in this debate, so I do not think it is necessary to describe those that I saw.

Mr. Lindsay: You tell us what you saw. Everyone would have us think that what is existing at Aurukun is ideal.

Mr. WARNER: It certainly isn't. Although at Aurukun there are houses of a sort—I assure honourable members that we did not inspect only the best ones—the people live in and live on a rubbish tip. Although the houses are supplied with running water, there is no evidence of pride or upkeep. Every tap that I saw was leaking. There were no gardens or lawns. There was no pretence of any attempt to do anything. Brand-new steel rakes, without handles, were lying on the ground unused. Western-type litter, such as cans, lay where it had been thrown or swept out of houses. The scene was unbelievable. Of course, much of the commodity that those cans had contained had been purchased with the proceeds of social security cheques.

The fact that at Aurukun there lies unused a sawmill that could produce all the timber necessary for the buildings there is an indictment of the management. The cry for more and better houses does not cease. More amenities are being not asked for but demanded by some of the settlements and their leaders. In some instances they are not trying to help themselves. The expenditure of the large amount of money that is poured into Aurukun alone by the State Government, running into many millions of dollars, would be hard to justify to the taxpayer if he could see for himself the conditions that prevail there as well as other settlements such as Mornington Island.

The Government has gone out of its way to ensure that its scheme of providing assistance is not misinterpreted and that the people do not believe they are receiving hand-outs for nothing. However, the Government's efforts have not been entirely successful. There are many Aboriginal people who cannot administer their affairs properly, so the conditions that I have described will continue to be observed.

I have the greatest admiration for the department in its over-all control of the Government-conducted settlements that I visited.

Until proper management and care are applied, we will get the situation that I have seen at all these other settlements. One has only to see the way in which Lockhart River settlement is run to make this comparison. Total involvement of all Aborigines is very evident indeed. It is a happy, healthy and contented place—and that is how it should be. They build, paint and restore, and all work for the good of the settlement whether they are employed or on social services. No Western litter, as I described before, can be seen here outside the rubbish bin. It is quite a place to visit to see just what can be done by these people when they are given the opportunity.

There are, of course, many instances where Aborigines reject outright any kind of Western-standard housing. I refer particularly to Aborigines who are migrating from the Northern Territory. When given the option of a house—or a hotbox as some of them call it—in most cases the Aborigines prefer to live in tents now supplied by thinking people from those settlements. Perhaps they even prefer at this stage of migration to live in the so-called humpy on the river banks. I do not blame them in that heat. That is what they have been used to, and perhaps later on they will get into something better. These particular Aborigines have migrated from stations in the Northern Territory where there is now no work available, and as we have seen at Camooweal, they need transit help. They are pouring over the border, and they just do not know where to go. As a help in this process the Government has given them millions of acres of land for their use. Hopefully, this gives them a traditional life-style side by side with the benefits of this day and age.

Education is provided, and good health centres and many other amenities are available on these settlements. I do not know of one settlement at which education is provided where these facilities are not of the very best. In fact, sometimes the difference between living conditions and where the children are educated is so marked that I can hardly imagine a child wanting a holiday away from school. Conditions are very good in most areas, and certainly magnificent in some.

On all these reserves they have the right to choose their way of life. They either integrate or perhaps go back to where they came from. I believe that this is what the department intended. In all cases it is necessary to give them the opportunity to do something for themselves, whether they live on the reserves or in urban areas.

This type of self-help is very evident at Doomadgee, where girls learn to become bakers and to sew. They supply not only the settlement itself but the surrounding districts with remarkably good bread. The boys are taught to become mechanics and have practical classes in woodwork. This has led to the building of their own furniture, and the results of the boys' work are outstanding.

These projects that I just mentioned are at a settlement that is given the least help by this Government and which is led by a dedicated group of people who seek to do nothing more than help these Aborigines. That type of understanding and approach to this great race is, I believe, the only way we will achieve integration that will give them equal citizenship, equal opportunity and equal responsibility. Already projects such as the mackerel fishing industry in Queensland have given the Aboriginal people the opportunity to earn incomes and return to the State a percentage of what the Government has handed out. At Mornington Island

the Aboriginal people have bought their own boat. I believe that it was not recommended by the department; but, with the assistance of refrigeration equipment supplied by the State Government, I believe the local people are hoping to establish a fishing industry.

Many problems exist within the church's administration which must first be solved before an industry of this kind can be made to pay. Already a great deal of money has been spent on storage refrigeration and so on at Aurukun. Those projects have not been used to any great extent at all. These projects were operations of the same type as I believe are now commencing at Mornington Island. I believe that we should very thoroughly investigate any further projects that take the taxpayer's money. I am all for helping where help is needed and when the people themselves will also give such an undertaking. But far too much damage was done by the unlimited hand-outs of the previous Federal Labor Government, and we now have a great deal of redundant and useless pieces of machinery lying on many islands around the Torres Strait. A great deal of misunderstanding has taken place on what may be likened to the cargo cult of New Guinea, and that has to be coped with in the future.

However, before I close, I say that I believe the pastoral industry and the activities of the Aboriginal reserves, where stock-grazing is a major enterprise and where training and activity are taking place for those who wish to follow that particular calling, suit the Aborigine right down to the ground. He is very adaptable to that type of work.

As has been said before tonight, I grew up on a station with Aboriginal stockmen, and I know that this is the type of work that they enjoy the most. It does not include only that type of work. It also includes education facilities as well. It gives to those reserves the same understanding of education and what other reserves have as well. It is very interesting to those who do not know—and I believe a great number of people do not know—that the total stock registered on the 12 reserves in 1976 was 35,432 head. It is also not known that we breed stock—and good stock—at the various centres. Although the majority are bred for sale or for consumption by the Aborigines, in many cases cattle are butchered for the surrounding district. Any revenue from the sale of stock is returned to the Aboriginal welfare fund. Although, owing to the recession in the beef industry, that may be small today, what profit is made will be returned to the general benefit of all Aborigines in the State. The net profit return credited to departmental welfare funds from the gross sales was in the vicinity of \$198,000. Considering the sales in 1973 amounted to only \$424,000-odd, this shows a marked improvement not only in production but also in the good management of the department and those involved. The gross sales made this year show a very big increase and those responsible are certainly to be commended.

As I have said before, I like this type of training for the Aborigine as I believe his love of horses and dogs and the outdoor life fit him for this type of work. If he is given this type of training, he will end up a much happier person.

The Minister has a very difficult portfolio and it is not made easier by the constant opposition from Commonwealth sources. I believe he has great concern for the Aboriginal people, as has his director.

I have much pleasure in supporting these Estimates.

(Time expired.)

Mr. MULLER (Fassifern) (7.55 p.m.): Very briefly, I support the Minister in the presentation of his Estimates. The Minister, his Director and his staff have a very difficult assignment. After all, what they are trying to do is to provide for the welfare requirements of approximately 55,000 people. I have taken that figure from the department's report. The breakdown of the figure indicates that there are approximately 40,000 Australian Aborigines and about 15,000 citizens of the Torres Strait islands.

Without claiming to be an authority on the subject, I find that there is considerable difference in the attitude and outlook of these two types of people. Torres Strait Islanders live, of course, in a very pleasant and happy environment and they have responded likewise. From my point of view they are normal, happy and contented and, if given a lead, quite industrious people. I support my use of the word "industrious" by reminding the Committee that some years ago very many Torres Strait Islanders sought employment on the reconstruction of the Townsville—Mt. Isa railway line. Those who know this locality will appreciate how harsh it can be in the summer. There are places in which there is virtually no shade and the whole area, of course, is subject to extremely high temperatures. Reports from reliable sources led us to believe that Torres Strait Islanders accomplished more in that locality than could be accomplished by the majority of white men.

After acknowledging this contribution and being conscious of the fact that they have the capacity to become very capable and worth-while citizens, we should support them in their wish to remain Queenslanders. Whether they should become part of Papua New Guinea or remain in Queensland is a controversy that has been raging for quite some time between this State and the Commonwealth. As I see it, there is no justification whatever to alter the boundary in any way. These people are happy and contented as they are at present and we, as residents of Queensland who have skins of not quite the same colour or texture as theirs, should support them in their view. There is no reason to move the boundary from its present position. I regret very much that

those in power in Canberra should have seen fit to give this proposal even a second thought.

In the Australian Aborigine we find a type of person different from the Torres Strait Islander. In many instances this is possibly the result of his environment. Many things have been said in this Chamber and elsewhere about discrimination against Aborigines. We could admit, perhaps with red faces, that in many instances there has been discrimination, but I believe that basically it all comes back to the capacity and ability of the individual. I should say that there would be no justification for accusing Australian people, particularly Queenslanders, of discrimination in this way. After all, I am proud to say, on looking to my right in the Chamber, that the first Aboriginal member of this Parliament is a member of the National Party. This Parliament also nominated Senator Bonner to fill a vacancy in the Senate. Both those gentlemen are making a quite substantial contribution to the welfare and well-being of our people and I congratulate them for it.

I also want to say that there are a number of persons in the Aboriginal community who do not necessarily have my respect and I doubt very much whether they would have the respect of Mr. Deeral or Senator Bonner. But I also state that there are a lot of people whose skins are whiter than mine for whom I have very little respect. So one cannot make broad statements like that about discrimination. I feel that there is no justification for this and no further comment should be made.

Many people whom I would classify as professional do-gooders have made a number of recommendations that the life-style of these people should conform rigidly to that of our own. They might feel that this is desirable, but it is just not possible for this to happen. Taking into account the environment into which many of these people were born and reared, we could well imagine that many of them would be doomed to failure if we asked them to try to take their place in modern society.

After all, the annual report prepared by the director and his departmental officers indicates very clearly that there is a vast difference in the life-style and make-up of different tribal groups. Some of these groups have had contact with civilisation for only 20 years while others have had that contact for 150 years. Therefore I say that it would be completely impossible to apply a rule of thumb here and say that what is suitable for one community is suitable for another community in a different locality. Probably they have had different opportunities for improvement and have faced many different and varied experiences.

At times we are critical of them and become disheartened when they do not respond favourably to the treatment we mete out to them. I would say that if we reversed the situation and asked ourselves, as white people

who have been accustomed to living in a civilisation such as the one we know, to go back and exist in their surroundings we might not be as capable as we might perhaps imagine. However, I am not suggesting that we do this. We are talking, in fact, of lifting their standards to correspond to our own, yet we are not necessarily the masters of our own destinies. There are many things that dictate our future and to a considerable extent we are governed by the requirements of many other people.

On the other hand, from where I see the situation, many things have to be done for Aborigines during this transition period, firstly on the question of land rights. In my opinion to proceed beyond the present stage would not be in the best interests of these people. Is there any real justification for it? After all, we must justify to some person in the community any move we make.

Many white Australians have said that merely because these people were born in Australia and their ancestors were here before us does not necessarily entitle them to land rights. I concede this point. You and I were born here, Mr. Miller, and we do not have land rights.

In addition, is it desirable in this day and age, when we want these people to become part of our community, to set them up in some far-removed and arid locality and say that they must live there? In my opinion this would not be in their best interests. There might be a period in the initial stages when some of them—and I am referring specifically here to those Aboriginal people who have been resident in the Northern Territory and until recently have known very little of modern civilisation—could move into Queensland establishments under the control and administration of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. This could then be an acceptable staging camp for them, but nothing beyond that.

Many people claim that the Aborigines should be set up in remote, arid areas, far removed from centres of population, in the majority of cases on land in which white men show no interest. Without knowing a great deal about the subject, I say that will not work and will not be acceptable. I believe that Aborigines should spend a limited amount of time in distant localities and gradually be moved in.

Statistics indicate that there are about 40,000 Aborigines in Queensland. I wonder how many more are classed as Aborigines. Possibly there are many thousands; no accurate figures are available. I have met many coloured people whom I have felt privileged to know; but there are many other coloured people for whom I have the utmost contempt. If I may repeat what I said earlier, there are people of the white race at whom I would look through the same pair of eyes and about whom I would probably come to the same conclusion.

In the final analysis, I hope that the director and the officers of the department, influenced to a large extent by the Minister, will ensure that Aborigines spend only a short time in remote areas and then, when opportunities present themselves, be moved gradually into civilisation. It seems to me to be too great a change to bring a person from a remote area and place him in the heart of the city.

We are told that Aborigines have difficulty assimilating the educational standards. I read a report on this matter some months ago. It was based on the experiences of persons who had many and varied contacts with people in the north-western part of New South Wales. They said that although the Aboriginal children were bright, and appeared to be capable of developing their responsibilities in a white community and of listening quite intently to the advice that was offered to them, education did not appear to have any effect on them. As a result, many of these children were criticised severely. It was found later that lack of education of their parents was the cause. They had little conversation with their children, and although the children heard very clearly the statements that were being made, they did not accurately interpret the meaning of what they were being told and, consequently, did not make very much progress. As you know, Mr. Miller, regardless of the colour of a child's skin, if he attends school and finds that the type of instruction offered is beyond him, he rapidly becomes disinterested.

Many of the matters I have raised are elementary and are well known to departmental officers, but I make these comments because many people criticise Aborigines and say that they will never be a success in modern society. In my opinion, remarks such as that should be tempered by the knowledge that the standard of living is very low in many countries of the world in which the skin-colour of the people is predominantly black. It appears to me that it is probably for the very same reason—that they have not been able to absorb education. That is where the problem lies. It is not a difficulty that can be overcome readily. I fear that it could take perhaps two or three generations, but I believe that there will be a gradual improvement in each succeeding generation. Those who expect something more than that are bound to be disappointed.

I believe that in the final analysis the solution to the problem is education. Adequate health facilities must be provided for these people. Unless they are healthy one can imagine that they are not likely to absorb anything worth while. Those persons with the capacity or the ability to be trade-trained should be given that training. Educational facilities for trade-training should be readily available to them. Many persons do not have the basic qualifications to become academics. Society can be overloaded in that field. If we measure up to our responsibilities as we get to know these people

and gradually move them up into our environment by educating them and trade-training them, or training them in some other shape or form. They in turn will have the capacity to become useful citizens so that in the future they will be able to live with dignity within our community.

Mr. LAMOND (Wynnum) (8.12 p.m.): As other members have commented, the Minister has a grave and heavy responsibility in administering his portfolio of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries. His is a complicated and difficult portfolio. In the presentation of his Estimates he has demonstrated his thorough understanding of the departments under his control. Obviously those employed in them have very clear and forward thinking.

Previous speakers have made detailed comments on Aboriginal advancement. In the time available to me tonight I will devote myself mainly to fisheries. I am very conscious of the Government's great concern about the problem that exists in the North and in various outlying parts of the State with Aborigines. To a small degree I have involved myself with the Minister and his committee in the matter of Aboriginal advancement. In looking for the answer to the problem we must first of all understand the problem. I admit that I do not know the answer and I doubt whether I really understand the problem. Too frequently those who know very little about the problem, or the answer to it, become so-called experts in this field and make extensive comments about it in the media.

We frequently hear the word "assimilation" used. When talking about assimilation we must first decide what percentage of the present generation of indigenous people want to be assimilated into our way of life. Do we set ourselves up as those with the chosen system—a system into which everyone should be assimilated? Can we stop for a moment and look at the conditions and environment under which these people live, and then revise our thinking to a degree and say, "Maybe that is the way they wish to live"? When we talk of assimilation we must think of education and training of a type that these people can use to their best advantage.

Mr. Jones: Are you talking about assimilation or integration?

Mr. LAMOND: The two are synonymous. Assimilation, or integration, is a very slow process, and we must be tolerant, understanding and patient.

