

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 1976

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following Bills reported by Mr. Speaker:—

- Police (Photographs) Act Amendment Bill;
- Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Bill;
- Fish Supply Management Act Amendment Bill;
- Railways Act Amendment Bill;
- Fire Safety Act Amendment Bill;
- Industrial Development Act Amendment Bill;
- Currumbin Bird Sanctuary Bill;
- National Trust of Queensland Act Amendment Bill.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah-Premier) (11.4 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that in connection with the overseas visit of the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, His Excellency the Governor has, by virtue of the provisions of the Officials in Parliament Act 1896-1975, authorised and empowered the Honourable William Edward Knox, M.L.A., Deputy Premier and Treasurer, to perform and exercise all or any of the duties, powers and authorities imposed or conferred upon the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General by any Act, rule, practice or ordinance, on and from 1 November 1976 and until the return to Queensland of the Honourable William Daniel Lickiss, M.L.A.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette of 30 October 1976 notifying this arrangement.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the Queensland Government Gazette upon the table.

MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 26 August last, on the motion of Mr. McKechnie, of expenses of Ministers for the period 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail.

FEES PAID BY CROWN TO PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 26 August last, on the motion of Mr. Yewdale, showing all payments made by the Government to public relation agencies or consultants and advertising agencies or consultants during the 1975-76 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received, respectively.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

- Co-ordinator-General, Queensland, for the year 1975-76.
- Metropolitan Transit Project Board, for the year 1975-76.
- Public Service Board, for the year 1975-76.
- Beach Protection Authority, for the year 1975-76.
- Director-General of Tourist Services, for the year 1975-76.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967-1969 and the State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971-1974.

Orders in Council under—

- State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971-1974.
 - Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968.
 - The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.
 - The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1964.
 - Factories and Shops Act 1960-1975.
 - Harbours Act 1955-1976.
 - River Improvement Trust Act 1940-1971.
 - Irrigation Act 1922-1973.
 - Water Act 1926-1975.
- Regulations under—
- Children's Services Act 1965-1974.
 - Irrigation Act 1922-1973.
- Statutes under the University of Queensland Act 1965-1973.

PETITIONS

ENCOURAGEMENT OF CYCLING AS A MEANS OF
TRANSPORT

Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) presented a petition from 367 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will recognise the major contribution that bicycles can make to traffic, pollution, heart disease and general fitness problems faced in our society and take action to have facilities provided which will encourage their greater use.

Petition read and received.

REASSESSMENT OF LAND VALUATIONS

Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) presented a petition from 158 electors and/or ratepayers of the Redland Shire praying that the Parliament of Queensland will see fit to have valuations reassessed to bring them into line with present-day real-estate values.

Petition read and received.

PRIVILEGE

COMPULSORY LEVIES ON SALARIES OF CERTAIN
PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (11.10 a.m.): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. All members of the House know that I will be refused endorsement. My nomination will be refused because I will not pay a 3½ per cent compulsory levy on my parliamentary salary. Under rule 102C, my nomination will not be accepted by the A.L.P.

Over the past year I have written to the secretary of the Q.C.E. on this matter. In chronological order, I will briefly disclose to the House what has occurred. On 20 January 1976 Bart Lourigan, the general secretary, wrote to inform me that the levy fund account showed me to be in arrears to 31 December 1975 by 12 months. On 5 February I replied, advising him that I was well aware of the position and intended to ignore it. On 16 February Mr. Lourigan acknowledged my letter and said it would be referred to the executive committee.

On 17 March he wrote to advise that the executive committee had discussed my intention to ignore payment of the parliamentary levy and, further, that the Q.C.E. interpreted the convention discussion as being that payment of the compulsory levy was a condition of endorsement. He said that if it was not paid the executive would uphold the convention discussion and declare me an unfinancial member of the party and inform my branch accordingly. On 22 March I informed Mr. Lourigan that I could not see how I could be declared an unfinancial member of the party; although perhaps I could be

declared an unfinancial member of the levy fund. I mentioned that a few members at the 1974 convention stated that they would never pay a compulsory levy. I was one of them, and I stand by that decision. On 24 March Mr. Lourigan acknowledged my letter and advised that it would go before the next meeting of the executive committee.

On 7 April Mr. Lourigan advised me that the executive committee had discussed my letter and stood by its decision outlined in the letter of 17 March. On 24 May Mr. Lourigan wrote referring to my previous correspondence and my statement to "The Courier-Mail" on not paying the 3½ per cent levy and advised that on 21 May the Q.C.E. had not accepted my nomination and unanimously carried a resolution that nominations for the electoral district of Bundaberg be recalled. He mentioned that the executive was prepared to discuss the situation at a suitable date. That letter was received after I returned from a parliamentary overseas trip and on 8 July 1976 I wrote to advise that I would be in Brisbane on 19 and 20 July and would be willing to discuss the matter with the executive. I stated that such a discussion would be abortive if the matter of paying the compulsory levy was forced, as I considered the levy illegal and had no intention of paying it. I met the executive on 19 July, but the discussion got nowhere. I stated my case clearly and the executive stood by the rules.

Nominations were recalled for Bundaberg, to close on 15 October. I submitted a new nomination, but it will not go before the Q.C.E. until 6 December 1976. However, I have been given to understand that it will be rejected under rule 102C on the non-payment of the parliamentary levy. Therefore, I request that the Privileges Committee determine whether a compulsory levy on a parliamentarian's salary is legal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I appreciate the problem that confronts the honourable member for Bundaberg. However, the situation as I see it is that, if one is a member of a club, an organisation or an institution and the board of directors deems it to be the responsibility of individual members to subscribe in any way whatsoever, that is entirely the responsibility of the organisation concerned. I would point out to the honourable member, too, that other political organisations do not impose levies on their members, and he might give consideration to making moves in that direction.

Although I feel that this matter is entirely within the province of the organisation he is associated with, nevertheless, as Parliament has created a Privileges Committee, I would be quite happy to accept a motion from the House that this matter be referred to the Privileges Committee for consideration and recommendation to Parliament.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

REFERRAL OF COMPULSORY LEVIES ON SALARIES OF CERTAIN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that tomorrow I will move—

“That the matter raised on 9 November by Mr. Jensen, the honourable member for the electoral district of Bundaberg, with respect to compulsory levies on salaries of certain honourable members be referred to the Select Committee of Privileges for consideration and report.”

Not fewer than three members having risen in their places in support of the motion—

Mr. SPEAKER: The notice will be placed on the Business Paper for tomorrow.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. EFFECT OF INCREASED RAIL FREIGHTS ON SMALL FARMERS

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

As there is considerable apprehension concerning the viability of small-crop, vegetable and fruit farms in the North since the recent increase in rail freight rates, will he consider varying the charges if these farms prove not viable because of the recent increase in charges?

Answer:—

If evidence is forthcoming to show that these farmers will be forced out of business owing to increases in rail freight charges, the matter certainly will receive further consideration.

2. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE AT MARYBOROUGH CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) What is the name of the contractor who has the contract to construct the pre-school centre at the Maryborough Central State School?

(2) What were the original commencement and finishing dates of this contract and what has been the cause of the serious delay?

(3) Is the original contractor going to finish this contract and what is the current estimated date of completion?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) The tender of Mansion Homes Pty. Ltd. was accepted on 22 January 1976, the completion date being 22 July

last. The contract has since been taken over by the Department of Works because of the contractor's failure to proceed satisfactorily with the work.

(3) It is anticipated that fresh tenders will be invited on 20 November with a completion time of 26 weeks.

3. UNSOLVED MURDERS AND RAPES

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

(1) How many crimes of (a) murder and (b) rape committed since 1 January remain unsolved?

(2) How many such crimes over the last five years remain unsolved?

Answers:—

Statistics are not readily available beyond 30 June 1976 and information concerning the above matters has been provided terminating at that date. Records concerning rape and attempted rape are kept under one heading. It is not proposed to divide these offences as this would entail a considerable amount of research.

(1) (a) 31 offences, 3 of which remain unsolved; (b) 32 offences, 11 of which remain unsolved.

(2) Ten offences of murder remain unsolved, and 91 offences of rape remain unsolved.

4. SCHOOL GARDEN CONTESTS

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

With regard to curricula developments in schools, will he give consideration to the introduction of school garden contests based on the size and location of schools, with a view to further encouraging and developing the individual student's pride in his or her own school's environment and quality of life?

Answer:—

Every encouragement is given to schools and pupils to beautify their surroundings and to have pride in them. The employment of full-time janitor/groundsmen in larger schools has greatly enhanced the appearance, cleanliness and utility of schoolgrounds.

It is not, however, considered that contests such as the honourable member suggests would in the long run positively contribute to improving pupils' conceptions of what constitutes good environment and quality of life.

5. NOGOA RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

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

(1) What is the estimated cost, at today's prices, of completing the construction of a system of supply channels, drains and roads to an irrigation area along the right bank of the Nogoia River?

(2) How many farms will be served by the scheme?

(3) From what sources will funds be derived for the construction work?

(4) When will the work be completed?

Answers:—

(1) \$5,000,000.

(2) The right-bank development will serve the equivalent of 27 to 30 farms with a gross irrigable area of about 15 000 acres.

(3) State loan funds.

(4) Completion will depend upon future availability of loan funds but will not be before the 1981-82 financial year.

6. VACANT HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES IN WOODRIDGE AND KINGSTON

Mrs. Kyburz, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

How many Housing Commission houses in Woodridge and Kingston are at present unoccupied, and what is the average period during which houses remain vacant?

Answer:—

The vacancy figure varies from day to day and is not kept in detail. Extraction would involve considerable effort and cost and is of little operative use.

An average vacancy period is also misleading. Maintenance has to be done between lettings, which can take from a few days to several weeks. Prospective tenants then have to be given reasonable time to inspect and accept or reject. With some rejections, second and third clients must also be given reasonable time.

All houses are placed under offer immediately they are cleared by maintenance. The recent plumbers' strike has delayed reletting because plumbing maintenance was not possible. In some cases tenants were allowed in before proper plumbing maintenance, but it was not possible in all cases.

7. RATING OF APPLICANTS FOR HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL HOUSES

Mrs. Kyburz, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

How is the priority rating of applicants for Housing Commission rental houses determined?

Answer:—

A points rating system assesses housing need on the following basis:—

100 points—Families rendered homeless by disaster.

Families facing eviction on court order.

Families living in tents or huts.

80 points—Families living in condemned premises.

60 points—Families in same area but necessarily separated by lack of accommodation.

40 points—Families living under overcrowded (I emphasise "overcrowded") conditions.

Families sharing with other people which creates serious overcrowding.

Nil points—Families adequately housed.

Three points are added for each child.

8. SPEEDING OFFENCES

Mrs. Kyburz, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) Are police required to book a certain number of motorists daily for speeding?

(2) What is the revenue earned from this source?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) No specific statistics are maintained by the Police Department in relation to revenue derived from enforcement of the Traffic Act and Regulations, either generally or in relation to specific offences.

9. RESIDENTIAL B ZONING, BRISBANE TOWN PLAN

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

(1) Regarding the proposed City of Brisbane Town Plan 1976, is he aware that very substantial funds have been advanced by lending institutions to borrowers against security provided by mortgages based on present land values, especially in respect of zone B properties?

(2) As the town plan proposes radical revision affecting zone B property values, will he take these aspects into consideration when reviewing the town plan?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am aware of the matter raised by the honourable member and assure him that the relevant provisions

of the modified town plan and all objections thereto will receive full consideration when the plan is submitted by the council for the approval of the Governor in Council.

10. MORETON REGION GROWTH STRATEGY INVESTIGATION

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

(1) Why has his Government printed a disclaimer on all reports of the Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigation?

(2) Can any of the data or information contained in the reports be regarded as accurate and, if so, what parts are reliable?

(3) What was the total cost of the investigation?

(4) How much of the cost was borne by the State Government, the Commonwealth Government, local authorities and other bodies?

Answers:—

(1) Each of the reports of the Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigation contains the statement—

“The views expressed in this report are those of the Project Team modified by recommendations of the Steering Committee and they do not necessarily reflect those of the sponsoring agencies.”

This is a statement, not a disclaimer.

(2) The general objective of these investigations was to prepare a framework of broad principles and a general concept for land use and population distribution. To this end, the reports of the investigations contain much data and information that is accurate, reliable, soundly formulated and well-presented, so that they provide positive guide-lines of value to departments, local authorities and others interested in the future growth of this part of the State.

(3 and 4) The cost of the investigations to the State Government was \$196,756.28. The total cost is unknown, as I am not aware of how much the Commonwealth Government expended. Local authorities and other bodies did not contribute to the total cost at all. I would say that this study was a very good example of co-operative activity between the three levels of Government, with other bodies also assisting.

11. APPRENTICE JOCKEYS

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

(1) With reference to my previous questions in relation to apprentice jockeys, is he aware that, although most or all youths achieve adulthood at 18 years of age, an apprentice jockey is bound by

his master and does not have free access to his personal earnings until he reaches the age of 21 years or until he finishes his apprenticeship and does not have any minimum prescription for sick leave, annual leave, statutory holidays, etc?

(2) Is he aware that the term of an apprenticeship varies from three years to the usual term of six years, that is to say, a 15-year-old apprentice jockey will serve six years whereas a lad indentured at 18 years has only to serve three years?

(3) Will he review these obvious anomalies?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) In my answer to the previous question by the honourable member on this subject on 20 October, I prefaced my reply with a comment that this is not a matter which falls within my ministerial responsibility. This is still the situation and I can only suggest to the honourable member that if he wishes to pursue the subject further he should take it up with the principal clubs, which are the bodies responsible for the apprenticeship of jockeys.

12. ROOT-ROT DISEASE OF NATIVE TREES

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

(1) How many species of native trees have so far been identified in Queensland as being susceptible to root-rot disease?

(2) In how many localities has the disease been identified?

(3) What is the total area affected by the disease in (a) national parks, (b) State forests, (c) timber reserves and (d) other Crown land reserves?

(4) How much of this land carried rainforest communities and other commercial forests?

(5) What measures are currently being used to control existing outbreaks and to stop the spread of the disease, and how much money has been spent on such programmes to date?

(6) What estimates exist as to the loss of production from commercial forests due to the disease?

Answers:—

(1) I assume the disease to which the honourable member refers in this question is root rot caused by the cinnamon fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamoni*, a disease which has been present in horticultural crops in Queensland for over 100 years.

Severe decline or death attributable to this root-rot disease has been reported in 43 native tree species in Queensland, 31 of which are used commercially. The

roots of a number of other species are attacked by the fungus but their crowns remain apparently healthy.

(2) The fungus has been collected from 28 State forests, three national parks and two areas of other Crown-owned forest land in Queensland scattered throughout the State generally east of the Great Dividing Range.

(3) An accurate estimate of the area affected cannot be given at this stage but it is considered to be of the order of 100 hectares in national parks, 400 hectares in native forests, on State forests and timber reserves, and 100 hectares on other Crown-owned forest lands.

(4) Almost all of the areas referred to in question (3) are rain-forest areas. Only minor areas of other native forests are known to be showing symptoms of the disease.

(5) The fungus was first identified in forestry nurseries and plantations in 1957 and strict hygiene has been practised in forestry nurseries since 1960. The first report of its occurrence in natural eucalypt was in 1971 and from rain forest in the Mackay and Ingham districts in 1975 and these latter are the most serious.

Action has been taken to suspend logging in the diseased areas north of Eungella and the movement of logging machinery which could carry infected soil has been restricted.

As stated in a reply to the honourable member for Mourilyan on 9 September 1976, a research programme has been introduced and a graduate forester is engaged full time on field studies, supported by ancillary and specialist staff. The extent of the occurrence is being monitored, including aerial reconnaissance and photography, and these investigations, which commenced last winter, are costing at this stage \$60,000 per annum.

(6) No estimate of loss of production from commercial forests of Queensland is possible with our present knowledge but every effort will, of course, be made to keep this to a minimum.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

RETURN TO WORK OF MEMBERS OF THE PRINTING AND KINDRED INDUSTRIES UNION

Mr. HALES: I ask the Premier: Does he applaud the action of the rank-and-file members of the Printing Union in Ipswich and other provincial cities in returning to work in accordance with the Arbitration Commission's recommendations, and does he agree with me that these unionists are acting in the best interests of the community and Australia by returning to work in defiance of the directions of the printing union bosses, who demand that they stay on strike?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I do applaud the actions of these men who wanted to return to work and did so. Of course, other unions, too, have imposed black bans to prevent newspapers being sold in different parts of the State. I am aware of the terrible effect that the printers' strike is having on private citizens and business people in provincial cities and country areas. This was made very clear to me the other day in Townsville at a meeting of more than 200 representatives of North Queensland organisations. They were angry at this latest standover tactic adopted by the militant unions not only to prevent the publication of local newspapers but also to ban deliveries of metropolitan newspapers. Not only can local people not get the news but they cannot advertise their products and services.

The Government cannot delay further in taking action against these unions. These standover tactics work not only against the country but against the union members themselves, and that concerns me very much indeed. We saw this recently with members of the Teachers' Union throughout Queensland being called on to explain their actions. We hear about death threats being made in Gladstone, and we see much the same thing happening in many other places. And so we ask the question: is there any such thing as democracy or fair play as far as the unions are concerned? The silence of the so-called Civil Liberties Council on this subject is remarkable. One never hears its members objecting or conducting prayer meetings in connection with how the freedoms of union members are imperilled, how union members are stood over, how their civil liberties are taken from them and how they are prevented from speaking out. Of course, this silence reinforces what has long been suggested, that they are a front for the Labor Party and the Communist Party, and I want to draw attention to these matters in answering the honourable member's question.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Where does the Leader of the Opposition stand in relation to these things? I was asked that question continually in North Queensland where the civil liberties of people are being threatened. We never find the Leader of the Opposition standing up for people other than the hippies, the drug pushers and the street marchers. We find him standing up for these people but not for the community as a whole, and especially those people who are in danger of losing their jobs. It is all very well to talk around the ridges as the honourable member does, trying to get inquiries into the Police Force and other things, but he never stands up for the rank-and-file people of Queensland in relation to the hardships that are inflicted upon them and the way in which union leaders are dealing with members of their particular unions.

I can only say that it is deplorable that the situation to which the honourable member for Ipswich West refers exists not only in this area but also in many other areas. It is equally deplorable that the Leader of the Opposition and his members never once stand up and say anything in support of the people of Queensland and never say anything about union leaders. It is very regrettable.

ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL BANK

Mr. PREST: I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: As the Premier said during the last State election campaign that the role of the Agricultural Bank would be widened to provide a range of banking services more in line with trading bank operations, can he outline what investigations have been carried out in regard to this proposal to assist the man on the land?

Mr. SULLIVAN: We are looking at widening the activities of the Agricultural Bank. The deputy manager of the Agricultural Bank, Mr. Dellit, has been to Western Australia to examine the activities of the Rural and Industries Bank in that State. He has also been to New South Wales and examined the functions of the Rural Bank in that State. His report was handed to me and that report went to Cabinet last Monday week. At the present time it is being considered by Cabinet.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE

Mr. PREST: I ask the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs: As the Government promised during the last State election campaign to introduce a scheme to provide long service benefits to all workers in Queensland based upon service to industry generally, and to operate independently of the existing scheme, which is based upon continuous service with the one employer, can he give an indication when Queensland workers involved in this type of work can expect this scheme to be introduced?

Mr. Houston: Wake up, Fred!

Mr. CAMPBELL: I don't need to wake up. I only wish that the honourable member for Port Curtis had indicated clearly that he was asking a question without notice. He just gabbed away and it was difficult to hear what he was saying.

All I say in reply is that this is a matter of Government policy, and the Government will indicate its hand at the appropriate time.

Mr. PREST: Mr. Speaker, may I put that question on notice?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

CARE OF INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I ask the Minister for Health: What is the present situation regarding the Government's proposed programme for the care of intellectually handicapped persons? Who will be responsible for the care of these handicapped people? Will nurses be involved in the care of these people in training centres?

Dr. EDWARDS: Over the last few weeks the Government has been greatly concerned at the attitude of the Hospital Employees' Union to the Government's policy on changing the programme for the care of the intellectually handicapped. For a long time the Government has felt that people who are intellectually handicapped are not sick people but normal people who have a particular problem. The Government believes that what they need is a training programme to educate them in social and community living in an effort to get as many as possible of them to achieve their best potential. With this in mind the Government tabled in this House in March of this year a Health Paper in which it outlined its policy and programme on the future caring profession in respect of people within our institutions who are intellectually handicapped.

Only in the last few days the Hospital Employees' Union has undertaken a series of rolling strikes and public demonstrations which, of course, have affected the morale of the people living within our institutions. It was brought before the Industrial Commission and the commission excluded the union completely from any consideration of an award concerning the care of intellectually handicapped people. Because of the commission's decision, the Hospital Employees' Union has taken the matter into its own hands and has forced members to go on strike and engage in rolling strikes with very little warning to the people who are concerned with the care of intellectually handicapped people. Union members have a right of protest through the normal channel, that is, the Industrial Commission. If they use this right, their representations will be considered by the Industrial Court and Industrial Commission at the appropriate time.

I have been dismayed and disturbed by the inaccuracies of the statements made by the union leaders on this matter. Numerous phone calls have been made to me at my home and office by union members querying statements made by the secretary of the Hospital Employees' Union, such as statements that many of the people will be out of work by Christmas and that within the intellectually handicapped training programme there will be no nurses caring for those who are sick.

The Government has made it quite clear that there will be no redundancy whatsoever for any member of the staff presently

employed in training centres. We have indicated, too, that there will be no loss of seniority. I have stated that on a number of occasions. It is also documented in the Health Paper. I again state publicly that there will be no redundancy whatsoever of any staff in any of our institutions at the present time.

The secretary has also stated repeatedly that 40 per cent of intellectually handicapped patients within our institutions need medical treatment and that there will be no nurses within the training programme to care for these people. That, again, is a totally inaccurate statement. We have placed on record repeatedly that within the programme there will be training of people as residential care workers and as residential care assistants. As well, we have said that there will be a 24-hour day nursing programme under which the medical and nursing needs of these people will be catered for.

I make it quite clear that the Government is determined to go ahead with this programme. We will use the facilities provided through the Industrial Commission, which every other person has the right to use. The union must learn to accept decisions of the Industrial Commission. I tell the House and the people of Queensland that we as a Government are interested vitally in the care of intellectually handicapped people. The action by the union has added to the stigma that is destroying the lives of many people who are housed in our institutions. I assure the people of Queensland that our programme is accepted totally by every other organisation interested in this field and by all other people throughout the State.

Mr. Marginson: Why don't you let them into the award?

Dr. EDWARDS: It is not our decision. The honourable member should know that better than anybody. The decision was made by the Industrial Commission. The honourable member should know that very well because he is interested in this field. The honourable member should know very well what is involved in this move.

Mr. Marginson: Why don't you put them into the award?

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member for Wolston knows full well the attitude of the Government on the legal procedures, but he is not prepared to identify himself with it.

Mr. Marginson interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: I make it quite clear to the honourable member and to every other honourable member that this is a matter for the Industrial Commission and that we have no say over the award. The quicker he accepts that, the better.

CONSIDERATE ACTION BY STRIKERS AT BAILLIE HENDERSON HOSPITAL

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I ask the Minister for Health: Is he aware of a strike by members of the Hospital Employees' Union at the Baillie Henderson Special Hospital in Toowoomba? Is he aware also that those members of the union were most considerate in their actions in that, whilst registering an organised industrial protest, they arranged work rosters, saw that wards were fully staffed by union members and ensured that no residents were in any way disadvantaged by their protest? Does he share my opinion that that is a responsible form of industrial protest and commend those members for their humanitarianism?

Dr. EDWARDS: I am aware of the attitude of some members of the Hospital Employees' Union. I am dismayed at the number of telephone calls that have been made to my office and my home and the number of members of the union who have visited me in the quietness of my office to make known their views to me. Obviously, many of the rank and file of that organisation are disturbed at the action of their executive. I make it quite clear that that is the truth!

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Nonsense!

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member for Archerfield wouldn't know.

I make it quite clear that tomorrow I am going to the Basil Stafford hospital and the Challinor Centre to speak to the whole of the staff. I will outline the facts and tell them the truth, because I am sick and tired of union executive members absolutely defiling the truth and preventing their rank-and-file members from knowing what is going on.

In reply to the honourable member's specific question, I am aware that many responsible members of the Hospital Employees' Union are becoming sick and tired of the attitude of their executive. I am also aware of the attitude of some of the members at the Baillie Henderson hospital who did act responsibly, and I pay them a tribute for that. I am sure that, after they know the full details of the programme, many, many people will be dissatisfied with the executive of the Hospital Employees' Union.

REASON FOR OVERSEAS TRIP BY MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

Mr. WRIGHT: I ask the Premier: What is the reason for the present international safari by the Justice Minister? In view of the secrecy surrounding his absence, can he say whom the Minister is trying to surprise—the Federal Government, the High Court, the Queensland people or some relatives he might call upon during his junket?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member for Rockhampton and the Leader of the Opposition seem to have great difficulty in containing their curiosity. They are always trying to find out something that does not concern them or interest them.

Mr. Wright: And it doesn't concern the people of Queensland, I suppose!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Attorney-General is in England on Government business.

Mr. Wright: And the people of Queensland have no right to know what it is?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The people of Queensland will get to know in due time, as they do in all matters. Because I know of the hypocritical attitude of honourable members opposite and how they misconstrue things, until the appropriate time arrives, the Government has no intention of giving them any material for propaganda purposes. I do not intend to satisfy the curiosity of the honourable member. He will get to know in due time, if he can only show some patience.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE, ALUMINA PLANT,
GLADSTONE

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs: Has he been approached by the Trades and Labor Council or any A.L.P. organisation or member regarding the current dispute at Gladstone? Has he any knowledge that this strike at Gladstone is another carefully contrived attempt by the A.L.P. to cause disruption in industry? Also, does the Minister not consider that this strike at Gladstone has been carefully timed to occur just before the Christmas holidays when loss of wages will be felt the most?

Mr. CAMPBELL: I am in constant contact with the executives of the trade union movement in Queensland not only when an industrial dispute occurs but also on more placid occasions. I have been in touch with the trade union movement over this most grievous strike in Gladstone, which has caused untold hardship to the community. Unfortunately, as I understand the position, there have been some rather ugly threats in the town of Gladstone itself. However, I do not want to elaborate on that matter.

I simply want to say that I received a communication this morning that under the chairmanship of the assistant secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union a mass meeting of the work-force was held this morning. While no vote was taken, I understand that the consensus was that the men would seek to return to work immediately. Also, I understand that the further negotiation of unresolved matters between the company and the work-force will be placed in the hands of the State secretaries of the four relevant unions. Of course, I would hope that the

company's intimation that it will not be in a position to employ everybody immediately will not exacerbate this already difficult situation.

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—
SEVENTH AND EIGHTH ALLOTTED DAYS

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

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1976-77

POLICE

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Minister for Police) (12.1 p.m.): I move—

“That \$69,861,571 be granted for ‘Police.’”

When the Police Department's Estimates were last debated in this Assembly it was as a subdepartment within the Works and Housing portfolio. Now it stands in its own right, a recognition of the importance of its activities in this State. It has been said that “crime is big business”. Equally, law enforcement is “big business”. However, the vital function of protecting the public against crime is becoming increasingly expensive.

In 1973, when these Estimates were last debated, this Committee was asked to provide \$36,380,700. This year's Estimates represent an increase of 92 per cent above that figure. While some necessary expansion of departmental activity has taken place, much of this increase represents the escalation in costs of providing police services throughout the State.

The amount provided this year for the Police Department is \$8,779,744 above that expended in 1975-76. This increase will be mainly taken up in meeting escalations in salaries tuned to rises in the cost of living and with related increases in payments for wages and pay-roll tax. Of last year's expenditure of \$61,081,827, an amount of \$45,051,851 was spent on salaries and allowances of various kinds. This financial year expenditure on such items is expected to be \$51,500,000. This would represent 73.7 per cent of the total departmental allocation and an increase of 14 per cent above the allocation in 1975-76.

The costs of other services and necessary items such as equipment and transport have also escalated. Expenditure on uniforms and accessories will increase from \$755,094 in 1975-76 to \$886,845 in the current financial year. The grant to the Police Superannuation Fund will total \$6,600,000—an increase of \$950,000 over the previous year.

The total number of Police Department motor vehicles and motor cycles in use as at 30 June 1976 was 821. An amount of \$2,382,000 has been allowed for the purchase of replacement motor vehicles and motor cycles in the current financial year. The cost of maintaining these vehicles, motor cycles, police launches, petrol, oils, insurance and general running expenses will rise to \$1,605,970 in the current year—an increase of \$139,059 over 1975-76.

Despite these and other expenditures on the materials and organisation of law enforcement, crime within the community continues to increase. This is not a reflection on the ability of my officers nor on the work of my department but a simple statement of fact recognised throughout the world.

Uniformity of interpretation of what is called "selected crime" has been agreed to by all States of Australia to allow national statistics to be compiled. The term "selected crime" embraces a number of more serious offences—homicide, serious assault, bodily harm, robbery, rape, breaking and entering, stealing and unlawful use of motor vehicles, false pretences and imposition. In Australia in 1972 a total of 215,000 "selected crimes" were reported. In 1975 this figure had risen to 226,000. Queensland's share was approximately 25,000, which, although high, is still considerably below the "selected crime" rate national average.

No Police Department in the world can overcome this problem on its own. Any problem of this magnitude can only be beaten by concerted action throughout the community; yet throughout the world, and, it seems, particularly in Australia, the community takes the view that crime is solely the responsibility of the police. Police are basically involved in the fight against crime; but, like any fighter, they deserve support and the community must accept responsibility to furnish that support. It must not be passive support, for, as the results of crime affect all of the community, the community must become actively involved in the fight.

Recently a mood in some areas of the community has been one of criticism of police. However, I believe this to be a sectional mood—a mood nurtured to a large degree by the influence of a minority in whose eyes the police can do no right.

I do not suggest that the police should be above criticism or that criticism may not be warranted in some cases; but police can be forgiven for thinking that too few members of the community actually express public support for them. The support is there, but it is contained within that vast body of opinion known as "the silent majority". Police have to be satisfied with drawing strength from these silent supporters in the face of often unfounded attacks from those who would seek to magnify any rumour or allegation at the dreadful expense of the

reputation and integrity of all the decent, self-respecting and dedicated officers in the Queensland Police Force.

The community expects a great deal from its police force. In turn, the police expect a great deal from the community to assist in the performance of their duties because there are too many factors outside police control which create opportunities for crime. With this in view my department will be maintaining its emphasis on community involvement programmes in the current year to educate the public to a realisation of its responsibilities as far as crime control and prevention are concerned.

While the occurrence of illegal behaviour frequently is reported by citizens, it also happens that such behaviour is a result of opportunism and the citizen places himself or his property at risk. Unlocked cars or homes are invitations to thieves which, lamentably, are too often accepted. A great deal of police time and effort could be directed to other facets of their duties and responsibilities if simple prevention measures were taken at the outset. The department has provided material and lectures to make the community aware of the risks and errors involved, but it cannot force individual members of the community to take notice.

One type of crime, the incidence of which is increasing, is credit card fraud. In an endeavour to create business, various types of credit cards have been promoted and made readily acceptable by business organisations. Although warnings of the risk have been publicised, criminal use of these credit cards has increased because of the ease with which unscrupulous persons obtain them. In line with the policy of protection for the public, the reintroduction of beat patrols will proceed. Already, in those areas in Brisbane where they have commenced, much favourable comment has been received from the owners of business premises and the public.

The foot patrols are being extended to Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Toowoomba, and police strength at each of these centres has been increased by five constables to cater for this service. It is planned to introduce the foot patrols in Ipswich, Maryborough, Gladstone, Cairns and Mt. Isa as soon as staff are available.

Queensland is climatically suitable for the growth of various prohibited plants, and since the cultivation and supply of drugs form the basis of the narcotics problem, police activity is directed to their detection. I have no sympathy with those who maintain that the use of marijuana is harmless, non-addictive and a purely personal matter. One hears too much said about the high prices being paid for illegal drugs and not enough about where the money comes from to purchase them. Since many of the users are not in the higher income brackets and, in fact, many have no visible sources of income and have

been convicted of crimes, it is a reasonable assumption that the craving for drugs contributes to the commission of those crimes. There is also a strong correlation between initial use of marijuana and later use of the hard drugs. The drug victim is not the only sufferer. The law-abiding citizen who loses property to the thief wishing to satisfy his "harmless" habit suffers also.

During 1975-76, the increase in the authorised strength of the force and the establishment of new police regions and districts has meant a review in the structure of the force and the creation of new positions. Increases effected were two superintendents, 13 inspectors and 21 sergeants, while senior sergeants were reduced by eight. New police districts have now been established at Livingstone, Whitsunday, Dalby, Mareeba, Ingham and Mundingburra under the previously approved policy of decentralisation. In May of this year Cabinet approved proposals for the future establishment of a South Brisbane Police Region, comprising the Moorooka, Holland Park, Camp Hill, Wynnum, Oxley and Woolloongabba districts.

Over the years, supplementary specialist units have been established in the Police Force to cope with changes that have occurred. For example, the increasing size of aircraft and their greater speeds have increased the responsibility of police both in prevention of hijacking (a crime from which we have so far been free) and their responsibility to be prepared for possible accidents involving large aircraft. Jumbo-jet aircraft are now using Brisbane Airport. If one of those crashed while taking off over Moreton Bay, it could be well out to sea before it hit the water. To enable the Water Police to take immediate action, it has been necessary to obtain a launch capable of proceeding far enough off-shore to be effective. The new police launch soon to come into operation will give the force that capacity, as well as being available for general duties in Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River.

The Police Air Wing became operational in October 1975 and has flown in excess of 700 hours in transportation, traffic and drug surveillance, and sea and land searches. It comprises two Cessna 180E aircraft suitably equipped, and has operated in many parts of Queensland and contributes greatly to the mobility of the force.

There has been criticism of the so-called high resignation rate in the Queensland Police Force. The average years of service lost by resignation of sworn-in members was lower in 1975 than was the case in 1971. The resignation rate for 1975-76 was 3.9 per cent, yet as far back as 1954-55 it was 4.5 per cent. A total of 98 male officers resigned from the force in the year 1964-65. In the year just ended (1975-76) that resignation figure was 100, despite the fact that the total strength of the force had increased by some 1,000 officers in the intervening period. On the

other hand, there has been an increase in the number of resignations of female officers, but these are far outweighed by applications from well-qualified women who wish to join the force.

