

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1976

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Children's Services Act 1965–1974.

The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Regulations under—

Inspection of Machinery Act 1951–1974.

Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961–1976.

Justices of the Peace Act 1975.

Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973–1975.

Printers and Newspapers Act 1953–1972.

Rule under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961–1976.

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of Queensland Trustees Limited for the year 1975–76.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (11.3 a.m.): One of the greater modern medical epidemics causing increasing concern is the problem of alcoholism and alcohol abuse. A further area of serious health concern is the increasing community problem of drug abuse, the abuse of both legal and illegal drugs. The health problems created by alcohol and drug abuse are multitudinous, but there are many related problems associated with rising consumption rates, which are most unhealthy for our nation. There is a tremendous loss of potential and incentive to improve the economy of our nation as a result of a complacent populace being lulled into a sense of false security through alcohol and drug abuse.

There is a tremendous loss through alcohol-induced accidents at home and work and on our roads. There is a tremendous manpower cost involved in caring for the victims of alcohol and drug dependence. It is most unfortunate that increasing numbers in society today are unable to sensibly control their use of legal drugs, and there is increasing experimentation by many young people with illegal drugs. The Government has been deeply disturbed by obvious signs of growth in the health problems associated with alcohol and drug dependence. Thus the Government decided to initiate new health facilities to provide for the treatment and care of the victims of alcoholism and the drug dependent.

Within the Department of Health we are establishing a comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Dependence Service to offer both a treatment and a preventive service. Early next year the new headquarters for this service, the Detoxication Centre at Roma Street, will come on line. This will provide custom-designed facilities and allow for staff training and support for the many voluntary organisations assisting in this major health area.

In line with these new initiatives the Government has prepared a special Health Paper—the fourth in a series—to detail the new initiatives and to outline in some detail the plans and programmes that it is intended to establish throughout the State. This is a most ambitious programme but one that is essential if the Government is to tackle with any success this most serious health problem. It is the Government's intention to provide practical support and aid for people with alcohol or drug-dependence problems in every Queensland centre. It is a massive programme, one that quite obviously will not be developed overnight, and, because of the sensitive nature of the treatment regime, one that will, no doubt, have teething problems and administrative problems. However, it will be a positive programme and a dramatic attempt to curb one of the most serious health problems facing Queensland.

I urge all honourable members to study this new Health Paper, produced by the Government, for I believe that it indicates a major new health initiative not only for this State but also for the whole of the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I now formally table this fourth Health Paper on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Services.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the paper on the table.

Mr. DEAN: I rise to a point of order. I ask the Minister to have alcohol added to the State's list of prohibited drugs.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. LEAFLETS ADVERTISING PORNOGRAPHIC MOVIES, TOWNSVILLE

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

Has he received a complaint from Mr. Michael Doyle, Townsville, concerning the alleged pornographic nature of certain advertisements for moving pictures shown at Townsville theatres and distributed in leaflet form to householders in such a way that it could come into the hands of children and, if so, is this a breach of any law and will any action be taken against those responsible?

Answer:—

Yes. A leaflet containing advertisements submitted to me by Mr. Doyle through the honourable member for Townsville South has been examined by officers of the Police Department. Those officers expressed the view that the advertisements are not obscene or indecent by legal definition and, consequently, are not in contravention of the law of this State.

2. TOWNSVILLE REGIONAL CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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

(1) Has he any knowledge of an organisation calling itself the Townsville Regional Conservation Council, which has an office at 326-328 Sturt Street, Townsville, and, if so, how, when and why was it formed and from what source or sources does it obtain its finances?

(2) Who are its executive officers and by whom and in what manner were they appointed or elected?

(3) In view of the frequent alliances that this organisation forms with Left-wing industrial groups and what are locally called "nuts" associated with the James Cook University, will he investigate this aspect of the Townsville Regional Conservation Council and inform the House of his conclusions?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) No. I have no knowledge of the organisation and a search of the records at the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, Charities Section and Art Unions Section, has failed to find any record of it.

It is understood that the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development subsidises certain conservation groups, but it is not known if the Townsville Regional Conservation Council receives such a grant.

(3) The facts disclosed by the honourable member do not warrant an investigation under any of the Acts administered by me.

3. ALLEGED SLANDER BY SENATOR KEEFFE

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

Has he seen an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 21 October reporting remarks made by Senator Keeffe in the sanctity of the Senate, in which the senator made a filthy attack about Queensland and, if so, can Senator Keeffe be brought before the Bar of this House so that he may be questioned and exposed as the foul slanderer and distorter of the truth that he really is?

Answer:—

I have seen the article referred to by the honourable member. There is no way in which Senator Keefe may be brought before the Bar of the House in respect of the statements made by him. However, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to hear the honourable senator questioned by the honourable member for Townsville South.

4. HEN QUOTAS

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

(1) With reference to his answer to my question on 19 October regarding the hen quotas relinquished in District No. 3, did A. and L. Peters of Smithfield, R. Duncan of Upper Barron, O. Juhas of Mena Creek and Fogalis of Tully hold quotas of 8,000, 4,000, 3,500 and 3,000 respectively and, if so, for what reasons are these quotas omitted from his listings?

(2) Were these quotas reallocated and, if so, in what manner?

Mr. SULLIVAN: I suggest that the honourable member listen attentively to my answer to his questions and then, when he receives a copy of it, compare it with my answer to the question that he asked on 19 October. I shall now read the prepared answers.

Answers:—

(1) In my answer to the honourable member on 19 October, I tabled a list of quota holders in District 3 who had relinquished their hen quotas. Of the persons mentioned by the honourable member, Messrs. Duncan and Juhas have not relinquished their quotas and Messrs. Peters and Fogalis have never been quota holders.

Mr. R. Duncan is temporarily out of production but has reserved the right to recommence production. His adjusted hen quota was 4,728. The adjusted hen quota allocated to Betta Chicken Producers (O. Juhas) was 3,961. This quota has not yet been relinquished and is still the subject of correspondence between the Hen Quota Committee and Mr. Juhas's solicitors.

I am informed that A. & L. Peters ceased egg production, sold their farming interests prior to the allocation of quotas, and at no stage have they held a quota. Somebody has been pulling the honourable member's leg.

There is no record of Mr. Fogalis applying for or receiving a hen quota.

(2) The quotas of Mr. Duncan and Betta Chicken Producers have not been reallocated as they have not yet been relinquished to the Hen Quota Committee. It is as simple as that.

5. DEATH OF ABEL AWATI ON BOIGU ISLAND

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

(1) Was any departmental or coronial inquiry held into the circumstances surrounding the death of Abel Anau on Boigu Island?

(2) Was pouri-pouri said to be the contributing factor in his demise and, if so, were the symptoms or the cause of death consistent with this theory?

(3) If not, what was the nature of the injuries which resulted in death and were they commensurate with the cause of death as registered?

(4) What were the periods of time which elapsed between, firstly, the infliction of injuries and the death, and, secondly, the certification of death and the burial?

(5) Who actually signed the official documentation, what are their positions and what were the certified dates, times and cause of death?

Answers:—

(1) Investigations reveal that the death referred to by the honourable member is in regard to Abel Awati and I can confirm that a coroner's inquiry pursuant to section 16 of the Coroner's Act proceeded.

(2) No.

(3 and 4) Death occurred during the night of 20 September from a heart attack. The coroner was informed by radio at 9.18 a.m. on 21 September 1974.

(5) Form C, certificate of death, was signed by Aaron Anau, brother of the deceased, on 21 September. The coroner's order for burial was signed by Acting Stipendiary Magistrate B. Blades. Statement on cause of death was signed by Dr. K. S. Matar, Medical Superintendent, Thursday Island Hospital Board. The honourable member has apparently based his question on rumours circulated in the Torres Strait which my department became aware of and, as a result, two detectives from Cairns visited the area in August 1976.

Investigations proceeded at Boigu Island and it was ascertained that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, and therefore exhumation was not necessary. I can say that in the department's experience where sudden death occurs in similar circumstances, it is common at times for quite alarming rumours to develop. However, these are always investigated by the department, as are all deaths in the normal course of administration.

6. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES,
CAIRNS

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

(1) How many applications for housing accommodation, in the respective categories of priority, are at present registered as outstanding with the Queensland Housing Commission, through the Clerk of the Court, Cairns for (a) rental and (b) home purchase?

(2) How many applicants have been allotted (a) rental and (b) purchase homes for (i) the previous year to 30 June 1976 and (ii) from 1 July to date?

(3) How many new houses were erected for (a) rental and (b) home-ownership during the same periods?

(4) How many houses were provided by direct Government funding allocated through the co-operative housing societies at Cairns and what amounts were allocated during the same periods?

(5) How many building sites are presently held by the commission for housing requirements at Cairns (a) for which tenders are current and (b) which remain vacant for future construction?

(6) How many applications for units under the Dwellings for Aged Persons Scheme are at present registered as outstanding and how many have been allocated during the same periods to (a) single and (b) married pensioners?

Answers:—

(1) A common list is maintained for rental and ownership. Applicants for houses comprise—100 points, 11; 80 points, 5; 60 points, 5; 40 points, 60; nil priority, 119.

(2) (i) For 1975-76—(a) 64; (b) nil. (ii) From 1 July 1976 to date—(a) 1; (b) nil.

(3) (i) For 1975-76—(a) 46; (b) nil. (ii) From 1 July 1976 to date—(a) 1; (b) nil.

(4) For 1975-76 \$402,300 was allocated which provided 23 houses. For 1976-77 \$450,000 has been allocated, which will provide 25 houses.

(5) (a) Sites absorbed by houses partly constructed or not commenced in current contracts—22; (b) 32 house sites and 33.18 hectares of undeveloped land.

(6) Applications on hand—(a) 15; (b) 2. Units allocated—(a) 1; (b) nil.

I hope the honourable member can understand all that. It seems to be a stock question that is asked every year. I hope he realises how much work he caused the commission.

7. COUNTRY RACING

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

As over a period of years metropolitan owners and trainers and some sports writers in Brisbane have advocated the abolition of country racing and as their motive has been a greater grab of T.A.B. profits and not furtherance of the racing industry, will he remind these people that racing is a Queensland industry, that people in country areas are as entitled to conduct race meetings as are those in cities and that this Government has no intention of centralising racing just to satisfy the greed of metropolitan clubs?

Answer:—

I am not aware that anyone has seriously suggested the abolition of country racing, and certainly the Government remains conscious of the importance of country race clubs to local communities and the racing industry in general.

8. PHANTOM VOTERS ON ELECTORAL
ROLLS

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

(1) In view of the disturbingly high incidence of missing voters from addresses shown on the State electoral rolls, as revealed in the recent check by his office, will he investigate this situation closely to determine the extent of deliberate phantom voter enrolments by A.L.P. sources, particularly in inner-suburban electorates?

(2) Will he ensure that those responsible for such culpable distortion of the electorate are dealt with as severely as the law will allow, as a dissuasion to others contemplating similar subterfuge against the public interest?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) As a result of the recent roll canvass a number of electors who appear to have left the addresses as shown on the roll have each been forwarded a letter asking if they are still at the relevant address. Failure by any of those persons to satisfy the Principal Electoral Officer that they are properly enrolled will result in their names being removed from the roll in accordance with the provisions of the Elections Act.

If the honourable member has any information to support the claims made by him, he should supply the information to me for investigation.

9. ACCIDENTS ON WARREGO HIGHWAY AT ENTRY TO TOOWOOMBA

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

(1) As many accidents have now been recorded on that part of the Warrego Highway where it enters the city of Toowoomba, is he aware that, owing to a lack of appropriate signs, visitors are driving down the "up" section and vice versa?

(2) Will he have this serious situation investigated?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The honourable member for Toowoomba South is concerned about a traffic problem in his area. He says that cars are going up the "down" section and down the "up" section. Of course, we want them to go up the "up" section and down the "down" section. If they do not do that, we are going to have some problems. I take the point that the honourable member makes. Perhaps some extra sign-posting is required to stop drivers from going up the "down" section and down the "up" section.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NEW HOSPITAL AT GOONDIWINDI

Mr. McKECHNIE: I ask the Minister for Health: Will he advise me of the latest developments regarding the investigation into the need for a new hospital at Goondiwindi?

Dr. EDWARDS: I am aware, of course, of the honourable member's lengthy representations to the Premier and me concerning this matter. When I visited the Goondiwindi Hospital some 12 months ago in the company of the honourable member, I was made aware of the problems arising in the foundations of that hospital. At that time we were advised that the problem was not a major one, but I believe that since then further difficulties have arisen.

Following the honourable member's representations to me, I had my officers visit Goondiwindi Hospital recently and carry out a detailed inspection of the problem. I have also arranged for the Works Department to give architectural advice on the difficulty that has been encountered. I assure the honourable member that a decision will be made in the very near future on the matter of the reconstruction or the rebuilding or the resiting of the hospital at Goondiwindi.

STRIKE BY PRISON OFFICERS AT BRISBANE PRISON

Mr. LANE: In directing a question to the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport, I refer to

the current industrial dispute at the Brisbane Prison and acquaint him with the concern of many members about the number of police officers who are tied up in performing the duties of prison warders. I ask: When can we look forward to a settlement of the dispute?

Mr. HERBERT: I welcome this opportunity to acquaint the House with the true position in relation to the strike. I thank the honourable member for his question.

For quite some time it has been obvious that the current executive of the union controlling the prison officers has been spoiling for a strike. It has threatened strike action on a number of occasions.

The true facts concerning the current dispute are that for many years we have been engaged in a rebuilding scheme at the Boggo Road prison. It is now well advanced. One of the final stages of the building programme entails the construction of an administration block. Two months ago the union executive was advised by the department that it was the intention to move in on the present parking area and that another parking area would be made available within the perimeter of the prison. That area is now available.

No reply was received from the union. I have since been told by members of the union that the executive did not tell them of the advice given two months ago. Instead, it waited until last Thursday, when at a stop-work meeting the men were advised that their cars would have to be parked in the street. They were called on to strike. Apparently they were not told that the new area was available.

A great deal of publicity has been given to the issue on the basis of poor prison officers having to park their cars in the streets, which, of course, is what most other employees do. But that in fact is quite untrue. It was never even suggested by the department. There is more than enough parking room within the prison precincts to cater for the cars of all the officers if each travelled by car. The statements published are quite untrue.

The real facts now appear to be that the men do not want to walk from the new car park at the side of the prison to the main gate.

A Government Member: How far is that?

Mr. HERBERT: About as far as many people walk in going to their local railway station each morning. In fact, the female officers, in walking from the old car park to the women's prison, had to go about as far as the male officers are now expected to walk, which they are objecting to.

It is incredible that men would hold up the normal functioning of a prison for days purely and simply because they are too tired to walk a couple of hundred yards to their place of employment. Practically every

person who works in the city area has to walk some distance to work. That is generally accepted, but apparently it is not accepted by the prison officers. They demand the right to park right at the front gate. If the Government delayed the contractor, it would cost \$500 a day. That would be quite a futile exercise.

Last night during the very heavy storm that was experienced in Brisbane, my under secretary travelled in his private vehicle to the area that is provided for parking—the one that the officers object to using—and out again without any problem at all. So any complaints that the area is not suitable were definitely disproved last night by the top man in my department.

This stupid strike is being led by very stupid men who, for some reason or other, seem to think that they can exercise their own power over the men by calling them out on strike on something that the average citizen would regard as incredible. However, the dangerous thing about the strike is that within the prison are some desperate men. The number of police who can be deployed to the prison is not equal to the number of warders who normally do the job. The longer the strike continues, the more dangerous the state of affairs at the prison will be. If anything goes wrong at the prison, it will not be the responsibility of this Parliament or me: it will rest fairly and squarely on the heads of the few men out there who run the union and who have no real sense of responsibility.