Previous speakers have claimed that assimilation could be completed within three or four generations. About 50 years ago, while my grandfather was inspector of police at Normanton, I visited that area with my father, and I recall his speaking of the very grave problems that existed. He forecast that it would take 20 generations for assimilation

to be completed. I am not as hopeful as some of the previous speakers, who spoke of one or two generations.

I do know that the answer does not lie in giving these people hand-outs or in encouraging them to drink. Anyone who has travelled through the northern and western areas and visited the wet canteens late in the evening could not fail to be disgusted by the conditions under which the Aboriginal people drink. Of course, they are disgusted with themselves just as many people of our own colour are disgusted with ourselves in similar circumstances. Possibly, like us, having made a mess of themselves the night before, our coloured people wake up next morning thoroughly ashamed of themselves. Anyone who speaks to the mothers, sisters and wives of the men who drink in these dens or drinking houses knows something of the way in which these people are disturbed. No, the answer is not hand-outs and alcohol.

As to housing—this, too, is a slow and tedious process. Although many Aboriginal people are provided with housing and other accommodation of quite an acceptable standard, at dawn and at dusk they are out in their front yards cooking their meals over smouldering logs. We might ask why they do not use the facilities that are provided inside their homes. The answer is obvious; in the short time that we have been involved in trying to educate these people they have not had time to accept our standards or those that we maintain should be followed. We must look at this problem through the eyes of the people concerned and take the time to involve ourselves.

I have had the pleasure of visiting some of these areas with the Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, Mr. Killoran. He has wonderful communication with these people and a total understanding of their problems. Anyone who visits those areas with him will learn a great deal.

Anyone who has visited the Torres Strait islands would be aware of the main problem confronting the people there, namely, the border issue. Previous speakers have referred to it at length, so I do not propose to dwell on it. There is no doubt, however, that when we speak of Aboriginal rights and land rights we must keep uppermost in our mind the right of the people who live on these islands to retain their way of life and to have the border retained where they wish it to be retained. I know that it is the policy of this Government to support that thinking. I trust that the Federal Government in its wisdom will come round likewise to the way of thinking of these people and of this Government.

I have been involved for quite a long time with the fishing industry as an amateur fisherman. Any amateur fisherman who has travelled the coast of Queensland most certainly comes in close contact with the people involved in the industry. It has been said, and I have said it myself, that to a degree

it is a fragmented industry. I am afraid that it still is. It is an industry which needs great guidance, and the last two years has been the first time we have had a Minister to look after this important industry in our State. When we speak of the future management of the industry we are speaking of policies.

In his introductory speech the Minister mentioned conservation and development of the industry. When considering development, one must look at the problems of the particular area. Naturally the area that I propose to speak on is the one closest to my own electorate, and that is Moreton Bay. The boundaries of the areas laid down for fishing, whether it be by professional or amateur fishermen, are very clear and very definite. There is no doubt that these boundaries should be more flexible because at the present time there are areas in Moreton Bay where fishing of all types is prohibited, or allowed where a particular need exists. In one area there are absolutely no fish so there is no need to preserve it for breeding. Other areas where fish are in plentiful supply are closed to both the professional and the amateur fisherman.

When fisheries are discussed, we frequently hear of the need for research. These boundaries should be determined on the basis of sound research. What do we really know of the breeding habits and the feeding habits of the estuary fish and the bay fish? What do we know of those sections of the industry on which minor research has been done? We must go further and realise that, unless we have correct research, we will over-farm areas that can ill afford this and neglect areas which would probably be the richer if we were to farm them. Research is sadly neglected in the industry. Those who are involved in other sections of primary industry can go to the appropriate department and obtain expensive information for their assistance and guidance to improve their crops. The fishing industry is greatly in need of such research and guidance.

In his address the Minister mentioned the survey of the oyster leases in Moreton Bay. This is a matter that I have spoken about to the Minister on a number of occasions. There is no doubt in my mind that over the years oyster leases have been granted in a haphazard fashion over all sections of Moreton Bay. Only now the department is investigating oyster leases and collating information about them. Few people who have fished Moreton Bay would be unable to point to a number of oyster leases that have not been worked for many years.

On the subject of unused oyster leases—too many people are inclined to say that if we leave oysters in their natural state they will most certainly develop, increase and become better oyster banks. It does not quite happen that way. With the natural flow of sand in Moreton Bay, oysters which are on a bank this year can quite easily be completely covered by sand next year and be completely lost to the industry.

I know from conversations I have had with the Minister—in fact, I recently received a statement about it—that consideration is being given to surveying and establishing easements between oyster banks. It must be realised that on the sandbanks of Moreton Island, for example, great expanses of oyster leases are side by side. However, licenses have been granted to the fishing industry to fish that area. The oyster leases make it almost impossible to fish. Easements must be established in those oyster leases.

The Minister commented on the robot to be used in searching the underwater sections of our reefs and off our coast. To me that is vital. Once again the term “research” is used. Those of us who have experienced the joys and pleasures of skin-diving know something of the underwater section of our seas and realise the great amount of research that needs to be done. The Minister is to be congratulated on his actions in that direction.

The Minister commented that approximately 2,371 master fishermen’s licences and 2,398 employee licences have been issued, and some 3,249 fishing vessels are registered. That is very pleasing—but how many unregistered fishermen are presently supplementing their wages or, in many cases, making a good living from this sideline? That must be looked at very carefully.

I commented earlier on the fragmentation of the industry. That is a factor that we must be continually aware of. The Minister mentioned the Fish Supply Management Act and indicated that he was prepared to include outsiders on the membership committee of some seven, not less than three of whom are to be nominated by the Minister. I hope that the Minister in his wisdom will include amongst his nominees someone from the buying side of the fishing industry. Such a representative would certainly have a very clear opinion of what is happening in the industry and the sale of the product.

I wish to cover one topic very quickly. It relates to the Wynnum area. The Minister said that the small amount of \$4,151 has been spent on the Wynnum fish market. As that market has one of the biggest intakes of any in Queensland, I hope the Minister will use his influence and persuade the Minister for Marine Services to spend further money there, because Wynnum Creek is badly in need of dredging to provide a boating basin for the very many boats that unload their fish there. I ask the Minister to include in his discussions with his fellow Minister serious and urgent consideration of the dredging of the creek in order that a boat basin can be developed.

It is not unusual on a Friday to see up to 20 boats moored side by side at the Wynnum fish market, because there is nowhere else for them to moor. The development of that area can only be for the benefit of this section of the industry, which is being neglected. These people are expected to work their industry and bring in their catch, and they then may have to carry it over the

decks of three or four boats before they can deposit it at the market. I cannot ask too earnestly that consideration be given to this point.

I congratulate the Minister on the presentation and content of his Estimates and I support all that he has submitted to the Committee.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (8.31 p.m.): I wish to speak on that portion of the Estimates that concerns Aboriginal and Islander affairs. It was rather horrifying to sit here this afternoon and this evening and listen to some of the extreme Right-wing, reactionary and racist speeches made by some Government members, particularly members of the National Party.

Mr. Byrne: Wasn’t it you who said in this debate last year that the only good black was a dead black?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: That is completely facetious, Mr. Gunn. I did not even speak in this debate last year. The honourable member for Belmont—the evil friar—has his wires crossed.

It is not surprising to hear members of the National Party make racist speeches because the people whom they represent in this Chamber—the wealthy sheep and cattle barons—are, in the main, the worst exploiters of Aborigines. Bad and all as those speeches were, I thought a speech by a Liberal member was the worst I have ever heard. I refer to the paternalistic and racist speech made by the honourable member for Merthyr. It was one of the worst racist speeches I have ever heard in this Chamber. It reeked of humbug, cant and hypocrisy and, as I said, outright racism.

Mr. Gygar: Be game and take on someone who is here to answer you.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: If the honourable member for Stafford, who is a political lightweight, had spoken, I would have been quite prepared to take him on. But he has not the courage or the intestinal fortitude to get to his feet. He knows that if he did he would reveal his extreme Right-wing racist attitude.

Mr. GYGAR: I rise to a point of order. I find the honourable member’s remarks grossly offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gunn): Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw his remarks.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Gunn, and I withdraw. The honourable member is rather thin-skinned. Another member of similar stature who wears a moustache was not thin-skinned at all. But he is probably of higher intellectual stature than the honourable member for Stafford.

The statement by the honourable member for Merthyr that Aborigines were better off working on station properties was just a lot of rot. When Aborigines worked on station

properties, their status was little better than that of slaves. The honourable member also referred to the former Aborigines Preservation and Protection Act. I know many Aborigines who quite contemptuously and bitterly refer to that Act as the dog-collar Act. And it was a dog-collar Act because when it was in force in Queensland Aborigines were little better than serfs. They had to get permits to travel from town to town. They were shockingly treated by—

Mr. Moore: By a Labor Government.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Irrespective of which Government was in power, it was still wrong. It was an oppressive Act and it should have been repealed ages before it was.

Mr. Byrne: Do you think it should have been brought in?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I have answered the honourable member for Belmont previously, Mr. Gunn. I think the Act should have been repealed. The truth is that when that Act was in force exploitation and degradation was the unhappy lot of Aborigines in Queensland.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to refrain from speaking about legislation and to return to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: When that Act was in force, it was—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is returning to a discussion of legislation.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I was just saying that the dog-collar Act was very oppressive to Aboriginal people in this State. It is common knowledge that Aborigines here have been ill treated, poorly fed and overworked by the wealthy cockies in this State who, in the main, are supporters, both financial and physical, of the National Party. That would not apply to the electorate of Somerset, because there are not too many wealthy cockies in that electorate. In some instances the Aborigines were required to work an 80-hour week for a mere pittance, and the living quarters provided on some of these stations were nothing better than hovels. I was out on a well-known station in the Gregory electorate called "Retreat" and the conditions there were shocking. It is quite obvious that the Aborigines should have "retreated" from that station.

Mr. Bertoni interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I cannot hear the honourable member. I only wish he would learn a little about voice projection.

As I was saying, for many years the Aboriginal people have been regarded as docile station fodder by the wealthy squatocracy in this State. This Tory Government has nothing to be proud of in its treatment of Aborigines. They might beat their breasts as some Government members have done

here tonight and say what they have done for Aborigines, but I would like to say that Government members have done nothing for them. One of the other speakers tonight was the honourable member for Fassifern. He is a rather nice fellow, but he has an extreme Right-wing attitude. He said that the Aborigines were not ready for assimilation, that the time was not opportune. When will the time be opportune? During the 200 years the white people have been in this State they have certainly done nothing for the Aborigines.

Mr. McKechnie: Wouldn't the opportune time be when the Aborigines themselves ask for it through their councils?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I do not know about that, but, of course, the honourable member for Carnarvon is regarded as one of the most extreme Right-wing members of the National Party. He is a member of the League of Rights, which he has never denied.

Mr. McKECHNIE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Archerfield tried to associate me with the League of Rights and accused me of being a member. I am not a member and I ask that he withdraw the remark.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gunn): Order! Will the honourable member accept the denial?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Of course I do. If what the honourable member says is true, I am very pleased, because we all know how Right-wing, reactionary and colour-prejudiced the League of Rights is.

Mrs. Kyburz: Hear, hear!

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: There is a very discerning member of the Government—probably the only one! She is also the most attractive. As I was saying, the present Tory Government has nothing to be proud of in its treatment of Aborigines.

Mr. Bertoni interjected.

A Government Member: A point of order!

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The honourable member does have a rather peculiar voice, so he, too, might be attractive—probably attractive to other males, but that is his own business. I do not know.

The honourable member for Merthyr made his usual scathing attack on those humanitarian people who desire to help the Aboriginal people to upgrade themselves from their present status of second-grade citizens. He was equally vehement in his criticism of the trade unions for their shocking temerity in demanding award wages for Aborigines employed on station properties. The reactionary and inflammatory remarks of the honourable member for Merthyr epitomise the Uncle Tom attitude of this extreme Right-wing Tory Government. If the Government and the Minister were fair dinkum in their

attitude to Aborigines, efforts would be made to end the unfair discrimination that exists in regard to employment opportunities. As a matter of fact, my electorate has a rather large Aboriginal population and I have a lot of young Aborigines approaching me and complaining about job discrimination. About a fortnight ago a presentable young Aboriginal came to my office. He told me he had quite a good Junior pass. He said that he had applied for six jobs, and although he considered that he was equal in standard to the white lads who applied for the same jobs, the white lads got the jobs and he did not. If the Minister was fair dinkum, as I say, he would do something to end this shocking colour discrimination in employment opportunities in this State.

A Government Member: The A.L.P. endorses a lot, doesn't it?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: If the honourable member is referring to the endorsement of the honourable member for Cook, I say he was a political accident. It was just one of those things. It is a truism that he is a oncer, and in the next election there is no way in the world that he will not be relegated to political oblivion in the electorate of Cook. He was a political fluke. I do not say this with any malice towards the honourable member for Cook, but I think any member of the Aboriginal race who is prepared to come here and follow the extreme attitudes of the reactionary Premier of this State and sell out his race is nothing more than an Uncle Tom. I think that the people of Cook realise this. When I was on Thursday Island about 18 months ago, many people who voted for the honourable member for Cook told me that at the next State election when they had the opportunity of correcting that wrong, they would certainly vote against him.

In conclusion, I say to the Minister that, if he is fair dinkum, what he should do is ensure that there is full assimilation of the Aboriginal people into the community. If there were any justice, no Aborigine would vote for this reactionary, racist Government at any State or Federal election.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (8.41 p.m.): In speaking to these Estimates, I am very pleased to announce that I was one of the members of this Assembly who were fortunate to be able to accompany the Minister, his committee and the honourable member for Cairns on a tour of the Aboriginal missions and some of the towns on Cape York Peninsula during June of this year.

On that tour, we flew to Cooktown and then drove to Hope Vale. On our arrival there, we immediately became aware that the chief problem in any part of Cape York Peninsula is transport. The Hope Vale aerodrome was not able to cope with aircraft

of the size of the one in which we were travelling, and to reach Hope Vale we had to cross rivers that had only just become trafficable for the first time since the wet season.

The people of Hope Vale were quite civilised and were, I think, a credit to the progressive administration of this Government and former Governments. They are very worth-while citizens of this State, and I cannot see any reason why any of them could not be assimilated in any community in Queensland.

Construction of some sections of the school was well behind schedule, perhaps because of the wet season, and I hope that they have since been completed. There were many indications that heat and humidity had caused a great deal of corrosion, particularly in iron products, about the school, and in all public buildings in Cape York an endeavour should be made to find materials that will have the maximum possible life.

In addition, when buildings are constructed, all the work should be carried out by Aboriginal or Islander people. Too often during the tour we saw work being carried out by Europeans from the Department of Works. These men were not being assisted or understudied by Aborigines or, in the Torres Strait islands, by Islanders. They were just working their way through the buildings, and a great deal of the expertise that they could have passed on to the locals was going unobserved and no benefit was being gained from it.

Many of the traditional skills in building, especially in the Torres Strait islands, are passing away. If we are going to give the people—and I mean “give”—white-man-type buildings in a very hot, humid, sunny climate, we are doing them a disservice. We should be encouraging them, both throughout Cape York and the Torres Strait, to develop as many different types of architecture as are suited to their way of life and the climate. It should be remembered that there is very heavy rainfall, usually followed by a long dry season. It is true that on the tour we saw people cooking outdoors. I make the point that I do not believe it was because they did not want to cook inside or because they had only recently moved in from gunyahs. They were cooking outside because it would be extremely hot inside the buildings. They preferred to cook outside, and I don't blame them.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: A lot of our white brothers do the same. As the honourable member for Bundaberg says, they prefer to have a barbecue outside.

Mr. Jensen: We used to have the toilets outside and cook inside. Now we do it the other way round.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: The honourable member for Bundaberg is quite right. We have seen that reversal in white man's culture over the last 20 years. Perhaps we should be more tolerant of other people's culture.