As at 30 June 1976, the actual strength of sworn-in members of the force was 3,610, which was 115 below the approved strength of sworn-in members. During 1975-76, my Government approved an increase in this approved strength of 245. A recruiting campaign allowed the department to replace 141 members who resigned, 44 members who retired at the required age limit, 29 members who retired medically unfit, eight who died, one who was dismissed and three who were discharged, as well as swear in a further 130 of the 245 additional members allowed. Recruiting is continuing to make up the balance of 115.

As an indication of the success of the campaign, the Police Department had over 100 inquiries in one week in response to two advertisements in the Press in New South Wales. In addition, it is conservatively estimated that 88 cadets who have successfully completed their training at the Police Academy will be sworn in by June next. I am confident that all vacancies in the approved strength of sworn-in members will be filled by that time.

All honourable members are fully aware that the concept of the State Emergency Service is one of self-help and mutual assistance within each community, supported by the three levels of government. It involves the preparation, in advance, of measures that will protect the community when disaster strikes, with its main purpose being prevention of loss of life and personal suffering. Funds provided by my Government this financial year for the State Emergency Service have been increased by \$190,489 to a total of \$691,953. This will ensure that permanent staff, grants, subsidies, specialised equipment and communication facilities are provided to enable the service to be developed to a phased plan at local level.

The ready and continuing support given by local and Federal governments to our concept has been reflected in the establishment of a viable organisation which serves all communities at times of disaster. Its effectiveness was clearly demonstrated during the 1976 flood and cyclone-disaster situations. The service's motto of "Join the Aware Community" is becoming a reality in the many communities of this vast State and membership has increased from 2,493 in June 1973 to 9,800 in 1976.

All communities realise that if we are to cope with disasters they themselves must be informed, educated and trained in counter-disaster measures. During the 1976-77 period it is intended to expand and consolidate the activities of the service and provide additional communication to many centres as part of a five-year communication development plan.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to the staff of the State Emergency Service for their efforts during the year and to all members of the Queensland Police Force for their application to their difficult duties, which has resulted in an excellent record of achievement.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.19 p.m.): There is no area of Government activity in Queensland where National Party-Liberal mismanagement and inconsistency is more visibly evident than in the Police portfolio. Queenslanders are frightened at the continuing surge in violent crime—the muggings, murders, rapes and armed robberies. Looking at page 9 of today's "Telegraph", I see that a reward of \$5,000 is offered by the A.N.Z., the Adelaide, the Wales, the C.B.A., the C.B.C., the Commonwealth and National Banks for information about people who might be going to raid banks or engage in activities of a similar nature.

People are also alarmed at the evasion by the Government of an open, judicial inquiry into the Queensland Police Force—an inquiry which it declared necessary 15 months ago. Yesterday, the long-deferred inquiry was once again deferred indefinitely on flimsy, legal technicalities.

Over the week-end I was thinking about the debate on these Estimates. I read the "Sunday Sun", which is a typical week-end newspaper. On page 1 it carried the headline "Family Threatened. Freed Cop in Fear of Life." On page 3 was the heading "Man is Bashed in Police Back Room". The opening paragraph reads—

"Five members of a police youth club have signed a statement swearing they saw a man viciously assaulted at the Fortitude Valley Police Station last week."

On page 23 the headline read, "Family in Fear of Terrorist Campaign." Again I quote briefly from the article—

"The sprawling outer southside suburb of Inala is fast becoming a little Chicago, according to a terrorised resident, Mr. Ray Pickles."

Mr. Pickles went on to allege that there had been an arson attempt on his home, a grease gun hurled through his window, air-rifle pellets fired into his truck, an obscene card sent to his 16-year-old daughter, harassing phone calls and the daylight theft of his daughter's watch by two girls.

Those are the reports from a single Brisbane newspaper on a Sunday. I could devote the entire 20 minutes of this speech to quoting some of the headlines. However, I propose instead to content myself with just a few selected at random. On 4 January this year in "The Sunday Mail" was the heading "Crime Wave; \$4M. Haul in a Fortnight". "Senior Detectives are alarmed at the upsurge in big-time crime.", it said. On 12 April in the "Telegraph" was the heading, "Thieves Winning Car War." That article commenced, "The police are starting to lose the war

against car thieves." On 28 August 1976, closer to today's date, appeared the heading, "Mugging in the City on the Increase". The article said, "Muggings and standover robberies are increasing in Brisbane." On 5 November—a few days ago—this headline appeared in "The Courier-Mail", "Man Remanded on Kill Charge". The list is never-ending. It increases with almost every issue of our daily newspapers.

In recent times we have had stories about a bookmaker and his wife slashed as they slept in Innisfail, a gangland-style shooting at Sherwood and the senseless slaughter at Spring Hill of a young girl and other people.

In areas on the fringe of this city—the inner ghetto-type areas of violence—we are reaching the stage where people feel it is unsafe to walk alone during daylight hours, let alone after dark. Passengers and staff are terrorised and threatened on late-night trains and buses. That is the record of this Government after 20 years as the administrator of the Police Force in Queensland—its record after all the pious assurances in relation to law and order.

In his 1974 report the Police Commissioner warned of an upsurge in what he termed crimes of violence of the "Clockwork Orange" type. In his 1975 report, under the heading "Violence—Offences against the person", he repeated his fears, saying—

"Probably this is the class of offence which generates most fear in the community. Regrettably I cannot report any decrease."

More recently, on 22 August this year, the same commissioner forecast in "The Sunday Mail" that reported cases of robberies and assault would show a further increase in the 12 months ended 30 June. In the same article the Queensland University criminologist (Dr. Paul Wilson) said that unreported cases could show an alarming rise. He explained—

"Many victims are reluctant to go to the police. They're afraid of retaliation: of being involved in lengthy court proceedings and some suffer so severely from their injuries that by the time they want to report the matter they think it may be too late."

In his latest speech last Thursday (4 November), the Police Commissioner said that it might be time to examine the effectiveness of all Australian law-enforcement organisations. He said that the number of unsolved serious crimes for each officer rose by 100 per cent over a 10-year period. He added—and this appears in "The Courier-Mail" of 5 November—

"In other words, in 1964, police were clearing two cases out of five. In 1975 they were clearing three out of nine."

Crime has become a challenge, violence a sport and robbery a hobby—and this Government is doing precious little in effective terms to stem the tide.

Since the Estimates for the Police Department were last debated, the Premier has sacked his former Police Minister and tightened his personal political control over the force and the commissioner. The Premier has assailed the independence of the commissioner by removing his basic right to decide if a public complaint on police matters warrants investigation. I recall the case on 29 July this year when a police inspector struck a young woman over the head with his baton, in full view of television cameras. The Vice-Chancellor of the Queensland University (Sir Zelman Cowen) sought an inquiry and his request was endorsed by both the Police Commissioner and the then Minister (Mr. Hodges). The Premier intervened and, with the timid support of Cabinet, quashed the investigation without even witnessing the television evidence. Under the editorial headline "The Premier Overrules", "The Courier-Mail" commented—

"There are disturbing aspects about Cabinet's bland endorsement of the Premier's move to quash a routine departmental inquiry into complaints about police behaviour at last Thursday's student march in Brisbane.

"One of the two more serious is that the State Government is getting into a position where Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's personal prejudgments and bias become Government policy.

"The other is that if police believe either a group or an individual is acting illegally, they will, under the Premier's principle, be free to act as they wish, without fear of any questioning by authority of their actions."

I can go on from there and refer to the Cedar Bay affair with serious allegations of police destruction of private property during a Hollywood-style raid. Again, despite television and other pictorial evidence, the Premier originally refused an inquiry but relented in the face of public outcry and permitted the commissioner to announce one. We are still waiting for that report.

We have had the Scotland Yard detectives here. They started a probe, stopped it last year and have never resumed it. It shows no immediate signs of being resumed, either. Then we had the king-hit case, in which the Full Court found that a man had been assaulted in the Brisbane Watchhouse; but no-one was able to identify his attacker. The victim (Raymond Scott Rankmore) said in "The Courier-Mail" on 8 August last year—

"If the Police Department can't find the policeman who king-hit me in the Brisbane Watchhouse in full view of other policemen, how the hell are they going to catch the Townsville murderer?"

Many Queenslanders, obviously including the judges of the Full Court, endorsed his sentiments.

Then I could outline some rather stupid actions. I have great respect for the Police Force because whenever I have asked the police to assist the people of in my area, I have been given a great deal of assistance. Neither the people in the area nor I have failed to receive police assistance whenever it has been requested. But continually we read in the "Sunday Sun" headlines such as, "Cops throw book at the Cowboy" and stories about how a 17-year-old "youth spent 20 hours in the City Watchhouse—for having an overdue library book!"

In "The Courier-Mail" of 27 August this year, the Acting Chief Justice (Sir Charles Gray Wanstall) was quoted as saying "Two girls, charged with bus fare evasion, were unfairly and harshly confined in the Brisbane Watchhouse for 20 hours."

The Full Court unanimously allowed their appeals and quashed their convictions.

It is evident that we should not prejudge these matters. The Chief Justice and other judges make these decisions as the result of inquiries, court hearings and court appeals. It is not for us to brush those decisions aside and say that they are wrong. But we ought to try to do something about these matters. I think that the decent policemen want an inquiry. Certainly they want an inquiry into the administration of the Police Force. They are concerned about it and they most certainly want something done now. They are not prepared to put up with all of the stalling tactics that have been employed.

We talk about an inquiry. "The Courier-Mail" reporter, Mr. Peter Trundle, wrote on 6 August 1975—

"A judicial inquiry into allegations of police corruption is almost certain before the end of the year."

Mr. Goleby interjected.

Mr. BURNS: He wasn't bad. He wasn't far off because five days later the Premier held a special Press conference to announce that the inquiry would probably be headed by a Supreme Court judge and would begin as soon as possible. Mr. Trundle must have known something because an inquiry was announced.

This inquiry has been sought by the Queensland Police Union, the legal profession, leading clergymen and the general public and has been supported by all major political parties. In "The Courier-Mail" of 12 August last year, under the heading, "Inquiry into Police to be Open" the Police Union president (Mr. R. E. Redmond) is reported as saying—

"I am pleased the Government has seen the need for a judicial inquiry.

"It must ultimately clear the reputation of all hard-working police and the service generally."

Fifteen months later we are still waiting for that inquiry. One legal excuse after another has been concocted by the Government to

delay its beginning. The Liberal and National Parties cannot continue running away from their responsibilities on this issue.

The inquiry should start now. Honest policemen want it to begin. The people who want it to begin include the Queensland Bar Association President (Mr. Brennan). At that time he was asking for an inquiry. Mr. N. Macgroarty, a leading Q.C., was asking for an inquiry. The Queensland Police Union was seeking a full inquiry by a judge. Mr. Sturgess, a barrister, said—

"I firmly believe many police have had a gutful of the present system that compels them to go outside the law.

"They are sick and tired of it but they have a job to do."

The Queensland Bar Association called for an inquiry. Mr. Des Draydon, who I understand runs in a few pre-selection ballots for the Government parties, was calling for an inquiry into police who "bend the rules". A newspaper heading reads, "Young Nationals in police inquiry call". The article points out that the senior party's annual convention in Cairns had called for an inquiry. The Liberal Party convention in Toowoomba called for an inquiry. Yet we are told that there is some reason for delaying it.

Surely after all of that it must be conceded that there is public support for an inquiry. Policemen on the job both say and write in letters that there has to be a general inquiry into the administration of the Police Force. I do not believe that there can be any justification for putting it off on the flimsy ground that there are a few more court cases coming forward. The cases are there; the evidence is there; and the inquiry should proceed.

Mr. Lamont: There will always be cases.

Mr. BURNS: I suppose there will be. Let us hope that there will not be, but there is always the chance of cases coming forward to cause delays.

We do not want a witch-hunt restricted to a single incident such as the Southport case or what happened at Cedar Bay or anywhere else. We are interested in those, of course, but the real problems and discontent in the Police Force can quickly and conveniently be dealt with, instead of being swept under the carpet, and that is what we have to do.

This is an opportunity not only to determine charges of graft and corruption—to discover the guilty and clear the innocent—but to draft a model blueprint for the future administration of the force. It is an opportunity to give a say to those in the force who know a little about it. Too much has happened for there to be a snappy whitewash. In the past year there have been so many charges of manufactured evidence supported in the newspapers. I refer the Committee to one such report in "The

Sunday Mail" in which the then Minister for Justice, now the Treasurer and Deputy Premier of this State, said—

"The courts have revealed that manufacturing of evidence is going on and some barristers have approached me privately to voice their concern."

A leading criminal barrister, Mr. Des Sturgess, was even more explicit. He said in the "Sunday Sun" on 20 July last year—

"The manufacturing of evidence by police officers for presentation in the court of this State has become commonplace. The use of so-called verballing is widespread."

I could go on and on. There are so many cases that need investigation simply to settle disquiet in the public mind and to assist those in the force who have decent reputations and want to maintain them.

Allegations are made of tow-truck bribes. An article dealing with this subject appeared in "The Sunday Mail" of 21 March of this year, under the headline, "Police take Tow Truck Bribes, says Operator". The community has just had the spectacle of a suspended police officer and a retired police officer virtually under house arrest for almost six months before their acquittal last Friday whilst charges and counter-charges of police corruption were argued back and forth across the court-room. A Liberal member of this Parliament even claimed in the newspapers on 10 August last that he had been intimidated by a top-level official of the Police Force.

The whole matter has gone too far for a convenient, restricted retreat through a narrow, window-dressing inquiry. In case honourable members opposite have forgotten them, here are a few more newspaper headlines to jog their memories. "\$20,000 Graft Charge . . . Police 'Mr. Incorruptible' tips bucket on the force" appeared in "Sunday Sun" on 17 August last year. "Police suspected of corruption: Inspector's Evidence" appeared in "The Courier-Mail" on 5 July last year. Another was, "Top Crims. 'Buy' Key Police." The first paragraph of that article read—

"Justice Department officers and some senior police claim that big-money southern crime already has 'bought' some key police and a political figure."

No Government can hide from these allegations. They go on and on.

There have been allegations in recent weeks that some lawyers in Cairns have been hampered by police while trying to interview their clients in the watch-house.

The public will not be satisfied with a shallow inquiry that is settled at low tide at Southport. The police union is not satisfied. Another Press headline reads, "Union blames senior police," and yet another, "Police Union in Blast at Boss". I believe that the inquiry must probe the underlying

reasons for the serious discontent within the force—a discontent that compelled dedicated police officers to demand the sacking of both their commissioner and the former Minister. Witnesses must be extended amnesty not merely to present evidence of corruption but, in the case of police officers, to offer suggestions for improvement of the force.

On page 16 of the Financial Statement brought down on 30 September last the Treasurer said—

“Whereas there is to be no increase in approved police establishments, funds are provide to enable the Police Department to recruit a further 228 personnel to remove the deficiency between actual strength at 30th June 1976, and the approved establishment. This will mean an increase of 5.6 per cent in numbers.”

But page 66 of the Estimates sets out the anticipated strength of the Police Force at the end of the year as 4,901, which is nine fewer than the strength as at 30 June last year. In other words, the Government is conceding that wastages through resignations, retirements and other causes during this 12-month period will more than swallow up recruitment gains. From a glance at the commissioner's report for last year, this assumption is not surprising. Between 30 June 1972 and the same date last year, the staggering number of 372 police officers resigned from the force. Another 72 left between 3 June and the end of last year. I believe an inquiry should examine why trained men are leaving in substantial numbers for other professions. As I said, the inquiry must be far wider than a quick paddle in the Southport Broadwater.

We should be looking at the transfer system, which too frequently, without logical reason, moves an officer from a posting in which not only is he or she happy but suitable and popular in the area. The question of adequate accommodation for policewomen transferred to country areas must also be studied. I understand that where there are barracks for men they are charged a reasonable rate but the policewoman is required to live in a hotel or somewhere else and pay a far higher rate than the policeman, with not much assistance from the Government.

I believe that with the current suspicions of the legal profession we should be examining general police procedures, particularly the taking of statements and confessions. There are a multitude of questions pertinent to a fair-dinkum, constructive and fact-finding judicial inquiry.

Then there is the crime clear-up rate. In the case of robbery, it stands at only 30 per cent; for breaking and entering it is 23 per cent and for the illegal use of motor vehicles it is 32 per cent. If police officers have practical recommendations on how these levels can be lifted, they should be heard.

Likewise, there is the growing problem of drugs, which has captured the Premier's political attention in recent weeks. I believe the Drug Squad must be at least doubled in size and decentralised. Its financial allocation must be increased to allow its members to hunt down the big-time operator, not the small fellow. I am told that the sort of money Drug Squad members are given to hand to people to buy drugs in order to catch them is so small that they will never be able to hand money over to a big-time operator.

The Police Minister should be looking at ways to keep Brisbane's suburban police stations open 24 hours a day instead of compelling them, through shortages, in some cases to be closed for most of the day with little signs hanging outside saying, “The station is unattended; come back later on.”

I would like to see more police on the beat and more in openly marked vehicles on the road to deter accidents rather than operating hidden radar traps. On 2 April last year the then Police Minister hit out at hidden radar traps and said—

“Police were bringing discredit to themselves by deceiving with deliberately obscured radar patrols.”

I wonder whether it is the ordinary policeman who decides to do this or whether he is directed from somewhere else. I wonder whether the ordinary policeman wants to hide behind a tree trying to catch a few motorists, or are the orders coming from somewhere higher in the administration?

Under the guidance of this Government police morale has dropped to a dangerous low. The reputation of the force has fallen in the eyes of the public. It appears that a very undesirable wedge has been driven between sections of the force and sections of the legal profession. A massive rescue operation is necessary. It is urgent, but can only begin with the holding of a thorough judicial inquiry that will allay public suspicions and remove the cloud hanging over the heads of the great majority of decent policemen. While the Premier and Cabinet continue to defer this inquiry, as they have done again this week, they are guilty of contributing to the further deterioration of the force both in the eyes of the public and among the police officers who serve in it, believe in it and want to improve it.

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.38 p.m.): I would like to enter this debate and pay a compliment to the Premier for his reshuffle of Cabinet, which has resulted in the new Minister now occupying the seat of responsibility for this portfolio. Nothing done in recent years could do more to improve the Queensland Police Force than the Premier's recent action, and I compliment the Minister for the way he has handled the portfolio in the recent difficult times. I know that the new Minister (Hon. T. E. Newbery) is a man of compassion and understanding, a

man who is not bound by officialdom and will not be pushed into hasty decisions. He is a man who will study all aspects of a problem before he can be persuaded to take any action, and one who will not accept at face value things that are fed up to him through the system until he has at least had the opportunity of checking them out.

Having said that, I would like to move on to something more specific in relation to the Police Force, namely, the role of the Criminal Investigation Branch. I would like to encourage the Minister, and those people within the administration who care to listen to such proposals, to upgrade the role of the Criminal Investigation Branch within the department. I believe it is the branch which is most essential to the public good and satisfies the basic public requirement of any Police Force. I believe that that requirement is that in the first instance the Police Force should place greater emphasis on catching thieves and putting criminals away behind bars so that each man and woman in this State can feel safe in their own homes, can feel that their property is safe and can feel safe to walk the streets of this State.

Unfortunately, in recent years the Criminal Investigation Branch has been fragmented by a number of policy decisions, both small and large. Personally, I believe that there has been a deliberate policy of fragmentation. I know that in some quarters it is called "decentralisation", but the result has been fragmentation. So the C. I. Branch no longer operates and acts as a cohesive unit and a cohesive essential arm of the Police Force. I want to see the Police Force get back to catching thieves, and I believe that the great majority of Queenslanders share my desire to see that happen. If I have one central and solitary criticism of the force in recent years, it is that it has drifted away from that very basic and very important responsibility.

Of course, in replacing that important activity and setting up a system of administration under which the department could justify its new policies with statistics, it has been necessary to go elsewhere in producing what have been referred to crudely in this Chamber for many years as "kills". I regret to say that "kill sheets" have again been introduced within the Queensland Police Force. Kill sheets were referred to here many years ago by the member for South Brisbane at that time. Mr. Col. Bennett, who continually attacked lists of convictions and lists of arrests being kept or compiled on a continuing basis within the department, and it is regrettable that they have now been reintroduced.

When Mr. Bennett complained in former years about lists of convictions and apprehensions that were being kept, he was complaining about lists relating to crime and activities of the Criminal Investigation Branch. Unfortunately, the kill sheets of those years have been replaced with kill

sheets relating to simple offences of the type that the ordinary, decent person in the community may commit, perhaps by carelessness or perhaps by negligence. They are offences of the type that come within the scope of the Traffic Act and other minor pieces of legislation—minor in comparison with the Criminal Code, that is—which the Police Department is called upon to administer.

The kill sheets are now compiled in a much more sophisticated way. They are compiled by a research and planning section that was established a few years ago by the current administration, and the man who was given the responsibility for cooking the books at that time—for cooking the figures—was a gentleman named Colston, whose name is not unknown in this Chamber and who now, unfortunately, occupies the position of a stooge Labor senator in Canberra. Mr. Colston, as he then was, had the prime responsibility of cooking the books and preparing the endless stream of statistics that one hears served up at academic conferences and sees served up in annual reports of the department over the years to justify the falling off in the activity of criminal investigation and the detection of crime in this State.

As I said, the detection of crime is being replaced, and convictions and apprehensions under Acts such as the Traffic Act have become the norm. To give the Committee one practical example of this, let me refer to a situation that exists in Brisbane at the moment. What I say will alarm some honourable members, although I know that other members are already aware of it. At least one squad of police within this city are engaged in bounty-hunting in respect of drunken drivers. This particular squad, and probably also a few other policemen of the younger brigade, are sitting on the roads in their cars or sitting off hotel car parks and imposing on motorists a system of random breath checks that is contrary to the policy of the Government.

Anyone who drives through Fortitude Valley late at night (as I do many nights of the week on my way home from this Parliament) is aware that he must run the gauntlet of a squad of police who sit on the main road through the Valley area. It is a basic interference with the civil liberties of the citizen—the motorist in this instance. That squad of police, who are known as "Murphy's Marauders", almost run a quarantine check of motorists as they drive through streets in the Valley. There is a similar exercise on the south side, where motorists have to run the gauntlet of a police squad on their way home. In recent times I personally have had to crash that blockade twice, and have been pulled up by mobile police patrols in the Valley area on my way home from Parliament. When I was pulled up I was given some lame excuse such as "The blinker on your car isn't working, sir," or, "You didn't indicate that you

intended to change lanes up there in the Valley. Would you get out of your car please?"

When that happens the police stand back and look the motorist up and down to see if there is any sign of alcohol on him. They are not interested in the blinker on the car or whether the motorist indicated that he intended to change lanes. They are interested only in introducing what is, in practical terms, a random breath test. I know that this Government in accordance with its policy is opposed to random breath tests. Indeed, as far as I am aware, all members of this Parliament are opposed to that principle. But random breath tests are being instituted by police under the guise of checking on minor offences. I suggest that the man-hours applied to setting up blockades and forcing motorists to run the gauntlet through the Valley and at other check points in the city, particularly late at night, would be better applied to the surveillance and the countering of activities of professional and hardened criminals in the community. Of course, that is not where the emphasis lies these days.

Arrests for offences under the Traffic Act and subsequent prosecutions help to boost statistics. They have two advantages under the present system. First of all, they boost the figures on the kill sheets so that so many more statistics can be quoted when required. Secondly, they mean a bounty to the arresting officer. The arresting officer is required to appear in court the following morning. For that appearance he gets a minimum of two hours' overtime which, at double time, is worth about \$10 to him for each appearance. I know it is the practice of some of the small handful of unscrupulous police who engage in these bounty-hunting activities to deliberately pull up motorists at night on some minor excuse, or perhaps an invented excuse, in the hope that if they pull up enough of them each night they will be able to arrest some person for an offence under the Traffic Act, such as being under the influence of liquor in charge of a motor vehicle, and consequently have to appear in court next morning and receive \$10 appearance money. It is a \$10 bounty. They are no better than the bounty hunters with whom we are so familiar from watching western movies.

I hope the Minister will do his best to stamp out this practice. Many honourable members are aware of it. Members have sought my advice about it. They have wondered whether this could be really happening. I know that in fact it is happening. As I said, I have personally been pulled up twice and questioned about some minor matter so that the police officers could see whether I had had anything to drink. I had not been drinking and there was no problem. I was able to move on. This practice is an infringement of basic civil liberties. I should like to hear comments from other honourable members on that. I should also like to see a change of emphasis—a getting back to being concerned about catching the thief and the criminal.

Mr. Moore: And preventing crime.

Mr. LANE: That is the idea.

The Valley is not the only place where this happens. I know of instances in the vicinity of the Newmarket Hotel where, night after night, patrol cars can be seen parked at the side of the road. Those police keep cars under surveillance as they leave the car park. They simply note registration numbers. Those involved are discreet and clever enough not to take action as a person leaves the car park. They follow at a safe distance until the driver is some miles away from the car park and then pull him to the side of the road on some pretext and give him an alco-test. This surveillance could be better applied to known and convicted felons.

A matter of concern in the administration of the C.I.B. is the recent suggestion that the Police Consorting Squad should be broken up so that there will no longer be a central Consorting Squad, which has existed for many years. This squad provides a traditional form of criminal detection in the State. The movements, activities and whereabouts of known criminals are kept track of by this squad, which is composed of specialists who are experienced in, and have an intimate knowledge of, the faces and modus operandi of known local and interstate professional criminals. On many occasions interstate criminals who have come to Queensland are quickly despatched back to the South, thus preventing the commission of offences by them. I urge the Minister to maintain the Consorting Squad in its traditional form with a central group of experienced detectives. This is essential if we are to keep down the rate of crime in the State. I hope that the Minister does everything in his power to ensure that the Consorting Squad continues to operate.

Although it is perhaps not quite so important, the same remarks could be made about the Breaking and Entering Squad and the Motor Squad, in which officers gain an intimate knowledge of criminals who specialise in these activities and derive a living from them. These officers are able to recognise the handiwork of a criminal by his methods of operation—by the way in which an offence is committed. They are able to make educated guesses or assessments of who may be responsible for an offence.

I am sure that some other honourable members will have something to say about the taking into account of juvenile offenders to boost the numbers on the new sophisticated kill sheets used these days. These sheets may be prepared in better form and have the backing of people skilled in public relations, but they are no better than the dirty kill sheets I was familiar with 10 or 15 years ago when these matters were raised by Col Bennett, the former member for South Brisbane.

I have a few comments to make about police professionalism. In this context I do not allude to academic qualifications but to

the fact that policemen should be good tradesmen. By dint of experience and training gained from senior officers, they should be able to work in volatile situations without losing their cool and thus produce a professional result. In recent times there seems to have been some evidence, particularly in Far North Queensland, that police have not been operating in that way. I voice a word of encouragement to the police, many of whom are known to me, to behave themselves in a professional way so that they are beyond reproach and so that they do not bring the wrath of public opinion on their heads for any irresponsible actions.

I think it must be quite evident to everyone by now that the recent police raid in the Cedar Bay area on what was apparently a camp full of unemployed hippies was not carried out in the cool, calm, professional manner in which I would expect experienced police officers to conduct themselves. It is perfectly valid for police who are conscious of their responsibility in respect to the commission of offences, such as the possession of drugs, stolen property and so on, to go to a place such as Cedar Bay and to carry out investigations into any offences against the law that may have been committed therein; but there is a proper way in which to go about it. The worst thing that police officers can do in those circumstances is to overkill and be clumsy about what they do. There appears to be some evidence that that is what happened in that police operation.

I know of many occasions when officers from the Drug Squad, who are specialists in this field, have had, to use the crude term, to raid plantations, or places in the bush where unemployed hippies or others living under disorderly circumstances have been growing marijuana for sale. The Drug Squad has been quite capable under those circumstances of carrying out searches within the law—and there is plenty of room within the law for police officers to adequately search persons whom they suspect of being in possession of dangerous drugs—and of questioning people within the law. There is plenty of power within the law for the police to ask questions of people and to carry out investigations in a most detailed way in any such situation. I do not think there is any need for police to go outside the law or to behave like buccaneers or adventurers, as though it is a Saturday afternoon game of fun or some sort of excursion.

(Time expired.)

[*Sitting suspended from 12.58 to 2.15 p.m.*]

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (2.15 p.m.): In rising to speak on the Police Estimates, I take the opportunity to congratulate the new Minister for Police (Hon. T. G. Newbery) firstly upon his appointment to that portfolio and, secondly, on his presentation of these Estimates. I am sure that he has the capacity to perform his task in a most capable manner. I thank the Honourable

A. M. Hodges, the former Minister for Police who is now Minister for Tourism and Marine Services, for the co-operation and assistance that he gave to me during his term as Minister for Police.

I believe that in his speech the Minister for Police outlined in detail the plans for the Police Force for the coming year and the way in which the allocation to that department will be expended.

I should like to speak about the magnificent job which I believe is carried out by the great majority of police officers in Queensland. Unfortunately they receive little recognition from many members of the public when they are engaged in incidents which are all too often overlooked. I point to the wonderful performance by the Police Force in what I term the public-relations field. We often see police motor-cyclists, mounted policemen, police bands and so forth performing at the Royal National Show and many other shows throughout Queensland.

Recently the Police Academy cadet football team travelled from Brisbane to Barcaldine to compete in the Black and White charity football match to raise money for the Spastic Centre. I sincerely thank the Minister for Police, the Commissioner of Police and the police administration for seeing fit to let those cadets travel out there. It was a wonderful exercise in public relations. The team was coached by Wayne Bennett, the former player for Brothers in Brisbane. The cadets played one of the cleanest and most enlightened games of football seen in the Central West for many a day. They were a credit to themselves and to the Police Force during their time in Barcaldine. They were well received by all of the people in that area.

Police officers are called on to do many unenviable jobs. We hear very little mention of them. I instance investigations of murders and the work they do for the State Emergency Service, including work during cyclones. They are called out and in flood times frequently risk their lives. During the recent floods in Western Queensland and throughout the remainder of the State, the police did a magnificent job, through the State Emergency Service. I pay a tribute to them and give them full credit for their devotion to duty in that field, especially in my own area.

In our society, unfortunately, we see on many occasions an unusual attitude adopted towards members of the Police Force and all other forms of authority. I do not know whether this is a carry-over from the Ned Kelly era. I find it strange that in numerous cases the criminal is depicted as the underdog and the victim is virtually forgotten. In many instances criminologists and dogooders put forward only the case for the rehabilitation of criminals. All they seem to think about is the criminal and not the victim. It is a sad fact in our society that not enough emphasis is placed on injuries

suffered by a victim of a crime; instead, the emphasis is placed on the rehabilitation of the criminal. We hear too much of it.

Many years ago, during my time, any under-age person found on licensed premises and any young person found there outside trading hours received a swift kick in the pants. I think it did more good than some of the attitudes that are adopted today. Unfortunately, if that took place today, the dogooders would cry out for a royal commission into the whole administration of the Police Force, and everything else on the ground of police brutality.

In his speech, the Leader of the Opposition referred to the recent "baton case", as it is termed in Brisbane. The point that is often overlooked by many people is that the students were taking part in an illegal march. They made no effort to obtain a permit and they knew it was illegal. They defied the law.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Even if it was an illegal march, did that give Inspector Mark Dougall Beattie the right to bash that girl over the head with a baton?

Mr. TURNER: If the honourable member will be patient, I shall explain that point towards the end of my speech.

I say that it was an illegal march. They did not have a permit and they defied the law in not getting one. They disrupted traffic and inconvenienced pedestrians and, when they were told to disband, they did not do so. The inspector, whose name has been mentioned by the honourable member for Archerfield, admitted that he hit the girl. I think the way was open for this girl, if she felt she had been treated wrongly, to take civil action in the matter. She would probably have been given free legal aid into the bargain! I do not see that she has any cause for complaint.

When there is talk about the attitude of the Police Force, what it is doing in the community and how bad and corrupt it is, I think we should look at the force in the days of Labor administration. Let us look at the A.L.P. attitude to the police and law and order prior to the coming to power of Mr. Whitlam in Canberra. At that time leading parliamentarians such as Dr. Jim Cairns, Senator Georges and Senator Keeffe sat in the streets in defiance of law and order and prevented the ordinary citizens from going about their business.

They also advised draft dodgers to defy the law of the land by not registering for conscription. Not for a moment did they think of saying, "We do not believe in conscription. If you put us into office, we will abolish it." But no; they said, "Defy the law of the land. Don't register. Tear up your cards." They even went to the extent of nominating a draft dodger for election to Parliament when he was being sought on a charge. That demonstrates the A.L.P. attitude to law and order.

I am amazed at the way in which the media often portray the police. Usually they are shown in a bad light, almost never in a good one. Women are often seen on television crying after losing children through accidents or drowning. When the media are searching for news, I wonder why there are never interviews with the wives and children of police officers involved in cases such as the recent knocking down of a door to apprehend a man who murdered a girl at Spring Hill and who was later holding hostages at the point of a loaded gun at Kelvin Grove. Never are they seen crying on television because they are worried lest their husbands and fathers be killed or maimed. People should wonder why this is so.

I believe that we live in a fine, free democracy in Australia in which we can criticise the Prime Minister, the Governor-General, the Premier or the Police Force, and do it with complete impunity. But heaven help anyone who dares to criticise or move against demonstrators, radicals, criminals and others who oppose the freedom of the great majority of law-abiding citizens, who well realise that, without laws and the police, society must degenerate until the law of the jungle prevails. I conclude by saying that we have a fine Police Force which is efficient, conscientious, dedicated and well regarded by the great majority of people. I personally compliment police officers on the job that they are doing.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (2.24 p.m.): It is customary, Mr. Hewitt, to refer to you as "Mr. Chairman" or just "Mr. Hewitt". That accords with the customs and procedures of Parliament. The other day I received a letter from a very prominent member of the A.L.P. in Townsville, a woman, and she signed herself "Chairperson". I wonder whether you would like us to refer to you as "Chairperson Bill" or something like that. I mention this a little flip-pantly and facetiously to give the Committee some idea of the decay and degeneration of the A.L.P. today. But I will continue to refer to you as "Mr. Hewitt" or "Mr. Chairman" as the point dictates.

Now, let us have a look at all this howling and yowling and this screaming and yelling for an inquiry into the Police Department. In what particular way will this inquiry be held? I have heard some members of the Labor Party say that we should have a judicial inquiry. Good God, fancy holding a judicial inquiry into anything if one wants to find the truth and if one wants justice to be done. Truth and justice are the last things that judicial inquiries are concerned about. They are concerned only about the gimmicks and technicalities of the law. They are concerned only with evidence being given in accordance with their own court rules and so on. Let me say quite frankly and honestly, as a man who knows what he is talking about, because I knock about among the ordinary people, the salt of the earth: if an inquiry is to be held, then in the name

of justice and decency let us hold a complete, full and open inquiry not only into the police but into the legal profession and into the Judiciary. Naturally we would not have a judge holding that particular inquiry; we would have a reputable, responsible and knowledgeable man of Queensland, or a woman of Queensland, if you like.