STATEMENT BY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ON MARIJUANA SMOKING

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities: Does he agree with a statement made by one of his university professors that it is all right to smoke marijuana in private? What action is he going to take in this matter, seeing that he has druggies down there all the time?

Mr. BIRD: Suffice it to say that I believe he is a professor of psychiatry. Need I say any more?

INCREASE IN OUTLETS FOR SALE OF LIQUOR

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister for Health: In view of his statement to the House this morning, what is he doing about his Government's opening up further outlets for the sale of beer and spirits? The Government has opened up so many additional outlets in Queensland with Sunday trading and club licences, and now grocery shops are to be allowed to sell liquor. What is the Government doing about it?

Dr. EDWARDS: This matter does not come within the administration of my department.

CUNNAMULLA HOSPITAL

Mr. TURNER: I ask the Minister for Health: Will he indicate the latest developments in relation to my representations to him for the construction of a new hospital at Cunnamulla?

Dr. EDWARDS: I and, I am sure, all the people of Western Queensland, are aware of the very strong representations that have been made by the honourable member on many aspects of his work as the representative of Warrego. My department has received more representations from him in the time in which he has been the member for Warrego than were received in all the years in which it was represented by the previous member.

When the present member became the representative of Warrego, he contacted me about the position at the Cunnamulla Hospital. I visited that hospital with him approximately 12 months ago. Following the meeting of Cabinet in Cunnamulla earlier this year, the Premier also visited the Cunnamulla Hospital with me. We realised then that something had to be done following the member's representations.

Recently I gave approval for the preparation of plans for a new 20-bed hospital at Cunnamulla, which I believe will meet the needs of the people of the area. I am pleased to say that his representations on this matter, like those that he has made on many others, have been successful and we look forward to the referral of the plans to the department for consideration.

"YESTERDAY'S MEN" IN THE A.L.P.

Mr. GYGAR: I ask the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport: As the Minister responsible for welfare payments, has his attention been drawn to Mr. Whitlam's concern about the number of "yesterday's men" in the A.L.P. who will apparently soon be unemployed, friendless and in need of his assistance? As the Queensland parliamentary wing of the A.L.P. has the highest proportion of "yesterday's men" in Australia, including a deposed leader, a former Federal president, a member about to be sacked and two others who have decided to jump before they are pushed, will the Minister consider mounting a special programme of welfare assistance to support the discarded casualties of this A.L.P. power struggle which will inevitably result in their replacement by a new group of "tomorrow's men" recruited from the Left-wing academics of the Trades Hall?

Mr. HERBERT: I have been concerned for some time about the welfare of the men opposite. I think the Minister for Health might have more to do with this subject than I do. The geriatric section of the Health Department has some pretty good facilities available now which might be of some

assistance. I have been thinking that the few electorates which are foolish enough to return a Labor member should just have to put up with them. They are an example to all of the other electorates in Queensland of just how badly they could be represented.

As for Mr. Whitlam's comment about other people being "yesterday's men", he is about 15 years older than I am, and a lot of people have told me I am too old for the game, so how a man in his age-group and in his final fling at politics can call his colleagues "yesterday's men" is something that just passes understanding.

BOXING COMMISSION AND PRE-FIGHT MEDICAL TESTS FOR BOXERS

Mr. DOUMANY: I ask the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport: As Hector Thompson has drawn the overwhelming commendation of Queenslanders for his outstanding boxing ability and sportsmanship, and very recently for the good sense he has shown in deciding to retire on medical grounds, is it a fact that the comprehensive pre-fight medical testing, including the electroencephalogram which determined Hector Thompson's future career, now mandatory in Victoria is not undertaken in Queensland? Is it acknowledged that similar pre-fight testing applied in all States could significantly reduce the serious permanent damage that afflicts so many ex-boxers, particularly those from the professional ranks? Will the Minister investigate the introduction of such medical procedures in association with the establishment of a boxing commission?

Mr. HERBERT: The problem raised by the honourable member has been discussed on a number of occasions at conferences of State and Federal Ministers for Sport, and it has been decided that if a boxing commission were to be set up, it should be on a Federal basis, because it would be rather foolish to have a number of different organisations dealing with the problem, particularly as boxers migrate from one State to another. However, when the Minister in Victoria failed in his attempt to have a motion passed banning boxing, he set up a boxing commission in that State.

In any case, the situation in Queensland is different from that in Victoria. There is no regular panel of boxers in this State. However, at Festival Hall there is an organisation that looks after the interests of professional boxers. Dr. Bell, who is the adviser in Queensland, sends to the Health Department any boxer about whose fitness he has reasonable doubt, and the Minister for Health has informed me that the department carries out electroencephalographs on boxers sent to it by Dr. Bell. A boxer has the opportunity to refuse to undergo the test; but he does not get a bout in Queensland if he does refuse.

The matter has often been discussed by the Sports Medicine Federation, and the Government accepts that federation, under Dr.

K. Hobbs, as an organisation capable of submitting requests to the Government in this particular area. I have no requests before me at the moment relative to boxing, and I would assume that the federation accepts that Dr. Bell has the interests of the very few boxers in Queensland well in hand.

SELECTION OF A.L.P. CANDIDATES FOR NEXT STATE ELECTION

Mr. DOUMANY: I ask the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs: Has he noticed Press reports which indicate that a number of A.L.P. candidates for the next State election will be chosen on the personal recommendation of the Leader of the Opposition and the failed former Federal Treasurer, Mr. Hayden? As this system seems to run counter to the rules of the A.L.P. which give rank and file members of the party and affiliated trade-unionists a sometimes democratic vote by way of plebiscite for Labor endorsement, does he believe that Mr. Burns' scheme will inevitably result in rank-and-file resentment and possibly in industrial disruption?

Mr. CAMPBELL: I can speak with some knowledge on the method adopted by the Liberal Party in selecting its candidates as I am a former president of the party and a member of the executive of many years standing, but I am afraid that my knowledge does not extend to the way in which the A.L.P. selects its candidates. Taking my cue from the comments of the honourable member, I suggest that dependence upon the personal recommendation of the Leader of the Opposition and the Federal member for Oxley would be political patronage of the very worst kind. Consequently, I agree with the honourable member that if his information is correct and the A.L.P. is in fact departing from the traditional and time-honoured plebiscite selection of candidates, it must inevitably lead to some industrial disruption.

Mr. Houston: That's an expression of opinion. He's out of order. He wouldn't know.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule, Mr. Speaker, whether, according to "May's Parliamentary Practice" and the established procedure of this Assembly, a Minister who has no information whatsoever on the subject matter of a question is at liberty to give an opinion on it? It is only an expression of opinion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I rule that there is no valid point of order. As the Minister is making a statement, he is entitled to voice his own opinion.

Mr. Houston: That's your ruling?

Mr. CAMPBELL: The reason I indicated that this change in course of selection by the A.L.P. could lead to industrial disputation is linked with the savage sacking by the Q.C.E.—

Mr. Houston: Stop fumbling and deal with matters of importance to the State.

Mr. CAMPBELL: The honourable member doesn't like it. He doesn't like it brought out into the open.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I remind all honourable members that I will not tolerate persistent interjections. I warn all honourable members that when a Minister is on his feet I expect him to be heard in silence. I ask for the co-operation of the House.

Mr. CAMPBELL: The savage sacking of the general secretary by the A.L.P. hierarchy is another matter—

Mr. Houston: That is not true and you know it.

Mr. CAMPBELL: The honourable member says that it is not true. For sure, technically, he lodged his resignation. We all know the events leading up to that particular situation. We all know the way in which that official was summarily dismissed; I will use that term. The Leader of the Opposition raised his voice in protest at the sacking of anybody else in Queensland. I am sure this particular act ultimately will lead to further industrial disputation.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER NEWSLETTER

Mr. BERTONI: I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: Has he seen the October 1976 issue of the newsletter issued by the Campaign Against Nuclear Power? If so, has he any comment to make on the tactics being employed by the campaign committee to induce people to oppose uranium mining and the use of nuclear energy?