Certainly some of the buildings provided in the Northern Territory became known as ovens. It was decided to make them indestructible, out of heavy gauge iron, and to make them white-man style so that they could be locked up. Of course, those people didn't want their houses all locked up. They prefer open, breezy houses. The minds in Melbourne never even contemplated such heat for so long. The houses were in fact ovens, and people could not get into them until hours after sunset. We need to encourage designs suited to their life-styles, which vary from place to place, and we need to encourage designs suited to the local materials, and designs that they themselves can build. When we were at such places as Lockhart River, Weipa South, Edward River, Kowanyama and Doomadgee we saw European-style buildings suited for Brisbane being erected. I did notice that if a window got broken they preferred not to replace it. I believe that they would replace it when the wet season came. The only fault I could find with those buildings was that they did not have enough ventilation. They are white-man style for white-man Brisbane country. They do not have verandas all round. It will take some years to grow enough vegetation around them to shade in under the houses to give the kiddies protection from the sun.

Of all the places we visited Doomadgee was the very best. I feel that the people there were the most industrious. To see that the people were industrious and praise them for it may be a white man's view. Nevertheless, those people were far more self-reliant than any others we saw. They were very capable as they went about their various duties supporting their community, from baking bread to learning the various crafts and trades. I feel that they will cope better with the times that lie ahead than many others in some of the other missions, particularly at Mornington Island and Aurukun.

On that day in June when we went to Aurukun we received the worst reception we had anywhere on our trip. I believe that was because someone the day before had announced our pending visit, and asked people to keep away from us. Everywhere else we were made welcome and greeted as friends, but at Aurukun we were held off and regarded with suspicion. It took a long time to convince them that we did not have seven heads and were not filthy ogres. We did go through the schools—the old building from the time of Rev. McKenzie and the new building which is comparable with any in the State. I was rather amazed at the attitude of one teacher who told me, when I was surrounded by a group of gleeful children who were admiring

a picture book, that the children wouldn't be at all interested in my book. That was said in spite of the fact that the children were interested, were asking me about the photographs, and were quite keen to know where I lived. I was telling them about where I lived and asking them where they lived, but she regarded that as an intrusion. This was during school recess. That teacher is not the product of any Queensland teacher college but was recruited in another State.

This brings me to one of the problems at Aurukun. People have been recruited selectively to go there and many of them are not Queenslanders. I believe that a lot of the money that we have put aside for Aurukun has gone to Sydney and remained there as an export. It has been used in an office there instead of for the people at Aurukun.

At Aurukun there are two standards of housing—the old and the new. The old housing is by anyone's standard far below what is required. Together with the member for Everton, I felt that a great deal should be done to update the standard of housing as rapidly as possible in the next two or three years. The new housing is certainly very good but the old housing is not good enough. As someone has said, an old house there consists of galvanised-iron walls and a galvanised-iron roof; it is set up off the ground and it has no running water. The community taps are outside. There is a system of sanitation, but much more can be done.

The way to get things done is not by presenting the people there with gifts from heaven or with dole or unemployment cheques. The money has to come out of the ground, either as ore, as it does at Weipa, or as crops. Only hard work will achieve this.

The cargo cult has been replaced by a dole cult. I am sorry to say that when we were at Weipa and Aurukun we were informed that men have been recalled from \$150-a-week jobs at Weipa to Aurukun to go on the dole for purely political motives. I do not say party political motives, but there is political infighting among those at Aurukun who seek to be leader or chairman there. It is a very poor state of affairs when men give up \$150-a-week jobs to go back home to be on the dole purely to suit some political whim.

The people at Edward River are indeed a credit to the State. They know a great deal about it. They have travelled widely in their various jobs, such as stock work. I was quite pleased to learn that they knew a great deal about Toowoomba and Gatton. Some had attended the college at Gatton. They are far from isolated and they are citizens of this State. I challenge anyone to prove otherwise.

I was not at all pleased with the standard of health and hygiene that I found at Mornington Island. As another member has said, a toilet was located extremely close to the

wet canteen. We asked why the toilet was not fixed. The answer was simply that nobody cared a damn. The toilet was broken, rotted down, and not one person on the island cared enough to have it fixed. I am speaking of Aborigines and whites. The white people there do not care a damn about broken-down toilets situated 10 yards from the door of the wet canteen. I hope they catch all the diseases that can be contracted in such dirty surroundings, including a good dose of hookworm. If they do, they will be taught a lesson in common, decent hygiene. As I say, no-one was prepared to go fix it.

The honourable member for Windsor and I, after inspecting the school, decided that the next time we go there we will take our hammers, saws, chisels, a few pounds of nails and some slats of timber and set about carrying out repairs ourselves. The people on the island are quite eager to ask for a new school but they are not prepared to drive in a nail that is sticking up a quarter of an inch. They would sooner stub their toe on it a dozen times. I am talking about white people. They are leading the dark people to Lord only knows what. I hope they stub their toe a hundred times. Most of the Aborigines could do that without being upset.

The whites won't get under the school and restump it, even though the island is covered with trees. They won't help establish a timber and sawmilling industry, nor will they construct roads. There is no reason for anyone to be unemployed on an island that does not have stretching from one end of it to the other a road with branch roads off into the forest. Unemployment relief is just a myth. There is no sincere and dedicated attempt to get these people interested in providing facilities for themselves.

The whole of the Cape York Peninsula is devoid of roads in the wet season. It might cost \$200,000,000 to \$400,000,000 to provide wet-season roads. It is a pity that the Commonwealth Government, when its Department of Aboriginal Affairs had the hovercraft, did not try to negotiate some of the cross-country routes which are more suited to the hovercraft than the open sea. The hovercraft should be able to cross a flooded, boggy road in the wet season. It should be able to cross that same road when it is, as is colloquially known, a "bulldust" road, with fine, fine dust in seemingly bottomless pits that will stop any vehicle. If the Commonwealth Government wants to get back into Aboriginal Affairs in Far North Queensland, this would be a worthy project for the hovercraft. These roads across Cape York are cut for four to five months every year. This puts great stress on the people who have to fly any aircraft which is not on full instrument rating to a full instrument airport. This is why we have these tragedies in the Far North when men are trying to do jobs often by way of charity or a health mission, and they come to grief in impossible weather or on impossible airfields.

I would like to reply to some of the remarks made by the honourable member for Cairns, who accompanied us on that trip. Although he had a great deal to say in this debate on what is wrong with this department, on that trip he could not find a thing wrong with the department until the plane was over Mareeba in clear sight of Cairns. Then he donned his Labor electorate mantle and started attacking those Government members in the plane for not doing enough for housing, particularly in Camooweal.

Most of the people he wanted to provide housing for in Camooweal were Aboriginal stockmen who just happened to be from the Northern Territory and were waiting there for a lift back home. If he wants to provide housing for Aboriginal stockmen waiting for a lift back home, then he has to provide housing all over Moreton and Stradbroke Islands for week-end fishermen, and here, there, and everywhere for campers and hikers, and all up and down the country. I do not think he has studied the problem.

I agree with him that the galvanised iron huts away on the outskirts take the Aborigines further out of town, where they do have the chance to improve and learn from the white man. That has happened in other places. There is no need for any Aboriginal settlement to be way out of town. I think that the sooner we get Aboriginal people at places like Camooweal into the town, the sooner they will learn the ways of the white man and be absorbed into our community.

The honourable member for Rockhampton wanted to have two bob each way. He attacked the Government for granting missions the right to run wet canteens, and in the next breath he praised the churches for their attitude on alcohol. I have heard other members here say that the Labor Party was jumping up and down for all these missions to have access to alcohol.

It is true that the Aborigines will undergo a great many crises as they meet alcohol. The white man has had it with him for 5,000 years and has not learnt to control it yet. The Aborigines are in for a great many rude shocks when they see the effect it has on their lives and on their communities.

If we need to develop anything in Aborigines in particular, it is a great deal of leadership. We are going to need all sorts of counselling for Aboriginal people who run into problems not only with alcohol but with those associated with assimilation into white communities here, there and everywhere up and down the length of this great State.

I must reply to the claim by the honourable member for Archerfield that Aborigines were taken down by wealthy sheep farmers and graziers. I think that all honourable members would know that there are no wealthy sheep farmers or graziers left.

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (9 p.m.): I have just completed an extensive tour of my electorate. It contains Mornington Island, Burketown and Doomadgee, which have large Aboriginal populations. Contrary to some of the statements made in the Chamber tonight, the Minister may rest assured that the people of my electorate think that the Government is carrying out its functions efficiently and to the benefit of the Aborigines.

Last Friday afternoon in my office I had discussions with leaders of the National Aboriginal Consultative Council and other members of the Aboriginal community. They requested me to inform the Minister that they do not believe much of the propaganda that is being disseminated in my electorate and throughout the rest of Queensland on the problems between our Government and Aborigines. They brought to me the booklet that I am holding. It is entitled, "The Queensland Aborigines Act and Regulations 1971" and then there appears the comment, "Written by"—I do not know the company—"the Black Resource Centre Collective, 1976—so that anyone can read and understand these Acts." On the back of the booklet there is the caption, "Free Blacks. Smash Acts."

The people I spoke to were most perturbed about the statement that Aborigines should smash the Queensland Act. They made it quite clear to me that they were not in favour of a booklet such as that and the information that is circulating amongst the blacks themselves. On opening the book, one sees nothing but pictures and illustrations of Aboriginal people being arrested and demonstrating for unconditional land rights—parading down a street in what is obviously a city area.

I do not think most honourable members realise that, when we discuss Aborigines, we are dealing with quite a number of complex problems. I firmly believe that there are three types of Aborigine—those who live on missions and are under the control of councils and churches; those who live in provincial urban areas; and those who live in the cities. It appears to me that most of the problems arise in the city of Brisbane. Those in the minority claim that they are speaking for all the Aboriginal community throughout Queensland. That is not so—at least, not in my area. I point out to the Minister that those I spoke to believe he is doing a very good job. They express to the director, Mr. Killoran, the feeling of a great deal of appreciation.

They have asked me to raise a number of matters in Parliament. The first is that they are looking for Government backing for a project called the Carandotta Industrial Committee Ltd. That proposal entailed securing a loan for some \$20,000,000 and the development for the benefit of Aborigines of a large complex, to be run and organised by Aborigines. I have letters in my possession indicating that the money is available. Included in the report is a

feasibility study indicating that the project could be viable. I shall read the introduction to the study, because I believe that it will give honourable members an insight into the project. After I refer to the conclusions, I would like to comment on the project myself. The report reads—

"In this study I propose to demonstrate the viability of an export meat processing plant at Carandotta, 240 km south-west of Mt. Isa. It is my aim to show its superior viability being situated in such an area. This small works will gain a considerable advantage over works closer to the coast, by being located in a good supply area where there is a surplus of cattle in excellent condition, which are being bred by the Carandotta Industrial Committee. Because of the size of the works, they will also tend to have a minimum of industrial stoppages and operate more efficiently.

"It is planned that the cattle will be bred in the vicinity of the works by the C.I.C., therefore, obtaining the cattle for a lower price than other processing plants.

"It will also be less expensive to transfer boned out export quality meat from this works than to transport the cattle to a works closer to an available market."

It goes on to a detailed study of the abattoir industry, Australian stock statistics and meat markets, the viability of such a project, the estimated cost of an abattoir and a general summary.

In the conclusion, which I think is the most important part of the feasibility study, this passage appears—

"The economic size of an abattoir will depend on site location, and market availability. Such a market for the Carandotta Abattoir has already been established. The Carandotta Abattoir will export a large percentage of its products to Middle East countries and the U.S.A.

"Since the Carandotta Industrial Committee are marketing a large percentage of their own stock and low-cost stock are readily available in the Mt. Isa area, a small unit having a capacity of 1,000 head of cattle per week will operate with substantial profits.

"All profits obtained can be channelled into areas beneficial to the Aboriginal community, providing employment and housing."

It ends with—

"This is an economically viable unit and I recommend immediate action."

I do not see eye to eye with the report. It was prepared for the Carandotta Industrial Committee under instruction from Interag Pty. Ltd. by L. Wenham, Q.C.A.H. I am led to believe by members of that committee that he has some connection with Interag itself. In other words, a report has been produced which states that if the committee could get \$20,000,000 of Government backing, Federal or State, that project could be

a viable proposition. I am a businessman and I cannot see the viability of such a project, particularly as interest on that amount of money would be over \$1,000,000 a year.

I discussed the matter at length with the committee and I told its members that I did not think any Government could back such a proposition on such a report. I think there must have been some misinterpretation because in letters to the committee it is said that secured markets for 1,000 head a week are available. As we all know, in the present economic state of the beef market that cannot be proved to the committee. Somehow Interag seems to have been able to get across to the members of the committee that they should press for Government assistance in order to put the project up for Aborigines themselves. After discussion, I indicated that they could possibly look at a different type of project involving an abattoir closer to the market, the work-force, electricity and water, in the vicinity of Mt. Isa, Cloncurry or Camooweal. The main project would be the abattoir itself. They should therefore look around for a station that could act as a holding area for a few thousand head of cattle and use the abattoir as the main concern.

They have come up with a proposal along those lines. It concerns the establishment of a beef-processing project in the Mt. Isa or Cloncurry area in which these functions could be carried out on a smaller scale for an amount of nearly \$3,000,000. It has been estimated that the abattoir would cost in the vicinity of \$1,500,000 and the rest would go on the station and the stocking of the property. They are at the moment putting forward a proposal that could be viable for \$3,000,000, as opposed to the project that would require \$20,000,000.

I believe that at the moment a lot of expertise would be needed to help the Aborigines get the project off the ground. If they were able to get that expertise, I should think that it would need the support of the members of this Assembly.

I am a little concerned that in one clause of the original Carandotta project agreement signed with Interag there is a provision to the effect that if they interfered with the management decision the Aborigines would lose their right to the area and they would have to repay the loan within one year.

That clause certainly ties up the Aboriginal committee involved in the operations of Carandotta Station. I pointed out to them that there were a lot of dangers in it which apparently they did not realise. I said I thought that they should have discussions with the Government on this project because if they did they might be put on the right track and would then not be making these irresponsible statements about what we all know could only be pie in the sky projects. But I said I believed that if they come forward with a viable proposition for the second project they may do better.

I would now like to refer to some matters within my electorate. The first of these concerns Mornington Island. Contrary to some of the statements that have been made here tonight, I believe that although it does have problems it is a developing area. Mr. Bill McClintock is the principal of the State school and I know him very well. I have had very long discussions with him about the island. I believe that he is a sincere, hard-working person who puts a lot of time into helping Aborigines. I cannot agree with certain remarks by other honourable members indicating their reasons for these problems on Mornington Island. The situation is more complex than just saying that the people will not clean out the toilets or do this or that. I also know the manager, John Friedrich. We also had a long discussion about the situation on the island. He has his problems, which are caused by the State Government, the Federal Government and B.O.E.M.A.R. He is torn between the two Governments and his own church in trying to obtain satisfactory decisions on certain matters.

I now want to turn to the Denham Island project. I believe this project was initiated to encourage the fishing industry and that after a few years the project collapsed. Most of the demountables have since been removed from the area but a decision still has to be reached on the Denham Island project. I have a copy of the terms and conditions, clause 8 of which states—

“All Capital installations which are not of a demountable nature would at the expiration of the lease revert without cost to the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs for the sole benefit of the Assisted Aborigines of the Reserve areas. The Company retains the right to remove at its sole discretion any demountable buildings or machinery.”

Because of that clause I would have to ask the Minister whether a final decision on Denham Island could be made for the benefit of the people of Mornington Island. It is one of the problems that I have been asked to raise and I must say that the Minister and the director have been most agreeable to discussing it with me at other times. But it has been dragging on now for a long time. The people involved have gained a six months extension of the lease but they would like to finalise the matter as quickly as possible.