Let us have a look at what is wrong with the police. Quite a lot of complaints are made about the police. We say that the police are falling down on their job, that they are not making enough arrests. The Leader of the Opposition cited cases where murderers had gone undetected. Ask a policeman why he does not put into his investigation into a case all the work he could and should put into it and he will say that he knows he would be wasting his time. The moment a policeman arrests a criminal, even though he be a foul and heinous criminal, the whole of the legal profession, the whole of the legal protection of Queensland and the whole of the Judiciary are immediately on that criminal's side. When he goes to court the Crown prosecutor is not allowed to ask for a conviction. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition and all of these yowlers and howlers will tell us why a Crown prosecutor is not allowed in a court the same freedom as a defence counsel is allowed. Why isn't the Crown prosecutor allowed to urge for a conviction just the same as the man who is representing the criminal is allowed to take out his handkerchief and wipe imaginary tears from his eyes and talk about the sentimental and emotional aspects of the case? Why isn't the Crown prosecutor allowed the same crack of the whip in the court as the defence counsel? Perhaps some of our lawyers will tell us that. I can tell honourable members why. Can anyone, then, blame a policeman who knows that, whenever he arrests a criminal, no matter how bad is his crime, no matter how putrid a crime he might have committed, all the cards are stacked against his getting a conviction against that criminal? Let us have an inquiry into the legal profession. Let us have an inquiry into all the legal flim-flam and flummery that goes on in court. Let us have an inquiry into the Judiciary and let us have it conducted by a decent, reputable, honest and knowledgeable man.

Now, quite a lot of mention has been made of a little girl who was hit over the head with a baton. That little girl was a member of a rowdy, raucous, lawless demonstration and she was hit over the head with a baton. She should have got a good kick in the pants as well. With your permission, Mr. Hewitt, I am going to put it on the vociferous, the arrogant, the truculent, the pugnacious—the "tin-tipper" as he was referred to in today's "Telegraph"—honourable member for Archerfield: what would he have done with that girl if he had been the officer in charge of the police when she came ram-paging, raging and probably yelling her

obscenities down the street? I do not know whether she yelled obscenities, but most of those university students do. They have a tongue as foul as one would find anywhere, and they do not hesitate to yell out these obscenities. What would the honourable member for Archerfield have done? I suggest he would have done exactly as the police inspector did, except that probably he would have hit her harder, and she would have deserved it. He knows that to be true.

What happened a few weeks later, when the same crowd of hairy, smelly no-hopers from the university decided to have another procession in the city on exactly the same pretext? On that occasion they went to the police, got a permit, and acted within the law, and they conducted themselves decently and responsibly. Did anyone, man or woman, get hit with a baton on that occasion? Not on your life! After that procession, they complimented the police and everybody else on the way in which they had conducted themselves.

So, Mr. Hewitt, if we are going to put the blame for that woman's being hit on the head with the baton where it rightly belongs, we put it on the head of the woman herself.

Let us remember, too, that, no matter what this vociferous, foul-mouthed crowd do, they have the civil liberties group right behind them. A member of that group was a barrister named Gardiner—"cry baby" Gardiner. I do not know whether he is still a prominent member of the civil liberties group. He has been an A.L.P. candidate at several elections. I have told you of the time, Mr. Hewitt, when Gardiner was in the gallery of this Chamber and tried to stage a drama here similar to those that he staged in the streets. It did not last long. He was taken into custody by the Speaker's sergeant, who was taking him out when I saw him. I did not know who he was, but I could hear him crying like a baby downstairs. As I walked along the corridor and looked into one of the side corridors, there he was with the sergeant, and he was boo-hooing like a freshly castrated calf. I looked in and, just at that moment, along came a Liberal member of Parliament who happened to know this Gardiner person. He went in and asked the sergeant what had happened, and the sergeant said, "Well, I arrested him up in the gallery, on the Speaker's orders, and I am going to take him into custody." The member said, "Look, let me have a talk to the Speaker." So the sergeant waited with Gardiner, who was still bawling his eyes out. He had no more guts than a red beak, this man who was the champion of the civil liberties group. The Liberal member went and saw the Speaker, who said, "All right. Tell the policeman to let him go." The policeman did let him go, and it was a sight for the gods, Mr. Hewitt, to see "cry baby" Gardiner, this dignified member of the legal profession, this bigshot in the A.L.P., going along the corridor towards the room of the honourable member who saved him, with his arm round his shoulder, still bawling his

eyes out, saying, "I'll never forget you for this. I'll never forget you for this." That is the type of man, that is the type of scurrilous individual, who is right behind this civil liberties business.

Mention has been made, of course, of the conduct of the police in regard to graft and corruption and, shall I say, grappling with crime. I have been in this Assembly for 33 years, 13 of them when a Labor Government was in power, and before that I was a public man when a Labor Government was in power. I have always been what might be called a man of the world, and I say without hesitation or qualification that the A.L.P. was conceived in corruption; it was born in corruption, and it operated in corruption.

Can anyone tell me anything that happened in America in the Tammany Hall days that was worse than the graft and corruption that were rampant when the Labor Party was in control of this State? Let us talk about the A.L.P. members who are now squealing about police not doing their duty. No-one knows better than they do the graft that was paid by S.P. bookmakers to police. I know prominent policemen who would come out of an S.P. bookmaker's shop and would not wait inside long enough to stuff the graft money into their pocket.

The Leader of the Opposition had quite a lot to say vociferously this morning about the frailties of the Police Force. I have a lot of friends in the S.P. game. I do not sit in judgment of an S.P. man. I think that, according to the circumstances of the case, he was carrying out a profession that many people were carrying out. But I would like to have as a Christmas present the money that the Leader of the Opposition paid to police as graft when he was running an S.P. shop. And he would know that he had to pay it in order to survive and, under the circumstances, no-one could blame him for paying it. Yet they took it.

I do not know how many police inspectors have been in Townsville in my time. I have had one common policy with police inspectors. S.P. betting was rampant in Townsville. Some police inspectors would try to close down the betting shops, but others never bothered about them. Any commissioner will agree that I had one application alone to make. I used to say to a newly appointed inspector, "You are the inspector in charge of police. If you're going to deal with the S.P. game then deal with it consistently. Either open them all or close them all. Don't open some or close some." Unfortunately, some of them did open some and close others. One police inspector in Townsville sent for me. When I went and saw him he said "Mr. Aikens, I would like you to give me a bit of a hand. I have my detective senior sergeant grafting with the S.P. operators. I'd like you to make representations to have him transferred." I said, "You're a bit late. I've just made representations to have you both transferred because you are grafting with the S.P. operators, too." And so he was.

When we talk about S.P. operators let us remember one police inspector who was transferred from Townsville. He had occupied the police house. Shortly after he was transferred, it was necessary to send carpenters in to do something to the house because it was going to be incorporated with the Townsville Central School. When the carpenters were pulling off the front door they found £800 in £10 notes that had been planted under the front veranda boards. They knew that the police inspector had put it there. He had been making so much money on the graft that he had put £800 away, at a time when £800 was real money, and had forgotten that he had put it there.

Let us have an end to his sickening hypocrisy about graft and corruption in the Police Force. There may be some of it going on now. I am not going to suggest that the Police Force is as clean and pure as driven snow, but to compare the graft and corruption that went on with the Labor Government with the graft and corruption that goes on now is like comparing Idi Amin with a little piccaninny.

It is the same with crime. I can remember when two police officers ran the gambling joint in Innisfail. It was up on the second floor of a building. Skinny Williams had been running dope for one of the detective senior sergeants in Townsville but fell out with him. When he went to Innisfail he went to the police gambling joint, thinking that he was going to take over. But they had two policemen running the game. Anybody who knows anything about gambling knows what "running the game" means. One night Skinny Williams put on a bit of an act so these two policemen took him out and threw him down the stairs. It was a flight of about 25 steps. One of them said, "I don't think he's dead. We will go down and have a look." When they went down they found that Skinny was still alive. So they carried him up again and threw him down again. He was dead the second time when they went down and looked at him.

Don't let anyone tell me about graft and corruption; don't let anyone tell me about the rottenness of the Police Force. It was putrid under the A.L.P., and we all know it was. For all I know there might be a slight odour about the Police Force today, but nothing to what it was under the A.L.P. If we are going to have an inquiry into the Police Force, let us have an inquiry into the judiciary; let us have an inquiry into the legal fraternity. If there is going to be an inquiry into the Police Force, let it be an open inquiry, not an inquiry circumscribed or inhibited in any way by legal technicalities and all that sort of thing.

We talk about the police and the job they have. How much did it cost the taxpayers of this State to put away those two foul murderers of the 15 kids who died at Whisky Au-Go-Go? I got the figures from the Attorney-General so I can tell the Committee that the taxpayers of Queensland were

mulcted of \$12,000 to defend them. How much did it cost to defend the murderer who put the bomb in the cupboard on the North Coast and as a result blew a little kid to pieces? Why isn't the A.L.P. saying anything about that? Why aren't the media saying anything about it?

Let us face up to the fact that it is the job of a journalist working for a TV station, a newspaper or elsewhere to get a sensational story. If his story is not sensational, his sub-editor will throw it out. He has to magnify a little story into egregious proportions and present it to the people as a fact. If any member of the media has any definite charge to lay against any policeman he should come out in the open and lay it. The worst soothers of the lot would be on "This Day Tonight" on A.B.C. TV. Perhaps I should call it the "G.W." station—that is, the Gough Whitlam station—because every night we see Gough on it blowing his bags out about something or other. Now that Egerton is a knight he can afford to tell the truth and the other day he said in his article that when the Whitlam Government got into power it was amazing to see the bum's rush of journalists and other media people into the A.L.P. A lot of them are still there peddling their political bigotry and fanaticism as good solid news.

Who wants this inquiry into the Police Force? I have not heard of any reputable, honest, politically disinterested person who wants it. Of course the media want it. They would want anything if they thought there was a headline in it. The editor's nightly prayer is, "Give me tomorrow my headline." He wants his headline and his reporters know it; they have to go out and get it. I do not condemn them for doing so. That is the way the game is played. But I am amazed that men, for cheap, shoddy, political purposes should bring into this Chamber headlines from newspapers that are not worth a bumper so far as facts and truth are concerned and then demand an inquiry into the Police Force on the basis of these useless, stupid headlines.

I now come to something that we never hear the A.L.P. talk about. We never heard Percy Tucker, the Leader of the Opposition or the shadow Minister for Health, wealth and everything else (including justice), talk about this. I refer to the honourable member for Rockhampton, who is the shadow Minister for almost everything. In this instance, a genuine police sergeant (Senior Sergeant Second Class A. J. W. Barrett) was on duty at The Strand in Townsville one night when a drunken Aborigine was using bad language and staging quite a drama. Barrett arrested him but he broke away. There were on The Strand two no-hopers from New Zealand bumming their way around Australia, living from scrap tins when they could not bum a drink. Barrett chased this man across the road, through Queens Hotel, round the back

of it and out onto The Strand, where he finally caught him. He then put the other handcuff on him and took him to the police station, where nothing was said. The next day the man was fined by the magistrate and that was that. But then the A.L.P. got hold of this story—Senator Keeffe's mob. Someone told them that a poor old Aborigine had been bashed on The Strand. That Aborigine used language I have not heard even drunken bullockies use.

Months later, when all the charges were cooked up and buttressed by the media, the then Minister for Police (Mr. Hodges) decided to inquire into the matter. He sent Inspector Seinegar to Townsville to inquire into it. He went to The Strand one night to make inquiries and got a decent bashing up. As a matter of fact he looked like a battered plum pudding by the time a male Aborigine had finished with him. There has not been any inquiry into why Seinegar was bashed up on The Strand.

It was later decided to bring the two no-hoper New Zealanders back from Western Australia, where they had bummed a ride to, to give evidence against Barrett in the Police Court in Townsville. He was committed for trial on the basis of their evidence. They went back to Western Australia again. They were brought back from Western Australia to Townsville to give evidence before a District Court judge about an assault on this foul Aborigine. Believe it or not—and I had to get these figures from the Premier himself—it cost the taxpayers of Queensland \$6,000 to bring those two scruffy no-hoper New Zealanders all that way to give evidence in Townsville.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BROWN (Clayfield) (2.45 p.m.): I welcome this opportunity to speak in the debate on the Police Estimates. In doing so, I congratulate the Minister for the manner in which the Estimates have been presented. It would be remiss of me not to congratulate the Honourable Max Hodges, our previous Police Minister, for the contribution he made in the past to this Ministry. In the broader sense, Mr. Whitrod and his staff have done a fine job.

As an ex-businessman, when I read figures on paper I try to make something out of them and I find that to some extent they come to life. Within the Police Force of this State we see a picture of growth. It is difficult to conceive of a more important sphere than the functions of our Police Force. For the record, I wish to refer to the various responsibilities covered by this portfolio. There are 14 Acts administered by the department—Animal Protection; Civil Defence; Firearms; Hawkers and Pedlers; Hide, Skin and Wool Dealers; Juvenile Smoking Suppression; Pawnbrokers; Police; Police (Photographs); Police Superannuation; Queensland Police Welfare Club; Second-hand Wares;

Suppression of Gambling; and Vagrants, Gaming, and Other Offences. That gives some idea of the scope of the activities of this very important portfolio.

I note with pleasure that provision has been made within the Estimates for further growth, although it may be contended that on the numbers that is not so. For instance, the number of persons provided for the department in 1975-76 was 4,910. Comparing that with the 4,901 provided for in 1976-77, we see a reduction of nine. However, we must take into account that as at 30 June the force was 228 under establishment. That is covered at page 12 of the Treasurer's Financial Statement, where he says—

"Provision has been made, however, for under-strength positions to be taken up to establishment limit levels and this has allowed for significant increases in critical areas such as police".

Although there will be no increase in the police establishment, funds are to be provided to recruit a further 228 personnel.

Looking further down the Estimates, I notice that the over-all provision for police and the State Emergency Service for the current financial year represents an increase of 14.57 per cent, or \$8,970,233 over the amount actually spent last year. Obviously, the service will be maintained. Later on I will relate this to the increase in crime rate and the increase in traffic offences, and rebut some of the things that the Leader of the Opposition spoke about during his address. In fact, I will refer to those matters now.

It amazed me to hear the Leader of the Opposition carrying on about the incompetency of the Police Force. His attack on the Government degenerated into an attack on the Police Force itself. He read copiously from newspaper and other media reports. It is pretty obvious that he believes everything that he reads in the newspapers. As the honourable member for Townsville South said, tomorrow's headlines are the dream of the editor of a newspaper. We are all aware that the sensational approaches used by the media at times to catch the attention of the public at large certainly present a very lopsided story indeed. Instead of using a sensational approach based on grabbing this newspaper and that newspaper and quoting from this source and that source, I prefer to look at the figures in the 1976 Queensland Year Book on the increase in crime and the clear-up rate.

In 1970-71 the total number of recorded crimes was 61,572 of which 20,968 offences, or 34 per cent, were cleared up. In 1974-75 there was an enormous increase—looking quickly at the figures, it was of the order of 20 per cent—in the total number of crimes to 80,181 of which 35,463, or 44 per cent, were cleared up. So that we had a 10 per cent increase in the clear-up rate. That is indeed a tribute to the efforts of the members of the Police Force in this State in protecting citizens' rights.

Another aspect that should be looked at is the number of crimes committed by minors. It should be remembered that in 1974-75, 18 to 21-year-olds were excluded, so that there is a rather disproportionate clear-up rate in that area for that reason. However, there is a considerable drop in juvenile crime, over all, for that reason.

I will proceed now to deal with traffic offences, again quoting from the 1976 Queensland Year Book. In 1970-71, 117,142 penalty notices were issued. That total was made up of 60,091 metropolitan and 57,051 country. In 1974-75 the total was 238,935 or over double the number of penalty notices issued in 1970-71. That is a staggering increase. Considering the carnage on the roads and how lethal a vehicle is when it is used without proper respect for other users of the road and the community at large, we must pay a tribute to the members of the Police Force when they can improve the rate of apprehension for this sort of offence.

I shall now refer briefly to what my colleague the honourable member for Merthyr said about keeping dossiers on people. I suppose it could be said that the Police Force keeps dossiers on people who commit some sort of traffic offence. Of course it does, because there is a points system that seems to work very well. A licence holder who has accrued nine or more points over a period of two years is reminded that his licence is a privilege and not a right, and he is asked to show cause why it should not be taken from him. In this way we remove from the roads people who are potentially a great hazard to you, Mr. Hewitt, to me, to our families, and to all Queenslanders in general. I commend the force for maintaining this system.

It gives me great pleasure to speak about the Police Force in this way. It seems to me that whenever one picks up a newspaper or watches television today, one hears complaints about the Police Force. One is exposed to such complaints in many places, even this Chamber. It reminds me a little of the story of the optimist who looked at the bottle and said, "Look at that. It's half full", and the pessimist who looked at the same bottle and said, "It's half empty."

I think we have to remember that we have an excellent Police Force in Queensland today. The great majority of police officers are very dedicated to the job that they do and I think that they deserve commendation rather than condemnation. They are tried without having any right of defence. Police officers cannot defend themselves if claims are made against them in some obtuse way. It hurts me to see the privilege of this Assembly used to some degree for this purpose.

A Government Member: Abused.

Mr. BROWN: Very well, abused.

In my maiden speech on 25 August I referred to the need for greater police protection in the electorate of Clayfield, which

I represent. I am well aware that there are great problems in funding and recruitment, although I know from the Estimates and from studies that I have done in other places that there is a good reserve of police cadets in training. There are also a fair number of probationary police officers on duty.

I also note with great pleasure that the Police Force is not a top-heavy organisation. In the last few years a great deal has been done to streamline operations so that police officers can be released from work of lesser importance for more useful duties.

To return to police protection for Clayfield—this is an area of high-density living. It has many high-rise multiple-unit buildings, which seem to attract the undesirable element such as Peeping Toms and more serious offenders. In Wagner Road, Clayfield, there is a small cottage police station manned by a sergeant 1/C and five other police officers. It is not a 24-hour station and, in my opinion, it does not offer adequate coverage for such a densely populated area. I have been in touch with the Minister on this problem, and it is a matter that I intend to pursue.

I also point out that a block of land on the corner of Sandgate Road and Botany Street, Clayfield, has been lying vacant for some time. It is ideally situated for a police station because it is on a main arterial road and a police station there could be readily recognised as a police station. One of the problems with police stations is their identification, especially smaller suburban stations that may be in out-of-the-way places. I recommend that consideration be given to the clearer identification of police stations. I appeal to the Minister to consider the needs of the Clayfield electorate.

It is astonishing to see that in 1966-67 the Estimates for the Police Department were \$15,072,577 while the expenditure in 1975-76 was \$61,081,827, or an increase of 305.26 per cent. The requirement for 1976-77 is \$69,861,571 or an increase of 363.56 per cent. That shows that there has been growth, and I believe that the growth has been in the right direction.

I would like briefly to refer to some of the things that have happened in connection with the basic reorganisation which has occurred in the department, such as a reduction in the number of returns that have to be submitted by police officers. I understand that certain returns have been eliminated. I understand that two annual returns and certain three-monthly returns have been eliminated and one periodic return and two monthly returns have been instituted. This means that the work-load in respect of returns has been considerably reduced. This means greater job satisfaction and people are released to do the job of work they are best suited for and have been trained to do. In addition, the extraneous duties which were performed by police have been reduced by encouraging local authorities, semi-governmental bodies and Government departments

to undertake their own work in several areas where previously police were burdened by it. For example, parking regulations and sprinkler breaches are now handled by local authorities and summonses are sent by post, whereas until recently these were hand delivered by police.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the provision of funds for the State Emergency Service. We are looking at an increase in expenditure for this financial year of \$190,489 or 37.99 per cent. I note also that \$67,026 is to be spent on the purchase and maintenance of motor vehicles. This spells mobility and means something, too, in terms of the effectiveness of this very worth-while organisation on which we must all depend in times of the greatest need, and that is during an emergency.

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (3.4 p.m.): At the outset, I invite any member of the Committee to interject at any time he likes, especially the A.L.P., and I will handle him. If any honourable member opposite gives me trouble today, I will belt hell out of him. First of all, I would like to congratulate—

An Opposition Member: You're nasty.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am nasty to the A.L.P. all the time. I would like to congratulate the Minister for Police on the job he has done in what is a very difficult portfolio. I first met the Minister when he was chairman of the Sarina Shire Council, and if he does half as good a job as Minister for Police as he did as chairman of the Sarina Shire Council, nobody will have any complaints. I would also like to congratulate the previous Minister, the Honourable A. M. Hodges. In my opinion he did a pretty fair job, especially in some of my dealings with him. For instance, when I requested that some police land at Deception Bay be made available for school parking facilities—land which I do not think will ever have a police station built on it—the Minister was only too willing to allow the school to use that land for parking. That was a lot different from some of the co-operation I have had from other departments.

Mr. Jensen: What about that policeman you tried to put in the other day?

Mr. FRAWLEY: He was not a policeman at all.

The Leader of the Opposition, as usual, followed the Labor principle of denigrating the Police Force, yet when Labor was in power the Police Force was subjected daily to political interference. In the 1950s it was well known that a Labor politician down here, as long as he was told within a few hours of the incident, would get anybody out of a minor parking offence if the person involved liked to kick in with £5. I know about that because I worked here, and I can vouch for it. In addition, prostitution was rife in this city, but because brothels

were giving a kickback to some Labor politicians in this Chamber, the police were instructed to leave all the brothels alone. So when Labor politicians stand up and speak about the Police Force, they should certainly remember what the Police Force was like under a Labor Government.

An example of Labor thinking regarding the Police Force was the attitude of the Labor Party during the Springbok tour in 1972, especially that of Senator Georges, that well-known associate of Communists, and his cohort Mr. Gerry Jones, the former Labor member for Everton who also is a Left-winger and an associate of Communists, when they sat down in the street and disrupted traffic and called the police "Pigs" and many other names. That gives an indication of the attitude of the Labor Party towards the Police Force.

The Police Force is like any other body. It has many good members doing their best to uphold law and order, as well as some who abuse the authority they are given and who are a disgrace to the uniform they wear. On more than one occasion I referred to the former Minister for Police complaints people made to me of being bashed by police in the City Watchhouse. I drew the Minister's attention to these complaints, but I have to say that never once was any police officer reprimanded. It makes me wonder whether complaints made by members of the public against the Police Force are ever really considered.

I recall one man in my electorate coming to me on a Sunday morning with marks all over his face. He said that he had been at some cafe up on Petrie Terrace where he had been short-changed some part of \$20. When he complained, the man there went and got two policemen, who came in and told him to shut up or they would book him for being under the influence of liquor. So they took him to the watch-house and two of them held him while another bloke flogged him, and when he walked out the sergeant said, "What a pity you fell up the steps."

When I wrote to the Minister with a complaint about this incident, the answer from the Police Force was that he fell down and bashed his head against the toilet, so they could not even get the story straight. I had two different stories about that incident.

Mr. Houston: If you criticise the police, that's all right, but it isn't if anyone else does it.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have a story to tell, and I give credit where it is due. If the honourable member listens, he will hear that. Apart from some of the complaints I have received, most of the police in my electorate are fairly good people and do a pretty good job. You will notice that I said it was police from the watch-house who did that bashing, not from the electorate of Murrumbidgee.

Recently I received a number of complaints about a group of drunks in Redcliffe who were causing a lot of trouble by throwing party after party, night after night, and disrupting the peace and quiet of people in the neighbourhood. The Redcliffe police certainly handled this matter promptly, and now the residents can enjoy some of the peace and quiet to which they are entitled. I congratulate the inspector and the police who did that work.

Some of the police in my electorate are working under very trying conditions, and the Government should certainly try to upgrade some of the police stations and provide every facility to enable police to carry out their duties. Let me take as an example the police station at Caboolture, which is in my electorate. At night, the only telephone besides the one in the police station is the one connected to the police sergeant's home. Whenever there is a call at night, he has to answer the telephone, get out of bed and go and get the constable who is on duty. An application has been made to have a telephone installed at the constable's home, and I know that some time in October the Police Department requested Telecom to carry out the work. After writing to the Minister, I was informed of that, and he has endeavoured to expedite the matter. It may seem only a trivial matter to some people, but the health of the sergeant at Caboolture is definitely deteriorating because of sleepless nights. I can speak with some knowledge because I see him occasionally socially, and I can say definitely that his health is deteriorating because his sleep is being disturbed night after night as the only telephone available besides the one at the station is the one in his home. So I hope that the Minister will again endeavour to expedite the installation of a telephone in the constable's home at Caboolture.

The Caboolture Police Station, which has been in use for many years, should be replaced. It has outlived its usefulness and the staff are working under very trying conditions. It is very hot inside the station, and the conditions there are in direct contrast with those in the court-house next door, which is a fine, modern building. I believe that a new police station should be erected in Caboolture at an early date.

Another police station in my electorate that certainly needs upgrading is the one at Woodford. In fact, the toilet facilities at the Woodford Police Station are a damned disgrace. There are no toilet facilities in the court-house, and there is only one earth closet located about 40 m behind the court-house. It is used by the visiting magistrate, all members of the legal fraternity, police staff and everyone else who comes there. Both men and women have to use that one earth closet, and that is not good enough.

There are no toilet facilities in the cells. There is an earth closet about 15 m from the watch-house, but the prisoners have to use plastic buckets in the cells. There is no

shower or hand basin in the watch-house. The nearest water tap is approximately 20 m away. There is only one electric light on the cell veranda, which certainly does not give enough light inside the cells. I have seen that for myself at night-time. As a matter of fact I will be at Woodford again this Friday night. It is very difficult for the police to check on the prisoners in the cells at night-time by this one light on the veranda. I understand that plans have been drawn up by the Works Department for septic toilets at the Woodford Police Station, but work has been deferred because of lack of money.

I have requested the Minister to visit Caboolture and Woodford Police Stations to see for himself some of the matters I have mentioned, and he has agreed to do that. In all fairness to the previous Minister, I must say I never made that request to him. Had I done so, I am quite certain he would have agreed to visit those police stations.

I am still very concerned about the field interrogation reports. I used to be employed in the Public Works Department and consequently I worked in many police stations. Therefore I have many friends in the Police Force. Even though I am a member of Parliament, they still come and talk to me. Many police officers come to me with their problems. They tell me that they completely detest having to fill in these field interrogation reports, which are a breach of privacy. I urge the Minister to discontinue this invasion of privacy.

I was recently visited at night-time by friends of mine in the Police Force who supplied me with some startling information about drug pushers. I am not going to divulge that here but I will tell the Minister about it privately.

As to the recent booking of motorists for flashing their lights as a warning to others of a radar trap—I have always understood that the purpose of radar traps is to break down speed and try to minimise traffic accidents, and not merely to obtain additional revenue. When motorists flash their lights to warn others of a radar trap in the vicinity, surely in effect their action has the same effect. They are slowing other motorists down. I know that the Victorian Commissioner of Police has stated that the police in Victoria have been instructed not to book anybody who is flashing his lights as a warning of a radar trap, that he is virtually effecting one of the purposes of the Police Force. I frankly do not believe that it should be regarded as a crime if a person flashes his headlights to warn others of a radar trap. Certainly he should not be booked.

The former Minister told many people that the police were instructed to have their vehicles out in the open when they set up radar traps, so that everyone could see them. That instruction is not being carried out

now, and I can vouch for that. Radar traps are set up in Old Scarborough Road, Redcliffe, not far from where I live. The police car is always parked down Klingner Road, well out of sight. A motorist could not see it even if his car was fitted with a periscope, like a submarine. He would have to go right into the road to see it. That is not in accordance with what I was told about police keeping their cars out in the open. I am not opposed to radar traps. I believe in breaking down speed. I am not complaining about them. I have not been booked in a radar trap since 1956 or 1957. It was my own fault on that occasion. I have no axe to grind about the matter.

Very often radar traps are placed at the foot of a hill where it is very easy for vehicles to override. A vehicle coming down a hill at 60 km/h is certainly going to reach, say, 65 or 66 km/h by the time it reaches the bottom. I believe that the purpose of any radar trap placed at the foot of a hill is merely the obtaining of revenue and not the breaking down of speed.

Mr. Marginson: When were you booked?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I think it was about 1957. It could have been 1959; I am not sure. I was doing 47 mph at Nundah. I paid the fine. Unlike some honourable member, I didn't squeal to try to get out of it. On a previous occasion I heard the Minister complain about Government and Opposition members of Parliament approaching him to try to get people out of speeding offences. Never once have I tried to get anybody out of any traffic offence. Any time anyone has come to me with a complaint about being booked for speeding or anything else, I have asked for an investigation, but never once have I tried to get him out of the offence. I never will do that while I am a member of Parliament. I am not going to use political influence to try to get anybody out of a traffic offence. As far as I am concerned, drunken drivers should be put in gaol. I hope nobody ever comes to me to try to get him out of the offence of driving under the influence of liquor.

I realise that at the present time the Police Force may be understaffed in some areas, but in other areas it certainly is not. I firmly believe that there should be a reallocation of staff in certain areas. I am not going to point to any specific areas, but I do think that various areas where there has been an increase in population over the last couple of years should be looked at. Staff at these stations should be increased. Each week-end quite a number of traffic accidents occur on the Bruce Highway in the Caboolture area. Staff at this station are overworked. More men should be appointed to the station.

I have received many requests from people living in the Deception Bay area for a police station to be built at Deception Bay. Deception Bay is only about 9 to 10 kilometres from the Redcliffe Police Station and I

have been advised that the area is adequately patrolled by police cars from Redcliffe. That may be so, but further patrol cars are definitely needed in the area, which is developing fast. I do not advocate that a station should be built there so close to the Redcliffe Police Station, but greater police coverage should be provided in the Deception Bay area. It is not the fault of the inspector of police at Redcliffe that further patrols are not provided. He has insufficient staff to provide them, especially late at night. Most of the complaints I receive about noise and hoons roaring around the streets relate to Friday and Saturday nights. On these nights the police are busy everywhere. This seems to be the favourite time for larrikinism.

Usually this debate centres on the Estimates, but most speakers have dealt with matters other than those covered specifically in the Estimates. I firmly believe that money allocated for suburban stations has been reallocated to pay for the police headquarters building. This should be rectified. Many necessary repairs and renovations, such as those needed at Woodford and Caboolture, could certainly be carried out if more money was made available in the Police Vote. I urge the Minister to make every effort to try to obtain more funds to effect some of these very necessary repairs at suburban stations.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (3.17 p.m.): I rise to speak to these Estimates with some concern. At the outset I make it quite clear that I endorse the call made so lucidly and eloquently by my leader for an inquiry into the Queensland police. It is long overdue. The only way to restore public confidence in the Queensland Police Force is by a free, open inquiry. The image of the Queensland Police Force has never been lower in the eyes of the general public. The responsibility for this rests squarely on the shoulders of one man—the Premier!

A Government Member: What!

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: It surely rests on his shoulders. The Premier is actually the de facto Police Minister of this State. The present Minister for Police is only a puppet dancing to the strings pulled by the Premier. In recent years, the Premier's actions—

Mr. Wright: You just brought someone in.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I am glad to see the Minister here because I have something to say which I think will be of interest to him.

Mr. Byrne interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The honourable member will have his chance. Perhaps he will tell us about some of the machinations in the Augustinian seminary when he was unfrocked as a member.

Mr. BYRNE: I rise to a point of order. I point out that I was never unfrocked in the Augustinian seminary. I find the honourable member's statement very insulting and ask that he withdraw it.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! The honourable member denies the allegation and asks for a withdrawal.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Far be it from me to disagree with you, Mr. Miller.

As I was saying, the Premier's actions in recent years have virtually given the hoodlum element in the force carte blanche to bash and burn with impunity. I know that many hundreds of good, decent policemen are deeply concerned at the tarnished image the Police Force has gained of late. At this stage morale is very close to rock bottom. A very senior member of the Police Force whom I know very well has told me he is glad to get home at night and remove his Queensland Police Force uniform because he is ashamed to be seen in it. That is a shocking indictment of the Police Force of this State.

I take this opportunity to refer to a recent article in "The National Times" which corroborates what I have just said. The article stated that the credibility of the Queensland Police Force is the lowest in Australia. That, of course, is hardly conducive to good morale.

The sacking of Mr. Hodges by the Premier did nothing to improve police morale or public confidence in the Police Force. I have gone on record—and I will do so again—as saying that Max Hodges was regarded by all sections of the community as the best Police Minister in the 19 years that this Tory Government has been in power. What was his crime, Mr. Miller? He had the temerity to want an inquiry into the brutal bashing of a young woman by Inspector Mark Dougall Beattie. Let us give Max Hodges credit where credit is due. He had the courage, the integrity and the decency to try to do something about that attack on a poor defenceless young girl by a uniformed thug—an incident which, when shown on TV screens throughout Australia, drew justified revulsion and condemnation. Oh, how our hearts went out to this poor young lady when we heard the thud of the baton come down on her poor defenceless head. The member for Warrego stated during his speech that Inspector Mark Dougall Beattie admitted delivering a glancing blow. As I have said previously in the Chamber, if he delivered what is termed a glancing blow, the girl would have to be deformed, because it was quite obvious from the television film that he hit her across the head with a vertical blow. Not only is Inspector Mark Dougall Beattie a thug; he is also a liar.

Is it any wonder that Queensland and its Police Force are the butt of jokes around the nation. The present incumbent of the office of Police Minister is, as I have stated earlier, nothing more than the puppet who dances when the chief puppeteer—Joh Bjelke-Petersen—pulls the strings. No doubt the electorate of Barambah is not troubled by breathalysers or radar traps.

I now turn to some specific items that need the attention of this Minister. On 20 August last I sent him statements by nine young people who complained about their treatment at the hands of a Caloundra policeman. I hold up a cutting from "The Sunday Mail". The caption is, "I was put in a cell, girl 16 claims". Nothing has been done about it as yet. Members will recall that "The Sunday Mail" on 22 August last published an account of the incident, in which the young people have alleged in writing that they were the target of all types of abuse and assault. I have photostat copies of the nine statements and I am prepared to table them if I am required to do so. A 16-year-old girl was locked in a cell in a very distraught condition after being described as "a bikie onion". Most members would know the meaning of the colloquial expression "bikie onion". Of course, the honourable member for Belmont, being an ex-seminarian, would know nothing about this. It means a woman who is prepared to have multiple sex with members of that bikie group. Mr. Miller, could you comprehend what a dreadful insult that would be to a decent young woman? Yet nothing has yet been done about their complaints. On 25 August the Minister wrote and told me that an investigation was to be held. It is exactly 12 weeks since I forwarded the statements of the young people to the Minister, yet not another word has been forthcoming. I can only assume that the Minister and his advisers do not regard this matter very seriously. It is quite obvious that it will just be another whitewash of the hoodlum element of the Queensland Police Force. If I were a cynic, which I am not, I would suggest that I will receive a reply on 3 December—the day after Parliament rises. That would be the new Minister's form—or, should I say, the Premier's form. I hope that the Minister ensures that the whitewash has dried so that it will not damage my office carpet.