Mr. CAMM: Yes, I have seen the Campaign Against Nuclear Power newsletter to which the honourable member refers. I have nothing but contempt for the course of action it recommends. There is no doubt in my mind that those behind the campaign have been motivated by political ideals which go far beyond the question of the morality of uranium mining. The newsletter suggests that members should—

—“bombard the papers with letters to the Editor and bombard Members of Parliament with vivid descriptions of what you think of nuclear power and uranium mining.”

Referring to petitions currently in circulation, the newsletter says that members should not allow anyone out of their house without signing. It says they should demand an

explanation if they refuse to sign, and a check should be made to see if they are on the Mary Kathleen pay-roll. This does not sound to me like a campaign mounted by people with a genuine interest in the environment. These are the methods employed by the K.G.B., and it is becoming abundantly clear to me that there are sinister elements at work in organisations like the Campaign Against Nuclear Power whose interest in the environment goes far beyond humanitarian considerations.

After all, who stands to gain if much of the free world's uranium reserves is left in the ground? It is not in the interests of this country or the free world if we are denied access to large reserves of uranium. Those who stand to gain most are to be found behind the Iron Curtain, and to date I have not observed any moves by the organisation concerned to bring pressure to bear on the Soviet Union or China to stop the production of uranium. I would appeal to thinking people to take a careful look at the background of organisations like the Campaign Against Nuclear Power before they lend their names to petitions and protests.

Anyone is entitled to protest, but he should make sure that his genuine protest is not being misused for some other purpose. It has long been my concern that a number of so-called conservationist organisations are being used as fronts to push very political barrows. Along the way large numbers of innocent people are being caught up.

Just let me quote another example. On 28 May this year the following appeared in “The Melbourne Herald”—

“While Governments may appear to be in charge of things, it is the industrialists, the multi-nationals and the military alliances who are in control and a threat to the world.”

That statement was made not by a Left-wing political leader or trade-unionist but by Dr. Geoff Mosley, the director of the Australian Conservation Foundation. The same Dr. Mosley told the Ranger inquiry that he would support political actions by unions to enforce the policies of the Australian Conservation Foundation and that the foundation would not abide by the inquiry's findings.

Rather than sounding like the statements of a man with a sole interest in conservation, these sound more like the statements of another Mosley made in Britain during the 1930s and '40s. Like the Campaign Against Nuclear Power, Dr. Mosley made it clear that he was prepared to go to any lengths to achieve his aims. The question that should be answered is: in just whose interests are those aims directed?

MINIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT TO BE SERVED BEFORE PAROLE CONSIDERED

Mr. HALES: I ask the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport: Has his attention been

drawn to an article in this morning's "Australian" in which it is reported that a murderer convicted in South Australia in 1970 was paroled recently for health reasons and was reincarcerated yesterday for assault involving a revolver? Can he inform the House if a minimum term of imprisonment has to be served in Queensland for murder before parole is considered?

Mr. HERBERT: The usual procedure is that no application for parole is accepted until at least half the sentence has been served. In any case, parole in Queensland is handled by the Parole Board, which is headed by a Supreme Court judge and over which, quite rightly, I have no control. The board acts on the recommendations of the various people who are officially associated with the prisoner. There have been applications for earlier parole on humanitarian grounds but the Parole Board is always very careful in such cases because it has been decided in an area of competent jurisdiction that the prisoner must be punished by serving a certain time in gaol. It would have to be a very unusual case to be given this special consideration.

I read of the case in South Australia. All I can say is that Queenslanders should be very glad that they live under the system in this State and not the one that has been foisted on the people of South Australia.

WATER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. N. T. E. HEWITT (Auburn—Minister for Water Resources): 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 Water Act 1926-1975 in certain particulars and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

FIRE SAFETY ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

THIRD READING

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

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

LEFT-WING INFILTRATION OF ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (12.5 p.m.): The matter of public

interest that I wish to bring to the notice of the House today is one that concerns me as a very simple-living person in this State. It was referred to last Wednesday by my colleague the member for Toowong (Mr. Charles Porter) and other concerned members in debates on matters of public interest. They came in for considerable criticism and a concerted attack from some quarters, and statements were made that they were using the privilege of the House to refer to the matter to which I intend referring. In my opinion, the floor of this Chamber is the correct forum, and anyone who says that members of this Assembly are hiding behind parliamentary privilege in speaking about this matter of public interest does not know what he is talking about.

The honourable member for Toowong and the honourable member for Stafford came in for considerable criticism, as I said, for attempting to bring to the attention of the House and of the people of Queensland the threat to our way of life posed by Left-wing malcontents infiltrating and attaching themselves to established orders such as the Church. My purpose in speaking today is to indicate that these honourable members certainly are not alone in their concern and their fears and that many dedicated church people and truly committed Christians are very concerned about the situation.

It is very clear that Communists and their fellow-travellers are attempting to gain by subversion what they have not been able to achieve by electoral means, and this clearly is being achieved to some extent by infiltration and manipulation of the drug counter-culture and some sections of the Christian Church, by concerted and well-orchestrated attacks on the State and Federal Governments and, on a personal level, on Queensland's Premier, Mr. Joh Bjelke-Petersen. These attacks are not just spontaneous; they are all part of a pattern, and that is very obvious to anyone who bothers to look below the surface.

I have been a committed Christian all my life—indeed, at one period I was secretary of my local church for many years—so I have some knowledge of what goes on within the church as well as what goes on outside it. Many laymen such as myself and many clergymen have expressed concern about the subversion and infiltration of the established orders, including the Church.

Unfortunately, defending a proven system apparently does not sell newspapers or help radio or television stations boost their ratings; so on many occasions attacks on the system have won the major headlines and contrary points of view have received little or no play in the media. Indeed, this moves one to wonder whether the Communist and Left-wing infiltration and manipulation are already making considerable inroads into the media industry itself. Perhaps that is something which responsible bodies such as the Australian Journalists' Association and

others concerned with the maintenance of objective, independent media in Australia might consider worth looking into. I am sure that if they wanted some evidence or details of groups that have been unable even to present their point of view publicly because people in the media simply will not accept it, they would get all they wanted.

I have the utmost respect for most of the working journalists I have met during my public life, and I believe that I can claim to have a good understanding and relationship with the media. However, I believe that there are many responsible journalists and others in the media who must be wondering whether they are being got at by committed Communists and their fellow-travellers. As a practising Christian for many years, I personally cannot see any compatibility between Christianity and Communism, however Communism might be disguised. I cannot see any way in which support for committed Communist-oriented groups with admitted and acknowledged Left-wing affiliations—and I am thinking of groups such as the Action for World Development—could be justified either by the Church or by thinking Christians. There is a growing view and realisation that the World Council of Churches and many other groups are coming under the influence—perhaps the domination—of Leftist groups.

Groups such as Action for World Development and other pseudo-religious groups are very vocal on war-time atrocities and such public issues as civil liberties, when the mood takes them; but they are very selective in choosing the issues on which they speak out. For example, they are very vocal in support of the hippie drug culture, homosexuality, the anti-police cause, and the plight of people in East Timor. They have been strangely silent—perhaps it is not so strange, really—about the loss of civil liberties in Cambodia, where some 600,000 people were slaughtered by the Communists, in South Vietnam, in Laos, in Russia, in Communist-dominated countries in Africa and on the Continent, and in China where millions have lost their civil liberties—or their life—under the Mao regime.

They are vocal about supporting homosexuality. We even have the case of a clergyman, the Rev. Noel Preston—the son of Arthur Preston—for example, saying that he would flout the sanctity of marriage by marrying male homosexuals. Others—Father Dick Pascoe, for example—have been openly associated with the Hanoi Peace Movement and violent anti-Vietnam demonstrations. We know how the Vietnam issue finished up. The manifesto for a recent meeting of so-called concerned Christians in New Farm, prior to a trumped-up “vigil for civil liberties” referred to “the oppression and exploitation of homosexuals by heterosexuals”, “the oppression and exploitation of convicted prisoners by the unconvicted society whose values yield crime”, and “the oppression and exploitation of workers by those who own and control the

means of production, distribution and exchange.” Anyone with even an elementary knowledge of politics and economics would know that those viewpoints come direct from the Communist doctrine. They're straight Karl Marx!