The next issue to which I turn is the Doomadgee Mission which is, I believe, a typical example of a mission that has been run with the interests of Aborigines at heart. I think that Mr. Alan Hocking, his hard-working committee and council and the teaching profession in that area are doing an outstanding job. This is one mission that I suggest every honourable member should visit. All honourable members should tour the western areas to see exactly what is being done for Aborigines, and if members visited Mornington Island and Doomadgee

they would appreciate the amount of dedication and work put in by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and also by the people who live up there, work with the Aborigines and know exactly what is best for them. It appears that many honourable members get their information second hand and are misinformed as to the exact nature of the work carried out. I have nothing but praise for the dedicated people who live in outback areas and care for Aborigines.

In my opinion, the biggest problem facing Aborigines today is alcohol. A number of church and other organisations are not prepared to look at this problem sincerely and squarely. They tend to turn a blind eye to it. They are prepared to discuss housing problems, health problems and many other problems, but they will not discuss the problem of alcohol. I have seen the problem frequently and discussed it with Aborigines.

The opening of the new canteen on Mornington Island is causing numerous problems, such as children arriving late for school. There have been 93 accidents, fights and brawls on Mornington Island since the canteen opened. I have a list here showing the number of times the police have been called to the island to settle the unrest that has been caused by alcohol.

Similar problems are arising at Doomadgee. There is now a free bus service solely for the purpose of bringing Aborigines from Doomadgee to Burketown and taking them back again. I was in Burketown recently when a big fight occurred outside where I was staying with the shire clerk. I went down with Mr. Wilson, the police sergeant, and discovered that the people from Doomadgee were involved. It was the first day the bus had run; they had been brought in and there was a big brawl immediately after that. That is where the problem lies, and the sooner programmes are devised to assist Aborigines in this field the sooner many of the problems that now occur in these areas will be overcome.

I firmly believe that there ought to be some type of rehabilitation centre, run either by trained Aborigines or consultants. It was suggested to me that they might come from the Benelong Haven in Sydney, but perhaps the Queensland Government could provide trained people. Aborigines are not used to alcoholic beverages in their life-style. If they did take any strong beverages, it would be only in exceptional circumstances—perhaps in ceremonies. We have given them this problem and they are unable to cope with it. Therefore, I suggest to the Government that it must take some positive action.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: About the demon drink!

Mr. BERTONI: I take the honourable member's interjection, because it was the Federal Labor Government that began the

hand-outs that caused many of these problems. I am being sincere and fair in saying that, because I believe that the hand-outs given to these people are not in their best interests. The sooner we try to make Aborigines productive for their own benefit, the better it will be for them. That would be one of the wisest courses of action for the Government to take.

I appreciate the good work the Minister, the director and the hard-working officers of the department have done. I have the greatest possible admiration for the nursing team provided by the State Government to look after the Aborigines and for the officers of the department in Mt. Isa. They have a difficult job and I think that more co-operation and a greater understanding of the problems are needed. We should take more notice of the people who actually live and work with the people in these areas than of the radicals from city areas.

Mr. PREST (Port Curtis) (9.20 p.m.): Much has been said by members who have visited the islands and missions in the North, and it is obvious that the position is a very grave one. The Minister has a very hard job in administering his portfolio. It is apparent that problems do exist on the missions, particularly housing and health problems. Others have spoken about the alcohol problem. I am sure that if some of these problems were solved, life for those citizens would be much better. We have 400 or 500 Aboriginal and Islander people in my electorate. They are a very happy and hard-working race. They have mixed in well with the local population. I agree with the honourable member for Toowoomba North that we should not segregate these people on missions and reserves away from towns, but should try to bring them into towns where they can live among white people. Of course, if we did that we would be forced to provide suitable accommodation and job opportunities for them.

Unfortunately there is some discrimination against Aborigines in some areas. In my area I am very pleased that the railways, local authorities, Main Roads Department and the construction work-force have found employment for these people. They have provided them with good jobs and given them the opportunity to become, for example, machine operators. Some of them are still working as labourers, but they are hard workers. During the long years I worked in the railways I was very happy to work with Aborigines. They turned out to be very good railwaymen and workmates. Over the years we have seen Aborigines come up through the ranks to become guards. In the loco area we have seen them move up from firemen to drivers. If they can do that in that area, I am certain that if they are given the opportunity to work in towns and the necessary incentives, they will turn out to be as good as any white men in the community.

Recently, during Aborigines Week, I attended a function held by the Aboriginal people. It was the most enjoyable evening I have had for some time. Approximately 300 people attended that function. The food prepared in their own style was delicious. It was a great pleasure to see so many white and coloured girls and boys mingling at that function. Unfortunately very few Aborigines are given an opportunity to become apprentices. In my area Aboriginal boys and girls obtain a very high education, but unfortunately when applications for apprenticeships are sought very often white applicants are given preference.

We see that sort of discrimination in housing, too. When an Aborigine seeks to rent a house that has been advertised as being vacant, for some reason or other the owner of the building suddenly decides that it is not for rental. I ask the Minister to make a greater effort in my area to see that more Aborigines and Islanders are accommodated. Quite a few homes have been built there, which have been appreciated. Those places have been well looked after, and their gardens improved. Those people mix very well in the community. They are well educated and good sportsmen, some of whom have represented the town and district in all sorts of sports.

In my area many Aborigines are engaged in fishing. They are very good fishermen and earn good money. They enjoy a decent standard of living. The Appo family are among the leading fishermen in the area and conduct a very good business in the processing of fish and crabs for southern markets.

The fishing industry has expressed a great deal of concern at the importation of large quantities of fish from other countries. People engaged in the fishing industry in Queensland have incurred debts in the purchase of their boats, nets and other essential equipment, such as echo sounders, radios and depth finders. They should be given every assistance and protection against competition from imported fish. They should be able to buy their necessary items of equipment free of all tax and duty. After all, they are a necessity, not a luxury.

Unfortunately, people in the industry are not totally happy about the preparation of fish at our local board for sale in Brisbane. They would like to be paid a price that is acceptable to them and to the board. If they were paid such a price and if the fish became the property of the board immediately after they were caught, greater care could be taken in their processing and preparation with the result that they would arrive at the Brisbane markets in better condition than at present and would command higher prices than at present. Unfortunately, over the past few months, since the untimely death of the manager of the local board, a number of acting managers have been appointed for short terms and for some reason or another fish arrive in the

Brisbane markets in fairly poor condition. The price fluctuates greatly. Even when prices are low, of course, the fishermen are required to pay 20 per cent by way of commission and other charges.

Fishermen incur huge overheads in the purchase of their boats and fuel. They also have to pay wages. Furthermore, it takes about three weeks for cheques to arrive after fish are sold through the board. If the procedure could be speeded up a little, the fishermen would be very pleased. Besides having to maintain their boats and equipment, and pay wages, they have their families to rear.

I am quite sure the Minister will consider the matters I have raised. I congratulate him on what is being done for the Aborigines. I am quite certain that there is a long row to hoe, but if the Aborigines and Islanders in other parts of the State could be as happy and contented as those in the Port Curtis area, we would have very little to complain about.

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (9.29 p.m.): I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate. Approximately 25 members participated in it, indicating the keen interest shown in both branches of my portfolio. I thank particularly those members of my committee and other members who have visited our Aboriginal communities. They have seen for themselves the way in which the Aborigines are looked after. I include the honourable members for Cairns and Bundaberg, who have accompanied me on my trips. They have brought forth some factual information, which, I am sure, was greatly appreciated by other members.

I would also like to thank the honourable member for Port Curtis for his contribution as a new member. He certainly knows what he is talking about, and I would say that if everyone took the same interest in Aboriginal people in his own electorate as the honourable member does, it would augur well for the future. If we want these people to be assimilated and want to get on with them and like them, we will help them greatly and make them happy Queenslanders.

Unlike the honourable member for Port Curtis, the honourable member for Archerfield showed that he does not know much about Queensland or Queenslanders. He just made a lot of noise, which is typical of him.

I do appreciate the general atmosphere of a "working together" concept by all parties in the interests of our fellow Queenslanders. I believe that if this attitude and atmosphere can be encouraged and fostered, the process of integration will accelerate to the benefit of all.

The honourable member for Cairns touched briefly on legislation, and I want to say that this has been developed in close consultation with, or, indeed, one could say, almost by, the Aboriginal people themselves through

their advisory councils. This has been our Government's policy and I have encouraged and extended it in my term as Minister.

Under the United Nations Declaration on elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, the Queensland Acts are not discriminatory; in fact, they are in tune with the United Nations attitude that short-term benefits should be encouraged to underprivileged minority groups to the point where equality has been obtained but not continued past that point. We are on the path of equality now, being guided by the Aboriginal and Islander people.

A tendency to criticise, suggesting that the department had excessive powers, is completely negated by the fact that my department works in very close consultation and co-operation with me as I do with my fellow members of Parliament. The honourable member for Cairns would be well aware that I have regularly taken members of my parliamentary committee, and members of the Opposition, to all of the centres throughout the State where there are some major concentrations of Aborigines, and in the course of those trips detailed discussions occur among members, departmental officers and me, as well as the Aboriginal people.

Thus I feel there is three-way participation—those members of this Assembly in consultation with the people we serve, and members of the Assembly closely involved with me in the policy and administration of the department, and I must record how grateful I am to the members of my committee, who have worked so closely with me and served so well.

The honourable member and others referred to health services and suggested that the department should have its own doctors, etc. I would like to point out that the Government, acting in close consultation with the particular expert departments, namely, the Health Department and my own, has thrown a mantle of safety over all areas where some concentration of Aborigines exists.

For instance, in the Far and remote North, airstrips service the communities, and radio communication services provide virtually an on-call doctor consultation through trained nurses in the most remote localities. In the Torres Strait the airfields, which are being rapidly extended to all those islands capable of providing the area, are supplemented by marine ambulance services staffed by trained nursing sisters, who regularly visit all of the islands providing both preventive and remedial health services. These launches, as well as all of the inhabited islands and other centres, are in radio communication with Thursday Island base where a doctor is on call.

At all of the communities, modern well-equipped hospitals equal to those existing in any country town in the State have been provided with trained nursing staff.

In addition to this, through the expert Department of Health, a special Aboriginal Health Section has been established. It operates under the auspices of the professional guidance rather than within my own department, but it caters exclusively for the Aboriginal people of this State. This service has five medical officers, 29 public health nurses, six nursing sisters (Aboriginal Health), five hygiene officers, 25 field officers, and 50 Aboriginal Health assistants, who themselves are Aborigines. Support staff include a nutritionist and a microbiologist. This service is divided into field teams, who penetrate all areas of the State endeavouring to make contact with the people and provide a preventive medical service as well as a remedial referral service.

I am conscious of the need to encourage people to use particular types of foods, but I must remind honourable members that the people have freedom of choice in the avenues of expenditure. As I said in my opening remarks, education is one of the significant areas in which much more work needs to be done—education in all of the aspects of life, including nutrition. The department is conscious of this need. It has for years encouraged self-help and industry. An honourable member referred in very complimentary terms to the work being undertaken at Yarrabah. This is also being undertaken at other centres where suitable applicants are available. The department can and will provide the expertise for those who are willing and able to participate.

The work of the medical health teams has been quite dramatic in changing the pattern throughout the State, as is exemplified by the fact that the honourable member for Cairns had to go back as far as 1971 to be able to quote figures which would create alarm. More recent figures show marked declines and a change in the pattern.

The honourable member referred to land rights generally. Let me say in regard to the Aurukun issue that the rights of the people have been safeguarded and will continue to be.

The honourable member for Cook, I was pleased to learn, supports the Islanders in their struggle to retain their way of life, and I can assure him that the Government will continue to stand alongside them. I compliment the honourable member on playing a very important role in such a far-flung and extensive area of the State. He relates to the people—not just to the Aboriginal and Islander people but to all the people in his electorate. I commend him upon his attitude and his effort in this Chamber on behalf of the people he represents.

I am concerned with him that confusion still exists amongst the Aboriginal people with regard to the so-called land-rights issues. Let me assure him and the people that the Government respects the need of the Aborigines to the use of land. This was the reason the reserves were created, and they will be held for the use and benefit of the Aboriginal people of this State while the need continues.

I do share his concern about the confusion created by radicals and those others who want to get onto the bandwagon, but I am reluctant to support a programme that would allow open and unrestricted access to the reserves by radicals, as their actions and activities will only harm and hinder, not help, the people in their march forward. At the present time it is a matter for the local elected council to decide, and I have confidence in their wisdom and ability to judge and sort out the wheat from the chaff.

The complimentary remarks of the member for Kurilpa are appreciated. The health education programmes are certainly beneficial and reach all corners of the State. The officers of the Health Education Council operating specially in Aboriginal areas are dedicated and, I believe, getting the message across where needed.

The honourable member for Kurilpa referred to the import of fresh fish. While there is no doubt that we have the resources off the coast, production still falls far short of the market requirement. The fish supplies and the need to import additional types of fish are based on the consumer requirement as well as the marketing programmes, and in this regard I mention that the type of fish demanded in North Queensland is quite different from that sought on southern markets.

The Fish Board has endeavoured by a stabilisation programme to meet all needs of consumer demand but until much more fish is produced locally it is not possible to press for tariffs or restrictions. The Fish Board's policies have provided a price stabilisation so that the commercial fisherman is able to programme his activities with the knowledge of a market being available for his catch, and I believe this will encourage greater production in the future.

There is no doubt that, as mentioned by the honourable member for Isis, the fish market relies quite significantly on supplies available from the amateur fisherman, and my officers are examining rationalisation in this area.

I have taken note of the honourable member's comments about the lack of research information available on tailor and school mackerel and when possible will channel research resources into this field, but I can mention that some programmes currently involve school mackerel.

Some research work is directed towards stimulating the farming of oysters and crabs, and some quite significant advances are being made on the southern oyster banks, whilst some encouraging developments are being achieved in the Palm Island group and at Magnetic Island.

The honourable member for Rockhampton levelled criticism at alleged non-co-operation. It is prudent to ask whether he understands what the previous Federal Government regarded as "co-operation". The

view is held in many quarters that the Federal Labor Government's concept of "co-operation" was abject subjugation. In this regard I would remind him that the committee, which closed this report under Senator Bonner, was established by the Labor Government and that committee was invited to go anywhere in Queensland at any time and assess the situation by on-the-spot experience rather than lip service from departmental officers. On each occasion that a request was made to facilitate movement or access, permission was readily forthcoming and in effect the committee was given a blank cheque to go where it wanted and to see what it wished.

The honourable member referred to people living in shelters. Let me remind him that it was Senator Cavanagh of the Federal Labor Government who savagely withdrew \$2,900,000 from the Queensland allocation of moneys, and this was specially allocated to housing. That \$3,000,000 has never been regained, but in this regard let me say that already more than 1,500 homes have been developed and are occupied by more than 10,000 people—surely a creditable achievement in the face of hindrance by his colleagues in the South.

I suggest that he should not follow up the question of Camooweal as all reserve residents from there are suitably housed in the town in conventional homes and happily being integrated. The reserve buildings which he criticises were programmed for demolition when a group of refugees arrived from the Northern Territory and were allowed to occupy them.

As I have said earlier, the interests of the people of Aurukun have been safeguarded. A similar exercise has put into Hope Vale in wages alone, over a few years, more than \$500,000, in addition to nearly \$10,000 profit participation. This could well be the benefits available to Aurukun and one hopes that the programme will go ahead.