The next matter I wish to raise has been brought up before, not very eloquently but in a stumbling, stuttering manner, by the member for Merthyr. It relates to a section of the Police Force known as "Murphy's Marauders". The officer in charge of that squad is Sergeant First Class Vincent Murphy. As the honourable member for Merthyr has said, that squad was originally formed as a beat squad to patrol the Fortitude Valley area: but, as is so often the case, it went on to bigger and better things. The squad is now virtually operating random breathalyser tests, which I understood—and I agree with the honourable member for Merthyr on this—to be illegal in this State. A motorist is pulled over on the very flimsy pretext of having faulty tail lights. Then the hapless motorist has a bag slapped on him. I can assure the Minister that as a "How to win friends and influence people" exercise, it is a resounding flop and failure. The innocent motorist is quite rightly

incensed, and his opinion of the Queensland Police Force is not of the highest order. I suppose that this would apply to the general public as well. As I said, the morale of the Queensland Police Force and its image are the lowest of any in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Moore: I don't know that that's true.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: It is true and I think that the honourable member would agree because he is one of the more erudite members of the Liberal Party. I know that he would agree with me that that is so.

Mr. Moore: I am not certain that that statement is correct but I will say a few more words later on.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I have no doubt that he will say them well, too.

In the commissioner's annual report, the number of drink-driving offences shows a rise, but what is not shown is how they were obtained. The method adopted enables the squad to work a nice old overtime rot. The Police Award provides that an officer shall receive a minimum of three hours' overtime if he is to appear in court. As most cases are over in half an hour, this makes for a very tidy profit indeed for some of these bounty hunters in "Murphy's Marauders". Is it any wonder that Sgt. Murphy earned \$17,000 in salary and overtime last year? That is a disgrace. It is on record.

Mr. Marginson: How much?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: \$17,000. If what I am saying is incorrect, it will be interesting to see whether the Minister denies it.

Mr. Moore: It would be interesting to hear what the rest of his gang earn.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: That is true. I am coming to that. As a matter of fact, there are a few other comments I want to make about "Murphy's Marauders".

Honourable members will recall the fanfare that greeted the establishment of the friendly neighbourhood cop concept at Jamboree Heights. There was a splurge of publicity. What a marvellous thing it was going to be for Jamboree Heights. It is quite obvious that the suburb selected is a nice middle-class one in the very safe Tory electorate of Sherwood.

Mr. Hales interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The honourable member is a lightweight and I do not deal with lightweights.

I understand that this police officer came from "Murphy's Marauders". Very soon after he got out there, he became discontented because the big money and the perks were not available at Jamboree Heights. So he had a word in the right ear and he went back to "Murphy's Marauders". Let me say while I am on my feet that Sgt. Murphy has a tremendous

amount of influence with the present commissioner. I am told that the relationship is on a Vince and Ray basis. He is only a junior officer but I am told that he has the ear of the commissioner.

Mr. Moore: In the bowls club, that is normal.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: He might step off on the right foot; I do not know.

I suggest to the Minister that he do his homework and not rush into the concept of the friendly neighbourhood cop.

You will recall, Mr. Miller, that I have spoken in this Chamber before about hotel and club bouncers. To my mind, most of them are nothing short of hired thugs. Their targets are usually the drunk, the young, the feeble and the very old. I have made three or four speeches in this Chamber on this matter. I strongly disapprove of these bouncers and I hope that the Minister does also because members of the Police Force are moonlighting as bouncers at the Blinkers Night Club in the city. If doormen have to be employed at this club, why shouldn't it or any other club for that matter follow the example of the football and cricket clubs and pay for a police officer to be present?

It seems to be forgotten by a lot of people that the Parliament charges the Police Force with upholding the law in this State and not acting as professional bouncers. I hope that the Minister will have this investigated. It gives the Police Force a shocking name and is an indictment of the force on two counts. Firstly it indicates that members are not being paid sufficient salary to live on and, secondly, some of these people are like those who go to the midday race meetings; they are both needy and greedy. I hope that the Minister does something about this.

The next matter I raise concerns drugs. I realise that at the present time this is a highly emotive issue created by this Government for its own ends. I have a statement here by Mary MacDonald of 12 Mayneview Street, Milton, which I propose to read into "Hansard". It is so hot that it should have been written on asbestos. It reads—

"My name is Mary Macdonald, I am a secretary and am 21 years old. In July of 1975 I was arrested and charged with attempting to procure a dangerous drug. I pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years probation. Three days after I was sentenced, Leslie Mann, Kim Crawford and myself were picked up by Det. Ken Smith and Det. Billings outside the Banyo Clinic where I was visiting a Doctor Morris. He took the three of us to the Nundah C.I.B. Branch and questioned us about Mick Morgan's whereabouts, (Mick is wanted for absconding from custody) and also who did the Chermiside armed hold-up in about June of 1975. It was about 7.30 p.m.

"We were then taken to the chemist to get a prescription for valium tablets. We then went back to the Nundah Police Station. We were searched, and Ken Smith claimed to find a cap of smack (heroin) in the bottom of Leslie's bag. Leslie denied having it and Ken Smith said that it probably fell out of some caps she has had at different times. He said he wouldn't charge her because she was a minor and instead he said he would give the heroin to me and Leslie. Kim was in a separate room and knew nothing of this.

"Ken Smith then produced a syringe. He also produced a spoon and a cigarette lighter, and he heated the heroin 'rocks' in water in the spoon. Detective Billings and Smith and I went to the toilets and locked the door. Billings held my arm and I tried to administer myself, but because I was withdrawing (withdrawal symptom) and also I had taken about four mandrax (sleeping tablet) I was shaking and couldn't do it. Smith pushed the plunger of the syringe and injected the heroin into the back of my left hand. He wasn't experienced and the needle slipped and the fluid popped my skin which was swelling and sore. When we came out I showed Kim and Leslie and they knew I'd had a hit. Smith also said that if we ever told anybody he would cut our throats.

"About September, Terry Poole was sentenced for breakins. About a week before the trial for sentence Ken Smith saw me in court and we discussed the disappearance of a set of scales. We walked out of the court building, and we went to have a drink at the Crest.

"After we left the Crest, he drove me home (at Buranda) and asked if he could come into the house with me. I said no, and he said 'I can do a lot for Terry if you co-operate with me'. I said 'You know I'd never put anybody in'. He said he didn't have that in mind and that he wanted to go to bed with me. In return, he would see that Terry got probation."

That is probably known as a fringe benefit in the Queensland Police Force!

If those allegations are correct, contrast them with the Government's vicious persecution of the three young school-teachers charged with smoking marijuana and, of course, the infamous Draconian raid on a harmless hippie commune at Cedar Bay. If the Minister has any sense of justice he will have this matter fully investigated and tell this Assembly if drugs are in fact being administered at the Nundah Criminal Investigation Branch.

I should like the Minister to take note of a very petty practice that seems to have grown up in the force and which he can easily rectify. I understand that at the present time commissioned officers are not promoted if they are within six months of retirement, even if promotion is due or well merited. I feel

that this practice is grossly unfair. I can well understand that an officer treated in this way would in effect switch off or take all his sick leave and depart from the Queensland Police Force feeling very bitter indeed.

Not only does an officer treated in this way not get a higher salary for his last six months of service but promotion would normally mean a higher pension, which is most important. These officers would have given lengthy service to the State—40 years or so—and this is the way they are treated. That is an example of the loyalty shown to them by this Tory Government. It is hardly a fitting way of saying "Thank you" for that long service. I urge the Minister to consider this matter and to show the force that he is not the Premier's puppet but his own man.

I should like to make one observation in conclusion. Even discounting the probability that some—I emphasise "some"—members of the Queensland Police Force apparently see fit to victimise, harass and assault members of the public, and that some demonstrably lack a willingness to adhere to the truth in some matters, it disturbs me greatly that police officers should at any time conduct themselves in a boorish and uncivil manner in their day-to-day dealings with the ordinary taxpaying citizens, who are, after all, their employers.

Mr. BYRNE (Belmont) (3.35 p.m.): It is a most important principle of our society that the Police Force will be effective in the community only if it is respected by the community. And to earn respect by the community, the Police Force must see that its members are both honest and, as far as possible, beyond all corruption. Man is weak and man errs, and so there will be corruption, but at all times there must be a total endeavour to prevent corruption. It must appear that not only is the removal of corruption from the Police Force being attempted but that corruption is in actuality being removed.

Hypocrisy is something which the public should not be able to see in the Police Force, because it decreases the respect the public has for the Police Force, and as the respect for the Police Force decreases so does respect for the law; and when that circumstance arises we find our society in a tottering situation.

There are two elements in the law. One is the letter of it and the other is the spirit; and so, for instance, I think it is an unfortunate circumstance when the letter of the law is taken to gross extremes, whether it be simply for the purpose of revenue-raising or because various police officers feel that they have to fulfil a quota of some sort or that they are fulfilling their function of seeing that the law is maintained by acting in the manner described by previous speakers and having people picked up for jay-walking, for speeding through radar traps or for drink-driving when it is only a letter of the law breach.

Surely the very purpose of a law is to protect the citizen. For instance, in relation to the traffic laws, the purpose of one of them is to protect the pedestrian when he is crossing at a pedestrian crossing. If there is a traffic light at the crossing which shows "Don't walk", the letter of the law is that that person shall not cross, but the spirit of the law and the reason it was put there is that pedestrians should be protected from vehicles coming from either direction. Now, if that person can see quite clearly that the road is free of traffic for a few hundred yards in either direction from that crossing and that person crosses, surely the spirit of the law has been fulfilled and there is no need for anyone to impose upon that person the very heaviness of the letter of the law. It is irrational, and it is irrationality in the enforcement of the law that brings disrespect and a lack of confidence among the community.

So the first principle that must be established is that in relation to the law and the police enforcement of that law, it is the spirit of the law and not the letter of it that is supposed to be fulfilled. People should not be picked up simply to fill quotas, simply to raise revenue, or simply because of a failing or whim of a certain police officer at a certain time.

So the problem is that there is corruption in this Police Force, just as there is corruption in all Police Forces throughout the world. It is a very heavy responsibility on Government to see that corruption is removed. But corruption in almost every circumstance starts at the top, and when it does start at the top it is impossible to correct it, because those people at the top are always in control. I will create a scenario for honourable members so that they can see just what I mean by that statement. Suppose we have certain police officers who have decided to protect a group of people running a brothel and associating with prostitution. A young police officer comes into the area, and a sergeant or some other officer on the pay-roll says, "We don't go down there. We aren't going to go down there tonight. We leave that area alone."

The young police officer, who is full of idealism and believes he has certain functions to fulfil, says, "I don't think that's quite right, is it? We should go down there if they are doing things that are wrong." He is dutifully informed, "Look, these things don't exist. Brothels don't exist. If prostitution is not available, the problem of rape will increase, and prostitution shouldn't be a breach of the law, anyway." These arguments are developed by the senior person and then the young policeman is told, "Look, don't worry about it. It's not terribly important and you will have a little extra benefit economically from time to time, anyway."

And so because of the inveigling of the superior officer and because it is not really possible for the young police officer to

achieve very much, he goes along with it. The web has then been cast and he has compromised himself in the first instance. This, indeed, is how corruption breeds within a Police Force.

I will develop the point a little further. At a later date the young police officer says, "Why don't we go down there? Why aren't we investigating that happening there?" He finds out that it is associated with drugs, and he says, "That's not right. It's all right for prostitution—I've come to accept that point—but it's not all right for drugs." He is informed, because the other gentleman happens to be on some pay-roll, "You didn't seem to mind about that one. You have taken money on the other levels, haven't you? Don't talk too much about this now and you will receive some benefit from it. Don't worry about it."

So, Mr. Miller, corruption starts at the top, and if any Police Force is to be cleared of it, it must be at the very top, where the strongest discipline lies, that the investigation commences, and the integrity of those men must be totally beyond reproach.

Let me instance some other circumstances in the Police Force that disappoint me, and I can refer to several cases. I have pursued investigations and inquiries into circumstances that have been brought to my attention by people who are 100 per cent reliable and for whom I have absolute respect. I know them very sincerely and deeply and appreciate that they would neither have distorted the story nor added anything to it.

Honourable members might recall reading in "Sunday Sun" a few months ago of one of the incidents that I have in mind. I hold no brief for people who break the law, but I do question why the circumstances developed as they did in the instance to which I refer. It was stated that at one time a motor-cycle presumably was being chased by a police vehicle. Eventually the motor-cycle went out of control and crashed, and the rider was killed and the pillion passenger was extremely ill as a result of the crash. I do not know whether the passenger has since died. A person came out in the Press and said, "Well, I saw that bike going along the road and I saw a police car come up behind it. I saw the bike take off, and the police car then followed that bike."

I read that in the paper and I said, "Well, I don't give great credence to things that I read in the paper." I am not like the Leader of the Opposition, who seems to think that he can create a complete speech about the Police Force in the Estimates debate simply by quoting from articles in "Sunday Sun". If that is the basis of the Leader of the Opposition's factual interpretation of things, I suggest that he should begin somewhere else.

At about the time the incident occurred, a very good friend of mine happened to be coming home in the street parallel to Sherwood Road. He was on the veranda of the block of units that he was in, and he can

recall hearing the siren of a vehicle, seeing flashing lights, seeing a bike go speeding past and a car in hot pursuit. If a person has broken the law, I see nothing wrong with the police pursuing him. But why should this incident have occurred? Why should the Police Commissioner have concurred with his officers in saying that the police vehicle did not chase that motor-bike. It is patently obvious to me that the police vehicle was chasing the bike. If the rider of the bike had broken the law, it is not surprising that the police were chasing him. But why should the officers concerned and the Police Commissioner say, "No, that is not the case.?"

It makes me wonder why they should deny it. The only conclusion I can come to is that perhaps in the first instance the riders of the motor-cycle had not committed any specific offence but then took off and the police went in pursuit. But I must ask this question: why should the officers concerned say, "No, they weren't chased.", and why should the Police Commissioner come out in support of their statement? I am totally confident, on the basis of the reliability of the information which I received, that that police vehicle was chasing that motor-bike. So I ask the question, "Why?"

A similar case, but of a slightly different nature, occurred in my electorate last year, and I would have to say that it certainly decreased the respect of certain people in the area for the Police Force. I sought to have investigations carried out, but I expected that those investigations would be fruitless.

It is interesting to note—and I have gone through questions that have been asked in this Chamber—that although the department and the commissioner boast of having research facilities, when questions seeking statistics are asked, the answer invariably is that it is not possible to collate this information easily, so it is not provided. That is unbelievable.

Other departments provide such information. The Ministers in charge of other departments are able to go to that little extra trouble. Public servants in other departments are able to provide the required information. If there is a research facility in the Police Department, I should like to know its purpose. If Parliament cannot be privy to some of that information, I would like to know just who requires that information simply for himself. It does not reflect very favourably on the departmental administration.

In the case in point some young children were riding bicycles in a disused quarry in the Morningside area. A police vehicle came over with its flashing lights and wailing siren. The children were asked what they were doing there. They informed the police officers that they were riding their bicycles in the area. One of the young boys was smoking. He was old enough to smoke—he had left school and was working. A police officer asked, "Who is in charge here?" This boy stepped forward and said, "I am the

oldest here." He was referred to by one of the police officers as "the big tough boy here with the cigarette." Various vulgarities came from officers in the police vehicle. The children were told, in a vulgar form of language which I will not repeat, to remove themselves. Then one of the officers decided to bring out his revolver and wave it at the children, at the same time telling them to get lost.

Obviously those children and their parents are not going to retain a great deal of respect for the Police Force. After all, members of the Police Force must have a certain integrity. When I raised the flippant point about police officers being able to wear beards, the supersensitive reaction from the department was, "Oh, no, the people in the Police Force have to be of the highest integrity", the suggestion being that if a person has a beard, he is of somewhat low moral character. While it might please the Commissioner of Police to cast aspersions at me or other people in the community as being of low moral character, or whatever attitude he might adopt, I intimate that simply having a beard does not in any way lower a person's integrity or make him any more immoral. I am quite certain that the bishops of the Greek Orthodox Church and various prominent citizens of the community would indeed be offended if there was any imputation that the calibre of their character was somewhat decreased or lowered simply because they chose to grow a beard.

There is this silly playing with something small like that when, at the same time, these other circumstances that I have mentioned are ignored. It is pretended that these other circumstances do not exist, yet they are of far greater consequence to the community than the growing of a beard, the wearing of a moustache, or the manner in which a person is attired.

Then, of course, there is the manner in which the Police Force fulfils its function. People in the Yeronga area, whom I know reasonably well, were rather concerned about a fight that was going on two or three doors down from their residence. After a while they rang the police. Of course, under the Government's new enlightened administrative proposals, everything operates from the headquarters in Brisbane, with the facilities in neighbourhood areas being almost totally diminished or put out of existence. After an hour or so, a mobile came out but, of course, by then the fighting had died down somewhat and most of the people had left.

The people who had made the complaint were then called on by the police. The police vehicle parked outside their residence, which was an indication to those who caused the disturbance that these were the people who had dopped them in. The common sense exhibited in that situation was not very great. What is the result? The people who complained say, "If that is the case, and if we are going to find ourselves threatened, we

just won't be bothered calling the police on another occasion." They have to protect themselves. They have their own children to protect. They should not have to suffer the ignominy of having themselves identified as the people who called the police, when all they were guilty of was trying to protect people in the area. Things like this need to be looked into.

As I am dealing with the Police Estimates, I must comment on the Juvenile Aid Bureau. I have done so in previous speeches on the Estimates, on other occasions in this Chamber, and publicly. I am aware that it comes under the Department of Children's Services, but its personnel are members of the Police Force seconded to the department. For the sake of the community and the children involved, to ensure that the desires of the community, the Government parties, the Opposition, and the majority of people in Queensland associated with young people (with the exception of the Commissioner for Police, who seems to hold a slightly different point of view), it is essential that the functions of the Juvenile Aid Bureau as performed in the past be recognised as not only the most effective but also the most suitable means of dealing with young offenders in that they are not taken before the courts.

The Juvenile Aid Bureau was not set up by the present Police Commissioner. Indeed, in several areas it would appear that when the present Police Commissioner has not had the total responsibility for setting up there his own form of Gestapo, or whatever one might care to call the running-dogs he surrounds himself with, he believes those things should go. It is the Government's responsibility to see that its policies and its desires are fulfilled. The function of a public servant is to implement those policies. A Government must not allow a public servant to fulfil his own ideas when it knows that it and members of the community generally have a different point of view. It should ensure that those circumstances do not obtain.

I have set out on many occasions the scenario relative to the Juvenile Aid Bureau and the Education Liaison Unit. The latter is now established as the new Juvenile Delinquency Squad under Sergeant John Dautel. An article in the "Sunday Sun" pointed out that some time ago the Juvenile Aid Bureau was disbanded and that the Government now realised the error of its ways and was establishing a new unit. I might add that Sergeant Dautel was personally chosen; he was a selected man; he was the person for whom the position was designed. Judging by the way in which the qualifications were framed, only one person could be appointed to it. It seems that the way to choose staff is first to find the person, find out his suitabilities and qualifications and advertise the position with the qualifications centred on that man so that only he can suitably fulfil that role. That is a display of enormous control, enormous ability to try to strengthen

a power base and a massive effort to try to control circumstances. I do not refer to a power base in, or control of, the Public Service. Power is supposed to rest in the Government and I hope to see that it does in future.

The Committee on Youth Problems very clearly said that, on the expertise of the people in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, the unit should be extended widely across the State. That was the recommendation.

(Time expired.)

Mr. DOUMANY (Kurilpa) (3.54 p.m.): In rising to speak in this debate, firstly I commend the Minister on the presentation of his first Police Estimates. In the course of my speech I wish to make a number of comments about the operation of various activities under his jurisdiction from the viewpoint of my electorate.

One general observation I wish to make relates to the absence of the annual report for the year ended 30 June last. I note, too, that the report for the previous year was not submitted until late in the calendar year. It is a pity that we do not have the report for the last completed year as a reference for use in this debate. If it is at all possible for that matter to be rectified and for some effort to be made to have the report prepared prior to future Estimates debates it would be a great help to all of us in this Committee.

When we look at the role of police in a modern society—in a society that is becoming increasingly critical of authority and increasingly demanding of the standards of performance and conduct—an undoubted dilemma faces those who are in the Police Force. Certainly, a dilemma faces those of us in the community who feel concerned at and responsible for what is happening. Unquestionably, a large proportion of the Police Force are diligent, conscientious, sincere and dedicated. Unfortunately, a small number share none of those qualities to any marked degree; cynicism abounds; the tendency to bully is ever present and advantage is taken of the authority vested in them. Those attributes are very strong indeed in the minority. Equally strong in the community at large is another minority concerned to run the police down. They have no good word to say for them until such time as they need them—when their car is stolen or their house has been broken into. When they have a need for the services of the Police Force, they put aside their prejudices and take advantage of the expertise and strength of the Police Force.

Notwithstanding that sort of bigotry and one-sided attitude in the community, there is no doubt that we in this Parliament must recognise at all times that it is neither desirable nor acceptable for any reprehensible attitudes or practices by police officers to be condoned or glossed over. The authority that a police officer possesses confers on him

or her a very special advantage and a very special position in the community. It is to be deplored when that advantage and that position are abused. I would hope that the Minister will look very critically at this aspect. I realise that a regular flow of complaints comes to him from all of us and that he discusses those matters with his commissioner and deals with them case by case. However, I urge him to be as objective as he can and not to yield to the temptation to gloss over or bake a veneer over those incidents, particularly if they appear to be minor ones, because over a period the minor complaints grow into serious matters. I think it is our duty in this place—our right and our obligation—to raise a storm over these matters when they occur.

That does not detract in any way from my own appreciation of the police as a corporate body or as a very large aggregation of excellent people serving the community; but there is unquestionably a need for a hard-nosed attitude to be taken to those who are careless with their authority and abuse it.

One thing that I am concerned about from a practical day-to-day point of view is the method of deployment of police in the metropolitan area and in particular the enormous emphasis that has developed on mobile patrols. I do not dispute the need for mobility, nor do I dispute the efficacy of mobile patrols in many situations, but unfortunately as mobility has been built more and more into our Police Force operations, we have seen it displace the traditional district orientation of a base level of manning of suburban police stations.

In my own area there are basically two police stations in point—Annerley and West End. I see a gradual running down of the level of both stations in numbers and more particularly in the experience of the officers posted there. There is no substitute for the local police officer who lives in a community, is known in that community and knows its people particularly its young people. Statistics on juvenile offences are growing. I believe that the wider the gap we build between the community and the Police Force—not only a physical gap but a gap in terms of familiarity and acquaintance—the more difficult we make the job of the police and the more difficult we make it for the community to relate effectively to the police.

I know that for economic reasons centralisation and mobilisation of police resources are highly desirable; but I believe that a strong qualitative element must be taken into account in evaluating the performance of our Police Force. It is no good denying it. It is not enough just to look at dollars and cents and to have some arbitrary parameters or criteria that we say determine that we are running things efficiently. The operations of a Police Force are essentially human operations; they deal with relationships between people. The more we can

strengthen those relationships and the more we can revive and renew the old community base of the Police Force, the more we will see in terms of improvement in morale, of improvement in performance and of a much better acceptance of the police by the community.

All I ask is that the Minister review the situation and, if it is at all possible, bring about more of the old concept of residential district police stations. They need not have residences attached but they should be places whose police officers are part of the community. This may sound a bit folksy but, in my opinion, there is no substitute for a person living in a community if he is to be able to deal with the sort of things with which a policeman has to deal. All the sociological developments and theoretical knowledge are no substitute for this concept.

I should like to see the Annerley and West End stations upgraded to senior-sergeant level. I intend to put such a proposal to the Minister in the very near future. I should also like to see a review of the hours of operation of those two stations and others in the inner suburbs. Although I do not doubt that there is pressure on the police in outer suburbs which are still lacking in many facilities and in which young people are subject to a lot of stress, it is in the inner suburbs that the police are subject to the greatest pressure. Undoubtedly, in the inner suburbs the police need a strong foothold in their base and I believe that mobile patrols can function infinitely better if complemented by a strong district base manned by men and women who are part of that community. I know that there are difficulties in obtaining the necessary personnel and in organising this type of development but I believe that it could be done gradually. It need not all be done at once. But if it is done, it will have a very marked effect on the performance of the Police Force and its relationship with the rest of the community.

In any consideration of the use of police resources, another matter concerning traffic-law enforcement arises. Unfortunately, in recent years there seems to have been a gradual decrease in interest in the Police Force in the enforcement of traffic laws. Perhaps this is linked with the fact that driver testing has passed from the Police Department to the Transport Department and the police now feel that, as they are not directly responsible for the qualifications of drivers, their responsibility in the enforcement of traffic laws is less. I do not believe that that is the case. I think that any lack of interest in traffic-law enforcement has probably resulted from the increasing pressure placed by society on the police. There is no question that there needs to be an intensification of traffic-law enforcement.

I become very alarmed and dismayed at times when I see two or three police officers, with their radar equipment, manning straight stretches of fairly wide, safe road while there are very many other situations in

which dangerous driving is taking place and where their services would have greater value.

I feel there has to be an assessment of priorities by those engaged in traffic enforcement in the Police Force, and the priorities must take into account culpable dangerous driving of the highest order. I think there is nothing worse than plaguing the fairly mild-mannered ordinary citizen who is driving at something like 5 or 8 m.p.h. above the speed limit or, if we want to metricate it, 10 km/h above the speed limit. There is undoubtedly a disproportionately high emphasis today on that sort of apprehension, and inadequate emphasis on chasing the dangerous driver. I admit that chasing dangerous drivers is not always palatable. Apprehending some of them can be particularly nasty and a most dangerous pursuit involving great personal risk, but frankly I think that there has to be a police blitz on dangerous drivers. I would give the police every support in blitzing them, because there is no great difference in culpability between the criminal who breaks into a house and bashes someone over the head while he tries to get at his victim's personal possessions and the driver who deliberately flouts the law on the road by knowingly driving well above the speed limit in a faulty vehicle. There should be the most rigorous enforcement of our traffic laws.

One aspect of traffic enforcement which should be brought out in this debate, if it has not been brought out already, is the picking up of drivers for flashing their lights as a warning against radar speed traps. I really think that we should perhaps pay a bounty to drivers who flash their lights like this, because if they flashed them indiscriminately around the place everyone would slow down and look out for radar speed traps. While that might sound frivolous, frankly I do not think that enforcing a penalty against the driver who flashes his lights is helping us. It is one of those areas of unnecessary harassment and I think there are far more critical things for police to do than look out for people doing this. When I see young hooligans screaming along Ipswich Road, Logan Road or indeed any of our major thoroughfares at 90 or 100 km/h, weaving in and out of traffic, cutting in on people and forcing people off pedestrian crossings I feel that they are committing a much more serious offence and they are the ones the police should pursue. I really cannot see that the deployment of police officers to find people flashing their lights as a warning against radar speed traps merits a high priority. In fact, one can only regard it as a bit of vindictiveness by the police against the community. It is worthless pursuit. I am every bit behind the police enforcing the traffic laws, but I do not see the apprehension of those drivers as a necessary part of that enforcement. In conclusion, Mr. Miller, I would like to commend the Minister on his Estimates—

(Time expired.)

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (4.14 p.m.): Since the dismissal of the Federal Labor Government, the State Government has been trying desperately to find an issue which would divert the attention of the Queensland people from its own mismanagement and also from the numerous broken promises that we have had from the Fraser Government. I suppose it is only to be expected when we have an extreme Right-wing Government and a reactionary one at that, that the issue that would be picked by it and especially by the Premier is the issue of law and order. We have reached the point where the Premier has developed a totally new image, the image of a man who is going to make sure that he lays down the law and that he is the one who is going to enforce it. He is the iron God—"Don't step out of line, regardless of who or what you are, or I will deal with you." Unfortunately, Mr. Miller, we have seen some Cabinet Ministers who have suffered the blow.

It would seem, when we come to the Police portfolio, that the point has been reached when the Premier is the political principal—or should I say "prostitute"—of police pollution. We have found in recent times that he protects the corrupt police and denies the honest policeman the right to clear his name. He does not care what happens to the reputation of the force provided he is able to wage his law-and-order campaign. We have seen issues on which he has totally over-ruled the commissioner, a man who said that it was his duty to investigate certain allegations that arose out of a student demonstration.

Mr. Tenni: Don't you want law and order?

Mr. WRIGHT: Let us come back to law and order, but let us have some justice as well—and this is the issue—because there has to be a balance between justice and law and order. Surely when we, as a Parliament, say that we are prepared to give certain powers to the Commissioner of Police to carry out his duties as he sees fit, we should not, when the time suits us politically, suddenly interfere and say, "You won't carry out these duties; in fact, you will do as Cabinet tells you. Forget about your role as commissioner." That is the type of example we have had here, Mr. Miller.

It was not only then, on a student demonstration; I think it developed even further in the case of the young teachers who were involved in the use of drugs. There was no real concern about the drug use. What the Premier was trying to do was create this law-and-order issue to show how strong he could be and how he would wipe out this anti-social behaviour. It worked quite well because it appealed to society's emotionalism. It appealed to people generally, who do not want drugs—and I certainly do not condone the use of drugs—and, until the Cedar Bay issue, it appealed to their

emotionalism. That is when it began to break down. There we had a certain element in the Police Force which I think would not have been there if Max Hodges had still been in charge of police. Unfortunately, they are there—a very small, violent element who have taken the law into their own hands and virtually said, "We will enforce the law as we want to do it."

The Cedar Bay incident is a prime example of what has happened. It was an incident in which an element of the Police Force took the law into their own hands and interpreted their rights and responsibilities as they saw fit.

Accepting that a problem arose, Mr. Miller, let us come back to what has happened since then and how the Government is involved. We have talked about Watergate and Nixon in the United States of America. We ought to come back to the police Watergate that has taken place in this State in the last couple of months, because if ever there has been a cover-up, it has been centred on Cedar Bay—the greatest cover-up ever.

First of all, we have the revelations made by a Sunday newspaper and also by the A.B.C. of what really went on. That put the Minister for Police at that time (Mr. Newbery) in something of a spot, because only a few days before he had said, "I totally support the police action." Suddenly we saw films and photographs of houses that had been burnt down—we call them houses—of clothing and property that had been burnt, hoses that had been chopped up, Bibles that had been burnt, food that had been destroyed and clothing that had been destroyed. The Government was placed in a dilemma.

What do we find then? Thanks to the man who pulls the strings behind the scene, Mr. Callaghan, we find the Government coming out and saying, "Oh, just a moment. This whole thing could have been fabricated by the people who live there."

Mr. Tenni: It was.

Mr. WRIGHT: I am glad that the honourable member has said that, because I will tie him in on this whole matter. He is the type of person who has been perpetrating the injustices that have been occurring here.

We had a different type of attitude, Mr. Miller. We had the Premier saying on television, "Well, they could have done." We had the Minister for Police saying in this Chamber on 8 September that it was not really a raid about drugs; it was to apprehend an escapee. What he did not realise was that Inspector Gray, a few days before, had already told reporters that that had nothing to do with it. We know that it is on record that the raid to apprehend the escapee took place many days before in a different boat. We had the Minister trying to cover up further by saying that this was a serious offence because one man was convicted on

a drug charge involving \$20,000 worth of marijuana. Yet we now know that the evidence was carried into court in a shoe-box. \$20,000!

We then had the Minister for Police telling us—and other Ministers backed him up—that to the best of his knowledge they were there illegally, that this was Crown land. Yet the Minister for Mines and Energy, in answer to my question, admitted that a survey was carried out. It has been proven beyond doubt now that this was not in fact Crown land, but a miners' homestead lease, and those persons had every right to be there.

I come to another part of the cover-up. The Minister claimed on the same day that the people were living in squalor. He built up this picture of shocking conditions. We now have a statement by a qualified nurse, evidence from lawyers and other qualified persons, and photographs, that totally refute these claims. On 11 September 1976 the Minister said that the whole raid cost only \$4,580.81. That appeared in "The Courier-Mail". Fancy making out that that was all it costs! He did not bother to point out that 23 State police were involved, plus Commonwealth personnel, the use of craft and all sorts of equipment. He tried to cover up. He was saying, "Let's forget about what happened because it didn't cost very much," forgetting about the violence that was perpetrated on these people. To make matters worse we have had repeated refusals to supply further information. Finally a departmental inquiry was held and a report was made. Just before the parliamentary recess I released the information at a Press conference that the report was finished, that in fact members of the Government had it and that top members of the National Party had it. The moment I said that, the Minister for Mines and Energy came out and said, "It is all lies." But the Government made one mistake, because it was not Mr. Camm who put out that release, but Mr. Callaghan. It was Mr. Callaghan who put out the release, and what did he refute? He refuted my allegations about arson charges. I never mentioned arson charges. I knew that that was in the report. I knew what the recommendations were—that a certain person be charged with arson—but I didn't mention arson. Mr. Callaghan did because he had seen the report.

The Friday before I made my Press release, for some unknown reason Mr. Sparkes came out in the afternoon and evening on radio suddenly saying that the Premier and the Minister for Police knew nothing about the Cedar Bay raid—that they had nothing to do with it. Why in fact would the Government come out with such a release, when everything was dead quiet about the issue, unless it knew that something was going to blow? On the very day the Minister headed off to Western Australia he said that he did not want any of these swift reports; he wanted a thorough report.

I made my Press release because I knew, as members of the Committee would know, that there was going to be a cover-up. The report had to be made known. We now know that the report has been handed to the Crown Law Office.

But that is not the only cover-up. I go back to the very earliest time when this incident took place, because that is when the cover-up commenced. I challenge the Minister to deny this. A report was made immediately that raid was carried out. The report was made by the inspector in charge in Cairns, and it was on this Minister's decision and this Minister's request that that report be totally destroyed.

Mr. NEWBERY: I rise to a point of order. It is not.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I did not hear the Minister's point of order.

Mr. NEWBERY: I ask that he withdraw that. It is not a pack of lies, and I will prove it to him tonight.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister asks for a withdrawal of that statement.

Mr. WRIGHT: I accept his denial; I can't withdraw it. I believe the allegation is true, and I would like to explain further. When such an incident occurs and such a raid takes place, a report must be made. And a report was in fact made on that raid, which would be normal practice in the Police Force when such an action takes place. That report has disappeared. I would like the Minister to tell us where it is. What happened to the report made by that inspector?