Are these the values of a true Christian society? Are these the people who really represent what we think and feel, and the way in which we want to live, as Christians? Clearly, it is time for the silent majority of true Christians and responsible leaders of our true Christian Church to come out and declare that they reject these values promoted by so-called spokesmen for the Christian community. It is perhaps time for the silent majority to make the effort to find out precisely what is going on within their church movements—if they are not already informed and aware.

On Sunday a religious procession and rally will be held in Brisbane for true Christians to declare themselves on such things as civil liberties, the way of life which we want preserved, the Christian ideals and the Government that we want preserved, and related issues. I am advised that the Premier, the Honourable J. Bjelke-Petersen, and Senator Neville Bonner will be among the chief speakers. I wonder how many of those people who attended the recent trumped-up civil liberties rally in King George Square will attend on this occasion.

In a letter I received last night from the Rev. Raymond Bush, he qualified his statement that Christ was a Communist, and clarified it, by saying, “Christianity and Communism are incompatible.” How can he reconcile the two statements? I challenge the Rev. Raymond Bush and the Action for World Development movement, of which he is the State secretary, to publicly dissociate themselves from their Big Brother, the World Council of Churches, which is very significantly influenced, if not controlled, by Communist interests. There is ample documentary evidence to prove that fact. I am concerned. This is a matter of public interest. I can understand people that I can look at and see—I can even understand Communism—but I have no time for anyone who wants two bob each way, anybody who labels himself as a Christian and then jumps into bed with a Communist.

FRASER ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY REPORT

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (12.14 p.m.): This morning I wish to speak about the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry Report which has come out this week. We have to keep the report and its recommendations in proper perspective. We have to realise just what it is. It is a report to the Federal Government with certain recommendations. Some of the headlines I have read would seem to indicate that the decision has been made, and that that's it—sand-mining has had

it! We also have to bear in mind the background to that commission—the fact that it was appointed by the Whitlam Government with a job to do. It was nothing more or less than a sop to the conservationists. I am sure that will be borne in mind by the present Federal Liberal-National Country Party Government. The commissioners' opinions stuck out a mile. I say that on good advice. I attended the commission on two or three days and gave evidence at least twice. It was quite obvious from the comments and questions by the commissioners just what the report was going to recommend. The report itself is no surprise to anybody who had anything to do with the inquiry, either listening to it or giving evidence before it. There is no balance in it; it is just a hard-line conservation approach. It is conservation at any cost; to hell with employment, to hell with people.

It is up to the Federal Government to determine its policy on sand-mining and export licences without obligation to the report. I believe that the leader in this morning's "Courier-Mail" leads the way in a very balanced and responsible fashion. The concluding paragraph in it reads—

"The correct procedure for the Fraser Government is first to study the new report, to check it against the Barton report, and then to have discussions with the Queensland Government."

That is just what the Federal Government should be doing.

On this sometimes vexed and certainly very emotional question of the environment and the ecology there are two extremes: on the one hand, employment at any cost; on the other, conservation at any cost. Somewhere in the middle lies the ground that any responsible representative of the people and any responsible Government should take. One should be balanced against the other; there should be employment with as little damage as possible to the environment.

Unfortunately, many well-meaning people throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria are being misled by people not so well-meaning. Very few people in my electorate are being misled, because they know Fraser Island very well. I shall illustrate how some persons are being misled by others not so well-meaning.

Mr. Hartwig: A minority.

Mr. ALISON: A very rabid minority.

In yesterday's issue of "The Australian" there appeared an article by a so-called journalist named Hugh Lunn. I do not intend to waste very much time on him. Apparently he stripped to his Y-fronts, whatever they are, to help stop mining on Fraser Island. From time to time I have read this gentleman's articles in "The Australian"—mostly with disgust. I was under the impression that any journalist, whether on radio

or TV or in other media, had a responsibility to do his best to give the facts and a balanced approach. I thought he had a duty, when there are two sides to any matter, to give both sides.

I quote from yesterday's article as follows—

"I did my bit when I stripped to my Y-fronts in front of the two commissioners and plunged into the island's ice-cold Eli Creek."

I will not read any more of the article. I merely make the comment that throughout this wretched little piece of journalism Hugh Lunn refers to creeks that lead like white paths through the rainforests, to sandy beds and to other beauty spots. He is implying that all of these areas are to be mined.

He makes the comment—

"It was then I knew what the commissioners would decide. There was no other decision any human with feelings, could make."

He implied that the rainforest would be mined and that was it.

I would suggest to Mr. Lunn that he hang up his Y-fronts and his pencil. He's not worth two bob. If there were in Queensland a Press council, he should be dragged before it and called to account for this terribly unbalanced piece of reporting.

I shall give a few basic facts concerning Fraser Island that seem to go unnoticed. The island is 90 miles long; I know you would be aware of that, Mr. Speaker, but that is not known generally down South; it is 14 miles wide at its widest point and it comprises an area of 160 000 ha. It's not some fiddling little island of about 100 ha that is about to have the plug pulled out. Thanks to the wise management of this State Government, over 20 per cent of Fraser Island is already a national park.

The mining leases do not cover the whole of the island. In fact the leases and applications for leases cover only 10 per cent of the island, and that does not mean that that 10 per cent will be mined; minerals are found in only 1 per cent of the total area, or in one-tenth of the mineral leases. It is proposed that this 1 per cent of the area of the island will be mined over 15 to 20 years. I wish to goodness these basic facts could be conveyed to people down South so that they would not be shouting off their mouth on something about which they know very little.

The sand miners will not be going through the national parks, the beauty spots, the rain forests or other areas that are not designated as mining areas; nor will sand-mining be carried out within one-third of a mile of any of the lakes on Fraser Island.

As far as conservation is concerned, forestry is next. There is no doubt about it, the conservationists are very quiet here; they are very shrewd; they are very smart; they take their points one at a time.

I understand that one of the recommendations in the report, which was released earlier this week, is that the whole of Fraser Island be recorded as part of the national estate as soon as possible. That means that no activities could be carried on without the express prior approval of the relevant Federal Government department. Forestry would be encompassed in that. I know that this is a grey area and that the State Government hotly disputes the Federal Government's right to record any part of the State within the national estate. I sincerely hope we are right. Of course, the matter could finish up in the High Court.

Timber has been taken from Fraser Island for 90 years. It is treated as a crop. From what I am told by people in the Forestry Department and others who live in my area, the forests have not looked better in their lifetimes. Last year Alderman Bill Zemek, chairman of our Fraser Island and Maryborough Citizens' Action Group, and I journeyed to Canberra. We met Mr. Mal Fraser, who was at that time Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Doug Anthony, who was Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We were given certain assurances at that meeting by those two gentlemen. I am sure they will honour those assurances. They said that when the report was published they would take a balanced viewpoint—and that is what we ask now.

Two or three months ago the Federal Minister for Environment (Mr. Kev Newman) visited Maryborough and met representatives from bodies throughout the area. Again we received the assurance that he would be taking a balanced viewpoint when the report was published. I am quite confident that all those gentlemen and the Federal Government in general will honour the assurances we have been given and live up to their responsibilities, and not pander to the small, vocal, radical, rat-bag group speaking for possibly 1 per cent of the population and possibly another five per cent who are being led by the nose and who clearly have not got their facts straight. We ask that they act for the great bulk of the people.

The timing of the report is pretty sinister. It is rather interesting to me that the Fraser Island report seems to have been delayed somewhere along the line. On my information, it should have been released two or three months ago. Instead, it has been released in the very week that we are told the Ranger inquiry report will be released. I rather think somebody is trying to place the Federal Government in a position where it might be tempted to throw Fraser Island to the wolves—to the conservationists—and to stand firm on uranium mining. After all, uranium mining, as I understand it, is far more important as a national matter than Fraser Island is. I suspect that somebody somewhere has conjured this up, achieved this timing by delaying the printing of the

report in some way or other—a delay that could result in Fraser Island being thrown to the wolves as a sacrificial lamb and as a sop to the conservationists.