The honourable member is certainly having two bob each way when he claims that councils are trying to do a job and yet are subject to a paternalistic concept. Let me say that the results achieved by the councillors in such a short time have been outstanding and I compliment them on their interests, their dedication and their abilities.

There is a concern with regard to alcohol, but let me say that this does not apply only to Aborigines. On many of the communities, beer canteens have been established at the request of the people themselves. They are operated under the supervision and control of the council and in the majority of cases the result is beneficial. However, in some centres money is misused and there is over-indulgence in alcohol. But so, too, is there such misuse in many other non-Aboriginal communities throughout Australia.

The Aboriginal health education programme has steadily developed a scheme to alert the people to the dangers of alcohol, and the

councillors continue to exert guidance. The department's liaison staff also endeavour to encourage an acceptable pattern to ensure that families are not disadvantaged by too great a proportion of the income being channelled into alcohol.

The honourable member mentioned supporting mothers' benefit. As I have previously said, I favour terminating the department's family assistance to deserted wives and other women having the custody of children, and officers are investigating the transfer of responsibility in this matter. The women have received a cash-and-kind benefit in this field and this has prevented the spongers taking the money and using it for purposes other than those for which it is made available.

I might mention that in recent times in a number of cases the benefit has had to be withdrawn because of de facto relationships with employed persons and no doubt this has created current criticisms. It is known that the Commonwealth supporting mothers' benefit is usually withdrawn in similar circumstances where the men are in full employment and I have no doubt that, in accordance with recent publicity given to this subject, numbers of females who are presently receiving this benefit may lose it as a result of Social Security investigations.

I was impressed by the comments of the member for Bundaberg and I would mention that I have recently appointed within my department Mr. G. Harrison, who has a very wide range of commercial fishing experience and the development of commercial fishing enterprises. Mr. Harrison will concentrate on developing fishing enterprises in the Torres Strait and the mainland Aboriginal communities, thus enhancing both employment opportunity and income. I might say of the honourable member for Bundaberg that when we went on our trip he at least appreciated the facts as he saw them and in the debate he made a forward-thinking contribution about what can be done for the employment of people in these areas.

The honourable member for Mourilyan touched on an area of concern in the training of children on the reserves and I share her concern for these youngsters. The honourable member has taken a great interest in this matter and what she had to say was appreciated. She can be assured that the department is continually examining ways and means of increasing the skills of the youngsters so that they will be more adequately equipped to become useful citizens.

I have noted the comments on housing and the suggestions relative to traditional housing.

I noted the fear of the honourable member for Everton that the far northern islands of the Torres Strait could become a pathway for drug traffic from South-east Asia. However, I feel that shifting the border south will not eliminate this fear. My personal opinion is that once that border is fixed, Australia should be prepared to defend it against all problems, whether it be invasion

by a foreign power or an illegal power, such as the drug kings. After all, a border is a border and must be defended regardless of its location.

I draw to the honourable member's attention the fact that all money spent by my department is spent not only in the interest of Aboriginal people but in the interest of all Australians. It is an investment in the long-term social harmony of this State and nation and money that I feel is well spent.

In reply to those honourable members who expressed an interest in more fisheries research, I would say that they should welcome the Bill relating to fisheries to be introduced shortly. It contains a provision which should extend fisheries research far beyond its present boundaries. I think that when this new Bill is introduced more funds will be available for research, and not only our funds but also Federal Government funds.

I now want to refer briefly to the comments of other honourable members who contributed to the debate. I will not be able to deal with all their comments, but I shall deal with as many as possible.

The honourable member for Somerset referred to the schools at Bamaga. I want to say that they are open to all pupils irrespective of race, as are all other schools in Queensland.

I say to the honourable member for Wynnum that our policy is to provide all people with the opportunity to make a reasonable choice of their way of life, and we actively encourage this in order to provide progress in the areas of education, health, housing, etc. I also draw his attention to the fact that we are establishing a research fund to ensure continuity of fishing projects and to stimulate interest in wide-ranging new fishing projects, which is most important.

The honourable member for Redlands also referred to research in Moreton Bay, which is a very important fishing area. I believe that it is most important that research be carried out in those areas because it is difficult to know what we can do to better the industry unless we know what is happening, what has happened and what will happen in the future.

I would just like to say to the honourable member for Archerfield that the Act which he referred to as the dog-collar Act was the work of his own A.L.P. Government, and we have corrected it.

I thank the honourable member for Mt. Isa for his contribution. The Carandotta project is certainly a far-sighted idea and I commend the honourable member for the clear way in which he described the proposal. The proposal is being studied by the responsible authorities and it will be considered on its merits. Of course, any alternative proposals will also receive consideration.

The honourable member for Merthyr raised certain matters, and I can see from his interest and his previous experience that he

certainly understands the Aboriginal people. From the days when he was out West he knows the contribution that the Aboriginal people have made to the grazing industry. Even though the grazing industry is in the doldrums at the moment, at least when it was flourishing these people had a home, something to do and some money in their pockets. I think that was a better way of life than living as some of them are living now, when they have to rely on social service benefits. I think that the ability of the Aboriginal people to work in the grazing industry and their value to it go hand in hand, and I hope the day will soon come when they will be able to once again play a role in the grazing industry.

The honourable member for Mackay raised the matter of foreign fishing vessels trespassing in Australian waters. This is a matter of great concern to me, too, and I well appreciate the problem patrolling the seas off our coast. I take his point and I do appreciate the need for further surveillance. I assure him that we will be doing the best we can in this area.

I am going to Perth at the end of this week to a conference on fisheries, and I hope it will be agreed at that conference that the State will have control of a zone up to the 12-mile limit. I do not know what will happen about the 200-mile zone. The matter is in hand, and I believe that action must be taken. The Federal Government is increasing the number of patrols being carried out, and the State Government will play its part to the best of its ability.

The honourable member for Bundaberg and another honourable member stressed the importance of the fish along the Great Barrier Reef, and I appreciate their remarks.

The honourable member for Townsville West raised matters of concern to his electorate, and I compliment him for his interest. He knows the problems and he spells them out, and I know that what he says is true. I worry when I hear what is said by Senator Keefe and Sheila Keefe and put a question mark alongside much of it. I commend the honourable member for Townsville West for his attitude. I am sure that Townsville is the better for having him as one of its representatives and that the Aboriginal people are the better for his influence.

The honourable members for Windsor, Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South and Everton have all accompanied me on tours and know and understand the problems of Aborigines and of the fishing industry. I commend them for their contribution to the debate. It is important to have a factual debate.

The honourable member for Brisbane referred to the need to protect marlin. That is a matter which concerns all of us, and I shall play my part in looking after the interests of Cairns, which relies a great deal on marlin fishing as a tourist attraction. Although marlin fishing is carried on outside

the 12-mile limit in international waters, I will attempt to maintain Cairns as the base for the sport.

The honourable member for Fassifern was spot-on in what he said about Aborigines. It is 20 years since they left their tribal surroundings. There is no point in leaving them out in a wilderness area where no-one wants to be. It is the Government's policy to allow them to take their place in the community as and when they wish. The better ones will take their place more rapidly; the others will move in gradually. We have in our Aboriginal communities a type of town plan. The people have their own elected council, their own schools, their own health services, and so on. They are towns in the making. This will be a blueprint for the way in which all the people in the Aboriginal communities will take their place as Queenslanders in Queensland.

I thank all honourable members who have taken part in the debate, and I also thank my officers very sincerely for the important role that they have played. Anyone who works in this field must be dedicated, and honourable members who have been to the Aboriginal communities know how necessary it is to keep the interests of the Aboriginal people at heart.

Similarly, the problems of the fisheries section are a matter of concern to all Queenslanders, and I assure honourable members that I will play my part in furthering the interests of Queenslanders in Queensland and in Australia.

At 9.55 p.m.,

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 questions for the Vote under consideration and the balance remaining unvoted for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries.

The questions for the following Votes were put, and agreed to—

Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries—

	\$
Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement	14,104,695
Balance of Vote, Consolidated Revenue and Trust and Special Funds	13,550,887

Progress reported.

CURRUMBIN BIRD SANCTUARY BILL INITIATION

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to provide with respect to the control or

conduct of the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary by the National Trust of Queensland and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (9.58 p.m.): I move—

"That a Bill be introduced to provide with respect to the control or conduct of the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary by the National Trust of Queensland and for related purposes."

The purpose of this Bill is very clear, and its aim very straightforward. It simply seeks to give to the National Trust of Queensland the firm authority, by an Act of this Parliament, to control or conduct the undertaking known as the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary.

The founder of the sanctuary, Mr. Alex Griffiths, has spent much of his life developing the venture, and it is his expressed wish that the undertaking be transferred to and operated by the National Trust. When the Government was advised along these lines, we naturally looked at the legal position in the interests of everyone concerned. We were very quickly told, by what we believe to be the best legal advisers available in Queensland, that the trust's proposed actions in receiving the venture were illegal. The Government then sought to clarify the position and to find a solution to the legal point of conflict.

Honourable members will recall that the trust's powers to take over and operate the venture are the subject of current litigation in the Queensland Supreme Court, initiated in the first instance by the trust. This stems from a take-over agreement signed in June between the trust and the venture's founder-owner, Mr. Alex Griffiths, an agreement which top legal advice to the Government indicated is outside the trust's authority to enter into under the National Trust of Queensland Act.

The trust's own legal advice is that it has the authority to take over and operate the venture.

It was on this basis, presumably, that the trust initiated Supreme Court action, while it was still in the process of talks with the Government which were aimed at resolving the difference of legal opinion and at implementing legally Mr. Griffiths' stated wish to transfer his bird sanctuary venture to the National Trust.

The effect of this Bill will be to do just that. It will clear up any legal conflict there may still be over the point, by specifically giving the trust the authority which the Government's top legal advisers say it doesn't now have.

This step is considered by the Government to be desirable not only to resolve the legal point at issue but also to overcome the prospect of protracted and costly litigation which could result if the court action previously referred to went ahead as scheduled.

The National Trust already has approached the Government for consideration in respect of legal costs incurred in the court action to date—despite its having launched a public fund, to which I understand substantial public subscriptions have been made, for this purpose.

In a letter to me dated 13 October, the trust has asked the Government—

"The Trust would be pleased to reach an agreement with the Government whereunder the Supreme Court actions could be simultaneously withdrawn by each side, on the basis that the Crown would at the same time agree to pay the trust's costs, estimated to date at \$10,000."

The Government is confident that its legal opinion on the question before the Supreme Court would be sustained by any court action, but the heavy legal costs still would be incurred—unnecessarily, in the Government's view—and the question of giving legal effect to Mr. Griffiths' wishes to transfer his venture to the trust would still remain.

In this light, and in view of the highest legal advice available to the Government, I think it would be acknowledged that the Government was left with no real alternative to action such as it now proposes.

The National Trust has been consulted and advised, by me or by senior officers of my department, at all stages of the Government's and Cabinet's consideration of this legislation.

The Government has gone out of its way to ensure that all points of the legislation were fully discussed with representatives of the trust before this Bill was finalised. And of course the whole issue has been aired publicly at some length through the media. This legislation is a genuine attempt by the Government to resolve a difficult and complex legal situation.

I have on hand a letter from the trust indicating that it has no objection to legislation which will resolve doubts about the trust's capacity to accept the sanctuary "gift".

The trust has indicated in writing to me that it will accept it, provided it makes clear that beneficial ownership on the whole of the sanctuary venture's assets and undertaking is deemed to have been vested in the trust as from 1 July, the date from which the agreement between the trust and Mr. Griffiths purports to take effect. This is the intention and effect of this legislation.

The Currumbin Bird Sanctuary venture was founded by Mr. Alex Griffiths some 30 years ago, and, as honourable members would know, it has become one of the major tourist attractions on the Gold Coast.

There has been considerable speculation—in the media and elsewhere—about the future of the venture, especially in the light of the publicity given to the legal dispute over the trust's agreement with Mr. Griffiths, to which I have referred.

I would like to correct, firmly, some of the misconceptions and misrepresentations apparent in media and other reports during the course of the legal dispute, and the Government's attempts to find a suitable solution to it.

Firstly, I cannot reject too strongly suggestions, from some quarters, of the Government's attempting either to take over the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary venture itself or to take control of the National Trust. Nothing could be further from the truth. I repeat: nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. HINZE: For the benefit of the honourable member for Bundaberg for the time being—nothing could be further from the truth. There has never been any intention or proposal, within the Government—either through myself or any other Minister—for the Government to take over the Currumbin venture, or to change the basic objects of the National Trust, as set out in its constitution, and indeed this legislation proposes no change in this regard. Despite this, the suggestion of "Government control" appears to have been made with monotonous regularity in sections of the media during the course of the controversy leading up to this legislation.

As the Minister administering the National Trust of Queensland Act, and the member in this Chamber representing the area concerned, I can do no more than express my concern and disappointment that some parties have not seen fit to respect the confidentiality and delicacy of the situation, but have acted through the media to attempt to make some political capital out of the situation.

Mr. Alison: They are dishonourable.

Mr. HINZE: Thank you. I would like you to repeat it. They are dishonourable.

Mr. Alison: Yes. They are dishonourable.

Mr. HINZE: I would not have to go very far to find one of those gentlemen the honourable member is talking about. I would not have to go very far from this Chamber this evening to find one of them.

My interest in the whole issue has been in acting properly and legally, as Minister responsible for the National Trust of Queensland Act, to find a legally effective and suitable solution to this particular issue.

There has been considerable publicity and other comment to the effect that the transfer of Mr. Griffiths' Currumbin Bird Sanctuary venture to the National Trust is a "magnanimous gesture to the people of Queensland". So that the matter can be placed in the proper context and perspective, I do

propose to inform this Committee, and through it the people of Queensland, of the nature of the transactions which are involved—and leave it for the people to decide whether they regard it as a gift to the people of Queensland, or otherwise.

In the strict legal sense, of course, the venture is not transferred or presented to the people of Queensland but to the National Trust, which is not elected by or directly answerable to the people of Queensland, as this Government is. Also in the formal and strictly legal sense, the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary is not a sanctuary as such, and in this light its value as a wildlife "sanctuary" in future could be open to argument. But as I have already stated, the project has undoubted public appeal. It is among the State's most popular tourist attractions, and the Government believes it is in the public interest that the National Trust should be permitted to operate the venture in future, in accordance with Mr. Griffiths' wishes.

The transfer of the venture to the National Trust is subject to a number of obligations on the trust's part, and I would like to mention some aspects of these obligations. According to information supplied by the National Trust, the sanctuary's liabilities at 30 June 1975 were put at \$287,042. I am advised further that a substantial sum of money is owed to Mr. Griffiths by the various companies that presently operate the sanctuary. I understand that this is in the order of \$220,000. The agreement between Mr. Griffiths and the trust makes provision for this debt to be repaid to Mr. Griffiths at the rate of up to \$20,000 a year, and in addition to this it provides for the trust to discharge certain obligations to people in New Zealand in the order of \$30,000.

The land on which the sanctuary venture is conducted is mortgaged to the National Bank of Australia and no doubt the National Trust will take over this mortgage, which I am advised amounts to \$123,000.

As a result of the agreement, I understand that the shares of the operating companies, held by Mr. Griffiths, have been transferred to the National Trust.

I am advised that the trust intends either to liquidate the companies with a view to having the entire venture held in the trust's name, or alternatively, to continue as a majority shareholder, in place of Mr. Griffiths, in the companies involved.

As most honourable members would be aware, the sanctuary venture is conducted under a number of activities. There is a wildlife and sanctuary division, a photography business and kiosk, a rock shop, a train ride, and sundry other activities.

A statement given by the honorary treasurer of the National Trust reveals that the Wildlife and Sanctuary Division incurred a loss of \$38,293 for the financial year ended 30 June 1975. The loss was offset by profits made in the other associated activities.