Mr. NEWBERY: I rise to a further point of order. The honourable member accuses me of destroying the report, and now he says that it is still available. I ask him to withdraw that, too.

Mr. WRIGHT: No, I didn't.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to accept the denial of the Minister.

Mr. WRIGHT: I accept his denial, but I believe it will in fact be disproved because the word is that there is in fact still a copy.

Mr. Porter: What of?

Mr. WRIGHT: The honourable member knows how it works.

Mr. NEWBERY: I rise to a further point of order. I ask the honourable member to withdraw the insinuation that I had the report destroyed. I ask him to please withdraw that.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister has denied the allegation.

Mr. WRIGHT: I accept the Minister's denial.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to accept the denial and not to labour the point further.

Mr. WRIGHT: I accept the Minister's denial and go on to say that I challenge the Minister to produce the report that was made by the inspector after that raid. That would be normal practice. I have been told on good authority—and I believe this police officer would know—that whenever a certain amount of expense is incurred, such a report has to be made. I should like to know where it is. Certain moves were made to totally remove any reference to Cedar Bay in the report because it totally substantiated the claims that have now been made about police violence there.

I suggest, Mr. Hewitt, that we have a Watergate here, but not a Watergate that was simply started by the covering up of a report made by Atkinson and Co.

Mr. NEWBERY: I rise to a point of order! The honourable member is still insinuating that I destroyed a report.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member has accepted the Minister's denial.

Mr. WRIGHT: I have accepted the Minister's denial.

I expected the Minister to make such a denial. Eventually this will ruin the Minister. His is not an easy portfolio, but he has handled it very shockingly in this instance and it will certainly undo him. I further suggest—

Mr. Newbery: I will undo you tonight; that's what I'll do. I know enough to undo you.

Mr. WRIGHT: The Minister can keep going; I would like him to try it. I know it will be a matter of personalities. I come from the same area as the Minister. While I am talking about this area, we will see how good a Police Minister he is and what sort of cover-up he tries to bring about on the young fellow who was bashed recently. Two police officers handcuffed this young fellow with his hands behind his back and bashed him.

Mr. NEWBERY: I rise to a point of order. I ask the honourable member to withdraw that statement because I have not tried to cover up.

Mr. WRIGHT: Oh, come on! You admit that it happened?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The two gentlemen place the Chair in an invidious position. The honourable member makes allegations and the Minister asks for withdrawals. I am in no position to judge the veracity or otherwise of the allegations made by the honourable member. Nevertheless, when a Minister asks that his denial be accepted, the honourable member will accept the denial.

Mr. WRIGHT: I point out that I said I will be interested to know—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will accept the denial.

Mr. WRIGHT: I accept the denial, but I shall be interested to know—

Mr. Newbery: I want your denial. I want you to withdraw it.

Mr. WRIGHT: It will be very interesting to see what happens in this specific case in which a young fellow was handcuffed with his hands behind his back and bashed. I tried to do the right thing by the Minister in this instance and made sure that a report of the incident went to him. I am sure that the Minister will not deny that.

Mr. Newbery: I am not denying that. I will tell everything tonight. I have done what I had to do and no more, which is more than the honourable member is doing.

Mr. WRIGHT: I certainly hope that the Minister does something about it because it is a very serious charge. But if it is anything like the previous one, I do not have much hope for him.

To return to the Minister's role as Minister for Police—we find that thanks to him and the Premier he has totally destroyed the image of the Police Force in this State. He has left a cloud on almost every member of the force because of his refusal to carry out investigations. Instead, he has backed up these fellows involved in all sorts of violent activities; the Commissioner of Police has been prevented from carrying out his role; and the Minister has come out publicly and said that he supports these things because he wants to stamp out all of them. The whole thing will blow up in his face.

Mr. Newbery interjected.

Mr. WRIGHT: We will certainly see. The Minister has a difficult portfolio. I shall certainly be listening tonight to hear what he has to say.

Mr. Newbery: You ought to be here because I will certainly tip it right on you.

Mr. WRIGHT: I am interested also in seeing what the Minister does about other problems in the State. We have heard a lot of noise about S.P. bookies. There is also a lot of information around at the moment. Because of the Minister's very close contacts with the Police Force, he no doubt knows quite well that the S.P. fellows have cleared over the border and are now paying the New South Wales police for protection. But they will soon be back because they have been told by certain elements in the force that everything will soon be O.K. The Minister has a lot to answer for. If the Minister wants to clean up the Police Force, he should start doing something so that we can have a proper inquiry into complaints against the police.

Mr. Newbery: You are playing right along with the A.L.P. policy of manufacturing rumours. You have been at it all your life. You did it while I was away. You manufactured a complete pack of lies.

Mr. WRIGHT: When the Minister replies tonight, he might explain to me how the Minister for Mines and Energy, when he was Acting Premier, came to mention the word "arson" if he did not know about the report. That was in the report. I did not mention it. They gave themselves away, and they know it. If anybody was telling lies, it was the Minister for Mines and Energy.

I turn now to the problem of carrying out investigations into complaints against the police. Ninety-nine per cent of the police do the right thing. We tend to play politics—and I think we would all admit it. The police issue is a good one politically. It certainly is when the Premier is trying to run a law-and-order issue. It is time we set politics aside and accepted the fact that we need a new mechanism for investigating complaints against the police. The system of having an inner investigatory role is not good enough. It certainly does not have the confidence of the public. People do not believe that it is truly efficient. They do not believe it is fair. They do not believe it is just. It is the old idea of police investigating police. Many investigations have been carried out, but they have simply brought criticism with them.

Reports from the United States and Britain—and from our own Australian Law Commission, too—have said that it is not good enough to have one of these A10 squads investigating police when complaints have been lodged against them. Some type of independent review is needed—some type of system whereby the decisions of a squad of the A10 type are able to be checked upon. Moreover, we need some sort of outside authority—some type of independent body—to carry out the real investigations.

This is the sort of thing that should be exercising the Minister's mind. Regardless of who is the Minister for Police, complaints will continue to be made against police officers. It is no good the Premier's saying, "We won't have an investigation." It is no good Cabinet's saying, "We are going to overrule the commissioner." We need some type of mechanism—some type of structure—that will enable these investigations to be carried out properly, to ensure that they are just and that the average person within the community has access to that mechanism so that when he has a complaint he may be sure that his complaint will be followed through.

One of the greatest problems in all these issues—and members of the Opposition bring this criticism on themselves, as do members of the Government—is that when we attack the police, we destroy the public confidence in the Police Force. It is one of the unfortunate problems that results from

trying to get justice in this State. We have to try to get justice in this State, so we have to criticise. By criticising, we gradually erode the public confidence in the Police Force.

It is the same with politicians. The public's confidence in us is eroded by the chipping away at politicians in our newspapers. The chipping away gradually erodes the public's confidence. That is one of the problems of the game that we face.

If we are to maintain public confidence and to rebuild the image of the Police Force—and it certainly deserves to be rebuilt—we need some type of outside, independent structure to carry out investigations into complaints. I suggest, too, that we need to expand the role of the Ombudsman to allow him to investigate complaints against the police. If we have those three investigatory avenues—an A10 squad within the Police Force, some type of independent body and also the Ombudsman, who is responsible to the Parliament—carrying out this role, I think the people would accept the final verdicts. At the moment there is the thought, "You can't really accept the verdict of a person who is thought to be judge in his own cause." That is what the public are saying about police who investigate police—"You can't blame police for sticking together and being united, because after all they have this attitude that everyone is against them."

I have spoken to many police officers who think that as the public in their view is against them, they have to stick by their mates. They do not believe that what an officer did was totally wrong. They may not have totally agreed, either, but they have to stick by him. So we have ended up with a community consisting of two camps—the Police Force in one by themselves and the public, disenchanted, in the other. I suggest that we need to overcome that. We will overcome it if we deal with the matter of investigating complaints against the police. I suggest that, if we adopt those three avenues, many of the problems that face the State will be overcome.

(Time expired.)

Mr. TENNI (Barron River) (4.34 p.m.): It is with the greatest of pleasure that I rise to speak on the Police Estimates. However, after listening to the way in which the previous speaker degraded the Police Force and attacked policemen at every opportunity, I feel slightly ill in the stomach. We have a Police Force for one purpose—to uphold law and order in this State. If members of the A.L.P. deliberately set out to denigrate the Police Force, we will have no law and order.

This is exactly what is happening with the Cedar Bay problem that has arisen. The episode was not a problem until it was raised in this Chamber by a member of the A.L.P. The same member appeared on television. I do not know whether the Minister

is aware of it, but on that night on television he had a mob of hippies with him watching TV. I saw them. If they are the source of his information—

Mr. WRIGHT: I rise to a point of order. I take the honourable member to task for describing the gentlemen with me that night as hippies. A number of them were reverend gentlemen and a couple were very accomplished lawyers from this city.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr. TENNI: Thank you very much, Mr. Hewitt. If they were reverend gentlemen, let me describe them this way: they were long-haired, very untidy people.

I believe that they were the honourable member's source of information. I live in that area and I know the area. Through you, Mr. Hewitt, I ask the honourable member: has he been to that area? Has he been to Cedar Bay? I have been there and I know the conditions that these people live under, so it is no good telling me that their conditions are not filthy and squalid. As we have an administrator of the Cook Shire, I do not know why we did not get rid of them years ago under the Local Government Act. We should give them the necessary notice under the Local Government Act and, if they do not move, evict them and burn down their huts. They are filthy and they are a haven for disease.

Mrs. Kyburz: Rubbish!

Mr. TENNI: I know that the honourable member who interjected has not been there either. It is no good saying "Rubbish" without having been there and seen the problems. I back the police fully in the Cedar Bay episode. A person should not talk about a matter such as this unless he is prepared to go and have a look at it for himself.

It is absolutely necessary for police to raid these places, and if any marijuana or any other drugs of any description are found there the people involved should be arrested. What I have heard in this Chamber about the police burning down huts—or "houses" as they have been referred to—is nothing more than hog-wash. The places that they lived in were nothing more than tin shanties and trees with Visqueen over them. I heard a statement that \$700 worth of tarpaulins was burnt. There was not even a tarpaulin in the area. The shanties were built from material washed up on the beach or stolen from somewhere.

It has been claimed that papaw trees were cut down. If a papaw tree is cut down, the leaves go brown within seven hours. There would be no juice running down the stem. Yet one week later when the photographs were taken the leaves shown in the photographs were nice and bright. All I can say is that if any honourable member is

prepared to swallow a claim such as that, either there is something wrong with him or he has never seen a papaw tree and does not know what a papaw tree or a banana tree looks like.

I am sick and tired of the made-up stories and the make-believe stories about Cedar Bay. I say that the Minister for Police should talk to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads and get the Local Government Department to take action. If I lived under those conditions I would be thrown out; I would not be allowed to spread disease and germs around the area.

Mr. Wright: Have they burnt your house down?

Mr. TENNI: I am not listening to the honourable member for Rockhampton. I was nearly sick in the stomach a while ago when listening to him. What he said was silly. He related hog-wash stories told to someone by a pack of hippies. If a person wants to be a hippie he should not be allowed to collect the dole. I have no time for anybody who lives in the scrub under conditions that are not hygienic and who collects our tax money.

Mr. Wright: Get out; there was no-one on the dole.

Mr. TENNI: They are all on the dole, and the honourable member knows that as well as I do.

About four months before this so-called raid I spoke to the Commonwealth social-security officer from Cairns who went into that area. Although I do not recall the exact figures, he said that about 42 hippies were there and 38 of them were collecting the dole. They were taken off the dole.

Mr. Wright: That's untrue.

Mr. TENNI: It is not untrue. The people of Cooktown would tell that to the honourable member for Rockhampton. Let him get up there and learn the facts. I have been there. What he has said about Cedar Bay is a lot of hog-wash, and the sooner the people of this State and nation realise that an A.L.P. stirrer is mixed up in it, the better it will be. I do not know why he is doing this. Normally he shows that he has a few brains, but on this occasion he is not using them. Why he listens to this lot of rubbish that has been put forward, I'll never know. I urge the Minister to stick to his guns and not let this sort of trash interfere with the careful and capable handling of his portfolio.

I shall now get away from that trash—the citizens of Queensland should do likewise—and deal with the problems that I see in the Police Force at present. I shall be honest in my statements; I shall not tell lies or stories brought forward by a pack of hippies. I, too, am concerned at some of the things that are happening in the Police

Force. I do not pull any punches here. We now have a new Police Minister. A new broom sweeps clean and I am sure that he is looking at these problems now.

One problem is that a very small minority of police officers seem to lack the ability to speak civilly to citizens who call at police stations. It costs absolutely nothing to speak civilly to anyone. I am sure that if appropriate instructions are issued through the Police Minister, this problem will be overcome. It is about the only real police problem that I have in the whole of my electorate. I realise, of course, that at times we all get a little hot under the collar and speak impolitely.

I shall illustrate a case in point. A constituent of mine went to a police station and was asked to give some particulars including his name and address. The policeman asked, "Where do you live?" My constituent gave a box number. The policeman immediately said, "You can't live at a box number. Where do you live?" He could very easily have said, "I'm sorry, but I don't want your box number. Will you give me your residential address?" Civility costs nothing. These are a few of the points that I should like to put before the Minister. I know that he will handle them in the same sensible manner as he is handling his portfolio generally.

A few policemen have been returned to the beat. This is an excellent move and I should like to see it followed in the North. There are big problems in places such as Cairns, Mareeba and Mossman. In the Mossman-Cape Tribulation area there is that mob of hippies living at Cedar Bay to contend with and police on the beat are needed to watch them when they are in town. One never knows what they will try to sell round the streets, particularly to students from the high school. If police were on the beat, perhaps it would be possible to prove how wrong some people are. We might be able to catch these hippies selling their stuff in the main street of Mossman.

Mr. Porter: But you don't want to confuse these people with facts. They are not interested in them.

Mr. TENNI: I know the honourable member for Rockhampton is not interested in facts. All that he has is information from hippies.

I am also concerned about housing for police officers. A programme of home construction for police officers throughout the State is absolutely vital. After all, they are the ones who maintain law and order and without them we would be in trouble. They are transferred regularly and people in their position should be supplied with homes. I can appreciate the cost of such a programme, but if it can be carried out for officers of the Department of Primary Industries, the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, the Lands Department and other

departments, it should be possible to do it for members of the Police Force. I urge that very serious consideration be given to providing homes for police officers throughout the State.

I should like the Minister to give first consideration to areas in which it is virtually impossible to rent a home and in which, if a person is able to obtain a home, he has to pay rent of \$60 or \$70 a week. I have that problem in my electorate. I therefore urge serious consideration of this problem.

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to have the Minister visit my electorate. Of course, since assuming his present portfolio he has visited many electorates. He saw the problems in the police stations throughout my electorate. I do not have to elaborate further in regard to this, because I am sure that over the next 12 months a lot of my problems will be overcome now that the Police Minister and the very capable Minister for Works and Housing have seen them at first hand. As I tried to explain to the honourable member for Rockhampton, one must see things at first hand. The Minister has brains enough to know this. He came up and looked at the police stations. He does not come out with silly statements. He looks first at the problem. So I ask the Minister, and the Minister for Works and Housing, to look at the police stations and police homes throughout my electorate.

Mr. Jones: Has the Minister been to Cedar Bay?

Mr. TENNI: I think it might be an idea if the honourable member asked the Minister that question.

Mr. Newbery: Yes, and I had a look at the marijuana, too.

Mr. TENNI: That is right, the Minister has been there.

The other problem seems to be the inadequate supply of vehicles to some of the police stations in my electorate. There seems to be one police vehicle for perhaps five or six men. I find this pretty hard to accept. In the Mossman area the police now have a divvy van, which is very good for handling some of the problems that have to be encountered, but I believe that a four-wheel-drive vehicle is necessary to get across the Daintree River and up into the Cape Tribulation area, where some more of the friends of the honourable member for Rockhampton are living. It is necessary to keep a very close eye on them, and with only a divvy van it is impossible to get into that area.

Mr. Newbery: Since being with you and seeing the amount of work you have done up there we have moved along those lines.

Mr. TENNI: That is very good.

Mr. Jones: Is Cedar Bay in your area?

Mr. TENNI: Cedar Bay adjoins the electorate of Barron River, and I am sure the honourable member for Cook will explain more about it later on. He has also been there. Has the honourable member been there?

Mr. Jones: No.

Mr. TENNI: The honourable member has not been there! He should not talk about it until he has been there.

Mr. Newbery: He lives near there yet has never been there.

Mr. TENNI: That is funny, isn't it? Even before becoming a member I went right through that country, and I have been there since. It may appear strange, but I am trying to cover every electorate in Queensland. I want to be able during the next election campaign to get into the Labor-held electorates to help make sure we win a few of them. We have 11 Labor members here now, and I hope that after the next election we have only two or three.

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. TENNI: After listening to the rot from the honourable member for Rockhampton a while ago, we certainly would not want a Labor member in Rockhampton after the next election.

The other problem I want to mention concerns radar traps. It is not necessary, particularly in areas where police are understaffed, to have radar traps concealed behind bushes when we have such tremendous problems with breaking and entering, assault and other more serious crimes. I ask the Minister to give serious consideration to cutting back on the use of radar traps. By all means bring them out if the police have nothing else to do; but there is plenty of other work that has to be caught up with, and in my opinion that should have No. 1 priority.

I do not know whether the police are still conducting random checks, but when they were first introduced some months ago they certainly concerned me and a lot of other people in my electorate. As a matter of fact, many people in the Cairns electorate came to me and complained about it. I am sure the honourable member for Cairns has received the same sort of complaints. I think it is most urgent that we look at them.

Mr. Moore: What are they?

Mr. TENNI: They are made about police pulling people up and asking them their name, age, whether they are married or single or whether they are living with a person. All sorts of silly questions are asked. It has not happened to me. If it did I would probably end up in gaol because I would not answer such silly questions. I think the Minister should investigate this matter to see if random checks are still

made. I think that if they are they should be cut out. They are not necessary. But I might be wrong, and if the Minister can prove that I am wrong I am prepared to listen. At the moment, however, I cannot see any advantage at all in these random checks.

Earlier this afternoon the honourable member for Rockhampton referred to us as an extreme Right-wing Government.

Mr. Jones: What are you then?

Mr. TENNI: I know we are not an extreme Right-wing Government. But having heard the honourable member for Rockhampton talking about not wanting law and order and degrading the Police Force, I think that he must belong to the extreme Left Wing. Whether all his colleagues belong to the extreme Left Wing, I do not know. I do not believe they do. The comments of the honourable member led me to the conclusion that he is one of the Left Wing. I was sorry to gain that impression, because I did not think he was that type of A.L.P. member. I believe in law and order.

Mr. Wright: Why did you do me in to Mr. Speaker for that meeting I had over at the Belle Vue?

Mr. TENNI: I didn't do you in to Mr. Speaker.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. TENNI: No way in the world did I do the honourable member in.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I have no idea what the interjection is about, but it has nothing to do with these Estimates.

Mr. TENNI: The honourable member for Rockhampton also made the statement that police stick to their mates. What he is saying, in effect, is that if a policeman is wrong his mates are going to be wrong also and stick with him. I do not like comments of that type. I give the Police Force of this State more credit than that. I know most of the policemen in my electorate personally, and I am sure that I have not a police officer like that in my electorate. If I did have, I would be recommending him for dismissal. I would never believe that if one policeman stepped out of line, another policeman would cover up for him. That is what the honourable member for Rockhampton was leading up to. He said, "They stick by their mates, whether they are right or wrong." That is a shocking statement to make.

Mr. Wright: You made the statement.

Mr. TENNI: The honourable member is saying that one policeman agrees to the mistakes of another. There is no policeman in this State who would agree to do that. The police have a job to do and a responsibility to uphold law and order. If one policeman is wrong, other policemen are

not going to stand by him and have their throats cut, too. There is no way in the world that I would agree with the honourable member's statement.

Mr. Jensen: There is no way you would stick by your mates.

Mr. TENNI: What did the honourable member for Bundaberg say, Mr. Hewitt?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I suggest that the honourable member continue with his speech.

Mr. TENNI: The mates of the honourable member for Bundaberg are not sticking to him. They are kicking him out of the Labor Party. He's going to stand as an independent at the next election, and he will win the seat, too, because he is a capable member. The Labor Party will be sorry that it kicked him out.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. TENNI: I will be up there and help the honourable member campaign, if he wants me to.

I congratulate the Minister on the excellent work that he is doing and the very capable manner in which he is handling his portfolio. It is a very difficult portfolio, and the Minister's task is made even more difficult when terrible, false statements are made on the floor of this Chamber.

Mr. Newbery: And outside, too.

Mr. TENNI: And outside, too. False statements are made by irresponsible people. I again congratulate the Minister, and I have appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Estimates.

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (4.53 p.m.): I certainly hope that I will speak more sensibly than the honourable member for Rockhampton. I think we were all rather disgusted by his outburst, Mr. Hewitt.

The main topic that I wish to bring to the Minister's attention is police uniforms. I am aware that the Minister is already looking at this question, but the present police uniform is most unsuitable for tropical conditions in North Queensland. We are experiencing one of the worst summers that we have had for years, and policemen find it impossible to bear the blue serge trousers that they are expected to wear. I have discussed the matter with quite a number of policemen, and I cannot see any reason why they should not be allowed to wear navy blue permanent-press shorts with long socks. It would be much more sensible dress for the tropics and would also assist with laundering problems. In some country areas there are no dry cleaners, which makes it very difficult for policemen to keep their uniforms spick and span; in fact, their wives are almost driven silly trying to keep uniforms clean in summer. If there were a change to

navy blue permanent-press shorts, police could use their blue shirts during summer and winter, and there would thus be a saving in uniforms.

In addition, hats are essential in the tropics. The little caps do not give sufficient protection, and some policemen do wear their old hats. However, these are not part of the uniform, and I think the Minister will have to give some attention to providing uniform hats.

Equally in need of a new uniform are the women police. There has been a lot of public comment about the length of their skirts, and the present uniforms are not really very suitable. Personally, I think that a culotte skirt or a pants suit would be more suitable and much more dignified. I realise that the girls have to be able to move unrestrictedly when necessary. A culotte or slacks suit would be much more serviceable than the short mini A-line skirt that they are wearing at the moment.

Like the honourable member for Barron River, I have a problem with police housing in my electorate. In a number of small towns it is virtually impossible for public servants coming into the area to rent any sort of suitable accommodation. One of the constables at Silkwood is paying nearly \$20 a week for a flat which becomes inundated with water in the wet season. The owner refuses to improve the accommodation because she knows that she does not have to as there is nowhere else in the town where the policeman can go. To add insult to injury she is going to put up the rent in the next month or so.

A serious housing problem exists in Mt. Garnet. While the constable is living in very substandard conditions, our Aboriginal friends are being provided with first-class accommodation by the Federal Government. A number of policemen find that sort of thing very hard to bear. Really they are very good in their demands. Possibly that is one reason they have been neglected. In the past they have put up with what they have been supplied with and not made a noise about it. Therefore as a Government we have tended to neglect them. The Government must take a much closer look at the provision of suitable accommodation for policemen, particularly in country areas.

I pay tribute to Inspector O'Shea and his officers in the Innisfail district. I have always found them to be a most competent, hard-working band of men who are very pleasant to deal with, as the Minister would have found last week-end. I thank him for coming north when we had a serious problem of law and order in the Innisfail district. On Saturday, 23 October, the police in Innisfail were called out to a riotous party. When the police vehicle arrived it was pelted with beer bottles. Some of the windows were smashed and the windshield was broken off. Those police had no choice but to call for

reinforcements. When the reinforcements arrived those at the party gathered inside the house and dared the police to come in and get them. The police had to force their way into the house. Arrests were made and a number of loaded rifles and guns were confiscated. A considerable quantity of ammunition was found on the premises. It was a most undesirable situation. It is not the first time that that sort of thing has happened in Innisfail. Neighbours in the street have been complaining about it for months. Riotous parties are held and young people shoot up and down the street. Warnings have been given to neighbours not to complain to the police. One youth entered a neighbouring house and urinated in the kitchen as a warning not to complain to the police about the parties. On the night of 23 October the neighbours became very alarmed and felt that it was absolutely necessary to call the police. The police did their duty. They went in and made the necessary arrests. A number of neighbours will testify that they went into the house under very difficult circumstances and amidst a tirade of abuse. These men did their job and we thought that would be the end of it. Incidentally, this is the third time in the Innisfail district in the past 12 months that police have had to be called in on a pack raid like this. It is causing a lot of distress to people in the Innisfail district.

Unfortunately this matter was reported in the Press on Monday—incidentally it was reported only in the southern papers—in an article in which Senator Keeffe abused our Innisfail police for carrying out their duty. It so happened that Senator Keeffe was in Innisfail attending a Labor Party ball on Saturday night. He was fed a lot of untrue information, much like the information fed to the honourable member for Rockhampton.

Mr. Newbery: He is a protector of the rabble; that is what he is.

Mrs. KIPPIN: That is precisely what he is.

Senator Keeffe spoke very strongly against our Police Force. His was a cowardly action because he knew very well that as he made general accusations against the Police Force, members could not prove that he was wrong. Moreover, while court cases are pending, the matters are sub judice and police cannot defend themselves in the Press. Senator Keeffe did not seem to care about what happened to the neighbours or the policemen in Innisfail. He stated that a number of young people arrested had bruises. But so did a lot of the policemen! He did not seem to be at all concerned about them.

When husbands are called out in the middle of the night to break up a pack party or a pack riot, quite a lot of stress and strain is imposed on the wives. Any person such as Senator Keeffe who would denigrate our Police Force without knowing the full facts is not worthy of a seat in Parliament. I am sure all honourable members realise that.

Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) (5.3 p.m.): I thank the present Minister and former Minister for Police for the assistance and co-operation given to me in matters pertaining to the portfolio in Redlands. At the same time I pay tribute to the fine band of men who represent the Police Force in that electorate. I commend them on the work they are doing and the co-operation they extend to members of the community and me from time to time.

A very effective Police Force is most important in any society. I should hate to think where we would be without the protection they afford. Although we hear many utterances against our Queensland Police Force I am certain that, in most instances, the people who make them are those who look for, and cause, trouble. The rabble-rousers like to stir up trouble for those who are keeping law and order. When we stop to think what the community would be like without an effective police force we realise that such a force is the thin line between anarchy and peace in the community.

Mr. Hartwig: That is why they want to tear it down.

Mr. GOLEBY: That is so.

At every opportunity the civil liberties people complain and rush to be interviewed by the media, particularly TV representatives. The media like to hear from unusual people, and people who call for civil liberties are unusual. The first things they want to take away from society are its liberties and freedoms which we and our parents have enjoyed and which we want to leave to our children.

The police in my electorate have a very large district to cover. They are in charge of large bayside and island areas and many of their duties relate to them. They engage in rescue and emergency work and quite often they take accident cases to receive medical attention.

While we often hear about inconsiderate policemen I wonder how many times we should hear about policemen who have gone the second mile, the men who have gone out of their way to help people in the community. Unfortunately the only things ever complained about are misinterpretations or the actions of police who are perhaps frustrated or under duress. The honest, hard-working policeman who goes out of his way to help society does so willingly as part of his job, but his actions are never recognised as those of someone who is doing a good job.

A lot of discussion in the debate this afternoon has related to drugs. I personally compliment the police, particularly in my own electorate, for the work they are doing to combat this serious problem. We hear all around us the seriousness of drugs and drug-trafficking by pushers and the harm that drugs cause. The police throughout this State are very much aware of the problem and are doing everything in their power to stamp it out. However, some people in the community persist in advocating the

legalisation of marijuana and the like. Those who are complaining about civil liberties are the ones who are clamouring for marijuana and other drugs to be legalised so that people can please themselves. They say that their liberties should not be interfered with but they have no regard for the liberty and freedom of others. They are a minority group, but they are very keen to destroy humanity—to destroy our young people. They are bent on making considerable profits at the expense of the lives of this nation's young people. I pay the highest compliment to our Police Force—our officers from the commissioner down—for the work they are doing in attempting to stem the tide of drug-trafficking within this State.

I do not intend to talk about Cedar Bay. However, I know that much of the trafficking takes place in North Queensland and many of the drugs are produced there. It is from there that the drugs filter through to the South. Trading takes place continually. I am told by reliable sources that, since the confiscation of over \$2,000,000 worth of drugs in the Cairns region recently, the price of drugs in the southern capitals has doubled. It is very pleasing to note that at least we have got to what is probably the root of the trouble. Once we stamp out production in that area, we will have gone a long way towards eradicating the problem, not only of production within the State but also of trafficking throughout this nation.

I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to many of the requirements necessary for an effective Police Force. My own electorate comes within the Wynnum police district. We have one police station on the mainland in my electorate and another at Dunwich. The Cleveland Police Station has 14 men and services an area with a population of approximately 30,000. Unfortunately, the police there are housed in very inadequate accommodation. Office space is at a premium. Any worker, whether it be a police officer, a clerk or a secretary, requires congenial surroundings and suitable equipment for a 100 per cent performance. I have to report, unfortunately, that the Cleveland Police Station falls far short of meeting the requirements to service an effective Police Force. It was constructed many, many years ago and has been converted from court-house to police station to watch-house over the years. The little poky offices are inadequate. There is no privacy for interviewing, which is carried out in any reasonably quiet corner of the building that can be found. There is no adequate charge room. I hope that in the very near future the needs of the Cleveland Police Station will be recognised.

From the Dunwich Police Station on Stradbroke Island the whole of the island and its seaside resorts are serviced. At Christmas-time and other holiday periods its strength is increased to cope with the additional work-load, as occurs in any other area where there are increased crowds at holiday-times.

On the other side of my electorate is the Springwood area, which is at the northern end of the Albert Shire. That is one of the fastest-growing areas in Australia and is serviced by the Woodridge Police Station in the electorate of Salisbury. Police from the Woodridge station have to cover a very large area with a very large population.

I approached the former Minister for Police and I appeal again for recognition to be given to the need for additional police officers or a police station in the Springwood area. Springwood, Eight Mile Plains and Rochedale lie on the fringe of Brisbane. Mobile patrols cover that area of Brisbane, in this case with a small population, and immediately over the Brisbane boundary line there is a large area with a population, in my electorate alone, of some 30,000 people. I would like to think that the patrol system which is operating in the Brisbane city area could be extended to this area to provide extra protection for the residents.

The honourable member for Mourilyan mentioned police uniforms. In my opinion, police officers in my area always appear to be very neatly dressed and look good in their uniforms. But I can understand that problems must exist in the hot, humid conditions in the North. Dark colours naturally attract heat. I am sure that there is room for provision to be made for the use of an alternative type of uniform in the hotter regions of the State. All of us can appreciate that irrespective of where we work and what we work at, we enjoy it a lot more and our efficiency naturally increases if we are comfortably dressed and feel comfortable at our work. This would apply to police officers. I hope that some recognition will be given to my plea and that a suitable uniform will be provided for the people in that area.

I cannot see any reason why shorts cannot be worn. They are an acceptable form of dress in office life and among the business fraternity not only in North Queensland but throughout Queensland generally during summer. Many business executives dress this way and I cannot see why our police officers cannot dress like their counterparts in other tropical areas where shorts are the common form of dress. If long socks are worn, shorts look neat and tidy.

I thank the Minister, the commissioner and the officers for their work and dedication to duty. As I said earlier, I hate to think what it would be like to live in a State that did not have an effective Police Force to control law and order and to protect the citizens.

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (5.13 p.m.): In speaking to the Police Estimates I should like to raise a number of points. Other honourable members have done this although it is not particularly what an Estimates debate is supposed to be about.

The Police Vote for this year is an extremely large one. Possibly in the eyes of many people it is not large enough. A lot of money is being provided for the building of the new administration block in the city. In my opinion some of that money is being wasted simply because it is not being used in a decentralisation scheme to provide police stations throughout the State. I am not referring only to the outer suburbs of Brisbane, although that is the area I should be mainly concerned with. Many provincial areas in Queensland should be given more consideration than they are given at present.

Recently I invited the Minister for Police to inspect the Woodridge Police Station, where there has been a lot of trouble not only in housing the policemen but also in giving them room to do their work properly. Conditions are so cramped that it is a public scandal. There are 15 policemen, including a clerical assistant, working in an area that is no more than twice the size of a parliamentary office, and that is cramped enough with three members in it.

At the Woodridge Police Station there is absolutely no privacy. A constant stream of people comes to the police station to transact counter business. The police are unable to work properly in those conditions. The Minister for Police and the Minister for Works and Housing have promised, if there is such a word, an investigation into the possibility of either filling in the garage next to the police station in Woodridge or providing other additional office space. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Police for coming to Woodridge; I assure him the people are most concerned about this problem.

I should like to know why Beenleigh, which is an extraordinarily provincial town of about 6,000 people, has been given a 24-hour police service whilst Woodridge and Springwood, containing about 50,000 to 60,000 people, have a service at the police station only between 8 a.m. and 12 midnight. Everyone knows that many of the crimes in this area are breaking and entering offences that are committed between midnight and 8 a.m. If there is no-one on call and able to get to the scene quickly, the people feel very concerned. In addition, domestic problems that arise in these hours are of grave concern. I am particularly concerned that at times when police are called to domestic situations they absolve themselves from responsibility. Such cases are, of course, most difficult to handle. Often a woman will not charge her husband with bashing her at that time but she will change her mind two or three days later. These are very difficult problems.

Another matter that I should like to mention has been brought up by others. About 10 days ago I asked a question concerning drivers of motor vehicles who flash headlights as a warning to other drivers that

they are approaching a police radar trap. The Minister assured me that no police were in fact deployed to catch these people. That, of course, is the answer that his department would have to provide. But I do not believe it. In order to catch people who flash their headlights, there has to be another policeman a kilometre or so along the road before the trap. I cannot see how there would be time for a policeman manning a radar trap to think to himself, "My, my! There's somebody flashing his lights a kilometre down the road", and then do something about it. And how, in any case, would he see the lights flashing? It is obvious that other police are being deployed for this purpose.

If the answer to my question about using radar traps and minor traffic offences as revenue raisers is not true, I think we have to consider why radar traps are being used to catch people. But if the answer is true, it is a wonderful method of raising revenue. I did not see in the Estimates exactly how much money is derived from this type of misdemeanour on the road.

Another member brought up earlier this afternoon the matter of minor traffic infringements. I cite, for example, speeding. Admittedly speeding is travelling at over 60 km an hour in a 60 km/h zone. But there is great speed and various other degrees of speed. To my mind, driving at 8 km over the speed limit is not really as major an offence as so many of the other offences that one sees committed daily on the roads and that constituents refer constantly to their members. I instance hoon racing up and down major streets, people failing to stop at "Stop" signs and people driving through red lights. There are areas that the people know to be extremely dangerous, but no matter how we may beg, plead and cajole, police will not go there and patrol them.