I am very confident, as I said before, that the Federal Government realises that very few people know what they are talking about. We hear all these screams and the stupid rot that sometimes comes from the South—and also from our own State—and about the petitions and campaigns. Those people just do not know what they are talking about. I am confident that the Federal Government will take a balanced viewpoint and will not be unduly swayed by this hangover from the Whitlam era—this report compiled by academics without any community responsibility whatsoever.

(Time expired.)

DEFENCE OF CHURCH LEADERS AND ACTION FOR WORLD DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (12.24 p.m.): The matter of importance that I wish to discuss this morning is one that concerns me greatly—and it concerns many people outside this House as well. I refer to the scurrilous and vicious attack on a group of reputable citizens last week by the honourable member for Toowong, initiated of course by the honourable member for Everton. The citizens who were attacked can be numbered among the most highly respected Christian men and women in Queensland. I include also the members of Action for World Development, and I say that without any hesitation whatsoever.

Let me say at the outset that the Opposition dissociates itself completely from that scurrilous attack on those people and the Queensland Council of Churches. Incidentally, the honourable member for Toowong is a member of the Privileges Committee of this House. I think that in the very near future we may have to consider his occupancy of such a high position on that important committee. Perhaps we should do something about it.

This morning I received in the post a letter from a number of Christian men and women in Queensland protesting very strongly against what happened in this Chamber. To save the time of the House, I ask leave to table this letter and have it recorded in "Hansard".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! Is the House prepared to have the letter printed in "Hansard"?

Mr. Goleby: It's unsigned.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am sorry; the House is not prepared to accept the letter. The honourable member will have to read it if he wishes it to be included in "Hansard".

Mr. DEAN: Then I shall quote from the letter, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It reads—

"In State Parliament on Thursday, 14th October, Mr. Lindsay (the Liberal Member for Everton) asked the Premier a question based on a letter sent to all members of Parliament which advised them of the purpose of a Prayer Vigil of Concern which was sponsored by a wide-ranging group of Christians and held in Roma Street Forum.

"Mr. Lindsay alleged that the Vigil was associated with 'moves by atheistic Communists to infiltrate and obtain support from unsuspecting Christians.'"

Incidentally, I am sorry the Premier is not here today.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated from either side of the House.

Mr. DEAN: The letter continues—

"The Premier welcomed the question. He went on to say, 'One of these days, if necessary, I will give a rundown of the characters—the subversive elements in the community—who are trying to deceive and mislead honest people.'

"It appears that Mr. Charles Porter (the Liberal member for Toowong) has attempted to fulfil the Premier's promise."

There was certainly no doubt about that. The letter goes on—

"On Wednesday, 20th October, in State Parliament, Mr. Porter attacked the ecumenical social justice movement, Action for World Development. A.W.D. is sponsored by the Australian Council of Churches and the Catholic Conference of Bishops."

Are they all Communists? Government members are very quiet now. Probably they are thinking about the ballot-box. It is a pity that their silence cannot be recorded in "Hansard". I hope "Hansard" records what I am saying about the silence in the Chamber at present.

The letter continues—

"Drawing on the most doubtful sources, Mr. Porter's slanderous attack is a litany of misrepresentations and distortions of the truth. We mention only some of the incorrect statements he made—

"1. The core of Mr. Porter's thesis was: 'A.W.D. . . . is in fact acting as a communist front . . .'

"Under challenge Mr. Porter refuses to make this statement outside the privilege of Parliament."

Of course he refuses to make it outside Parliament. The letter goes on—

"2. Mr. Porter named several clergymen, 'a couple named Callinan' and then refers to one Joy Madigan as a person falsely designating herself as a Catholic nun. The facts are that there

is no connection between A.W.D. and 'the Callinan couple' and that Sister Joy Madigan . . . is very much a sister in good standing with her order. She has worked with A.W.D. with her Order's blessing and that of her Church for the past five years."

Is she a Communist? Again Government members are very silent. The letter continues—

"3. Mr. Porter claimed A.W.D. espouses 'the total Communist aim of leaving Australia defenceless.' The fact is that on March 10th, 1976, Dr. Noel Preston, writing on behalf of A.W.D. to Mr. Killen, the Defence Minister, affirmed the need for adequate defence forces in Australia."

Is that a Communist attitude? The letter continues—

"4. Mr. Porter alleges Communist connections with A.W.D. because of a statement in the 16th July, 1974 edition of 'Tribune' and because of alleged associations with a national peace liaison committee in 1974. These are false charges and were repudiated in a letter to the magazine, 'Newsweekly', by the then National Secretary of A.W.D., Mr. Vaughan Hinton."

This letter is very informative. No wonder Government members did not want it incorporated in "Hansard". Is Dr. Noel Preston a Communist?

Mr. Hartwig: Yes.

Mr. DEAN: The honourable member for Callide names Dr. Preston as a Communist.

Mr. HARTWIG: I rise to a point of order. I should like to make the point—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! What is the point of order?

Mr. HARTWIG: The honourable member for Sandgate asked, "Is he a Communist?" I said, "Yes." I did not say that Dr. Preston was a Communist.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. I ask the honourable member for Sandgate to accept the denial of the honourable member for Callide.

Mr. DEAN: I accept it.

This letter is signed by 46 reputable citizens of Queensland.

Mr. GIBBS: I rise to a point of order. There is not a signature on that letter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! That is not a point of order.

Mr. DEAN: I said that there are 46 names on the letter. As time does not permit me to read the whole of the letter I shall refer again to my own notes. Like a lot of other people outside this Chamber

I am very alarmed at the continued attacks on the churches in recent months by the extreme Right-wing element in society. The churches work very hard, and I would challenge anyone in this House to prove that they do not work hard to combat the present-day evils in our society—alcohol, drugs and a good many other things that are dragging down the youth of this country. They also fight for the rights of the individual. Do honourable members opposite say that the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane and the Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane are both Communists?

Mr. Hartwig interjected.

Mr. DEAN: Are they both Communists?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Callide will cease interjecting.

Mr. DEAN: According to the honourable member for Callide, both the Archbishops of Brisbane are Communists.

Mr. Hartwig interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I draw the attention of the honourable member for Callide to Standing Order 123A. I will not tolerate persistent interjections.

Mr. DEAN: I also feel that the Right-wing elements in society might be aided and abetted by certain members of this Parliament, and I sincerely hope that we do something to find out which members are encouraging this Right-wing element in society which is attacking present-day church development and activity. It is about time that we as legislators took some action to deal with such members because they know very well that the Right-wing influences in the community are nothing more than Fascist organisations, and I can assure you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that as Australians we do not want to be subjected to a Fascist way of life.

According to today's "Courier-Mail", at the Malcolm Mugeridge meeting at the Festival Hall last night was read a message from the Premier (who is in Hobart), supporting, and fully supporting, what the honourable member for Toowong has said. I sincerely hope that when the Premier comes back to Queensland he makes a statement clarifying his position, because I have had many phone calls from people in all parts of Brisbane who are alarmed and really concerned about the Premier's support for the extreme Right-wing expressions of opinion by the honourable members for Toowong and Everton. As I said, I sincerely hope that when he comes back to Brisbane he will give some explanation of his attitude to this very serious matter.

I am not the only one who is concerned, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I can assure you that, although the honourable member for Toowong said it in this Chamber, he will not

say it outside, because these people in the community who have been attacked are not the type who will stand still and take it. They will resent very strongly that their letter has been ignored here this morning and that leave was not given for it to be printed in "Hansard" in its entirety, because in my contribution this morning I might have taken some parts out of context. This would not have happened if the letter had been printed as it was written, but because some sharpshooter—

(Time expired.)