I am advised that profits derived by the sanctuary when it was conducted by Mr. Griffiths were subject to income tax, and I am further advised that the National Trust would be seeking exemption on this point from the Commonwealth Government.

I am advised, also, that under the agreement with the trust, apart from receiving up to \$20,000 a year to cover the debts owing which I have already mentioned, for continuing as caretaker Mr. Griffiths would receive a salary, remuneration or stipend, which I understand to be of the order of \$10,000 a year, the use of a home on the site free and a car.

As outlined earlier, the Government's sole motivation in presenting this legislation is to give legal effect to Mr. Griffiths' declared wish to present his bird sanctuary venture to the trust, so it could continue to be operated, as it is now, as a wildlife attraction for the benefit of future generations. I believe that the Government and the National Trust were close to reaching a satisfactory agreement to achieve this—very closely along the lines of the legislation I now present to this Committee—when the trust stopped negotiations by initiating its action in the Supreme Court, only two days before representatives of the trust were due to meet me again in what I believed could have been conclusive further discussions.

The Currumbin Bird Sanctuary venture consists of some 46 acres of land at Currumbin Beach in my electorate of South Coast. If anybody has done more in a public way for Alex Griffith than I have, I would like him to stand up and say so.

In addition, an area of land in the Currumbin Valley has been transferred to the trust by Mr. Griffiths. I understand this is a place where Mr. Griffiths released lorikeets that had been injured.

There has been some speculation, by the Press and others, about the value of Mr. Griffiths' proclaimed "gift" to Queensland. We have seen estimates of "several million dollars" in one-sided misrepresentation of the facts, in obvious attempts to embarrass the Government over the issue. These estimates are nothing more than figments of the imagination with no basis in fact.

The land mentioned is included in the existing open space zone under the Gold Coast City Council's town-planning scheme, and as such its only value would be as land in the existing open space category—certainly nowhere near the millions of dollars quoted. Any rezoning of the land would no doubt be the subject of very substantial objections, and it is difficult to see any change in this zoning—for residential or commercial development, for example—being approved either by the city council or the Government. Under its present zoning, the land could not be developed for residential or commercial-industrial purposes, and accordingly its value is limited to the present commercial activities allowed on land in this zoning.

I would like to make one more general point, in opening this debate, before I turn to explanations of some specific points in the Bill. It relates to the level of support that this Government has given in the past—and is still giving—to environment and conservation-oriented groups such as the National Trust. This Government has approved a grant of \$35,000 for the National Trust, to help it sustain its activities, this financial year. It has assisted very substantially with similar grants in previous years as well.

Honourable members would recall that the Government has substantially assisted the National Trust with several specific projects in the past, of course. The James Cook Museum at Cooktown, old Government House in Brisbane and Wolston House in Brisbane are projects which readily come to mind.

Mr. Jensen: Don't give them the Bellevue.

Mr. HINZE: Not while the honourable member sleeps over there; he would object. I suspect that some of his friends who sleep over there free would object also.

Clearly, as a Government we have adopted a very beneficent attitude towards the National Trust and projects undertaken by it in the past—and this legislation is an extension of that policy.

Turning now to some specific points of this legislation, I would refer honourable members to a provision of the Bill which says it will be—

"Deemed that one of the objects of the National Trust, declared by the Act, is and always has been to control and conduct, subject to and in accordance with this Act, the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary, as a commercial undertaking in the form in which it is conducted immediately before the passing of this Act."

This clears up the point as to whether the trust has the power to conduct the enterprise; it lays down clearly that it has.

A further provision covers the question of Government representation on any body set up to operate the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary. There is provision for two Government representatives—and there has been no dispute on this point. Specifically, in discussions with Mr. Hancock and other responsible members of the National Trust, they requested the Government to appoint two representatives to the board.

The Bill makes provision for the manner of financial operation of the venture under this Act, and the manner in which operational profits or losses should be applied. The intention is that the venture should be self-supporting—to make it pay its way. In essence, funds derived from the venture will be applied to maintain or improve the undertaking. In the event of the National Trust wanting to apply surpluses from the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary venture to other trust

projects, approval of the Governor-in-Council would be required. My friend and colleague the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, who, I understand, has been appointed to the board, advises me that this is the wish of the board. They want to make sure that any profits obtained from the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary are ploughed back into it.

Mr. Jensen: If they make a loss, the Government has to make it up?

Mr. HINZE: The rather temporary member for Bundaberg will have ample time to say his piece. There will be no rushing of the Bill; we have all night. I have no intention of rushing it through. Honourable members know that I have the ability to do that if I wish to, but on this occasion that is not what I propose to do.

Mr. Wright: We haven't the numbers tonight.

Mr. HINZE: The honourable member hasn't the numbers? Well, I would not take advantage of the Opposition's rather depleted numbers. I see that there are only six Opposition members in the Chamber. Under those circumstances I would not be expected, as an honourable and responsible Minister of the Crown, to take advantage of that situation. I can assure the Opposition that I shall not be trying to do that.

Moneys derived by the National Trust from its control or conduct of the sanctuary have to be properly accounted for in books and accounts established by the trust, and kept separate and distinct from all other financial transactions of the trust.

Another section of the Bill makes provision for the books and accounts of the National Trust to be subject to audit by the Auditor-General, who may appoint one of his own officers to do the audit or employ a registered public accountant for the purpose. In discussion with Mr. Hancock, for whom I have the highest regard, he told me that there are people in the city who are prepared to carry out an audit free of cost to the trust. Under those circumstances, the Government will agree to that course of action. If people wish to give their services in an honorary capacity, all we ask is that the Auditor-General be advised. No-one could have any objection to that. In either case, the auditor concerned has to report to the Auditor-General on whether the books and accounts have been properly kept. There could be no possible argument against that.

The Bill further provides that the annual report required to be prepared by the National Trust, under section 28 of the National Trust of Queensland Act, for presentation to the Minister and tabling in Parliament, has to include in a separate section a report on the activities of the trust in relation to the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary venture. This report has to include a statement of accounts and a balance sheet on the operations of the venture, and an audit certificate that the

statement and balance sheet are in agreement with the books and accounts, and fairly set out a true and fair view of the state of the trust's affairs at the end of the period to which they relate.

Finally, the Bill ensures that the trust's discretion in operating the Currumbin undertaking is preserved. It sets out firmly—

"Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict the authority of the National Trust in the conduct of the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary to cease any commercial undertaking operated therein (whether the same was established before or after the passing of this Act) or to introduce into the sanctuary a particular commercial undertaking if in the trust's opinion the introduction of that undertaking is in keeping with the proper conduct and the best interests of the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary".

Mr. Miller, I believe I have given the Committee an accurate summary of the Bill, and the Government's considerations that went into framing it. The National Trust believes it has the skill, the expertise, the knowledge and the managerial ability to conduct the bird sanctuary and the Government of this State has said, "All right, under the circumstances, proceed." This is what we have said.

Mr. Jones: Pressure.

Mr. HINZE: No strings attached.

Mr. Marginson: You put the pressure on.

Mr. HINZE: No, as clear as crystal—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated. Everybody will have an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

Mr. HINZE: They cannot take it, Mr. Miller, when I tell them the truth. I do not know where they have been. They must have been down some dung-hill, rat-hole or somewhere; but they are all coming back into the Chamber.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. HINZE: I do not know where the honourable member has been all evening. In fact, I did not know there were so many members in the Opposition.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the Minister to come back to the Bill.

Mr. HINZE: However, I repeat: no strings attached! Just a clear indication to the National Trust that if they believe they can conduct the affairs of the sanctuary, proceed. That is what I am saying. Of course, I now commend the Bill to the Committee.

Mr. MARGINSON (Wolston) (10.23 p.m.): Apparently the question of this bird sanctuary at Currumbin has caused a lot of ill-feeling and a lot of ill-will—

Mr. Moore: Where did you get that from?

Mr. MARGINSON: We have read in the Press of the row that occurred at the joint party meeting last week when one of the members made reference to the Minister as—

Mr. Moore interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. MARGINSON: I am surprised he is not here. He should be here. This member said that the Minister was not going to bulldoze this proposal through while he was present. But I am amazed that although this Government alleges that it is a free-enterprise Government (free enterprise, mind you!) on every occasion it wants to back up—

Mr. Jones interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Cairns will cease interjecting.

Mr. MARGINSON: The Government always wants to talk about free enterprise, to wave the flag of free enterprise and to talk about the socialists, but now we find that it is not prepared—

Mr. Jones interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I draw the attention of the honourable member for Cairns to Standing Order 123A.

Mr. MARGINSON: Now we find that the Government is not prepared to let a man dispose as he wishes of a company which, with the aid of some companies, he has personally built up. That is the crux of the problem.

Mr. Alison: It is not the problem.

Mr. MARGINSON: It is the crux of the problem.

Mr. Alison: We are trying to help the trust.

Mr. MARGINSON: The Government is not trying to help the trust. Immediately the trust instituted litigation the Government changed its tune. Until then the Government was prepared to bulldoze through the trust's wishes, but the moment it instituted litigation the Government decided it would meet some of its proposals. That is in effect what is being done.

Mr. HINZE: I rise to a point of order. The leader of the Opposition, or the representative of the Leader of the Opposition, refers to the fact that the trust put a stopper on the Government—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! What is the point of order?

Mr. HINZE: The point of order is very simply this: anybody who was undertaking litigation would make sure he had the funds to pay for the litigation. In this instance, the trust asked the Government to underwrite its costs.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no valid point of order.

Mr. MARGINSON: Now there is to be litigation and the Government, to save face, has taken counter-action against the trust. Today the trust tells us that its costs are estimated to be \$10,000.

Mr. Alison: Who started it?

Mr. MARGINSON: Who had to start it? The Government forced the trust to start it. I ask the honourable member to get that into his mind. The Government forced the trust to begin this litigation because it was not prepared to let a man—a private individual—decide what he was going to do with his own property. And this is supposed to be a private-enterprise Government! Unfortunately for the Minister, the project is within his own electorate.

I wonder why the Government adopted this attitude? Was it because it could see an avenue through which the trust could obtain some money to fight the Government on other projects?

Mr. Hinze: Such as?

Mr. MARGINSON: There are many. When is the Government going to decide the future of "The Mansions"? When is it going to decide the future of the Bellevue building? I ask the Minister those questions. He said, "Such as?" That is what I say to him.

As I said, the Government saw in this an avenue through which the trust could obtain some finance with which to fight the Government. Therefore, it has made provision in the Bill that if the trust makes a profit—presumably after liabilities are met (and there are some on this property)—it must plough it back into the sanctuary; it cannot be used for anything else. However, if the trust makes a loss, it has to meet that itself.

Mr. Moore: What is wrong with that?

Mr. MARGINSON: Where is the money to come from—from some other project?

Mr. Moore: Of course it's not.

Mr. MARGINSON: The Government will not let the trust put the profits into some other project, but it says that it must make up the losses from its own finances. That is the style of democracy we have had in Queensland for some years.

Mr. Alison: You weren't listening.

Mr. MARGINSON: I was listening to the Minister's introduction.

Mr. Ahern: How long is it since you had a look at the Currumbin sanctuary?

Mr. MARGINSON: I was down there the week-end before last.

Mr. Alison: Did you pay?

Mr. MARGINSON: What does it matter to the honourable member whether I paid? I know he would be asking for a complimentary ticket.

I say to the Committee that the Government is being unfair. It is all very well for the Minister to say that he is being fair to the trust. He is saying in fact, "We will decide where you put the money if you make a profit; but if you make a loss, you have to meet that loss yourself."

The controversy has been so bitter that there have been calls for the resignation of the Minister.

Mr. Alison interjected.

Mr. MARGINSON: I thought that the honourable member for Maryborough had more sense than that. He is admitting now that he does not even read the daily newspapers; that is what it amounts to. There have been calls for the resignation of the Minister, and the honourable member knows it. I will admit that it came at the same time as the Premier sacked the former Minister for Police (Mr. Hodges).

Mr. Hinze: He promoted Hodges.

Mr. MARGINSON: There you are, Mr. Miller! We listened to the Minister read a statement to the Committee tonight. Now he tells us that the Minister to whom I referred was promoted.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you think that the Minister will ever be Premier?

Mr. MARGINSON: Well, he could be at some time. I am sure no-one will attempt to knife him as he attempted to knife the present Premier.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! I ask the honourable member to come back to the Bill under discussion.

Mr. MARGINSON: We have had calls for the Minister to be sacked if he won't resign. There have been some changes in the first proposals given to the trust by the Minister—some very important changes. At one stage the Minister was insisting that if it wanted \$20,000 it had to come to the Governor in Council for approval.

A Government Member: How do you know that?

Mr. MARGINSON: I am saying that I know it. If the Minister is truthful he will admit it when he replies. That was changed. That has been taken out. Remember that there has been litigation in the background all the time. The Minister said, "We have to save face. We can't allow this to go on." It has been stressed tonight how important was the legal advice given to the Government. But just as important was the legal advice given to the trust.

Mr. Hinze: Who was paying for it?

Mr. MARGINSON: The Minister was paying for the Government one, undoubtedly.

Mr. Hinze: Who is paying for the other?

Mr. MARGINSON: I am not sure who is paying for that one. But I do know that they are both eminent barristers. It would be

just as right to say that the trust's advice was as correct or more correct than the advice the Government got. The Government decided that it was time to save face. It said, "We will bulldoze the trust into believing that we will do this and we will do that." When the Government found that the trust was fair dinkum about its rights, that it could be up for a lot more expense and that above all it could have been humiliated by the litigation before the courts, it decided to extend the olive branch by saying, "We will give you a few little things which you want." The Government, through the Minister, did not want to have M.L.A. representatives on the committee of the trust. Let somebody deny that. Now that exemption has been taken out, which means that the mayor of the Gold Coast —

Mr. Alison interjected.

Mr. MARGINSON: I am making my speech. The honourable member can make one afterwards.

The mayor of the Gold Coast could be a representative on this committee if he wanted to. We had better have a look at the Officials in Parliament Act in connection with this matter.

Mr. Hinze: What is that point you made?

Mr. MARGINSON: The mayor of the Gold Coast could be on this committee.

A Government Member: Why not?

Mr. MARGINSON: He had better have a look at the Officials in Parliament Act to see what is going on. Only recently we had to put through legislation in respect of a member of this Assembly because he was on an advisory committee. I see no reason why a member of this Assembly should be on it. If he is carrying out his duties correctly in local authority work and also as a member of Parliament, I think he has enough to do.

Mr. Ahern: You were on a hospital board for a good while.

Mr. MARGINSON: Not while I was a member of Parliament.

Mr. Hinze: Did you retire from the hospital board when you came in here?

Mr. MARGINSON: Immediately I came into Parliament I retired from the hospital board.

Mr. Moore: How long after?

Mr. MARGINSON: Immediately—the very day I was elected. I also retired from the abattoir board. I gave very good service to both of those bodies. I thank the honourable member for Windsor for his interjection.

Originally the trust protested that it would be forced to have its books audited by the Auditor-General. That was another point made by the trust and I agreed with it. If it is good enough for an extensive organisation such as the T.A.B.—a bigger and more extensive organisation than the National

Trust—not to have its books audited by the Auditor-General why should the trust be forced to go to the expense of having the Auditor-General audit its books? It could obtain men of charity who are registered auditors to audit its books.

In his introductory speech the Minister said that the National Trust's books would be audited by either the Auditor-General, an officer appointed by him or a qualified and registered man. I hope that the last one is the person whom the trust will be allowed to have audit its books. I hope that he will be the first and not the third choice.

Mr. Ahern: It's fixed up. That's all right.