In my electorate there is a road which has a dip at the base of a hill. It is an obvious place to catch people for speeding, and, boy oh boy, do the police catch them! I guarantee they must make \$1,000 a day there because everyone who goes down the hill must be doing over 60 km/h. To keep to the speed limit one has to travel all the way down that hill with one's foot on the brake. Are we to consider that it is a policy decision of the Government or of the police to have police officers deployed in this manner?

I am particularly concerned that so many of our major traffic regulations seem to be going by the board. I want to ask a question of the Commissioner of Police through the Police Minister. Is the regulation governing right-hand turns at stop signs still the same as it use to be? There seems to be some doubt in some people's minds about whether one is supposed to be in the right-hand lane at a stop sign before one can turn right. If a person is in the left-hand lane at a stop sign and turns right is he correct or incorrect? So many people say

that it does not matter whether a driver is in the left-hand or right-hand lane, but when I was taught to drive I had to be in the right-hand lane before I could turn right. Whether that regulation has changed I do not know, but I would like an answer from the Minister.

This Friday I am going to court with a woman constituent of mine because I believe that she has been wrongly charged. I do not know whether this can be proven, but because of this charge I want to suggest that police patrolling late at night should do so in pairs. I just know that everyone in the Police Department will say that police always patrol in pairs. This is what I am told, but they do not always patrol in pairs. A constituent of mine was pulled over by a Q-car on the expressway at 1.30 a.m. and the police officer was alone. When he waved her down he was in plain clothes and she did not know he was a policeman. He was tail-gating her. I believe that is the expression for psychologically causing the car ahead to go faster by sitting right on its tail. This constituent of mine had no proof of his identity until he actually got out of the car and she was able to ask to see his police identification. I do not think that is right.

Earlier this year we had the reverse of that, where a woman driving down to the coast was pulled over by what she believed to be a patrol car and she was then bashed and robbed. The offender forced her to pull over by showing her a "Police" sign. Unfortunately, this has happened to me. The people in the car wave this sign and one thinks, "Good heavens, it is a policeman." Then one thinks, "It might not be a policeman; it might be someone out to rob me." This is why I believe the police should always patrol in pairs, particularly late at night. I believe the Minister should make sure that this does happen all the time, even if it is supposed to happen now.

Mr. Moore: They should have a uniform on, anyway.

Mrs. KYBURZ: The honourable member says that they should have a uniform on, but I suppose Q-cars are a good way of catching people because they can weave in and out of traffic without being detected. Of course, when members of the public see a police car they do tend to slow down, but as I have said before, a lot of major crimes are going undetected and it is very worrying that the police are being deployed on relatively minor offences such as catching people who flash their lights as a warning of a radar trap while major crimes are not being solved.

The honourable member for Mourilyan brought up the subject of police uniforms amidst much jibing from various members—

Mrs. Kippin: They are all males.

Mrs. KYBURZ: That is right. They are all inconsiderate. No matter what other members might think, the police are concerned about their uniforms. Not only policemen, but policewomen are concerned about their uniforms. Earlier this year I asked a question of the Minister for Police concerning uniforms for policewomen, because they wanted them changed. I believe that a designer of female clothing offered his services to the department, saying that he would design a uniform for multiple use which would be comfortable, extremely feminine, easily washable—one, in fact, that would have all the ingredients of a good uniform. Where is the uniform that he has designed? Has he floated off on a cloud and decided that the assignment is too difficult? Is he being paid by the Police Department, or did he simply volunteer his services?

I agree with the honourable member for Mourilyan that the male police uniform could very easily be modified to something washable. So could the female uniform. A culotte skirt is, of course, the answer; in fact, there is no other answer. For the information of honourable members who do not know what a culotte skirt is, it is a skirt that is divided down the middle—in fact, a short pair of slacks. I know that this is what policewomen want. The investigation into uniforms has been going on for six months, and I think it is time that the police themselves were asked to participate in the great uniform debate because it is a matter that concerns them greatly.

I should like to bring up the question of the at-risk families in society. An article appeared in "The Courier-Mail" yesterday that I am sure was extremely interesting to all honourable members. It is a sociological fact—and there is no use trying to bury our heads in the sand about it—that many families in society are ill-equipped and are not being assisted to get through their day-to-day life. I also noted that at yesterday's seminar on at-risk families the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport stated that in fact 60 to 80 per cent of the expenditure on welfare services was going to these at-risk families and that the set of criteria used to determine these families is almost uniform in its consistency. The at-risk formula is that it is generally a large family—four children or more—relatively low income, poor education, low motivation, and no sociological background of an extended family—in other words, it is a nuclear family with little support.

What does all that mean to anyone who has not studied sociology? It simply means that it is a family which has no outside support from grandmothers, and so on. The mother, perhaps, is dealing with a husband who is an alcoholic or a heavy drinker—that is another of the criteria—and therefore she is ill-equipped to decide how to spend her time in relationship with her husband and her children.

I am particularly concerned about this, Mr. Gunn, because I am greatly concerned about the women's shelters in Brisbane, although that of course, is an entirely different matter. On this occasion, I should like to thank some of the police in my electorate, who have been extremely helpful in driving women to women's shelters, which, unfortunately, are far from Woodridge, Kingston, Coopers Plains and Salisbury. You will notice, Mr. Gunn, that I am very carefully mentioning all the suburbs in my electorate. I thank those police who have assisted women who have had to travel long distances with no money and little opportunity to get to a shelter.

I should like to mention very quickly the educational qualifications of policemen. I am particularly concerned—and I know that many other people are concerned, too—that so many policemen, in common with school-teachers and other public servants, do not have as wide an educational background as is desirable. In my opinion, a course in sociology would not go far astray, nor would some knowledge of psychology.

At the police training school, much money has been spent on the building and beautification—stonework, beautiful floors, and so on. In addition, a lot of money has been spent on the expertise of lecturers in the school. However, I would like to ask the Minister, through you, Mr. Gunn, how far a senior policeman is able to do, shall I say, later-in-life education, in the way the teachers are able to do in-service training, to bring his qualifications up to what would be an acceptable community standard.

Indeed, how far has the Police Union—the stolid, solid backbone of the Police Force—stopped the educational thrust forward of the Police Force? How far has the union maintained the status quo in the Police Force, to enable perhaps the older, foot-slogging, yelling policemen to get ahead of the younger ones who may have a quieter, more intelligent manner?

I am particularly concerned that it was in fact the Police Union's fault—no matter what we may have read in the Press—that the educational certificate was not pursued. I believe that some of the circumstances surrounding that were not made public. It is time that the public heard what in fact are the in-service provisions for policemen.

Many things have been said in this Chamber today about the Police Force, some of which I have agreed with and some of which I have not agreed with. But it is of great concern to all honourable members to know that the police are there. After all, we do think of the police in a time of need. We need to know that they are understanding and that in fact, above all, they are available.

Mr. WARNER (Toowoomba South) (5.32 p.m.): I wish the Minister every success in his new portfolio. I must agree with previous speakers that the honourable member for Rockhampton, speaking as he did about the

Minister, did nothing to uphold the Police Force in the eyes of the community as a body to be respected. Indeed, he did the very opposite.

As a member of the Minister's committee, I am well aware of the problems that he faces. His portfolio would be one of the most difficult to administer, as has been obvious over recent weeks. I am sure he will give it the strength and understanding that it demands.

One cannot but be very conscious of what is involved in the administration of the Police Force if one has something to do with such a committee. If one travels the length and breadth of Queensland, as that committee did with the previous Minister, one must be aware of the enormous job the police have in exercising their responsibility over the 600,000 square miles involved. They have the problem not only of an ever-increasing crime rate, which is mainly concentrated in and around Brisbane—46 per cent on the present count—but an increasing responsibility by reason of density of population right up the east coast.

These are major responsibilities and must be treated as such, but it must not be forgotten that the Government has a very big responsibility towards the western areas and the Outback. Pockets of people live out there in isolation, and they depend more and more on the local constable. Whole regions have lost their population from sheep and cattle stations and the small towns that serviced those stations. Once prosperous areas, they are now becoming ghost towns, with hardly anybody in them. That goes on week by week, and most of us know why. No rural industry can stand the pounding ours have had to take for so long and remain viable and provide employment.

Banks and wool firms have shut their doors and moved to central areas. Store-keepers who have remained have done so only because they owe too much money and cannot get out. Most find it impossible to carry on and no doubt will go bankrupt in the near future. It is a very depressing state of affairs for people who live in the area. Many people are hanging on to their properties and working them alone. Any move by the Police Department to close down one-man or two-man stations must be resisted at all costs. I ask the Minister to be very careful when looking at this matter. The transfer of these men would leave whole areas unprotected. Although there may be justification for transfer on a ratio basis, which is somewhere in the vicinity of one policeman to every 600 citizens, that cannot be justified when isolation is taken into account.

Today's criminals are a new breed. They are better educated and highly mobile. They can, and do, travel into isolated areas and cause great concern to those left behind on properties. I emphasise this point by reminding members of the terrible murder of a lone grazier's wife some years ago in

western New South Wales, a crime which rocked the nation. It may have been avoided if she had not been alone on the property.

It is imperative that police stations be maintained in these areas irrespective of how little work they may record and however lonely the life may be for the men who man these stations. I believe that the men I met on my recent trips realise the situation and are prepared to stay. Of course, a system of early replacement of these young men is necessary and I understand that it is already in train. We must give as much protection as possible to these newly isolated people who have pioneered the land and are still doing so. They will carry on if given half the chance to remain.

When prosperity returns the banks and wool firms will re-open. But if the houses of law and order are closed because of the rural recession, we will surely be in for trouble. In saying that I am certainly not unmindful of the limited finance available to the department and the vastness of the State over which it has to be spread. Although these Estimates have tripled in the past few years (and the allocation has increased from about \$57,000,000 in 1975 to nearly \$70,000,000 this year) it still equals only approximately 10c per head of population per day. Surely it is a tribute to the former Minister and his administration that such money is available and so much has been done with it in the past few years.

The formation of new regions and districts to ensure better police surveillance has certainly met with opposition. It will continue to do so if cities like Toowoomba are not properly staffed. Unfortunately this continues to be the case in Toowoomba although in the past few weeks we have had five more men allocated to the area for beat duty. That is to be commended because it is essential.

With the limited resources available, the most effective deployment of men is no doubt the aim of the present administration. Much has been done by releasing police officers from menial duties such as issuing summonses for parking. That is but one of the many duties that they were expected to carry out in the past. Doubtless, that has released officers for more serious police work; but the old concept of the police doing nothing more than waiting around the corner to catch the motorist seems never to die. For most people a traffic offence is the first contact with the law. That contact is not always as good as it should be. However, it seems that it will always be difficult to persuade some people that the enforcement of our traffic law is necessary for the sole purpose of protecting life and limb.

A question persistently asked of me by people in my electorate is whether it is to the personal advantage of a traffic officer to prosecute so that he can get promotion. That is certainly not the intention of the

law. Promotion should be determined by the quality of a man's work, not by the number of convictions he may obtain. Unfortunately, there are cases of downright abuse by police in this regard. I have had more than one experience of that. Such experiences do nothing to enhance the image of traffic policemen, and I believe that they must not be tolerated by the Minister or his department in the future. I have already been assured by the Minister that that will not continue.

The laws are made to be obeyed—and they are not made lightly. However, it is wrong for any policeman to take it upon himself to decide which laws he will enforce in the name of the people and which he will not enforce. He does not make the laws, so he should not assume the role of judge and jury. The same principle surely must apply to the general public in their outlook to the laws of the land. How many crimes would have been prevented if opportunities had not been made available by the victims themselves—opportunities readily taken advantage of by criminals? Surely it is not the total responsibility of the police alone to prevent crime. The sooner we teach that in schools and stop legislating to protect the criminal to the point where it is nearly impossible for a conviction to be obtained or for the court to impose a punishment adequately to fit the crime, the better it will be for us all. Years can be spent in collecting sufficient evidence to convict a person, and the person after being found guilty of a serious crime walks away free or with a paltry fine to pay. That must give the police a feeling of hopelessness and bitterness.

Are we as citizens giving the assistance to the police that we would expect them to give to any one of us? If co-operation is not forthcoming, the best police work must lose some of its effect. That is surely so in the case of drug-pushing. Big operators are making millions by destroying the lives of young people. Every move that we can make to stop those murderers should be put into force. If there is a threat to civil liberties, then it must be stamped out. The police must be free to implement the law impartially, treating all citizens equally, and we must assume that those responsible will act impartially and will certainly not be used for political purposes.

The police in my area have been very helpful and have given me—and everyone else in Toowoomba, I am sure—every assistance. They are to be commended for their wonderful help to the community. I give them the highest commendation, as I do to the Minister.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Mulgrave) (5.44 p.m.): It gives me much pleasure to say a few words in the debate on the Police Estimates. I feel that we as parliamentarians and citizens of this State are not doing enough to support the police in their arduous

duties, particularly in the present circumstances of life that are being inflicted upon the nation. Law and order is the basis of our society. We make the laws—sometimes we are found wanting, I am afraid—and having made the laws we rely on our Police Force to a large extent to carry them out.

The criticism of the police that we read in the papers and hear over the radio and on television and the disrespect in which many citizens of this State hold members of our Police Force today are to be regretted. Often I have had to defend them in the ordinary course of conversation. When the media see fit to denigrate members of the Police Force, I often say to the people criticising them, "What is your personal experience with the Police Force?" This is how I think we should judge them. My experience—and I feel sure it goes for every other honourable member who is prepared to obey the laws of this State—is that I get on all right with members of the Police Force. It is not our duty to defend the fellow who breaks the law. He knows he has broken the law and he has to suffer the consequences.

Police officers have a very difficult job to do in this permissive society. They are called upon to perform all sorts of duties, and Lord knows we have seen several of them lose their lives in trying to maintain law and order. It is a dreadful state of affairs when an officer loses his life in the course of his duty and in carrying out his responsibility and somebody is put into gaol for two years or something of the like. If we do not change our attitudes, the time will come when police officers will feel that it might be better to take things easy and let the country drift. It behoves every honourable member to support the Police Force whenever he can.

We will never have a perfect Police Force. If we buy a case of tomatoes or a bag of potatoes, we know that there will always be one or two rotten ones in it. This is so in our society and in the Police Force. But I have sufficient confidence in the powers that be in the Police Force to be sure that they will take care of this. I know from experience that if a police officer is not conducting himself as desired and it is brought to the notice of his superiors, they will deal with him quietly and effectively. I feel that we waste far too much time and money in investigating some of the acts of members of the Police Force.

They have a very difficult job to do. They have to deal with all sorts of characters and some of them are not dealt with easily. It does not do my heart good to sit down and watch television or pick up a newspaper—fortunately we have had none to pick up in the past few weeks—and learn of these allegations and suggested inquiries which cost the State a lot of money. In nine cases out of 10, at the end we find it is a wasted effort. It would be far better to leave the powers that be in the Police Force to deal with these problems, as they have done down

through the ages. We have always had a Police Force in Queensland that we could be proud of. I feel that police officers deserve the whole-hearted support of every citizen.

I was a little disappointed to hear my colleague from Rockhampton speak in the strain he did. I hark back to a year or two ago when some people were prepared to spit in the faces of policemen and call them pigs, dogs and the rest of it. If anything went wrong, where did the selfsame people go—to the nearest telephone to call a policeman to look after them and defend them. Unfortunately, the police have to do this. If people are prepared to treat the Police Force with contempt, they deserve the same treatment.

I think that we have to get more policemen back on the beat as was the case when we were a few years younger than we are. If we did that, a lot of the minor crimes would not occur. How often do we see a young lout get into a motor-car, speed down the street, his tyres screaming, and almost run over somebody, and there is not a policeman in sight?

Mr. Moore: He's no good on the beat for that; he needs a motor-car to catch them.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: He does not need a motor-car at all. All he needs is a two-way radio and he can very effectively deal with them. This situation does not do the Police Force any good. On many occasions when police have been needed not a policeman could be found. By the time a person could get to a telephone, the offender is miles away. The tendency is to criticise the Police Force because no police officers are readily available.

There are many areas of the State, particularly in the North, that are visited by people who want advice of one sort or another. Traditionally when in doubt, or not knowing what to do or where to go, a person's first inclination is to look for a policeman who will, he knows, give him reliable information.

Another matter to be kept in mind is public relations, because if police do not have the confidence of the public their job is much harder. Most policemen with whom I come in contact go out of their way to cultivate public relations. There have been minor incidents that could have been major tragedies if there had not been a good relationship between the police and the public. There are occasions when people are lost in the bush or at sea at times of great inconvenience to the police concerned, such as Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but the police have to go looking for them. The value of good relations is then seen in the support given to the police.

Another problem is the large packs and gangs that are getting about all over the State. We in North Queensland are not immune from them. Gangs of 50, 60 and even up to 80 young chaps on motor bikes

invade areas where they have no right to be. In some places there may be only two policemen and they are called on to deal with gangs of this size. How we control this behaviour, I do not know, but I think we have to give the police all possible support.

Only a few weeks ago there were two such experiences in and adjacent to my area. On each occasion I received telephone calls in which I was told what terrible fellows the police were and how they invaded an area in which peace-loving souls were doing everything right. But when one gets the details of these incidents, it is always a slightly different story. Always we find that those against whom the police have moved have broken the law, carried firearms and done various other things. The police are few in number but they have to deal with these cases. Very often they suffer physically and in some instances their property is damaged. As my colleague from Mourilyan said about two weeks ago, several police vehicles in Innisfail were badly knocked about. I do not know what resulted from that incident. As I said a short while ago, we do not get any newspapers these days and we receive little information.

Another matter of concern in the North is an insufficient number of police officers. Some of them have to work long hours, particularly detectives who are trying to run down druggies as well as deal with crimes such as robbery, theft of motor vehicles, breaking and entering and the like. I think we all have to support police officers to the maximum extent. We have to encourage more men to join the Police Force. After all, it is a very noble career if we elect to make it such.

The Minister could well give consideration to the age of retirement from the Police Force. Inspector O'Shea, who is in Innisfail, is retiring very soon. He is a man who has done an excellent job in North Queensland. I would like to thank him for the co-operation I have received from him during his years there. Here we have a man with great administrative ability who is retiring in a month or two, and we find it difficult to replace such people. I think the Government should look at the age of retirement and make it optional. If a man wants to get out at 60, fair enough, but there are men who do not want to retire at 60—and there are those in this Assembly who would not want to get out at that age—and I think we should give them the option. If they want to get out at 60, fair enough, but if they want to remain, we should allow them to do so. We have to bear in mind that some of these men have had years of service, and we cannot teach policemen experience. Whilst we might be able to teach them all sorts of other things, there is no teacher to be compared with experience and this can be obtained only after a number of years of service, especially when that service is out in the back-blocks.

I would appeal to the Minister to tour the State with his commissioner to see the conditions under which some of his police have to labour. I do not often get out into remote areas, but I know that if the Minister does so he will find lonely policemen stuck out in some small towns. If something goes wrong there is only a limited telephone exchange or, in some cases, no exchange at all and it is virtually impossible for these policemen to get in touch with the outside world. I can remember being up in the Peninsula with the Minister's predecessor and we ran into this problem. I suggested we should supply all policemen in remote areas with powerful two-way radios in order that they might contact their base, which might be hundreds of miles away, for instructions or advice or to tell the base what was going on. Communications are essential in these remote areas.

The policemen out there do a marvellous job. If someone gets lost, they have to go out and find him. They are called upon to do all sorts of jobs, and they do them willingly, so I feel that these people are entitled to the best we can give them. They and their wives are forced to live under pretty hard conditions. It is nothing for a policeman to be away from his home for periods from several hours up to two or three days, so I think we should do all that we can to make their lot a bit better than it is.

I have heard some of my colleagues referring to radar traps. I am not against the sensible use of radar traps, but I was always led to believe that we used them in areas where accidents occur frequently. But very often I find them at the bottom of a hill—

Mr. Jones: What about the golden mile?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Although one might be doing 100 km/h or whatever is the limit when one gets to the top of a hill, one can easily increase one's speed by 4 or 5 km/h over the limit by the time one gets to the bottom of the hill, and although one then begins to decrease speed at the bottom of the hill, one is caught in a radar trap. I do not think we should use these machines as revenue earners, and as my friend from Cairns mentioned a moment ago, there is an area known as the golden mile for that very reason. Of course, there are other areas like this, and it is very hard to convince people that we are not just setting up radar traps there to raise revenue.

Honourable members should not think for one moment that I support breaking the law or speeding. I drive a lot myself, and there are often times when I wish I had a two-way radio with which to contact the nearest police officer to inform him of some of the drivers we have on our roads who are endangering not only their own lives but, in many instances, the lives of others. But I do think we have to look at the way we use radar traps. As I said, we want the best possible relations between our Police Force

and the public in order that the police can work effectively, and if people are going to be caught in radar traps at the bottom of hills for doing a couple of kilometres over the speed limit we know what will be their reaction to the police officer. I have heard it so often. In fact, I have heard a motorist say after being caught like this that if he saw a policeman being kicked to death, he would not go and rescue him. We cannot afford to have that sort of thing going on.

This is a problem that we must look at sensibly. If there are areas in which accidents occur frequently or areas in which there is an indication of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds, by all means use radar traps. However, they should not be used in the same areas with monotonous regularity perhaps two or three days a week.

I thank the Committee for an attentive hearing, and I commend both the present Minister and the former Minister.

[*Sitting suspended from 6.1 to 7.15 p.m.*]

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (7.15 p.m.): In speaking to these Estimates, I should like first to express my admiration for the members of the Police Department. I believe that too many people criticise the police and are slow in giving praise and showing their appreciation for the many acts of generosity performed by the police for the benefit of the public.

We hear much about police brutality, lack of public relations and lack of understanding; seldom do we hear the praise for the police that we might well expect to hear. We hear about respect for individual members of the Police Force, but we seldom express our respect for the Police Department. I recall many occasions on which police have been involved in arguments while members of the public, myself included, have stood round and watched the fights and brawls that have taken place and have been slow to assist, or praise, the policemen who have had to carry out these difficult tasks. Parliament makes the laws for policemen to enforce, yet it is in this Chamber that one seems to hear most condemnation of the Police Department. Everyone offers criticism; very few people show their appreciation of the work done by the police.

I respect the police for the work they have done and for their co-operation with the public in country electorates such as mine. Even those who break the law in some way must understand that the police are there to enforce the laws passed by Parliament. I think that if people show some understanding of the difficulties of the police, there is a tendency for the police to show understanding in return.

At times, of course, policemen are abused by various people. In some areas a policeman cannot walk his beat without being abused by young louts or radicals who pass very uncomplimentary comments about him and expect him to ignore them. I pose this

question to you, Mr. Row: if you, as a father, were approached by your son and abused in the manner in which policemen are abused, what would you do to your son? I think most of us know what we would do. In my opinion, we should be more understanding towards the police instead of being critical of every manoeuvre they make in enforcing the laws that Parliament says they shall enforce.

In dealing with some problems in my electorate, I should like to speak first about the police lock-up at Burketown. It is a typical country lock-up, about 10 ft. by 8 ft. with a 10 ft. by 5 ft. wire-mesh enclosure on the veranda. The problem arises because the lock-up at Burketown has no toilet facilities. The building is over 30 years old and, in my opinion, and in the opinion of other people in Burketown, is totally inadequate for the purpose for which it was intended. At times, 15 or 20 people have been confined in the Burketown lock-up. Can you imagine, Mr. Row, 15 or 20 people in a 10 by 8 lock-up, the only toilet facility being a bucket. Since 1 January this year in Burketown more than 450 arrests have been made necessitating people being locked up. It must be kept in mind that two months in that period were in the wet season and would have been very quiet.

Another problem is that there is nowhere to lock up females who are charged. They have to be handcuffed to each end of the lock-up so that they cannot become involved with one another. They have a tendency to kick and scratch one another while male prisoners are inside the lock-up.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Are you serious?

Mr. BERTONI: I am serious. The lock-up in Burketown is suitable for male accommodation only. The Minister should take a close look at the situation there and do something about it. I understand that he has approved of the expenditure of \$1,700 for the renovation of that lock-up, which entails the provision of a hand basin and the replacement of the corrugated-iron walls with some sort of a wooden structure. But that is not good enough. The department must consider increasing the size of the lock-up to accommodate comfortably the large number of persons who are detained in it. This is a matter of urgency and it requires the Minister's earliest attention.

I have had discussions with various members of the Police Force in my area about the problem of housing. They have to pay rents which are a little higher than elsewhere and they are not compensated for those higher rents. The department should consider air-conditioning their living and working quarters. If anybody is prepared to live and work in a place like Mt. Isa he should be provided with air-conditioned accommodation.

The department should also consider the employment of civilian clerks in the Mt. Isa Police Station. At the moment there

are over 1,200 summonses on hand and they have to be typed out by police officers. To assist the Police Force that work should be carried out by civilian clerical staff.

I have been requested to bring forward the lack of car accommodation in Mt. Isa for the 12 to 14 vehicles that the police personally own. Those vehicles have to be parked in the heat in temperatures as high as 130°. The department should acquire a covered area in which those cars could be protected from the sun. With the intense heat out there it is extremely difficult to handle the steering wheel of a vehicle that has been left in the sun, let alone sit on the seat.

In some parts of my electorate the police use Toyota four-wheel drive vehicles. One of those vehicles was damaged in Duchess in February, but as yet it has not been replaced. Meanwhile a vehicle from the Mt. Isa depot is being used. That damaged vehicle should be replaced. I understand that there is a damaged vehicle at Bedourie, too. Again, that vehicle has not been replaced, and the department is using a normal sedan on police work.

The Mt. Isa division of the Police Department takes in an area from Burketown to Birdsville, east to Julia Creek. I understand it is one of the largest divisions in the State. The department should consider the operation of a police aircraft in that area. I see no good purpose in requiring the inspector or any other police officer to travel by car from Mt. Isa to Bedourie when he could fly there much quicker. Travelling by car from Mt. Isa to Burketown, a distance of 300 or 400 miles, is not the best use of manpower.

Disturbances are commonplace on Mornington Island and to investigate them the Burketown police have to charter planes to Mornington Island. Court cases in Burketown, in the Cloncurry division, involve charter flights of police and witnesses from Cloncurry to Burketown. These frequent charter flights must impose a tremendous burden on the Police Department's finances. If the Government were to provide a police plane in that area it would save manpower and facilitate the operations of the department.

The department should investigate instituting incentives to police who are prepared to be stationed in western areas. I believe that the Government is considering incentives to attract professional people to the West. It could well implement similar incentives for members of the Police Force. Perhaps the department will consider paying air fares, or giving an equivalent sum in cash, to people who are prepared to work in the West for, say, five years. Much investigation would be required before such a scheme could be instituted, but if, for example, an imaginary vertical line could be drawn from Hughenden incentives could be given to people prepared to serve west of that line.

If private enterprise is prepared to offer incentives to people to go to the West, surely the department could make similar provision for policemen in the area.

I repeat that I have the highest praise for the Police Department. Many people come to me with complaints, but when a complaint is made against the Police Department it is my practice to get the complainant to sign a statement before I take it further. Any person who genuinely believes he has a complaint should be prepared to sign it. Many people who have approached me alleging brutality or other misconduct on the part of the Police Force have backed off when I have asked them to sign their complaints. It has been common for them to say that their information has been second-hand. It seems that most of the trouble stems from second-hand information. People are not prepared to ensure that they get the correct information and, whether the facts are distorted or not, it is often second-hand.

The public should be educated to respect the Police Force, which is doing a very difficult job. They expect the police to enforce the laws passed by Parliament, yet they tend to buck if they are caught breaking the law by drink-driving, speeding or by committing other offences. In most cases the persons charged are at fault but they are not prepared to admit it. They tend to find reasons for saying that the Police Department is at fault.

In conclusion, I think the members of the Police Force are doing a magnificent job throughout Queensland and certainly in the western areas. I am sure most western people would agree when I say that the police are highly respected in our area. They have an understanding with the people and the ability to work in with them to enforce the law against those who break it continually and at the same time to exercise leniency towards first offenders.

Mr. MOORE (Windsor) (7.30 p.m.): In rising to speak in this debate on the Police Estimates, first of all I make one criticism about the lateness of the Police Department's annual report. Although in this debate we consider the expenditure of the department, it would assist members to have the annual report before us. Unless the report was tabled today, I do not think it has been made available. I voice my disappointment about that.

One would have to say that generally speaking the police in Queensland are pretty well thought of. As a matter of fact, I think that their image has improved over the years. There was a time when I felt that the police in New South Wales were superior to those in Queensland. They seemed to have a little bit more heart, a little bit more sympathy and a little bit more understanding. However, I do not see that now. When one travels the length and breadth of Australia, one is not inclined to think that the police in other States are any better than those in

Queensland. As a matter of fact, I think that those in other States are somewhat more officious. It is to the credit of our police that they are less officious.

Our police come under criticism in the sphere of traffic control. It is a shame that police tend to become laden with all the problems associated with traffic offences. We the legislators pass the laws. To prevent some smarty driving a horse and cart through our legislation—to cover every loop-hole—we overlegislate. That legislation is written into the statutes and the police then must work in accordance with it. When we pass our legislation I would like to see a little more discretion written into it for the benefit of the police. I know that the police can use their discretion now; but, when one criticises the police for this action or that, they say, "You make the laws. All we do is enforce them." To some extent, then, it is our problem. However, unless we pass laws that are free of loop-holes, some smarty will breach the spirit of the law. That is not a desirable state of affairs. Nevertheless, I would like to think that the police would use more discretion in certain areas.

I quote as an example a traffic policeman booking a motorist who has driven down his own quiet little street, along which perhaps only one or two vehicles would travel in a day, and parking in front of his house, facing the wrong way instead of parking on the left-hand side of the street. What real crime is that? Why is that fellow pinched?

Mr. Brown: He is on the wrong side of the road.

Mr. MOORE: Real smart! The member for Clayfield is so smart that he will talk himself out of the Parliament. That vehicle is creating no greater hazard whichever way it is facing. It is occupying the same space—yet the member for Clayfield has taken me on over a thing like that. He'll know better than that before he's done.

It is stupid for the police to embark on that sort of an exercise when every long-haired hoon and lout is driving around in souped-up wagons of all descriptions with mattresses in the back and all that sort of thing. They can get away with murder. They can be part of the drug scene or anything else, but do the police pick them up? Oh, no. That would be too much work. They drive up the road sedately, find a poor fellow parked on the wrong side of the road and pinch him. There is something wrong with that.

Another matter that the commissioner and the Minister could look at is police blitzes. Every so often a police blitz has to be introduced because somebody has been jay-walking or that sort of thing. The next thing the police will become so pedantic and so stupid that when 30 people are waiting to cross a road simultaneously where the white lines are only 12 or 15 ft. apart, and the "Walk" sign comes on, because the period between when the "Walk" sign comes on

and when the "Don't Walk" sign begins to flash is not very long, they will all try to get across in a hurry; those who walk between the white lines will be O.K. but those who walk outside them, even though the "Walk" sign is on, will be pinched by the police for crossing within 60 ft. of a pedestrian crossing.

Mr. Byrne: The letter of the law.

Mr. MOORE: It is stupidity. They have to book a certain number so a blitz is put on. When the police start to do that sort of thing it is little wonder that no-one will give them a hand when they are getting their guts kicked in. The people say, "Let them stew. They did so-and-so to us." Generally speaking, if a person is being molested, the first person he wants to call on is a policeman and he wants to feel that he is calling on him with good will and that when the policeman needs assistance he will be prepared to give it in return. It is all because of the stupidity of our traffic laws. It is the law. If a person crosses a road within 60 ft. of a pedestrian crossing the police become pedantic and book him. There is something wrong with it. It has happened in the past. I have criticised the Commissioner of Police. I spoke to him about it and to the previous Minister and he said, "That's the law. That's all right." He did not mind at all about it.

Another situation in which the police are going overboard—the traffic police again—is the booking of people for flashing headlights to indicate a radar trap. Preventing a policeman from doing his lawful duty! What a lot of codswallop that is. What duty does the policeman have to do until a breach is committed? At that stage the oncoming driver has not gone through the radar trap so he is not in breach. It is like having a person standing outside a jeweller's shop, a policeman standing on the other side of the road and another person with a brick in his hand about to throw it through the window. The first fellow says, "Listen, brother. Don't throw that brick through the window. If you do, the policeman over the road will apprehend you and will be booked." That person would not get pinched for preventing the other fellow committing the crime, but for far lesser things, such as flashing headlights to indicate a radar trap down the road, a motorist is apprehended and fined. And the Minister for Police—the present Minister included—goes along with that sort of thing. I plead with the Minister to pull the dogs off and get the public on side. If he gets pedantic and goes along with things like that, he is not doing a service to Queensland or to his own Police Force. Police officers are the ones who get the opprobrium.

I should like to think that the Queensland Police Force received the same respect that the London bobby was reputed to have some years ago. We have gone some way along the road towards achieving it. Virtually it is only our traffic laws that are putting the police in bad odium. If the Minister corrects

that matter while he is here, he will do the Police Force and Queensland a service. Everybody would like to think that the policeman in Queensland is his friend. A person in strife has virtually only one recourse—to call upon a policeman—and he would like to think he had no cause to feel badly about the policeman on some other occasion. If the Minister can achieve that he will have done Queensland a favour.

I will not labour "Murphy's Marauders". They have been discussed on a number of occasions. I know of the cases involving the so-called "Murphy's Marauders". They could be doing a really good job in other places. They could be breaking up a band of louts or something like that and doing something worth while.

But I think something should be done about bounty-hunting and getting a couple of hours overtime for appearing in court when a person is charged with drink-driving. If they charge people, they should appear in court in their ordinary working time and should receive no extra payment for it. If it were just a normal duty they would have no extra incentive to charge people; they would merely be doing their job. That is the only incentive that I want the police to have. I do not want them to have the incentive of overtime payments.

I should like the Minister to tell me the amount of payment for overtime received by each one of the so-called Murphy's Marauders in the last 12 months. I do not want to be beaten by statistics because I know what can be done with them. I know the old saying that there are liars, damn liars and statisticians.

There has to be some truth in these allegations because they are coming from too many places. A person, for instance, is driving through the Valley and the police pull him up because he has a tow-bar fitted to his car and the ball is partly obscuring his number plate. The police pull him up, see that he has had a drink, and out comes the alcotest bag. He blows in the bag, finds his reading is .08, and he is gone. There is something wrong with the taking of random breath tests in that way. We pretend that we do not favour them, yet we allow them to be carried out.