1976 STATE BUDGET

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (12.34 p.m.): In rising to speak in the debate on matters of public interest I would like to take the opportunity to discuss certain aspects of the recent State Budget brought down by the Treasurer (Hon. Bill Knox). Unfortunately, I was not able to speak in the Budget debate as I was in Longreach attending an I.C.P.A. conference.

It is my belief that the Budget brought down by the Treasurer is a balanced, stable one. It contains many beneficial features that will have far-reaching effects in this State. From my point of view, we have many problems in western areas related mainly to the depression in the wool and beef industries and this, I believe, has resulted in the shift of population from the western areas to the eastern seaboard belt. We also face the same unemployment problems as the rest of the Commonwealth.

The Federal Government has recently introduced a scheme under which a person who employs in a trade school-leavers who have been unemployed for six months is eligible for a subsidy. I think that in an area such as mine rather than pay unemployment benefits, a scheme should be introduced to subsidise any industry that is prepared to employ a school-leaver who is willing to enter a trade, not after he has been unemployed for six months, and receiving unemployment benefits, but immediately he leaves school.

The plight of people in western areas is unknown to very many Queenslanders and I certainly do not think it is fully appreciated by many people living in the eastern areas of the State. As a matter of urgency the Federal Government should reintroduce the fuel equalisation scheme and upgrade taxation zone allowances in western areas. This would assist everyone, not only sectional interests.

In the short time remaining, I should like to discuss briefly some of the matters mentioned in the Treasurer's Financial Statement. In my opinion, the increase of 15 per cent in rail freights and fares, coming on top of the increase of 40 per cent last year, is a heavy imposition on people in western areas. I concede that the Treasurer has not increased rail freights on grain and cattle. Because

grain is not grown in my electorate, the concession on grain freights has no effect there, but the concession on cattle freights will be of assistance to cattle producers in Warrego. However, the over-all increase will adversely affect the people of my electorate, because the higher cost of carting goods will cause an increase in the cost of living. It should be borne in mind that these increases are largely the result of rises in wages and inflation, and I simply want to stress that, in my opinion, increases in freight rates will have a detrimental effect on western areas.

Road permit fees have been reduced by 50 per cent, which is very welcome. That reduction implements a promise given before the last State election, as does the abolition of probate and succession duties and gift duty. Their abolition will take effect from 1 January 1977 and follows last year's removal of probate and succession duties on estates passing from spouse to spouse. I notice that other States are now following Queensland's lead. The Commonwealth Government and the Government of New South Wales have virtually been forced by the Government of Queensland to take action. Many people are prepared to knock the Government of this State, but I think they ought to be prepared to concede that Queensland has given the lead in this field by bringing in legislation that will benefit a tremendous number of people.

The view expressed by some Opposition members that the abolition of these duties will assist only the rich graziers, the cattle and sheep barons, and so on, is a figment of their imagination. The abolition of probate and succession duties and gift duty will assist the ordinary man as much as anyone—people such as school-teachers and policemen who have retired on fairly substantial superannuation and have accumulated a sum of money over their period of employment. Probate and succession duties were an iniquitous tax and should have been removed many years ago. I compliment the Treasurer for abolishing them from 1 January next year.

Pay-roll tax and land tax have both been decreased, and there has been a reduction of 10 per cent in workers' compensation premiums. This will assist small businesses, graziers and others in the community, and I welcome the announcement by the Treasurer.

Unfortunately, expenditure on housing will be down this year, principally because of the lack of Federal funds. As to teacher accommodation in my electorate—and I direct my comments now to the Minister for Works and Housing—I am thankful that new twin-unit dwellings are being built at Cunnamulla by the Department of Works for the Department of Education.

I have received a Press release issued by the Minister for Works and Housing in which it is stated that there is to be an expenditure of \$1,400,000 on education buildings throughout Queensland and that, of that sum, about \$400,000 will be allocated to dwelling-units

for teachers. I impress upon the Minister for Works and Housing the imperative need for the construction of teacher units in western areas as an incentive to teachers to stay there.

While talking about the lack of accommodation for teachers I believe it is my duty to express my concern at the lack of Public Service accommodation in western areas. This is one area the Government could well look into. I direct those comments to the Minister for Works and Housing.

I am disappointed that Main Roads expenditure is up by only 2 per cent. In real terms this must mean a reduction, but again this is in line with other Federal Government cut-backs. Road expenditure in the Warrego electorate over the last three years has risen from \$1,979,000 in 1973-74 to \$2,916,000 in 1974-75 and to \$4,272,000 in 1975-76. I would hope that this improvement will continue until roads such as the Cunnamulla-Wyandra road, the Charleville-Quilpie road and many others are completed.

Education expenditure is up by 20.5 per cent, or \$67,600,000, to \$396,700,000. That will be welcomed by most people throughout the State because the education of our children is of the utmost concern in this day and age. I am thankful to the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities for the construction of pre-school centres in Mitchell, Cunnamulla, Tambo, Blackall and Barcardine. I convey my thanks to the Minister for Works and Housing also, because the funds do come through from his department. Libraries, home-economics blocks, etc., have been constructed at many of these schools.

Bus operators will be receiving more under this Budget. The conveyance allowance has been raised and other across-the-board increases have been given. Student-teacher allowances, too, will be increased.

Another announcement by the Government is that schools with 150 students in grades 8, 9 and 10 will be eligible for the construction of a Senior high-top. That new policy will be welcomed in most areas.

Cultural grants are up again. They, too, are very welcome and will be appreciated by the different groups. There are many groups in my area, such as arts and crafts, pottery, ballet, theatre and choral groups, who will be very grateful.

The sporting grants are up by \$2,000,000 from \$2,400,000 to \$4,400,000. It has been said at various times that only the rich clubs are helped. The Government is helping bowls, golf, cricket, tennis, football, gun clubs, rifle clubs, pony clubs, polocrosse and many other organisations throughout my area.

I should like to mention the proposed legislation to equalise electricity tariffs. On 19 October I was amazed to see five A.L.P. members, including the Leader of the Opposition, presenting petitions praying that the

Parliament of Queensland will reject the legislation for reorganisation of the electricity supply industry.

(Time expired.)

WAGES AND PRICES FREEZE

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (12.44 p.m.): The matter of public importance on which I wish to speak is one of national concern, namely, the state of this country's economy. Therefore I call on the Government to initiate a 12-month wages and prices freeze. Politicians, primary producers and even manufacturers are calling for devaluation, yet the Federal Government has been propping up the value of the dollar by overseas borrowings to the extent of nearly \$1,000 million in the past 15 months.

Manufacturers in Australia and overseas investors will not move because of Government indecision. They are given no incentive; all they hear is talk of containing inflation. Overseas capital is being withdrawn from Australia because of speculation about devaluation, and Australia continues to borrow overseas to maintain our reserves and the value of the dollar. On 21 October the "Telegraph" referred to the latest \$200,000,000 loan to stop devaluation. The Government must face up to the facts and freeze wages and prices for 12 months to stabilise the country and give the economy time to improve.

As the unions will not be satisfied with anything less than full indexation, plateau wage indexation will fail. Inflation will continue and unemployment will rise.

Gough Whitlam has called for a further referendum on wages and prices. With support from the Federal and State Governments, such a referendum would be carried. On the day of the referendum Mr. Hawke might wear his union cap in an attempt to defeat Mr. Whitlam, as he did when Whitlam was in power. Mr. Whitlam's Treasurers and Ministers for Labor allowed the economy to run wild. Mr. Whitlam tried to stem the tide, but was obstructed by Hawke and Communist-led unions.

America, England and New Zealand have had to come to grips with wages and prices. In America, controls on prices and wages, in varying forms, were in force from August 1971 under what was called the Economic Stabilization Program. On 11 January 1973 the President said—

"I believe the system of controls which has been in effect since 1971 has helped considerably in improving the health of our economy. I am today submitting to the Congress legislation which would extend for another year—until April 30 of 1974—the basic legislation on which that system is based, the Economic Stabilization Act."

That legislation did not impose a complete freeze. It was lifted in 1974.