Mr. MARGINSON: I hope it is all fixed up, but I hope to see it clearly set out. After all, we have not seen the Bill yet. Let us cast our minds back to what has happened—and I do not want to take up too much more of the Committee's time.

Mr. Ahern: Hear, hear!

Mr. MARGINSON: I know I am hurting the honourable member, and I intend to hurt him. The Government is doing a cowardly thing. Here is a man with a venture and a business that has attracted tourists from all over the world. He wants to give it to somebody, to transfer it to somebody, with the assets and its liabilities. Yet this so-called free-enterprise Government has said to him, "You can't do that. We won't let you do that. We will have power over you with respect to the whole of this venture."

A Government Member: No we haven't.

Mr. MARGINSON: If that is so, why not make up the trust's losses as well as allow it to retain the profit on the venture? The Government is afraid that the National Trust will use this money on other projects that it has in mind. The National Trust does not agree to what the Government is doing. I believe that historic places in Queensland should be held for posterity. The Government is afraid that the National Trust will obtain revenue from the sanctuary and it is saying to the trust, "No, you're not going to fight us." In the light of the litigation to which I have referred, the introduction of this Bill is nothing more than an attempt by the Government to save face and to avoid a court case that it would have lost.

Sir BRUCE SMALL (Surfers Paradise) (10.38 p.m.): It would be difficult to find a subject that would excite among honourable members more interest than beautiful birds. I hasten to assure the Committee that nowhere in this world will birds be found to compare with those found on the Gold Coast. I refer, of course, to the rainbow lorikeets and the scaly breasted lorikeets that abound at the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary.

At a time when people in many countries are killing each other with concealed bombs, with lynching, rioting and murdering, here

shines a story so bright with its beauty that it proves that mankind still has some of the qualities that may allow it to survive.

The Currumbin Bird Sanctuary is an international known attraction. The "National Geographic" magazine devoted nine full pages in colour to it. It has been said that at some time or other the sanctuary has been featured in every foreign-language magazine in the world.

This Gold Coast sanctuary did not achieve its recognition without effort and dedication. Originally bird-feeding on the Gold Coast was begun by a public servant named Clark, who fed the parrots in heavily treed areas not far from the present sanctuary. The Gold Coast City Council has named the park near where he lived "The William Clark Park". He fed the birds for years and, when he moved to Brisbane, housewives in the area maintained the afternoon feedings.

It was in 1947 that Alex Griffiths came to Currumbin to visit his parents, who had settled there. He was a successful bee farmer on Norfolk Island, and his parents persuaded him to set up his bee hives on the Gold Coast. Mr. Griffiths produced honey and gladioli and he was pleased to see anything up to two dozen people on each day come for a bunch of flowers or a jar of honey.

But it was not long before he noticed that many more people liked his honey and that the birds liked it, too. They came to look at the birds and to buy his honey or flowers. That is how it began—on 3½ acres of ground.

Now the sanctuary consists of 60 acres at Currumbin and 43 acres in the Currumbin Valley, the result of dedication and hard work and the adoration of most people for wildlife.

The great changes that have taken place in the last 50 years would include the introduction of plastics, the splitting of the atom, the advent of television, and conquering of space, and the global concern by ordinary people for wildlife.

Conservation has become virtually a new international religion. It gains millions of new converts every year, and even if we sometimes object to the fanatic zeal and lack of thought behind some of their protests, it is impossible not to realise that today people regard conservation and food and drink as being equally essential.

When the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary was in its infancy and gaining in popularity, very few people realised its real significance. There is a story told on the Gold Coast that some years ago a visiting American ornithologist who had heard about the sanctuary jumped into a cab at Surfers Paradise and said, "Take me to the bird sanctuary." The taxi driver promptly delivered him to the nurses' quarters at the Southport Hospital. Today there is not a taxi driver in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, or even Canberra who would not know exactly where to go if he was asked to take someone to the bird sanctuary.

Crowds of up to 5,000 a day come to see the rainbow lorikeets and scaly-breasted lorikeets flock in out of the skies for the twice-daily buffet meals provided for them.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What has this got to do with the Bill?

Sir BRUCE SMALL: But if the bird sanctuary was just a place for people to go and see the birds, this legislation would not be so vital. The sanctuary is indeed a sanctuary, and this is why I personally became involved in making certain that it was kept functioning in the most expert and permanent way.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! I draw the attention of the honourable member for Archerfield to section 123A.

Sir BRUCE SMALL: The number of birds that flock in daily varies according to the weather conditions and the supply of blossoming trees in the surrounding country. On some days only a few hundred birds turn up; at other times 3,000 or 4,000 superbly coloured, magnificent birds circle and zoom in for the offered food. Records show that from time to time for more than 50 years a virus sweeps through the bird colonies causing thousands of deaths. This year along the entire east coast of Australia, near towns and cities and deep in the bush, birds are being found dead in exceptionally large numbers, yet they were apparently in good condition before they dropped.

The Currumbin Bird Sanctuary, at the first sign of illness, administers medication in the food supply. The birds are treated with antibiotics as a complete flock to offset the disease problem. If it were not for this expert attention by Alex Griffiths over the years, the Gold Coast would have had the spectacle of a decline in its parrot population in the past. The cost of the medication has always been borne by the sanctuary.

The only other known mass feeding of birds in the world is probably in Canada where in a brief seasonal period geese are fed to fit them for their journey to other places. There used to be galahs at the Currumbin sanctuary, but they all left and joined the A.L.P. In Canada the Government supplies the feed. On the Gold Coast Alex Griffiths has been looking after the huge lorikeet flocks on behalf of the Government without ever receiving one cent in contribution.

The sanctuary is unique in that it does not keep caged birds, with the exception of some cockatoos, budgerigars and the dozens of injured or sick birds brought to the sanctuary. The injured birds are cared for in a huge bird hospital, and as soon as they recover they are released in the special 43-acre release area owned by the sanctuary in land in the Currumbin Valley.

As well as being a great Australian attraction, the sanctuary is an attraction for overseas visitors because of the varieties of birds and the facilities provided for people to study and observe them at close quarters. Water birds include black duck, swans, ibises and waterhens—all perfectly free to come and go as and when they please. At times the black ducks at the sanctuary number only 50 or 60. At other times over 800 of them muster on the lake. Here is an interesting point which should be considered by those who have never regarded ducks as being intelligent: one of the peak visiting times for ducks is the duck-shooting season, when they fly in from other electorates and relax in their sanctuary. At any given time between 50 and 100 ibis and up to 200 red bills and dusky morehens are in the sanctuary.

\$11,000 is spent each year on food for the birds and animals at the sanctuary. Honey is imported by the truck-load in 44-gallon drums from a commercial grower named Smith who lives at Darra in the electorate of Wolston, so Mr. Marginson has a valid reason for ensuring that the sanctuary remains as an important tourist attraction. The sanctuary has some influence in other electorates, too. It imports considerable quantities of wheat, cracked wheat, turkey starter, meat-meal and booster additives for the animal and bird water-supply. I mention the animals because, although it is a bird sanctuary, it is also a haven for wallabies, kangaroos, wallaroos and even an occasional koala bear. In an average day the lorikeets alone eat 90 loaves of bread and 180 lbs. of honey.

One of the world's top wildlife personalities, Armand Dennis, after seeing the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary, described it as the eighth wonder of the world. That description came from a man who constantly travelled the globe visiting its populous places and remote regions to study and film nature. The eighth wonder of the world it truly is.

At present 95 people are on the sanctuary pay-roll. In peak times that increases to 105. It should be put on record that Mr. Alex Griffiths allowed his sanctuary to be open to the public free of charge for a period of 28 years. He sold peacock feathers, cakes and gem rocks, and provided train rides and similar revenue earners to keep this important sanctuary operating. After 28 years with only a donation box on the exit gate, he introduced an entry fee of 20c. Today the entry fee is 40c—surely the lowest entry charge to a major attraction anywhere in Australia. It is available to everyone, so that people anywhere in the world have an opportunity to share in one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth.

I congratulate the Minister for his part in bringing this complex and involved legal problem through to a conclusion satisfactory to all concerned. I place on record my conviction that, as a result of Alex Griffiths' wonderful and generous gift, there is the

assurance that this great project will be developed in perpetuity by the National Trust for the enjoyment of the people and the continued progress of the City of Gold Coast.

Mr. GIBBS (Albert) (10.49 p.m.): I rise to support the Bill, which will enable the National Trust of Queensland to conduct the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary. After listening to the member for Wolston I am reminded of the words spoken by my friend from Warrego (Mr. Neil Turner) that it is not necessary to have feathers to be a galah. After hearing that speech, I know just what he meant.

I would like to praise men such as Alex Griffiths and David Fleay, if I may mention him also at this stage, who have devoted themselves to setting up wildlife sanctuaries as great tourist attractions and, at the same time, doing a great service to the community and the State of Queensland.

The Currumbin Bird Sanctuary is in the Minister's electorate. I have been closely associated with the Minister on all aspects of this legislation and I can say that he has at all times had in mind the wishes of Alex Griffiths and the running of the sanctuary in the long term by the National Trust. The National Trust now has the support of the provisions of the Bill, and now that the people of Queensland know what is to happen, the things Alex Griffiths set out to achieve will be accomplished.

I believe that the venture will be profitable in the long term, especially if it becomes tax free and if it has a good board running it with Alex Griffiths as adviser. As chairman of the Health Committee of the Gold Coast City Council, I supported Alex Griffiths on many occasions. The most recent one was when the Crown land occupied by the sanctuary came up for re-lease. I am sure the present mayor of the Gold Coast, who is also the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, will support me in what I am saying. The council battled against some opposition to have that lease renewed on a long-term basis. There were people who did not want Alex Griffiths to have a lease at all; they thought that this land should be kept as open space and returned to the public. There were others who wanted him to have a lease for one or two years. But responsible people in the council fought for an extended lease of this Crown land so that the sanctuary could continue as a tourist attraction that means so much to the Gold Coast and, indeed, the whole of Queensland.

Mr. Hinze: Can you recall what area of land was discussed at that time?

Mr. GIBBS: The Crown land part?

Mr. Hinze: Yes.

Mr. GIBBS: I am not too sure. It is the area that runs between the private land and the creek. I believe there was a road there at one stage which was closed. As I have

already said, the sanctuary is in the Minister's electorate and in the early days he took all steps necessary to ensure that what was best for the sanctuary was achieved.

Mr. Marginson: They wouldn't let them do what they wanted to do.

Mr. GIBBS: I believe in responsible government. We all know, of course, that if Labor was in Government and the member for Wolston had his way the bird sanctuary would have been nationalised by now.

Mr. Marginson: What are you doing?

Mr. GIBBS: Now it will continue.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! The honourable member for Wolston has had his opportunity to speak.

Mr. GIBBS: He is still flapping. Seeing that we are speaking of bird sanctuaries, it would be nice if he would keep his beak closed for a while. For many years the Minister has played his part in the development of the Gold Coast.

In my opinion, the Bill will give the assured continuity that will set up the sanctuary properly in the long term. It will give the National Trust the opportunity to run it as a business—to borrow money, to make a profit and to make it bigger and better than it was before. The venture has my blessing and the blessing and support of the Government. The Bill will clear the path for the National Trust and will make the sanctuary the success that Alex Griffiths wishes it to be.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (10.55 p.m.): I was rather alarmed to hear some of the figures the Minister has mentioned. I wonder if this might not be called the Alex Griffiths Enabling Bill. Are we to understand that this Bill is to allow the National Trust to work even harder to make Alex Griffiths rich? We heard mention that the trust is to pay \$30,000 once to somewhere in New Zealand, if I understood the Minister correctly, and to pick up a National Bank mortgage for \$123,000. Each year for 11 years the trust is to pay \$20,000—

Mr. Jones: How many years?

Dr. LOCKWOOD: For 11 years, as I understand it. I hope that as well as all the other concessions that have been mentioned no interest is to be paid on this amount. When we throw in a salary of \$10,000 with a house and a car of some value this could mean an extra \$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum, depending on the value of the house and the car. Over 11 years this could total between \$538,000 and \$593,000.

Mr. Moore: That's some gift.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: That's a fabulous gift depending, as I said, on the nature and extent of the house and the car. All of

this is for an amusement park called a bird sanctuary. As I understand it there is going to be a need as well for immense capital works to be carried out in the nature of car parks, improvements to amenities—

Mr. Prest: Are you speaking against this Bill?

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I am trying to find out for whose benefit it is being introduced. What I would like to know, and the National Trust has never explained this to me and perhaps now would be a very good time, is how it would cope with these payments of \$50,000-odd per annum. In addition, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise has said that there are 95 people on the pay-roll. I want to know where all of this money is to come from. I do not see how, on these figures, the trust could go into this as a commercial venture unless the takings are far bigger than any of us ever imagined and unless it has a gilt-edged guarantee from the Federal Government that it is not going to be taxed as a corporation. I think that there are a lot of things to be explained to this Committee before this Bill goes much further.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Hinze, read a first time.

NATIONAL TRUST OF QUEENSLAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the National Trust of Queensland Act 1963–1974 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (11.1 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the National Trust of Queensland Act 1963–1974 in certain particulars.”

I have already dealt at some length, in a speech introducing the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary Bill, with aspects of the National Trust's operations as they affect the operations of the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary and the accounting for funds in that operation.

This Bill is a simple, formal measure designed only to amend the auditing provisions of the National Trust of Queensland Act as they affect all the trust's operations. It makes provision for the books and accounts of the National Trust to be subject to audit by the Queensland Auditor-General. In terms of the Bill, the Auditor-General may appoint one of his own officers to carry out the audit, or appoint a registered public accountant for that purpose. The Auditor-General is required to report the results of the audit to the National Trust, and to the Minister.

The annual report of the National Trust, which is presented to me for tabling in the House, is required to include a copy of the audited statement of income and expenditure and balance sheet of the trust as at the preceding 30 June.

It is normal practice for a body or organisation such as the National Trust, which receives substantial Government assistance by way of subsidy or grants, to be subject to Government audit. The trust is in agreement with the principle of Government auditing of its books and accounts, and I commend the motion to the Committee.

Mr. MARGINSON (Wolston) (11.3 p.m.): Because of the method of auditing prescribed in the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary Bill, which has just been before the Committee, obviously it will be necessary to amend the National Trust of Queensland Act as outlined by the Minister. At this stage, the Opposition has no objection.

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (11.4 p.m.), in reply: I thank the leader of the Opposition for his comments.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. HINZE: I am not trying to promote the honourable member for Wolston. I am only indicating that I think that one day he will be the Leader of the Opposition. In the absence of Mr. Burns, who I understand is in other place undertaking very—

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. HINZE: No, I am not one of those people who suggest that Tom Burns is getting his head cut off.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! I ask the Minister to come back to the motion before the Committee.

Mr. HINZE: That was Bart Lourigan.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Hinze, read a first time.

FIRE SAFETY ACT AMENDMENT BILL
(No. 2)

SECOND READING

Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs) (11.6 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Honourable members will recall that I said in my introductory speech that this is possibly the most important legislation in community welfare terms which I have introduced.

In his comment on behalf of the Opposition, the honourable member for Rockhampton North welcomed the provisions of the Bill. I am optimistic, therefore, that this debate will be featured by constructive contribution. This is as it should be. If this measure helps save life, property and employment, honourable members of this House may well feel satisfaction with the endorsement I am certain will be forthcoming whole-heartedly.

I might say, in passing, that the cost of fire services in Queensland is continuing to show an alarming pattern of escalation.

The estimate this year is \$25,300,000—more than double that of only three years ago.

Seventy-six per cent of this amount will go on wages for the 664 permanent personnel in the metropolitan area and 775 in the country. While this has nothing to do with the Bill I offer the disturbing facts to honourable members who may well view with concern the effect on precepts and premiums if it continues.