There is, too, the odd bad apple in the barrel in the Police Force. I well recall one fellow who worked in the Railway Department and whose name was Jones. He was nothing to do with Clem Jones. He was walking down George Street towards Parliament House with a radio under his arm. A couple of policemen said to him, "Hey, what's your name?" He said, "Jones." They said, "Ha, ha! Jones! His name's Jones! What's that radio you have under your arm?" He said, "It belongs to my mother." They said, "Oh, he's got a mother!" There is no need for that sort of ridicule and I know it happened to this fellow. I can bring him along as a witness if that is necessary.

That sort of silly molestation by policemen does not do the force any good. I know it is the exception rather than the rule, but when that sort of behaviour is brought to the notice of the Minister or the commissioner it should be stamped out. Those concerned should be sacked. That would keep the police in good odour and ensure that they were well received.

I come now to a consideration of the Police Academy. For mature persons, it could be well worth while. However, I have some criticism of the entry of young fellows to do what is virtually the old sub-Senior examination and their remaining in the Police Force virtually from cradle to grave. Those who do sub-Senior, Senior and whatever comes next—stages one, two and three, if I may put it that way—never mix with the people at large, never come under the heavy hand of the police, and have never been without the almighty authority that police have. Holding authority virtually from the day he was born does not make for a good policeman.

Another criticism that I have is directed to the cost of this academy. Its students are not bonded; they can leave when they like. They arrive there to do their sub-Senior and at that stage they are paid \$138 a fortnight. If they are living away from home, they receive another few dollars as a living-away-from-home allowance. They are not apprentices. At that stage they are simply going to school. If children at sub-Senior stage are to be paid \$138 per fortnight, the same amount should be paid to all other students in Queensland. There is something wrong here.

When they get to their Senior year they are paid \$161 per fortnight. Because they are not bonded, when they pass Senior, they can then leave the force and do whatever they wish. Parents are saying, "This is a great way to get our kids educated. Hop them along to the academy. They will get \$138 a fortnight in sub-Senior and \$161 a fortnight in Senior. Then they can leave and take on medicine or whatever they wish to do at the university." There is something wrong with that system, and I would like the Minister to tell me the number who enrol and then drop out after they have finished their Senior. I just wonder how many do carry on.

I have no argument about probationers who receive \$284.70 per fortnight during their training. I have no quarrel with adults receiving that sort of money but if we are going to pay this large amount to children to do their sub-Senior and Senior, I think there is something wrong.

I now want to say a few words about the Stock Squad. Not having this year's annual report, I cannot talk about what has happened this year, but I notice in last year's annual report that the number of stock stolen was 7,932 and the Stock Squad recovered 1,586 of them.

Mr. Byrne interjected.

Mr. MOORE: The honourable member is right. I was about to say that. As far as cattle theft is concerned, this year virtually no cattle will be reported stolen. Cattlemen will say, "They're not worth anything, so we won't bother reporting them." So the statistics will show that there has been a great improvement in the performance of the Stock Squad and the number of stock stolen has declined. I have a fair amount of admiration for the members of the Stock Squad. They are not the best educated, but they are good horsemen, cattlemen and bushmen. From what I can glean, farmers, graziers and those who have had anything to do with them cannot speak too highly of them.

Mr. Lane: There are too few of them.

Mr. MOORE: Yes. We are lifting the educational standards of our Police Force and we are getting more and more academics. I would like to see policemen enlisted because of their psychological approach to the job, because if one gets around and meets many of the older constables and sergeants one finds that they were farmers' sons and so on and had worked on the land before they enlisted. They are not the glamorous type, but when one talks to them one finds they have a heart. When one mentions juvenile crime to them, they say, "As far as I am concerned, I have never booked a child in my life. Where there has been a theft I have taken the child home and had a yarn to his father. I have spoken to the offended person and between them they have made restitution. Dad has given the kid a cuff over the earhole and said, 'Don't do it again!'"

These fellows, who have no high educational standards, are policemen who are worth their salt. I do not want to see smart academics who can come up with all the smart answers, who are good debaters and can do their multiplication tables. I do not care if policemen cannot multiply; it is the good quality policemen we want to see.

The Drug Squad requires a special type of policeman. It does not require policemen of any great educational standard either, but it requires someone who can get the ear of persons who know of people using drugs. They have to rely on information from other people. They virtually have to look like the type of person they are trying to pick up if they are to achieve any measure of success and I know that this is occurring to some extent now.

My time is running short, but there is one thing that does need to be mentioned and that is suburban police stations. I hope the Minister makes certain that the police do not become so mobile that they think they have eliminated the need for suburban police stations, because there is nothing better than having a police station in virtually every suburb. They should be manned by a policeman who is appointed for a reasonable length of time so that he gets to know the people

of the area by sight and even by name. He would see the children growing up and would thus be able to keep his finger on the pulse of the area. This would be of far more benefit than some elitist mobile squad whose members know nothing about the area and do not have the necessary rapport with the population. Not only that; they do not have the confidence of people in the area. If everyone in an area is on good speaking terms with the local constables, one cannot wish for a better situation than that.

There is a tendency to wipe out foot patrols and put people in motor-cars. I am aware, of course, that most crime today is committed in conjunction with the use of a motor vehicle, and that is one of the reasons why it is more difficult to apprehend criminals. In days gone by, the person who committed a crime either rode a push-bike or a horse and would be found within a bull's roar of where the crime was committed. That is not the case today, because generally the criminal uses a motor-car.

I wish to make brief mention of Parkinson's law in relation to the Police Air Wing. We have bought a couple of second-hand aircraft cheaply, but they are not really suitable. The next step will be to say, "Well, they were not really suitable. What we need is a couple of more sophisticated aircraft or a couple of helicopters." I do not see any prospect of their being used full time in the immediate future, and I believe that aircraft and helicopters should be hired where necessary. There would then not be any need to have policemen running round doing that sort of work.

Prevention of cruelty to animals also comes under the Minister's control, and I should like to mention the hiring of horses and the cruelty that the animals receive from youths and girls who gallop them over all sorts of country and on hard roads. The owners worry only about the dollars they receive. The horses have sore backs, girth gall, worms and lampas. They are not looked after at all. I should like the police, instead of relying on complaints, to take action where they see things such as this happening. As it is now, the police act only on a complaint. The animals cannot complain, so they must rely on someone else to complain for them.

I have also received many complaints about ill-treatment of pigeons. Someone might ask, "What has a little old pigeon to do with it?" It has been suggested to me that there have been various acts of cruelty such as tying pigeons legs together with nylon or horsehair. If a sadist wanted to do something to a pigeon, he would wring its neck, but I think people must be using various types of snares to prevent pigeons landing on balconies. One does not like to see pigeons hopping round with their feet swollen as a result of the use of bird lime and things such as that to prevent them roosting.

To give the police their due, I must admit that they just cannot be everywhere. There is a lot of vandalism, but the law does not make the punishment fit the crime.

(Time expired.)

Mr. LAMONT (South Brisbane) (7.54 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak on the Police Estimates tonight. As honourable members well know, I spent six years of my life in another country as an inspector of police, and I have very strong views about the way in which a Police Force should be administered and should conduct itself. I would agree with those speakers on the Government benches who said that we should all respect and support the police. But society has a right to expect in return for this respect and support that certain things will happen, that certain standards will be met and that the police will have a code of behaviour which is as capable of respect as that of any other profession.

In the main I have nothing but praise for the efforts of the Commissioner of Police (Mr. Whitrod) and the former Minister (Mr. Hodges)—if not for everything they did in practice, at least for the ideals they shared. I have been critical of many things that happened during their joint administration, but they did know the sort of force they wanted. It was the sort of force I wanted: a better-educated force, a more tolerant force and a force concerned with human issues as much as with putting people behind bars. They were concerned that people should be promoted in that force on the basis of merit, not just seniority, so that talented persons, and not just encrusted, hoary, old professionals, got to the top. Their administrative policy for a long while seemed to me to be discouraging the collection of a coterie of senior officers entrenched in their ways, like-minded, resisting change, eschewing innovation and hell-bent on frustrating moves to update the force and the adoption of new principles and ideas that Mr. Hodges and Mr. Whitrod intended to implement.

The very opposition of this clique to the new ideas and subsequent policies adopted by the administration to implement them only served to convince me further of the desirability of the proposed reforms. Those are the people who should have gone, not Mr. Hodges. I am sorry that Mr. Hodges left that portfolio. I do know the new Minister and I have a great deal of respect for him as a person. I hope that Mr. Newbery will take up the challenge and not bend to the Police Union or to the small coterie of people who have found their way into the force and are determined to resist reform. I hope he will take them on.

I do not want to spend my entire 20 minutes speaking against the police. I do have praise for the police. I would hope that the people who are attracted to this job

are not attracted to it because it gives them an opportunity to bully, or to make a bit on the side, or to strut around in a uniform and generally intimidate the community. I hope that they are people who believe in certain ideals in our society and are determined to see that those ideals are put into practice. I would hope that these are people who realise they are facing a dangerous job. I have nothing but respect for people who are prepared to face a dangerous job for the sake of law and order in our society.

Police face danger and they face constant provocation, often from the worst elements in our society. They are exposed constantly to all kinds of pressures that most of us in our daily life would certainly not choose to meet and very often could not cope with. Without doubt their difficulties are immense. They must be respected for that, but notwithstanding these facts, when any Police Force is encouraged to believe that its members are beyond investigation, are encouraged to believe that they cannot be touched, that the Government will back them or that a certain Minister will always defend them (as I read in "The Bulletin" that Sir Robert Askin was regarded as having done in New South Wales), when they are led to believe they can get away with any standard of behaviour and performance, then we do have a problem to solve.

When a series of charges is made against the police, such as in the king-hit case where no-one could say who was working in the watch-house on a particular night, and the number who might have hit somebody could not even be narrowed down to three; when there are constant complaints about watch-house treatment of men and women; when we have young men and women of a Police-Citizens Youth Club saying that they witnessed beatings of handcuffed persons in a police station; when we have a series of cases such as those written up last year in our daily Press—and I have nothing but horror for the story about the police officer who clapped his hands over someone's ears with resultant perforated eardrums (whether that was true or not I do not know, but isn't it a shame that I don't know? Isn't it a shame that it was not investigated? Isn't it a shame that the truth has not come out so that we can know?—

Mr. Hartwig: Tell us about some of the good things.

Mr. LAMONT: If the honourable member attended often enough, he would have been here when I went through what he calls "the good things". I am now onto other matters and if the honourable member cannot take it, I suggest he can leave.

When we see a Police Commissioner promising a Vice-Chancellor that he will conduct the normal departmental inquiry such as we were told later by members of the Government—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. LAMONT: I am addressing the Chair.

When we have a Police Commissioner who assures a Vice-Chancellor that he will conduct a normal departmental inquiry (which a member of the Government told us a couple of weeks later is the normal practice) and he is then told that he cannot, and when we have all the indecision and contradictions surrounding the Cedar Bay incident, we have every reason for public disquiet.

As I have said before in this Chamber it is not the subject of police activity which should take precedence but the object of police activity. And the object of police activity is to uphold law and order and see that justice is done.

We cannot label a certain group as hippies or Aborigines or drunks or whatever other label we might like to put on a group that the police or the Government may consider undesirable, and then put that group outside the protection of society and say that, whatever the police did to them, they deserved because they do not deserve consideration; that they have no rights. We cannot have that sort of situation and still retain respect of the police or of the Government. The meanest member of our society has rights.

A police officer when confronting a suspect knows very well that that suspect is innocent until proven guilty and should be treated as such. I ask the Police Commissioner to write into the code of the Police Force that if a police officer meets with resistance it will be expected of every officer that he adopt the minimum amount of force necessary to effect his purpose, which is to uphold the law and apprehend the suspect. I repeat it—the minimum amount of force necessary!

When we know that only the minimum amount of force necessary will be adopted, we will have no fear if we are innocent but are stopped and questioned and, if necessary, even arrested and taken to a station before being cleared. We will then have no fear because we know that if we do not resist we will be dealt with fairly.

Mr. Warner: Who determines that?

Mr. LAMONT: The police officer on the spot determines the minimum amount of force necessary to effect his purpose but that does not mean that he then has *carte blanche*. A good police officer will know what should be done provided that is the code he is brought up to respect and obey in the force. Honourable members might tell me that they have seen all sorts of difficult situations in which police are placed. I have seen a handful of police officers under my command facing thousands of screaming Chinese Communists, waving their "little red

books", brandishing weapons, spitting and heaving rocks. Under orders, the police held and did not retaliate; and they saved the situation. The British Government could very easily have been turfed out of that small colony. But the police kept the public right on side because they were respected for their performance in very difficult circumstances.

There is great disquiet abroad among the public at the moment. I have articles in front of me from "The Bulletin" and from "The National Times"—conservative publications—and editorials from "The Courier-Mail". I do not think any of us would call that newspaper a rat-bag journal. Concern has been voiced on television, radio stations and from the churches. In "A Christian Point of View", Dean George wrote an article headed, "Police inquiry concern". I know it is fashionable to say that Christians who criticise are really from Communist-front organisations, but I do not think the Very Reverend Dean is a Communist.

And now we have the very undesirable situation where at the moment a radio station is conducting a talk-back programme on police, and all it is doing is creating disrespect for our Police Force. I deplore that radio station for its action. It is allowing every crank, every crackpot, any person who has ever been stopped and given a ticket (and no one accepts that he is ever booked justly), and everybody who has ever had a grievance against a police officer to spew out his venom anonymously over talk-back radio, without making any specific charges against any specific police officers. They are getting away with it because the management of the radio station is so incensed that an inquiry is so long overdue.

"The Bulletin" does not write articles such as I have quoted and "The National Times" does not give over two major editions to police corruption in various States if there is not genuine disquiet from all sorts of sources—not just the rat-bags, the chronic dissenters or the Communists, but responsible sources. There is a genuine concern. While there is that type of pressure-cooker situation, radio stations will be prompted to permit that kind of disastrous, venomous talk-back programme.

The resistance to critics of the police is simple—and the solution is at our disposal as a Government. It is truth and justice. At the moment that means "inquiry". It is nonsense to say that agreeing to an inquiry is tantamount to saying that something is desperately wrong deep down in the Police Force, or that that conclusion is implicit in it. I am simply saying, as most people are, that there are allegations abroad—allegations that are coming from law societies, churches, newspapers, responsible journals and responsible members of the community—and they have to be answered. We have to find out

whether or not they are true. To say that we want to find out whether or not they are true is not to say that we prejudge that they are true. We have to clear up questions about the Police Force. I quote the article from "The Bulletin"—

"To claim, as the Victorian Police Association does, that morale is destroyed by inquiries, and any subsequent charges, is to turn logic on its head. What does destroy morale in a police force is the knowledge that certain corrupt members are getting away with it."

As an honest officer who served six years in a force that was proven to harbour corruption at very high levels, I will confirm that. I assure honourable members that nothing destroys morale more than trying to do an honest job, knowing that somewhere along the line it will be undone behind your back by a corrupt fellow officer. That is what destroys morale in a police force.

"The Bulletin" goes on to point to the failure of our politicians—and that is very true, too—when it says—

"On one side, the conservative parties tend to have a knee-jerk response that the forces of law and order must always be right. On the other side, the Labor Party, because of the strength of the police unions, tends to respect what is called the 'police vote'."

We saw the Leader of the Opposition perform thus this afternoon. Clearly he wanted to talk about the matters I have raised, but he was scared of the police vote; so all he did was attack the administration. He didn't have the guts to come right down and say precisely what he had been wanting to say. He didn't have the guts to talk about corruption, for example, which has been thrown into the discussion.

The same article in "The Bulletin" says—

"Where police, and particularly detectives, are found to be corrupt it is a manifestation usually of a deep-seated malaise."

Of course it is.

It is easy to corrupt police officers. First of all there are a lot of laws which no-one really respects; for example, laws dealing with S.P. bookmaking. Probably we have all seen an S.P. bookie in a public bar. We do not say what a despicable creature he is. A new young police officer comes out and the sergeant says, "Ignore that S.P. operation. He is a harmless fellow. He has been doing it for 50 years in the same bar." (But he is probably protecting much bigger people than the poor old fellow in the bar.) That is the first step—ignoring laws that few people respect anyway.

Then there is plenty of work a man can put himself to in the Police Force and simply turn a blind eye to certain operations. There is a certain cynicism in the system anyway because corruption is not piecemeal and

individual. It is organised; there is a club. Every young man who goes into the Police Force will be told once he spots the corruption, "Corruption is like a cart. You can jump on it; you can walk beside it and look the other way; but you cannot stand in front of it." If that is not soul-destroying to an honest police officer, what is?

I have said it before and I will say it again; what we have to do in this State—indeed in every State—is to have corruption laws such that any police officer—indeed any servant of government—who is clearly living beyond his means should be called in and asked to explain how he has this apparent wealth. Quite obviously police officers can inherit wealth from relatives. Police officers can win the Golden Casket or can win on the horses. They can even invest wisely. They can do all sorts of things that would bring in honest money. If on such a law a police officer were to show that he had this additional income from quite honest and easily explained means, the matter would go no further. But any Government officer—whether police officer or civilian government officer—who is really living beyond his means and cannot explain the source of those means should be open immediately to inquiry with the onus of proof placed on him to show that his source of funds is not illicit.

That is how it was done in the Police Force that I abandoned out of disgust. In Hong Kong the authorities turfed out chief superintendents and even an assistant commissioner and certainly plenty of detective inspectors who were corrupt and who most of us knew were corrupt but could not prove it. They did it by introducing laws which embodied that, "The presumption of evidence would be that if one was living beyond obvious means and could not explain it away, that person would be charged and the onus of proof would be on him in the court to prove innocence." The fact that 20 or 30 cases have come before the courts in this State in the past few years on corruption and that none of them have been successfully prosecuted is absolutely ludicrous. Clearly there are sections of the Police Force—fellow police officers—who believed that there were prima facie cases. I am not saying that those charged were necessarily guilty; I hope they were innocent. Maybe the wrong people were charged. But there were clearly prima facie cases believed to be genuine prima facie cases by fellow officers and they have all fallen through.

There has to be a determined attitude to clean up the Police Force if only to help the honest police officer to continue his job with self-respect. The last thing that I would want to do in this State is to walk down the street in a police uniform. It must be very embarrassing to the honest officer. We have to be determined to turf out the rotten apples. We have to be determined to restore public faith in this Police Force because the only thing that stands between us and anarchy; the only thing that stops our homes

from being burnt and broken into and prevents assaults on the street; the only thing that keeps our society safe is the Police Force and we have to be able to respect it.

If we do not respect it, it will not be able to function when the crisis point comes. There has been enough unrest in this country in the past several years to suggest to me that sometimes we have been close to that brink and may well be close to it again in the future. When that occurs I want to be able to go to my local neighbourhood police officer confident that he is a man who will stand up to protect my family and my property, that he will be honest and that he will respect himself and want to serve the community in a resolute manner.

I conclude by saying once again that I congratulate the Honourable A. M. Hodges and Mr. Whitrod for the idealism they showed in their administration in their years together and I hope that the new Minister will take up the challenge of that idealism.

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (8.15 p.m.): In addressing myself to the Estimates of the Police Department, at the outset I extend my sympathy to the Commissioner of Police (Mr. Whitrod). He is the victim of circumstances over which he has little control. If the tenor of the debate had been different from what we have heard this afternoon, it would not have reached such a high note. The circumstances in which Mr. Whitrod finds himself are the fault of the Government. Knowing the Minister as I do, I believe that he will bring as much pressure as possible to bear to have the much-needed inquiry started as soon as possible. After listening all afternoon to the many speeches that have been made on all aspects of the Police Force, I will find it difficult not to engage to some extent in repetition. However, I shall try to avoid it as much as possible. The sooner this inquiry is brought on, the better it will be, and I am sure that the great majority of police officers will come out of it on the right side of the ledger.

Police officers are no more perfect than any other people, including the politicians here tonight. We all know that many people outside this place seem to have little regard for people in public life. If a person knows of a politician who stepped out of line maybe even 30 or 40 years ago, it is often very difficult to convince that person that not all politicians are of the same type. We all have to carry the stigma attaching to the person who committed a wrong 40 years ago. The police are in a similar position; they are no different from people in other sections of the community.

When anything unfortunate happens the police are in the front line of attack. Theirs is indeed a very difficult job. Over many years I have witnessed incidents in the street in which one lone policeman, without the assistance of the public, has had to deal with a disturbance or try to correct persons who have stepped out of line. The public is duty-bound, if physically capable of doing so, to

go to the assistance of a police officer and help him to maintain law and order. But many times people look the other way or move in the opposite direction. I have seen policemen injured at public demonstrations. However, I do not want to touch on that theme, because it is one that could be developed to a great extent.

I want to express my thanks to the Minister's predecessor (Mr. Hodges). In my dealings with him when he was Police Minister I found him at all times to be a gentleman who listened to my representations on behalf of my constituents. He always received me well and I thank him very much for his assistance. I have no doubt that I will receive the same consideration from the present Minister.

He has a very difficult job to do. He is in the same category as the commissioner. He is subject to strong influences in the Cabinet and unfortunately at present he seems to be at the crossroads. However, I sincerely hope that he will bring pressure to bear on the Cabinet, particularly the Premier, for the setting up of the much-needed inquiry.

I agree with much that was said by the Leader of the Opposition, who touched on many aspects of these important Estimates. I say to the Government that the sooner clarity is brought into a very clouded atmosphere, the better it will be for everyone. I feel sure that the police themselves would be very happy about it, too.

I should now like to get away a little from repetition and come right down to police personnel. I notice that over the last few weeks there has been little improvement in the city of Brisbane in police foot-patrolling. I hope that as extra staff becomes available the Minister will increase foot patrols, because we want them back as quickly as possible, especially in the capital city of Brisbane. This is where most people live and where the greatest amount of activity takes place.

I also feel that there should be a return of the unmarked police patrol car. Some years ago these cars played a very important role in police work on the highways. The average motorist, and indeed the average pedestrian, should come under surveillance from these unmarked cars.

I now want to quote something that the Police Commissioner said some time ago in Brisbane when addressing a dinner of graduates of the Australian National University. Although he made some very cogent statements during his address I do not intend quoting everything he said. But one paragraph impressed me very much and I think it is very important.

A newspaper report of his speech stated—

"He said senior police officers should establish a national forum so that their views could be heard, rather than permit the Police Unions' Federal executive, by default, to act as national spokesmen on all police matters.

"There was a need to provide opportunities for concerned civilians to show their support, possibly by joining an expanded form of the Australian Crime Prevention Council, or perhaps by following the American precedent and establishing an Australian National Council on crime and delinquency."

It is very important to bring about as much co-operation as possible between the general public and the Police Force.

As I said earlier, the police have a very difficult role to play. Indeed, they have a very disappointing role to play, because after they do much work in apprehending wrongdoers—I am now referring mainly to the vandals in our community—the courts fail to play their part. We make laws here but, as I have said, on many occasions our judges and magistrates are very weak in their administration of those laws. They often seem to err on the side of the wrongdoer and treat him leniently. The vandal in our community is doing a great amount of damage, but when he is apprehended by the police and taken before the court, what happens? He receives a minimum fine or a caution. I have here a newspaper article about a case of vandalism and it is headed, "Vandalism jail term reversed". Here is a case where the police must have done a lot of work to apprehend a certain North Queensland Rugby League footballer. I wonder if his being a footballer had any bearing on the judgment of the court. I wonder whether the members of the Court of Criminal Appeal had any leanings towards that code of football. After he was convicted he came before the Court of Criminal Appeal and ended up having his case reviewed and whole conviction quashed.

The article stated—

"The charges related to damage to exterior fittings of four motor vehicles at Townsville on June 14.

"The magistrate was told Kelly played A grade football as a member of Estates Football Club and had played for Townsville and North Queensland.

"Kelly was jailed for one month, and ordered to pay \$100 restitution."

His appeal claimed that the sentence was manifestly excessive. Excessive, after seriously damaging four motor vehicles! After the judges heard the appeal they quashed the conviction. How disappointing that is for the Police Force. After going to all the trouble of investigating the offence, apprehending him and getting him before the court they see that, perhaps because of who he is and what organisation he belongs to, the court takes a certain view. That shows that sometimes the police do not get a fair go from the courts.

I know how the policemen at the Sandgate Police Station work and I know the difficulties and the shocking conditions under which they work. It is one of the worst police stations in Queensland in the provision of accommodation. Only recently while I was

down there checking with the personnel I found that they are working short-staffed. Their greatest work-load occurs at the week-ends when the main bulk of traffic is on the highway.

I have here a newspaper article headed, "Sunday death day for most Queensland motorists." It states—

"Queensland road statistics released last night showed that more drivers were killed on Sunday in the September quarter last year than any other day."

I can tell honourable members that on the week-ends the work-load on the police at Sandgate is very heavy indeed. The Sandgate Police Station is under-staffed.

The senior sergeant at Sandgate, Senior Sergeant Murphy, has not enjoyed the best of health lately. I think that is because of the heavy responsibility and the heavy work-load he carries, and also because of the understaffing of the station.

The article continued—and I think it is worth quoting this to emphasise and support what I said about week-end statistics—

"The figures released, by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, revealed a record number of 190 deaths in the three months ended September.

"They also showed that most fatalities occurred on straight roads."

That is true. Most fatal accidents take place on the highways leading into and out of Sandgate, and speed is the cause. I have said on many occasions that motorists travel too fast in the Brisbane metropolitan area. They are poor judges of distance and that is where the trouble starts.

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mr. DEAN: It is too much speed altogether. One sees it in the city at night, particularly in Queen Street. If one went up there now, one would find vehicles travelling at an excessive speed in the main street of this city.

The article also said—and it is interesting to note this, Mr. Kaus—

"The worst time for accidents was divided equally between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. with Friday, Saturday and Sunday the worst days."

One can guess why. Again, the work-load of the police has been increased at week-ends, particularly on Sundays, since the Government introduced Sunday drinking in hotels. Road accidents and road fatalities have increased greatly as a result of that. The article continued—

"The quarter saw 8582 road accidents, with 2139 involving injuries.

"The 190 people killed comprised 80 motorists, 21 motor cyclists, 56 passengers, 29 pedestrians, and four cyclists.

"In the 8582 road accidents, 733 people were given breathalyser or blood-alcohol tests."

The next paragraph of the article is very interesting, and it is worth putting on record to show how the Government, through its policy of liberalising the availability of alcohol at week-ends, has been responsible for the heavier toll on the roads. It said—

"Of these, 661 showed a positive reading, with 598 recording .08 or more (per cent of alcohol).

"The number of positive tests was highest in the 17 to 20 years group, followed by 21 to 29 years."

Then we talk about teenage drinking in the community and the teenage accident rate on our roads. No wonder the police are dissatisfied in so many ways. The work-load is too heavy for the number of police available to carry it.

The article continued—

"Of the 190 killed 118 were tested and 66 proved positive—37 motorists, 9 motor cyclists, 6 pedestrians and 14 others."

That is a great record! Is the Government proud of it? It has liberalised the availability of alcohol and opened hotels on Sundays. That is one of the problems faced by the police.

From time to time, especially at week-ends, one sees highly qualified police—by that I mean policemen with two stripes or three stripes, sergeants—controlling traffic and ensuring road safety when earthwork or road construction is taking place. I do not think that is police work. In my opinion, Main Roads wardens should do that job. Highly trained police officers have so many other responsibilities to discharge that I do not think they should spend their week-ends looking down holes in the road or directing traffic round road construction work. The time has come when uniformed wardens should do work of that type. It is really only a matter of directing motorists or holding them up while work takes place, and police should not have to do that.

Mention was made of the Water Police. The present Water Police do a magnificent job. I know many of them. However, that part of the force is understaffed. With more personnel the responsibilities and duties of the Water Police could be extended. They could more adequately police fishing regulations in Moreton Bay.

Mr. Moore: You have said enough.

Mr. DEAN: I will be guided by your ruling, Mr. Kaus, as to when I have said sufficient.

I take the previous speaker to task for casting grave reflections on radio talk-back sessions. I think it is a wonderful outlet in the community. We might not like what

comes over the air sometimes, but it gives people an opportunity to vent their feelings about their particular grievance.

Mr. Lane: We are debating the Police Estimates.

Mr. DEAN: I know that. Mention was made by a Government member concerning an attack on the Police Force by Haydn Sargent on radio station 4BC. What is said on that session is not so much an attack as an expression of public opinion. I believe that radio talk-backs are one of the greatest innovations of our age. From time to time I have been the victim of persons who have telephoned. I commend Haydn Sargent and the station that sponsors that talk-back programme. People are given an opportunity to express themselves which they would not otherwise have.

I return to my earlier reference to the Commissioner of Police. For the sake of the commissioner, his commissioned officers and all other members of the Police Force, I make a special plea that the Government get on with the job and clear the air. I am quite confident that the police will come out on the right side when all the facts are brought forward from an inquiry for the public to judge. The longer that is delayed, the more conjecture will take place in the community and more things will be said that should not be said. People are using their imagination far more than they should in the circumstances. Meanwhile the police are the target. It is not good for the Police Department or the present members of the Police Force. It is certainly not good for recruitment.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. DEAN: No wonder some of them show such great eagerness to get into Parliament. No wonder certain members made a move to get out of the force. It was not that they did not like their fellow workers in the force but because of what was being said against them in public expressions.

I appeal to the Minister to get on with the job of holding an inquiry. It should not be allowed to drag on until Christmas or the New Year. Additional delay allows unnecessary public feeling to develop against a fine body of men and women who are doing a good job. There may be a few exceptions. The Police Force is not perfect, any more than we are perfect in this Chamber. I would say that 99 per cent of police officers are first-class persons of the highest integrity who are doing a first-class job.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (8.30 p.m.): First of all I should like to direct my comments to the shortcomings that may be becoming apparent now as a result of our accepting applicants for police colleges at a time when they are too young to make a serious decision about their future life-style. Being a policeman is certainly a

life-style and an occupation that will carry a person all over the State. At this age we cannot really judge young people to see how many of them are suitable for police work.

When I was a Government medical officer, quite a few men who came to see me for medical examination before joining the Police Force were quite physically fit to do the job but I could not agree that they were intellectually suitable. That was not because of their scholastic ability but because they did not have the right personality to stand the rough and tumble our policemen have to endure in carrying out their duties. A policeman's job is not one for a person who is very soft at heart. A policeman must have the courage of his convictions and with his two hands get right into the job. It may be extremely unpleasant, but good policemen tackle any job that comes their way. They tackle it well and fairly, seeking guidance from seniors when they need it.

I am afraid that we are recruiting people who at the tender age of 16 have not the ability to carry out some of the more unpleasant, arduous duties that are the lot of policemen. Instead of putting applicants through a three-year course, perhaps we should consider taking in the main body of police recruits at age 18 and giving them one year's training with a short-term commission of six years. If that were done they could regard it as part of their education and try their hand at this job, which they feel may be their chosen vocation, to see how they measure up.

If at the end of six years they realise that, although they are performing fairly well, they will never be world-beating policemen and that perhaps the best they can achieve is two or three stripes even if they stay in the force for 40 years, they could decide whether to stick with it as a career or opt out. We need definite policies to encourage people to opt out of the force if they feel they will not make a satisfactory life-long career out of it. I suggest this could be done somewhere in the course of six years for the junior ranks and in 20 years for the middle ranks. Those who have a chance of getting to the top through leadership and capacity could continue looking at the job in terms of a 40-year career.

I do not know if the department has carried out a cost-effect survey on the present Police Academy. Insufficient time has elapsed to weigh out the long haul of police cadets, but I think we might find that some of our resignation rate is caused in the first place by our not recruiting people who are suited to the job. Many resignations are supposedly for business reasons, and I know that quite a number are caused by permanent ill-health. It should never be forgotten that policemen and policewomen can suffer from the whole range of diseases.

Perhaps we are losing very good policemen who have become dissatisfied with the force because of lack of promotion. They

may feel that someone above them—and they may be quite justified in thinking this—does not have their skill, is not as good as they are, or does not work as hard as they do, which is often the case. Poor discipline within the force is what upsets policemen most of all. The discipline of a Police Force lies fairly and squarely on the most senior man in an office or region. Discipline must be translated down from the commissioner's office through the inspectors and the sergeants to the men on duty.

Police as a whole are subjected to shift work throughout the whole of their working lives. Shift work has some very nasty effects. When it is the mode of life for 10, 20 or 30 years, a great many people suffer unnaturally from tension. I have seen that in Army establishments also, where the personnel are required to do a lot of shift work. People in those circumstances start using alcohol as a tranquilliser. It eases their tensions. That is one of the reasons why alcoholism has become so rife in the Army and the Police Force.

There is a need in the Police Force for all medical certificates to be posted in a sealed envelope straight from the doctors who prepare them to the Government Medical Officer, Brisbane. I do not believe that anyone at the police station has an entitlement to know what is wrong with any other person on the staff. I believe that the Police Force as a whole is missing out because it has insisted that the medical certificates go to the police station. A medical certificate in a police station might as well be pinned on the notice board. Constable Smith's condition becomes common knowledge. Neither the Minister nor the commissioner or his officers who are concerned with the physical health of the men will ever get an accurate certificate while it is subjected to processing in public or through open lines of communication. The envelope has to be sealed.

The Army has adopted that procedure. Any soldier can be sick, but his commanding officer is not entitled to know what is wrong with him. He is only entitled to know that he is having the treatment that is necessary and how long he will be off duty. That might not matter when a person has sniffles or a cough or cold; but, when we enter the area of mental health or alcoholism, we will never get a correctly stated certificate from a medical practitioner who has his patient's welfare at heart. An accurate certificate will not be supplied. If the Minister were to look at some of those that I issued as Government Medical Officer, he would find that he could not even interpret them. The words mentioned are not to be found in the medical dictionary. That was done on purpose. As the Minister will no doubt be aware, I have seen that members of the Police Force, if they do have problems, particularly in mental health, get the necessary treatment that they deserve, and the information will be made available to police headquarters on first

request. I have sent certificates suggesting that they request information from me—but not to the local police station.

There have been memos from the Australian Medical Association to doctors about these certificates. I think the Police Department is fighting a losing battle. Certificates that are passed down an open pipeline will not be accurate. I have suggested this before, and I think it is time that it was done. We should change the police system to the Army system and give the medical treatment in the full confidence of the patient. Under those circumstances the department can expect to get very accurate certificates. That will mean that a policeman who is not mentally or physically capable of going on duty will not be expected to. If it is sadly true that the policeman needs to be placed off duty permanently, that can be arranged to the benefit of the public and the other members of the Police Force as well. In Toowoomba at times we have had a stated strength of 60-odd policemen. But if it was gone into closely, it would be found that up to six of the men were never at the police station. They were on the duty rosters as policemen, but they were in fact permanently ill. I believe at times there might have been up to six policemen in that category.