On 15 January 1975, President Ford, in his State of the Union Address to Congress, said—

"I must say to you that the state of the union is not good. Millions of Americans are out of work. Recession and inflation are eroding the money of millions more. Prices are too high and sales are too slow."

He did not, however, reintroduce a prices and incomes policy. Carter and Ford are fighting the American elections today on that issue.

In the United Kingdom, 1961 and 1962 saw a pay pause. In 1966 a further major attempt to enforce a wages and prices freeze was attempted. It failed. On 20 July 1966, the Prime Minister drew attention to the fact that money incomes had been increasing at a rate far faster than could be justified by increased productivity and called for a standstill on prices and incomes. That is still happening in Australia today.

The Prime Minister said—

"Britain needs a breathing space of 12 months in which productivity can catch up with the excessive increases in incomes which have been taking place."

A similar situation prevails in Australia today. England was not game to face up to the facts; but we must do so.

Successive British Governments continued their prices and incomes policy into the 1970s in an attempt to combat inflation. On 1 July this year Mr. Healey told the House of Commons that the reduction of inflation was a prerequisite for a reduction in unemployment, and announced that limits would be placed on increases in wages, salaries and dividends and that price increases would be checked.

The British Government has only now begun to wake up and take on the unions. England is broke. In today's paper we read of a mini-Budget to save the quid. The report says that Cabinet met amid speculation that Mr. Healey would announce further cuts in public spending and higher indirect taxation. It says that such measures would be opposed furiously by the unions and that 70 moderate Government members from the Manifesto group had declared their support for any emergency measures needed to overcome the economic crisis. The report adds that until now the Government has been reluctant to risk a clash with the Left Wing and to take tough measures to deal with the economy. The same can be said of Australia. In England it is forecast that a harsh crisis Budget will be brought down within weeks.

The warning to Australia is loud and clear; but we fail to take notice of it.

In New Zealand, the Government has been operating on a prices and incomes policy since 1970. In November of that year

it instituted a two-month price freeze. Limits were placed on salary and wage increases for the period to 30 June 1974, while restraints were imposed on the most comprehensive range of prices and charges. Then in August of this year the New Zealand Government announced new measures to prevent militant trade unions from trying to thwart the current wage freeze. The moderate trade union leadership has argued that trade unions should not be expected to accept the year-long wage freeze imposed in May while prices are rising steadily. The Government has now imposed a total freeze on prices and rents, which will remain in force until the end of the year. The Prime Minister said that this freeze should be of further assistance in promoting more stable conditions within the economy.

That is true of those countries, and we are heading in the same direction. This Government is trying to boost the value of our dollar by overseas borrowings. England appears to be broke—and it is nearly broke. There is no doubt from the statements in today's "Telegraph" that Australia must act now before it gets into a bigger mess. Because inflation is still with us and unions are ready to go out for more money, there is no confidence in business circles. We have already priced ourselves out of overseas markets, and our home industries will have to be further protected by increased tariffs. Industry cannot afford further wage increases. We must contain the economy by a wages and prices freeze now or devalue. The Federal Government says that devaluation could increase inflation and therefore we must have a wages and prices freeze to contain the economy and give confidence to industry and overseas investors.

When I asked the Premier last week if he would support a wages and prices freeze, he said it was better to freeze income taxation and sales tax. That is O.K., too; but to do that we want a 12-month period. During a 12-month period of stability a taxation freeze could be considered as a means to continue to hold the economy when the freeze on wages and prices is lifted. We can't just go ahead and lower income tax and sales tax without first taking a good look at all the ramifications. It should not be done without a full investigation. Today we need a period of stability—a 12-month period—like New Zealand and other countries. America has gone into it, too.

If we allow the present position to continue, we will go the same way as America. America would have brought in an Act to freeze wages and prices. However, it contained inflation. The rate came down to about six per cent. New Zealand did not take sufficiently strong action. Inflation there continued. This year it has put a complete freeze on wages and prices. England did not act strongly enough against the unions. However, the present Prime Minister there is going to act. He has stood the unions up.

Mr. Gibbs: He won't be there for long.

Mr. JENSEN: He probably won't be, I know. He has already said that if inflation is not contained very shortly, there will probably be a dictatorship in England either from the Left or from the Right. There is no doubt about that. We are looking for the same trouble here. The Left is looking for a dictatorship. The minorities are squealing. They don't care. We can see what the position is from the amount of money going into savings banks and building societies. It is no good saying that we are all broke. A certain number of people are unemployed, but the unions are not concerned about them while higher wages are being sought and awarded.

(Time expired.)

EVANS ROAD RESERVE

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (12.54 p.m.): The matter of public interest I wish to discuss today is one of extreme importance to the people of Salisbury. It tells the saga of a web of woeful lies on the part of the Brisbane City Council about an area of land of approximately five hectares called the Evans Road Reserve. The saga is a long one, spanning two and a half to three months. I will briefly go over the facts so that honourable members will be aware of the full story.

One Saturday morning I received a phone call informing me that trees had been knocked down in the park. I went to the park. Although it was 7 o'clock in the morning, an engineer from the Brisbane City Council was there. He said that nothing could be done to stop the bulldozer from knocking down the trees; that a decision had been made to lease the ground to a soccer club.

The next week, the local alderman circulated a copy of the lease in a letter-box drop. The people in the area were extremely concerned that the decision, as far as the council was concerned, had obviously been made. Phone calls and a deputation to the Minister for Local Government followed and it was discovered that in fact a lease for the park had not been signed at all and that the story of a lease had been cooked up. The fact was that a lease could not be signed without the permission of the Minister for Lands.

For subsequent Press releases, the council made sure that it organised a few people on the outskirts of the park who said that they wanted a club-house, despite the fact that we had an almost 100 per cent response to a petition. I name the Brisbane City Council as employing tactics of intimidation, particularly in relation to this park.

A bulldozer arrived at the park on Sunday morning and proceeded to plough a furrow approximately 50 m long, 15 m wide

and 1 m deep, and it ploughed it in the best flat, grassed land in the middle of the reserve. This was a desperate act of sabotage by the council to turn over the good land and in fact to bring to the top the fill of the rubbish dump that had been there years ago.

When the bulldozer driver was challenged—I did this personally—he said that he had been instructed not to speak to anyone. When a group of us asked him to come down from the bulldozer and speak to us, he said, “I can’t talk to you” and rushed away saying, “I have to make a phone call.” When he returned, he did not climb into the bulldozer but entered his own private vehicle and drove home. The bulldozer was left in the middle of the park on top of the furrow that it had just ploughed. I have colour slides showing the Brisbane City Council serial number on the side of the bulldozer as it stood in the middle of the ditch. The following day inquiries were made of the council as to who had authorised the use of the bulldozer. The council quite flatly denied that it was a council bulldozer.

Despite pleas from the residents of Salisbury, the council has refused to spend a cent on this land which is the Evans Road reserve, even though the Lands Minister has privately stated to the people of the Salisbury Open Parkland Society that he favours the development of this land as a general recreation area for Salisbury and also despite the fact that about 2 km away there is the Mt. Gravatt sports complex, on which the council has spent untold millions. It is a load of drivel for the local alderman to say that the council does not have money to spend on parkland.

In fact, I accuse the Brisbane City Council of fabricating a patch-work of lies and deceit about this piece of land. In the revised town plan the council has zoned the Evans Road reserve for sport and recreation. This zoning now means that the council can lease the land to a club and that club can erect high fences to keep out the public, and build a grandstand, club-house and associated buildings. That will introduce the noise factor and, of course, it will also allow the grass of the park to be ruined and used as a parking area. I believe that the park should be zoned as “open space”.

In the latest sport and recreation zoning the Brisbane City Council is deceiving the public of Brisbane because now the council will not have to advertise publicly that re-development has been proposed for the land. The zoning for sport and recreation allows the council to go ahead and lease the land, and it allows the soccer club to build anything that it wishes on the land. I object to this zoning and I hope that the people of Brisbane will be concerned enough to go along to see the town plan and lodge objections—and do it quickly.

The House adjourned at 12.59 p.m.