But to return to the matter before the House—there are a few additional comments I should like to make on matters raised by honourable members. The honourable member for Rockhampton North referred to hazards to firemen because of the illegal storage of materials. The rules under the Factories and Shops Act classify items as to degree of hazard and list precautions to be taken. Indeed, regulations covering flammable and combustible materials are comprehensive and well established.

Local authorities are responsible for licensing premises and fire brigades have right of entry to any premises, except private homes, to obtain information which might assist in extinguishing and controlling fires. Brigades also have access to any premises on suspicion that flammable, dangerous or combustible material is stored contrary to any legislation or by-law. In addition, the Fire Services Council's constant advice to fire brigade boards has been to prepare cards listing risks in buildings and any information necessary to familiarise staff with hazards likely to be encountered in fire-fighting.

Effective implementation of the Fire Safety Act on a State-wide basis also concerned the honourable member. Everything possible is being done in this respect.

As I pointed out at the introductory stage, the State Fire Services Council will have eight regional fire safety officers in country areas and there will also be officers in the 14 main brigades in the State. Most officers will be employed by fire brigade boards.

The honourable member for Pine Rivers referred to fire brigade officers as being delighted by the power given them under the regulations. Regulations have been issued setting out requirements for the issue of certificates. I should like to stress that, under the Act, a fire safety officer can impose no requirement more onerous than allowed by the regulations.

The question of fire safety at Sherwood House, Toowong, was also raised by the honourable member. An inspection of the premises was made by a metropolitan fire brigade prevention officer in August 1975 at the request of the owner of the building. As a result, recommendations were made to improve fire safety, including emergency lighting, exit doors, hose reels and fire extinguishers. An evacuation plan was also recommended. As this is an existing building, implementation of the recommendations is a matter for the owner. However, I have caused investigations to be made and I will inform the honourable member of the result.

Finally, I have no comment to offer on the amended fire brigade contribution system, as this does not affect the Fire Safety Act. I commend this measure to the House.

Mr. YEWDAL (Rockhampton North) (11.11 p.m.): The Minister referred to the high cost of fire safety in Queensland. We must accept that that cost will have to be borne by the community.

The Bill provides for the appointment of fire safety officers throughout the State, and it is reasonable to suggest that this provision will result in increased costs of fire services; but if that means that in the long term life and property will be saved, the money will be well spent.

The Minister also referred briefly to my comments at the introductory stage regarding the storage of goods and hazardous materials as well as the Brisbane scene in general. I believe that insufficient inspections are carried out of the storage of hazardous materials in the metropolitan area and in the major provincial cities. Except in isolated cases, insufficient authority is exercised over the type of old building that has people working inside it.

The Bill refers to standardisation within the Standards Association of Australia. I would quickly reiterate my introductory-stage comment that it is time that we looked at the whole question of fire safety and fire-fighting throughout the Commonwealth. We should look at the implementation throughout the Commonwealth of a set of standard training rules and the use of stereotype training facilities instead of having duplication in each State.

The other vital point that I raised at the introductory stage concerned the use of such an organisation, when established on a national basis, in times of natural disaster. Each State could complement the other, particularly in areas close to their borders. I use as an example the drastic fires in Tasmania, which could not be handled by that State alone. I suggest that Victoria would have been able to send equipment across to Tasmania to assist in fighting the fires.

On behalf of the Opposition, I support this measure, which in effect provides further protection for the community.

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (11.13 p.m.): I am pleased to see the introduction of these amending provisions. When the Bill was introduced I raised with the Minister a point of objection concerning approval by fire safety officers of certain building plans, necessitating people in the Hervey Bay area sending their plans to Nambour for approval and people in the Isis-Woongarra area sending theirs to Biloela. I mentioned that that was ridiculous. It is quite obvious that the department had no intention of introducing a measure such as that.

Clause 4 of the Bill amends section 39 of the Act and allows sanity to reign. Building plans will in future be perused by fire safety officers much closer to the place where the buildings are to be erected. I hope this means that those in the Isis-Woongarra-Gooburrum area will be perused by the fire safety officer in Bundaberg and those in Hervey Bay, if the Hervey Bay board does not employ a fire safety officer, in Maryborough. I commend the Minister for the introduction of the Bill. I hope that it will be passed without further delay.

Mr. SIMPSON (Cooroora) (11.15 p.m.): There are just two points of concern to me: whether the regulations on safety will increase the cost to primary producers of keeping fuel on their property, and whether the regulations for safety inspections will be organised to centralise fire services in such a way that the local fire boards would lose their operative local knowledge of the area.

It concerns me that there is a move to centralise all fire services on the Sunshine Coast on Nambour whereas the Noosa board, with its local knowledge, is obviously best suited to service that area. I would like the assurance of the Minister that local knowledge will be used to best advantage.

Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (11.16 p.m.): I would like to deal briefly with the same point and record the fact that I, too, have mentioned this problem of the storage of fuel on farms. There is considerable discontent about it at the moment. I see the reason for the introduction of the provision for the control of storage of fuel, particularly in the suburban areas and under houses. I

realise that such storage is most undesirable. The limitation to 5,000 litres imposed upon the storage of fuel on farms without a permit is unacceptable to the farming community. I suggest that implementing the regulations will increase the work-load and, therefore, the number of public servants needed.

I see it as an unnecessary infringement of the rights of individual farmers. Any practical person would realise that if a tractor is being fuelled from a 5,000 litres storage and a spark causes it to blow up, the person will be just as dead as he would be if the fuelling were being done from a 20,000 litres storage. I see it as impractical and I would like to bring the problem to the attention of the Minister.

Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) (11.17 p.m.): I, too, have some doubts on the wisdom on extending the provisions of the Bill to the rural areas. I can understand the necessity for controlling the storage of flammable liquids in closely built-up areas, whether they be industrial or residential, and perhaps some of the more open urban areas.

In rural areas, where fuel can be quite easily stored away from buildings, in the long term these regulations will become a revenue earner for the local authority. Some local authorities are not concerned with servicing these regulations but they are quite happy to impose a fee. The fee is increased in every Budget, and eventually the storage of fuel on farms will become a luxury.

The council of which I am a member has sent it back as the fee for the storage of fuel is already too high to impose on the landholders and as fuel is a necessity for them to conduct their businesses efficiently.

I hope that the local authorities will not use the provision as a revenue earner because the gate is wide open and there are so many different regulations by which fees can be imposed. I hope that the Minister has taken this into account, as I do not want to see any more impositions placed on the rural community.

Mr. LESTER (Belyando) (11.20 p.m.): I am desperately concerned at the provision relating to the storage of fuel, particularly as it applies to country people. Grain growers and others need to store a large amount of fuel at times. Sometimes bad weather cuts off the roads and, before they know where they are, they are out of fuel.

Mr. Goleby: Strikes, too.

Mr. LESTER: Fair enough. That is another very good point from the member for Redlands. It is good to see that he is interested in the problems of the country people, too. I think that this is a complete disaster. I just do not like it, because of the effect it will have on country people.

Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs) (11.21 p.m.), in reply: The honourable member for Rockhampton North expressed the view that the provision would increase the cost of services to the community. He added that the measure was necessary, in the interests of the community, to ensure adequate safeguards. I think that is in line with the spirit in which this legislation is being approached. I thank him for his comment.

He dealt with the matter of national uniformity of laws relating to fire safety and fire-fighting equipment. I am sure that with each passing year we are moving closer to uniformity in the Commonwealth. One of the organisations which are very keenly interested in this is the Australian Fire Protection Association. Only this morning I had the privilege of opening Fire Prevention Week, which was organised by that association. The whole purpose of the promotion is to point out the dangers of fire and the need for extreme safety and care.

The honourable member acknowledged that the Bill assists those boards that do not have a sufficient establishment to warrant the provision of a fire safety officer by allowing them to call on a neighbouring board which does have such an officer. This is practical and common-sense legislation, which he acknowledged.

The honourable members for Cooroora, Cunningham, Redlands and Belyando dealt with the storage of fuel on farms. As I see it, there is no reference to that in this Bill, although I am open to correction. I simply say that, whether fuel is stored on a farm, in a factory or in any other area, the Bill is in the interests of the owner of the fuel, which after all is a pretty costly item. Once a fire occurs, it is pretty difficult to extinguish. Having had a bulk tank myself and having had 25 years' experience in this sort of thing, I do not feel that any regulations introduced by a local authority on this matter are overbearing. If the community finds that they are, the community has the resolution in its hands.

Motion (Mr. Campbell) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 5, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs) (11.25 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

As I indicated when I introduced the Bill, the basic purpose of this legislation is to validate the loan advances made under the Small Business Flood Relief Scheme, which was established following the 1974 Australia Day flooding. An urgent need existed to provide low-interest funds to small businesses affected by the flooding to enable them to recommence operations with a minimum of delay.

Although the principles of the Industrial Development Act 1963-1975 were observed in the consideration of applications received under the scheme, the release of funds to the flood victims would have been delayed if all the detailed requirements of the legislation had been implemented before the actual advances were made. This in turn would have impaired the State Government's efforts to have small businesses affected by the floods restored to operative conditions at the earliest possible date. Subsequently advice was received from the Solicitor-General to the effect that, as the requirements of the Act had not been strictly observed, the advances could possibly be regarded in law as being invalid.

As I mentioned in my introductory speech, 590 applications were received under the scheme. Funds totalling approximately \$4,200,000 were advanced to 380 businesses. Honourable members can well imagine the volume of work involved if all the securities required to support the advances had to be taken, registered, tabulated, etc. prior to advancing the loan funds.

Likewise, the Solicitor-General has indicated also that, because the securities were not specified in the relevant Order in Council, their validity could be in doubt. Certain of the securities originally taken in support of the loans have since been varied. Accordingly, the legislation presently before the House seeks not only to validate the flood relief loans and the securities taken in support thereof but also any variations that may have been made to the securities since the loans were advanced.

Alterations were also made in certain instances to the general terms and conditions upon which the flood loans were approved. For example, a number of the successful applicants subsequently requested that the term of their loan be extended from three to five years. Such variations, which were made by Order in Council, were made retrospective to the commencing date of the loan.

The Industrial Development Act as presently drafted provides, however, for all Orders in Council to take effect from the date of publication in the Government Gazette. There is no provision for retrospectivity. Clearly it is necessary that provision be made for Orders in Council to have retrospective effect in such cases. The Bill presently before the House gives this power.

The legislation confirms that the Minister is required to give effect to any variations in the terms, conditions, etc. of a loan that

has been approved by the Governor in Council. Furthermore, it provides that, irrespective of whether the Minister takes all the appropriate action or not, the variations as approved by the Governor in Council shall apply in law.

The schedule to the Bill lists the Orders in Council under which the flood relief loans were advanced.

Simply stated, the Bill validates the flood relief loans; it validates the securities taken in support of the loans; it validates any variations that may have been approved by the Minister to such securities and provides that Orders in Council under the Industrial Development Act may be retrospective in effect.

The Small Business Flood Relief Scheme arose from an emergency. It was the first occasion on which assistance of this kind had been provided by the State Government to small business. That the scheme was successful speaks for itself. Many hundreds of small businesses which otherwise would have faced interminable delays were restored to operating conditions at an early date because of the prompt action of the Government. Many would have failed completely if finance had not been provided urgently. Unemployment would have increased as a result. I am sure that all honourable members will support this validating legislation. I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. YEWDAL (Rockhampton North) (11.31 p.m.): The Opposition certainly concurs with the Bill before the House tonight. As I said during the introductory debate, it seems to me that the Government took a very long time to actually validate this action—I think in all about 2½ years—and it seems to me that somebody was not doing his homework.

The fact that the moneys were made available at a time of emergency was, of course, an acceptable action and the circumstances certainly warranted it. I think the key point here is that if the Government is observant enough it should look at making funds available for flood-mitigation work, particularly in flood-prone areas in the Brisbane metropolitan area. I think that Government members representing metropolitan electorates should be urging the Government to allocate funds for flood-mitigation works in order to avoid a repetition of the disastrous flooding which occurred in 1974.

I have one other point. When introducing the Bill, the Minister first explained it in technical terms and then outlined its provisions in simple terms. I just want to say that I never cease to be amazed at the type of jargon which people have to try to understand not only in this type of Bill but also in most Bills that come before this House. People are expected to plough through all the legal jargon that is used and then we have the Minister standing up and saying "Simply stated", or

"This is a very simple explanation of this", and I might say that the time is long past when we should accept this sort of thing. Understanding these things is difficult enough for people who are conversant with them, let alone the laymen. I intend to continue objecting to this sort of thing not only here but also in other places, just as other people are doing it elsewhere. It is time we got back to talking to people in common terms.

Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (11.33 p.m.): In rising to take part in this debate, I would like to congratulate the Government on taking this step. Although the honourable member for Rockhampton North tried to make out that we have delayed the introduction of this Bill, as far as I am concerned it is a very necessary step and validates action which had a very beneficial effect at the time of the flood. Not only would I like to congratulate the Minister on this Bill, but I would also like to say that more recently the Minister took steps in relation to flood problems in my electorate along the Condamine River. I think that was an outstanding example of what should be done in coming to the assistance of people; not just the farming community but also business people who were adversely affected by what one might term a once in a lifetime flood, with levels higher than any previously recorded. Not only did his action help business people in the area to get back on their feet, but it also ensured the continued employment of people in the area. I believe that this is most important, and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to support the Bill.

Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs) (11.34 p.m.), in reply: The honourable member for Rockhampton North once again chided me for taking a long time to introduce this corrective legislation. I simply say in reply to that comment that it is better late than never.

The honourable member referred to flood-prone areas. I would say that never in the history of Brisbane has there been so much co-operative effort between Federal, State and local governments to minimise any future loss or damage should serious flooding again occur in this area.

Mr. Yewdale: Your Federal counterparts have withdrawn substantial funds from flood-mitigation projects.

Mr. CAMPBELL: I repeat that for the first time there was a co-operative effort by three tiers of government to come to grips with the flood problem in Brisbane. I am sure that the effect of any future floods will be minimised as a result of action now being taken.

The honourable member referred also to the jargon, as he called it, in the legislation. I thought I gave a fairly simple explanation. The Industrial Development Act has operated

for 10 years or more without question. In terms of the existing legislation, loan funds begin only from the date of the Order in Council. However, as the honourable member for Cunningham mentioned, in this emergency situation and with limited staff, applications were received from several hundred business people. It was necessary, firstly, to sift their applications and determine their eligibility and, secondly, to make sure, because public funds were involved, that there was adequate security. I must say that I think we went a fair way towards meeting the needs of people affected by the floods who did not have instant security. It was not until some months later that it was drawn to the attention of the department that previously loan funds under the Industrial Development Act were not made available until after publication of a notice of approval in the gazette. In this case, there was a sense of urgency and it was felt that the first need was to give instant relief to the people concerned.

I remind the honourable member for Rockhampton North again that never before had any relief scheme such as that been implemented. I link the remarks of the honourable member for Cunningham on this point and reply to him also. In the past, losses incurred by industry through flood were never regarded as something for which compensation should come from the public purse. But such was the magnitude of this flood and such was the cataclysm that overtook hundreds of businessmen that, if action had not been taken, many businesses would have gone to the wall, with resultant bankruptcy for the proprietors and much unemployment for their employees. So I think the honourable member for Rockhampton North is being rather pedantic in criticising any delay that occurred.

I appreciate the comments of the honourable member for Cunningham, who said that it was an outstanding example of assistance. As I said earlier, it is the first time that any Government in Australia has acknowledged the dire straits in which business people found themselves as a result of floods.

Motion (Mr. Campbell) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 10, both inclusive, and schedule, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

The House adjourned at 11.41 p.m.