I feel that in Toowoomba and the nearby areas we have suffered from the creation of the police district, which was quite unnatural in its movement of people. It is all right to say that Mt. Kynock, which is just outside Toowoomba, can be well and truly served from Crows Nest. But that does not work in an emergency. It is all right if someone is writing a letter to a policeman; but it is not good enough for the ambulance, it is not good enough for fire services and I submit that it is not good enough for the police.

There is a need—and a directive from the commissioner might solve this one—for the nearest police to attend an emergency, such as a motor vehicle accident, and for them to hand over when the police from the correct district get there. This might make a difference of half an hour. The sooner the police get to major accidents or fires, the better. We have had several complaints in, about and around Toowoomba about what the public regards as undue delay through police coming from their new country centre headquarters to the outskirts of Toowoomba.

Transfers in the police service have long been a contentious issue. Because of the very high cost of housing and the very real losses that can be incurred in buying and selling houses at short notice and because houses cannot be purchased everywhere that a policeman is transferred to, the department should look at a system of transferring a new policeman from a major centre to a country centre and then returning him several times to the major centre. This scheme would have several advantages. He could continue to own the one home and reap a great advantage in educating his children.

It would give him a feeling of some continuity in his career. It would help to preserve friendships and would cease the perpetual wandering aspect of so many State Government transfers.

The incidence of selected crimes is still increasing. In the past 18 months Toowoomba has become the homicide capital of Australia. Not many of those homicides could be considered to be murder-trial material; most of them are murder/suicides. I hope that before the year is out legislation will pass through this Parliament initiated by a department other than the Police Department that should make the circumstances that lead up to these murders far less likely to occur.

Marijuana continues to be a problem. We cannot stress too strongly the need for an increase in the Drug Squad itself and, even more than that, until drug problems cease to worry our community, an increase in the Juvenile Aid Bureau. The specially trained constables attached to that bureau would be most welcome and desirable in, about and around Toowoomba where there are none available at present. There might well be 100 or 200 of these specially trained constables throughout Queensland. They can do a great deal in soft talking to people who may be exposed to drugs. They could get into places where none of us as members of Parliament could go. Any of us could go into a group of young people and not see marijuana there. If other young persons went in—and they would need to be young constables, both male and female—they would see drugs used.

I do not see that we achieve anything by catching a lone drug user. We are after the big fellows, but until the day comes when we can stamp out the big fellows we need to have members of an organisation such as the Juvenile Aid Bureau moving through schools and wherever else young people gather.

At a recent Life Line meeting in Toowoomba we were informed reliably that perhaps 50 per cent of people 20 to 24 years of age have in fact sampled marijuana. We were also informed reliably that there are 20 regular heroin users in Toowoomba. This is a city that thought it had no drug problems. This information came from a prisoner in Boggo Road. The presence of 20 heroin users in Toowoomba could account for the large number of breaking and enterings of doctors' surgeries and doctors' cars to get at the drugs or a fistful of loose money. I am told that the heroin habit can cost up to \$50,000 per annum to satisfy. There are incredibly few people who can make this much money every year after taxes. These people must be turning to crime for their money.

There is an extreme danger where a person on dope turns to crime. If at the time he is at his right level of the drug, he might commit the crime somewhat sensibly

and with some regard for his victims, but if he is high on dope or in desperate need of it, senseless compounding of the crime can be expected, with death or injury to those who are being robbed or at least a great deal of violence at the scene of the crime.

The statistics for 1974 reveal that perhaps 30 per cent of all who died in road accidents had a blood-alcohol content of 100 or more milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood, which means that they were intoxicated at the time of death. But what the statistics do not show is that the deaths of 40, 50 or even 60 per cent of people who died as a result of motor vehicle accidents might have been caused not by their own alcoholism but that of someone else. It is time that such figures were kept and I might speak on that subject on another day.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (8.51 p.m.): Today I have listened to a considerable number of speeches, most of them derogatory of the Police Force. I have been in Queensland for some 25 years and I personally have had no complaints about the police. I have seen them in all circumstances and I have had nothing but co-operation from them, especially when I was running a hospital. Sometimes a policeman was needed when a patient started to play up. I must be the luckiest man in this Chamber because I have no complaints about the police personally or in any other way.

I often wonder, sitting here and listening to members' speeches, what is the function of the Police Force. Broadly speaking, its basic functions are law enforcement and supervision of the ordinary civil laws so that people can enjoy the freedoms of this country. In this State there is another very important duty for the police, namely, the State Emergency Service. I saw this organisation in operation in 1971 at the time of cyclone "Althea". At that time I saw a very clever piece of administration and organisation by the local superintendent of police and police inspectors. As a matter of fact, a certain odd-coloured unionist decided to stir up a little trouble. I suggested to him that if he did not like what was being done he should go to see the inspector in charge and I was quite sure that he would get a warm welcome. He did not have the moral or physical courage to discuss the matter with the inspector. The rescue operations proceeded without any hitch and without any help from him.

I often wonder what would happen if we did not have a police force. Today many people say what terrible fellows they are. There has been one police strike in Australia. I must admit that I was rather frightened when I heard talk by the police of strike action. In "The Australian" of 29 June 1976 it was suggested by Mr. Callaghan that there might be a strike. He said that he would not rule out the possibility of a strike over the issue. The only police strike in Australia's

history occurred in November 1923, when police decided to go on strike over promotion procedures and various supervisory procedures with which they did not agree.

A Government Member: That was in Victoria.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: That is correct. Within a few minutes the mobs took over Melbourne. It was only after 500 volunteers, most of them former Light Horsemen, with batons and pick handles, got among them and belted them up that order was restored, but not before 237 people were taken to hospital and 85 looters were taken into custody. The people went mad—not only louts and hoodlums but women, too. They looted and smashed. And this could happen in Brisbane were it not for the police. All I say is, "Thank God we have the Queensland Police Force." I would hate to see Queen Street strewn with a mob. One member spoke about Chinese violence. He has not seen a violent Australian mob; there is really something to reckon with when an Australian mob gets going. They do not stop. The fact that there has been no trouble here is something to be proud of.

When I looked at the amount of the Vote in the Estimates, I thought what a miserable sum it was. The expenditure in 1975-76 was \$61,081,827 while the amount required for 1976-77 is \$69,861,571. Now, I consider that this is rather a paltry sum of money for such an important arm of our civil administration. I cannot see how we can possibly hope to cope with all the ramifications of juvenile and adult crime if we are going to be tight with the purse strings. Look at the millions of dollars that are handed out in welfare payments, and yet we begrudgingly allot this paltry amount to the Police Department.

I wondered just what policemen were paid in other States, so I did a bit of research. I discovered some interesting facts and came to the general conclusion that in both the lower and higher ranks the Queensland policeman was poorly paid. A first-year constable in Queensland receives \$7,689, and after five years he receives \$8,404. A senior constable with between 10 and 15 years' service receives \$9,836 and after 15 years he receives \$10,047, which is not very much, when one looks at it, for a man who has the responsibility of a senior constable not only in peace-time but also in war-time and in natural disasters. I consider that these men are grossly underpaid. A sergeant 1/C receives \$11,623 while a sergeant 2/C receives \$10,924. The salary of inspectors from grades 1 to 4 ranges from \$17,149 to \$19,591 plus allowances, which do not amount to very much.

Mr. Moore: They get as much as you get.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: They get less than I get. In Queensland we have only 3,610 policemen at the moment to cover a huge

area many times greater than that of New South Wales, yet New South Wales has 8,500 policemen. A constable in first year of service in New South Wales receives \$9,053 compared with our man's \$7,000, \$2,000 is a lot of money for a young man deciding which profession he is going to enter, and we have to remember that this is the base salary on which he starts. In New South Wales after five years a constable receives \$9,897. A senior constable in his first to fourth years goes up to \$11,650, and in his fifth year of service this rises to \$11,788, so even New South Wales does not pay them very much. But in my opinion Queensland pays a miserable pittance, and I cannot see why there would not be graft. When poorly paid people see other people getting money under the stump, this breeds graft and corruption. They are being strongly tempted; they are only ordinary human beings and I think that this Parliament must share the responsibility for every crime that is committed and not solved, because we do not pay these men enough.

I will not mention the salary of superintendents, but there is a gentleman in Victoria called a commander who receives \$23,000. I gather he is the equivalent of our Commissioner of Police. When we look at these figures we see that our fellows really earn their money.

We can also look at the Queensland Year Book for 1976, which shows the number of criminal offences committed and the number cleared up. In 1974-75 35,463 offences were cleared up, or 44 per cent of the total. Each year since 1970-71 the percentage of offences cleared up has improved. In 1970-71 the clear-up rate was 34 per cent; in 1971-72 it was 34 per cent; in 1972-73 it was 36 per cent; in 1973-74 it was 38 per cent and in 1974-75, as I said, it was 44 per cent. So our Police Force is not becoming less efficient. The crime rate is increasing but the percentage of clear-ups is improving.

So I cannot agree with a lot of these newspaper articles which say, "God help us; crime is on the increase." One has only to listen to a few of these gentlemen who call themselves psychologists and criminologists. They are for ever calling down doom upon the rest of the community. They are saying, "Crime is on the increase. Woe betide us." There are two different versions. One says, "Violent crime rise forecast." That is Dr. Ray James, who is a psychiatrist. He says some funny things. The report says, "Sudden violent behaviour was being equated with some form of mad behaviour." He should know! Then, if we pick up "The Australian", we see that another criminologist says that the world is a safer place. There are the two extremes. Every day one can pick up a paper and get different versions. I do not think that the opinions of psychologists and psychiatrists should carry much weight.

Another thing that distresses me is the inroads being made into the authority of the Queensland Police Force by the strange

Gestapo-like group known as the Australia Police—not "Australian Police" but "Australia Police". There are 12 of them in Townsville, and they all sit around at the airport. Previously, little girls in pretty uniforms controlled the airport. I never saw any violence or trouble. Now you dare not take a child there with a dog on a lead. If you do, you are chivvied off by a man with a .45 strapped down on his hip. I saw the secret police of other countries at work during the war years and this is rather reminiscent of their activities.

These gentlemen have it all over our local police. The basic salary at which they begin is \$6371 to \$7352, and in addition penalty payments are made. There is a whole pageful of them set out in this advertisement that I have in front of me, so they must be on a good salary. The advertisement says—

"The addition of these penalties should allow a Constable in his first year of service to earn approximately \$250 per fortnight."

I gather that is clear, after tax and everything else has been taken out. It also says—

"Education: School Certificate or equivalent. Nationality: Must be Australian citizen or British subject."

As I understand it, there are about 2,000 of these gentlemen floating around. When the Liberal-National Country Party Government became masters of this country, they said, "We will scrap the Australia Police." A heading in "The Sunday Mail" of 15 February 1976 said, "Australia Police idea scrapped." It is growing like a mushroom and the police are still being employed. A large sum of money has been spent on building a new office for them at the airport in Townsville. When I looked to see what was being done for poor old Townsville, I discovered that a building had been erected at Cairns recently at a cost of \$913,000.

Townsville—a very peaceful place—has the greatest crime rate in the State, despite what the honourable member for Toowoomba South said. One has more chance of being knocked off in Townsville, either deliberately or by a motor-car, than anywhere else in the State. It has the highest rate of violence; it also has the highest rate in the State for crimes against good order. The police station in Townsville is inadequate; the number of police in Townsville is inadequate.

When I write to Ministers and Police Commissioners, I receive a very polite answer. I now realise why. The Government has not given a sufficiently large Vote to this department, and I would ask the Minister to agitate constantly at Cabinet meetings to have the Vote increased. The work of the Police Department is so important to the welfare of this State and this country that it must be extended.

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (9.4 p.m.): Like the honourable member for Townsville, I have been dismayed by the contributions to the

debate made by some honourable members. Since I was elected to this Assembly in 1972 as the representative of the electorate of Somerset, I can honestly say that I have never had to submit one complaint against the Police Force. If the commissioner looks up his files, he will see that he has not received one letter from me. I do not think that the Commissioner of Police has sent all his best men to Somerset, but I believe that we have had some very good police in that region. Maybe service in the country is very advantageous to a policeman.

Let us look back at the Police Force as it existed many years ago. Let us look at the Police Force in Forgan Smith's day. What was the education standard for policemen at that particular time? We are told that as long as a person was up to grade 5 standard, an Irishman and wore size 10 boots, he was recruited. I am not suggesting that all policemen at that time were of low mentality, but I do say that corruption was encouraged. That was the time when the Police Force got a very bad name.

I can well recall a policeman in my region who was killed in a motor accident. He was only 45 years of age when he died but his probate went through at £19,000. It was said that he got his money from the baccarat schools in North Queensland, where he had been stationed for several years. I can well remember an S.P. bookie in my home town saying that he always had to give the local sergeant the odds of the winner of the last race in Brisbane to £5. That was in the 1930s. Much credit must be given to the present administration. It has tried to clean up S.P. betting and it has raised the educational standards. I can remember hearing a story of a young country lad who came down here as a policeman. He found a dead horse in Elizabeth Street, but he dragged it round to Ann Street because he could not spell "Elizabeth" for inclusion in his report. I do not know whether that is true, but it was a joke at that time. I would not doubt it, because I know some of the people who went into the Police Force then. Some of them would have had a job even to spell "Ann". However, they did have a lot of experience. At that time, to get through the Spring Hill area a person had to be able to either fight or run. That area had a very bad reputation. That was in the Rip Van Winkle era of Forgan Smith's premiership.

Of course, in 1957 things changed. Since then we have had a few police commissioners who honestly tried to better the Police Force in this State. All credit must go to all administrations since then. If they are guilty of anything, it is that they tried to improve the educational standard, which I believe is absolutely necessary. Today the criminal is educated, and we must have educated police to catch him.

If I am critical of anything it is of the fact that in country areas very highly qualified officers are forced to do office work. I

refer in particular to the Toogoolawah Police Station. The officers there are dashed good police officers, but they have to do C.P.S. clerical work. I resent the fact that those officers, who are capable of doing a good job in that region, have to sit down in the C.P.S. office for hours each day. The silly part of it is that young girls are leaving that area and coming down here, where as clerks some of them sit in the Executive Building with nothing to do. I had one of my daughters up there, but I had to get her out of it because she said, "Dad, I've got nothing to do." I got her into another department. For the life of me I cannot see why girls like that can't be sent back to small country police stations to do office work. They could take the burden off police officers, who would be released to do the work they were trained for. This is one area we must look at.

I pay tribute to the Stock Squad. This small squad has done a great job in Queensland. I realise that it is impossible to station a policeman in every corner of the State so that someone is on hand when an offence is committed. As long as there is a Police Force we must accept the fact that it will be used as a political football. Police Forces have been so used since Federation, and they will be until the end of time. We must have a commissioner and a Minister who can accept this, and I believe that we have such men in Queensland. They must be above all the criticism that is levelled against them not only by Opposition members but also by some Government members. I deplore this continual criticism.

While foot patrols may be the answer in George Street and Elizabeth Street, they would not be worth a crumplet in country areas, where mobile police must be equipped with good cars. I am sure that criminals would be wide awake to foot patrols. They would have their stool-pigeons and when the police were down at one end of the street there would be no way in the world that something would not be going on at the other end of the street.

Public inquiries also would not be worth a crumplet. All inquiries should be departmental. Public inquiries give every oddball in the State an opportunity to denigrate the Police Force and that is what would happen. The police need public co-operation, but I do not think that in the cities they are getting it. However, they do get it in country areas. Every policeman should have some country service. The police have been very successful in country areas because they receive public co-operation. Community relations with the police are quite good.

I do not suggest that there are no bad policemen in Queensland. There are bad politicians, bad butchers and bad bakers. That is part of human nature. There are also bad policemen, and the department should be allowed to sort out the bad apples in the case.

Mr. Wright: Caesar judging Caesar.

Mr. GUNN: It is not up to the Government to judge these people. Departmental officers are experts. It is not a matter of Caesar judging Caesar.

Mr. Wright: I see it that way.

Mr. GUNN: The honourable member may see it that way, but I believe that a highly qualified, specially trained officer should judge another policeman. It would be correct to say that if they were all bad apples it would be a matter of Caesar judging Caesar. I know most of our top police administrators and I am certain that most of them are 100 per cent honest and dedicated officers.

The high education standard of recruits must be maintained. The Police Academy is a step in the right direction. I also believe that training young people at an early age is of great advantage.

I acknowledge that problems arise in country areas, but the creation of the new police districts offers great advantages. For a long time my area came under the Ipswich police district, which covered a very wide area. We now have the Gatton police district, whose establishment is a step in the right direction. Early in the piece I may have had some doubts, but I now realise that the setting up of the Gatton district has been of great benefit. Public relations have not been better and the police and the community work in close harmony. The Minister has received no letters of complaint from me because I have had no complaints to make against the police. That is a very good record over five years. While there may be a few grey areas in the present police districts, such as Crows Nest—which comes into the Dalby district—this is a numbers game. There must be a certain number in every district, and it is a great advantage to have close scrutiny by superior officers.

I am very happy to have taken part in this debate. I hope that the management of the Police Force will continue as at present and that the department will handle all complaints without becoming political. I believe that if that course is adopted we will have in Queensland a Police Force of which we can be justly proud.

Mr. HARTWIG (Callide) (9.15 p.m.): I rise to contribute to this debate and at the outset I say, "Thank God we have a Police Force!" I place on record my appreciation of the tremendous assistance given to me by Sergeant Jack Kelly at Yeppoon, Sergeant Reg Denny from Biloela and Inspector Mervyn Stevenson of the Livingstone Police District. Those men are of undoubted quality; those men are human beings; those men have wives and families; and, above all, those men are there to give us protection so that we may enjoy our way of life.

All day long I have heard from the A.L.P. a tirade of abuse against the Police Force. It is a case of evil think, evil do. Why is there a call for an inquiry into the Police Force of this State? I'll tell you why, Mr. Kaus. It is because there is no way the A.L.P. can fragment the nation unless it first fragments the last-remaining bastion between anarchy and democracy. That is the attitude of the A.L.P.

Mr. Wright: Watch your blood pressure!

Mr. HARTWIG: Evil think, evil do. That is the attitude of the people who support the A.L.P.

Mr. Wright: You'll have a heart attack. How's your betting going?

Mr. HARTWIG: Don't you talk to me. I repeat: evil think, evil do. Your character wouldn't stand up to a policeman's. Put your character on the line.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Kaus): Order!

Mr. HARTWIG: I want to see the Government back the Police Force. The Premier, the Ministers and the back-benchers on the Government side will back the Police Force.

Just look at the strikes, Mr. Kaus. When we see people marching in demonstrations and doing things against the law, whom do we ring up? Why do we have police here tonight? They are there to defend and protect our way of life. It is high time that the public knew that the policy of the A.L.P. is to destroy democracy. It is out to fragment the Police Force. That is its policy. It is out to disrupt industry.

There was not one word from the honourable member for Port Curtis about the industrial trouble at Gladstone that is closing down the biggest alumina refinery in the world. Not one word did we hear about the minority vote that closed it down. That is the sort of thing that the police have to protect us against. I say, "Good luck to the Police Force."

I have seen an unarmed policeman in the course of duty face a man with a gun.

Mr. Wright: Are you going for a salary increase?

Mr. HARTWIG: Shut up.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HARTWIG: Put your character up against a policeman's. You wouldn't get into the Police Force.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HARTWIG: There has been talk about an inquiry. If a person wants to create mistrust and a reluctance on the part of an employee to carry out his duty, that person queries the employee. So the A.L.P. is querying the Police Force. I invite the Opposition to have a go and see how it gets on.

All it has achieved is a restriction on the men in carrying out their duties. This is what the A.L.P. wants to do. Because they know they will be persecuted, policemen are frightened to carry out their duties. That is the result of the sort of tirade coming from the A.L.P. That is the sort of rubbish we have to put up with. I say here and now, "Thank God we have a Police Force. Thank God we have Commissioner Whitrod to administer the force to defend us to the last." The force has to defend us all, from the Governor-General down. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister of this nation, was locked in a room at a university for an hour. If it had not been for the police, he could have been killed. That is the sort of action that the A.L.P. is advocating and condoning. Opposition members do not like to hear about it. The honourable member for Rockhampton advocated over the radio in Rockhampton that there should be a \$10 fine for drug pushers.

Mr. Wright: What a lot of lies.

Mr. HARTWIG: That is not a lie.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HARTWIG: I agree that we have limited our finances to some extent. All I can say is that an inquiry into the Police Force would be a soul-destroying exercise. The police would be restricted in carrying out their duties. I had the experience of witnessing some dark ladies fighting outside my hotel in Rockhampton. I rang the police twice and they said, "Mr. Hartwig, if we touch these people we could lose our jobs. We have been told to keep our hands off them." If there is an inquiry into the Police Force, which is exactly what the A.L.P. and the Communists want, it would destroy and restrict the activities of the police in the carrying out of their duties.

I am sure that the Minister is doing a very good job in administering the affairs of the Police Department in the State of Queensland.

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Minister for Police) (9.22 p.m.): I should like to thank all speakers for their contributions to the debate and their interest in police matters, which I believe has made this debate the best supported in the current session of this Parliament.

I do not propose to dwell at any length on the comments of the Leader of the Opposition, whose remarks followed the now well-established pattern of A.L.P. police-baiting. If there has been an occasion in recent times when a member of the A.L.P. Opposition has risen to support the police, I certainly do not remember it. Their only interest is in headlines that denigrate the police and the forces of law and order.

The Leader of the Opposition gave another perfect example of that interest during his address to this Committee today. He came armed with a scrapbook of headlines

specially selected to show the police in the worst possible light. He did not select any that would show the opposite side of the coin. His address was based on headlines, allegations and innuendo and not on facts or any firm evidence of police malpractice. After dredging the depths of his scrapbook to fling as much mud as possible at the Police Force and its administration he claimed almost in the same breath that he had a great respect for the Police Force. What hypocrisy! The honourable member claimed that he did not want an inquiry that would develop into a witch-hunt, yet he expects the Government to order such an inquiry on the basis of headlines and unsubstantiated allegations. Again what hypocrisy! This is not the first time that the Opposition has attacked the forces of law and order in this State and I am certain that it will not be the last. Always the remarks of Opposition members are prefaced and interspersed with shadow references to the great job that the police are doing or the Opposition's great respect for law and order. Again what hypocrisy!

I can assure the honourable member that he will not get a witch-hunt. If it is decided that there is a need for any inquiry into allegations of corruption in the Queensland Police Force it will be a properly conducted inquiry, not a hastily convened, unprepared inquiry, called without proper prior investigation.

Mr. BURNS: I rise to a point of order. The Minister is misleading the Committee in what he is stating. I ask him to table the commissioner's 1976 report, which he has in his possession, but has failed to table in this Parliament today.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. NEWBERY: It will be an inquiry that will serve the forces of decency, integrity and honesty and not an opportunity for the A.L.P. and every other anti-police or anti-law-and-order campaigner to hurl allegations at every man and woman who wears a police officer's uniform. If there is to be such an inquiry, it will be a properly based and conducted inquiry. It will separate the headlines, the innuendoes, the gossip and the allegations from the cold hard facts which are necessary to arrive at the truth.

I can assure the honourable member for Merthyr that the current police administration shares his interest in catching crooks, which should be a prime aim of all police forces. I am sorry that some of the methods being used evidently do not meet with his full approval. However, I should like to make the point that the Police Department has the full support of the R.A.C.Q. and the Transport Advisory Committee in its emphasis on apprehending drunken drivers in this State. Road deaths cause enormous personal distress and cost and current research suggests that most drivers involved in this type of accident had been drinking.

In my introductory remarks I made reference to the fact that police need and deserve the support of the community in their fight against crime. I was pleased to hear such support forthcoming from the honourable member for Warrego and I thank him for his remarks praising the efforts of the Police Force in this State.

I am aware that the concern of the honourable member for Townsville South at the activities of some unscrupulous members of the legal fraternity is shared by some members of the Police Force, but I am not aware of moves for any inquiry into these activities. Any such inquiry would not, of course, come within my jurisdiction.

I have received representations from the honourable member for Clayfield for greater police protection in the Clayfield area and this matter is currently under consideration. The matter of an additional police station for the area must, of course, be considered in the light of available finance and other pressing priorities. I should like to thank the honourable member for the careful attention to the details of the Estimates that he gave during his remarks and for the understanding he showed of the problems faced by police in their efforts to control crime in the modern world.

I assure the honourable member for Murrumbidgee that the question of facilities at police stations and police housing has been of prime concern to me since my appointment to this portfolio. Police in many areas are required to work and live in conditions that leave a lot to be desired. Only this morning I held a special meeting with the Police Commissioner and top-level departmental officers on this question and I am making every effort to secure an additional allocation of funds to help overcome some of the worst examples of this problem. As the honourable member is aware, I will be visiting his electorate at a mutually convenient time and the conditions existing at the Caboolture and Woodford Police Stations will no doubt be drawn to my attention at that time by him.

Field investigation reports are a crime prevention and detection technique adopted by law-enforcement agencies throughout the world and they have been used with success in Queensland. If properly carried out they should not constitute an invasion of privacy. I would expect that every responsible citizen who had nothing to hide would wish to co-operate with police in this matter. Information on the identity of persons loitering near or frequenting places where crimes are committed or who are strangers in a country town has proved of great assistance in helping to solve serious crimes all over Queensland.

I suggest to the honourable member for Archerfield that he be sure of his facts before making another similar outburst. He said that nothing had been done about the incident at Nambour involving a group of

young people on motor-bikes. In fact, I personally ordered an investigation into the allegation and, as a result, a police officer has been charged with misconduct in connection with the incident and he has denied the truth of the charges. The honourable member's statement that nothing had been done in this regard is evidence of his general ignorance.

Honourable Members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. NEWBERY: I do not mind being attacked by the honourable member for Archerfield in this Chamber but I deplore his personal attacks on the integrity of two dedicated police officers, Inspector Beattie and Sergeant Murphy, who are not able to defend themselves against this example of privileged character assassination. Any discredit as a result falls on the honourable member's shoulders and not on the police officers named.

The incident involving Inspector Beattie has been satisfactorily explained and I should like to inform the honourable member that the figure quoted as Murphy's earnings includes a substantial amount of overtime on special assignments.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: That's what I said.

Mr. NEWBERY: He also spent many hours on overtime at Fortitude Valley attending to complaints by the Fortitude Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber later wrote to the Government thanking it for Murphy's services.

Opposition Members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Members of the Committee are becoming a little truculent and I am becoming a little upset about it. I suggest we all come to order.

Mr. NEWBERY: I have heard of a Dorothy Dix letter before but never a Mary MacDonald letter. If there is any complaint to be made I would like to receive it, so would the Commissioner of Police, and it will receive appropriate attention. Knowing the honourable member for Archerfield as well as I do, I would not take his word for the veracity of any statement made in his Mary MacDonald letter, particularly as it seems to be more than two years old. But I will have any formal complaint received at my office fully investigated.

The honourable member for Belmont spoke at length of the Juvenile Aid Bureau. I would inform him that Police Department policy on the activities of the bureau and on delinquent youth generally is in strict conformity with the findings and recommendations of the State commission of inquiry into youth chaired by His Honour Judge Demack. The Education Liaison Unit was set up at the express request of the Education Department because of a lack of police impact on school burnings, break-ins

and thieving by adolescent offenders. Detective Sergeant John Dautel, the officer in charge of the department's youth unit, is widely known for his integrity, fair-mindedness and efficiency. He does not have an equal in the force for this class of police duty.

I would also inform the honourable member that the statistics kept by the Police Department are primarily for the efficiency of the Police Force. If statistics can be readily provided I am always happy to do so. However, to provide statistics in the form so often requested would involve a considerable amount of research. I would also point out that full statistics are included each year in the department's annual report.

I want to refer now to a matter that must be of the utmost concern to all Queenslanders—the matter of the newest thrust in the A.L.P.'s continual campaign to erode public confidence in our system of justice and law and order. I want to refer in particular to remarks made by the honourable member for Rockhampton at a Press conference during my absence from the State on Government business two weeks ago. At this conference the honourable member, who purports to be the Opposition shadow spokesman for Justice, claimed that the Government had received the report of the two senior police officers assigned to investigate allegations against the police at Cedar Bay. He claimed that Cabinet had considered the report and that its findings would be altered materially by direction of the Government. Those claims have proved to be false. I submit that the honourable member knew them to be false and called a Press conference for the deliberate purpose of telling outright lies. In doing so, he destroyed for all time his credibility as a spokesman on these matters and made a mockery of the word "justice". In doing so he cast a shadow over two of the most experienced and respected investigators in the Police Force and tried to put in question our traditional system of justice which was following its natural course with the progress of the investigation. But not satisfied that the investigation was in train, the honourable member took it upon himself to speculate on the findings of the investigators and therefore to pre-empt the proper course of justice. Whether his speculation proves to be correct is immaterial to the question of principle in such a matter. That principle demands that any person, policeman or not, is innocent until a charge is made against him by the proper authority and that charge is sustained in a court of law.

The honourable member now alleges a cover-up on the Cedar Bay affair. How ridiculous that is! How can the Government be accused of a cover-up when it has ordered a thorough investigation into the allegations made? The full facts determined in that investigation are now with the Crown Law Office to determine whether any action is

warranted. Is that a cover-up? It seems that the honourable member for Rockhampton and his colleagues in the Labor Party consider themselves to be the judge and jury in all matters involving complaints against the police. They hang about like carrion crows waiting to feed on any rumour, no matter how devoid of truth, that would satisfy their appetite to vilify the police and the forces of law and order. These vultures always preface their accusations with shallow references to their concern and respect for law and order. What hypocrisy again! They are not interested in law and order, and they are not interested in the truth. They are interested only in headlines—momentary sensationalism gained at the dreadful expense of the public image and integrity of all decent and dedicated members of the Police Force.

I repeat for the information of the honourable member that the Cedar Bay report was not completed when he claimed that Government members had copies in their possession. The information given to the then Acting Police Minister (Hon. R. E. Camm) was correct. Chief Superintendent Becker had not finished his report. Mr. Camm's statement was correct.

Mr. Wright: Of course it was.

Mr. NEWBERY: I did not order the destruction of the report—

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. NEWBERY: For God's sake, listen to this and shut up.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. NEWBERY: I did not order the destruction of the report on Cedar Bay by Inspector Gray, as alleged by the honourable member.

Mr. Wright: Well, where is it?

Mr. NEWBERY: This claim is yet another of the honourable member's deliberate false concoctions.

Mr. Wright: Where is the report that the inspector submitted?

Mr. NEWBERY: Shut up and I will tell you.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Houston: That is not parliamentary.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I concede that the Minister's comment was unparliamentary, but it is obvious that he was speaking under intense provocation.

Mr. Houston: He is reading.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Committee will come to order.

Mr. NEWBERRY: In fact, the report is now with the Crown Law Office for its study, together with all other statements relating to the investigation by Chief Superintendent Becker.

The honourable member for Barron River spoke of beat patrols for Cairns. As I mentioned in my introduction of the Estimates, it is planned to introduce foot patrols in Cairns as soon as staff is available. The honourable member also drew attention to the accommodation problem. This has arisen because of transfers, and I believe that more accommodation should be provided. I am in fact now seeking a substantial additional grant of funds for this purpose.

The honourable member's request for a four-wheel-drive vehicle will be given sympathetic consideration as soon as this year's vehicles become available. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are not always welcomed by police, but they are provided when required and when funds are available.

The offender at Mt. Molloy who ran into a police officer manning a road block late at night and killed him was quickly identified by local investigating officers because of information then on hand from a field interrogation report completed a few days earlier.

In answer to the matters raised by the honourable member for Salisbury, I would say that I am aware of the need for more police at Woodridge and that an increase will be made as soon as extra accommodation and members are available. As I suggested to the honourable member earlier, I have already made an application for some relief there.

Speed limits are fixed by Parliament, and I think it is somewhat unfair for members to blame the police for enforcing the decisions of this Assembly in that regard. If members think that the speed limits can be exceeded with safety by a margin of 10 km/h or more, then the proper course is to seek to have the regulations amended. The Police Department should not be accused of trying to earn revenue through the enforcement of traffic regulations. Money from fines for these offences does not go to the Police Department but is paid into Consolidated Revenue.

The honourable member for Salisbury will be interested to learn that a leading dress designer has offered his services to the department and is currently engaged on a survey of members to obtain their views about the most appropriate design of uniforms for both male and female officers of the Police Force.

I should also inform the honourable member that in-service training is provided for all members so that they can study various advanced aspects of police work such as prosecution, youth work and supervision.

The honourable member for Mulgrave raised a very valid point regarding the need for a greater public relations endeavour

by the Police Department. I am pleased to inform him that I have plans in hand for the appointment of a public relations officer for the force.

As to communication, I advise that all isolated police stations in the State are now equipped with long-range radios.

On the question of radar traps—I wish to advise the honourable member that the older type Marconi model radar unit did not permit it to be used as close to the scene of accidents as the police would like. The new speed gun does give greater flexibility of location, and members will find the locations will now be different in many places.

I would assure the honourable member for Mt. Isa that police aircraft are available for use by all regional and inspectorial staff. In fact, one police aircraft has spent considerable flying time in the Far North and West. Finance is not available to station one aircraft full time at Mt. Isa at present. The honourable member's suggestion for holiday fares for long-serving police in far western areas will be considered.

The honourable member for Sandgate, I feel, is guilty of a popular misconception. Police in attendance at road construction and maintenance sites are in fact police performing what are known as "special services" in their off-duty hours. They are paid the award rate by the constructing authority.

I thank the honourable member for Toowoomba North for his very sensible suggestion that arrangements be made for medical certificates to be channelled direct to the Government Medical Officer in Brisbane and assure him that this will be given most sympathetic consideration.

I regret that the time available to me does not allow me to reply personally to all the other speakers who so ably addressed this Chamber tonight on the Police Department Estimates. However, I have listened with interest to the comments made by the honourable members for Kurilpa, Mourilyan, Redlands, Toowoomba South, Windsor, South Brisbane, Townsville and Somerset, and I assure them all that I will endeavour to look into the specific matters raised at the earliest possible opportunity.

In my opening remarks I spoke of the need for public support of the Police Force. Some honourable members tonight have expressed opinions that, because of traffic convictions, distrust and lack of respect and for other reasons, this support would not be forthcoming. What the Government, the Commissioner of Police and I are working together towards is not the unattainable—a Police Force comprising saints and higher beings—but an honest, reliable and uncorrupt Police Force. This is the ultimate aim of all police administrators in the world. While our Queensland Police Force is not perfect—no police force is, as all are made up of human beings who can err—I say that

in Queensland we have a Police Force which we can trust and of which we have every reason to be proud.

I thank the honourable member for Toowoomba North for his good contribution. I also thank the honourable members for Townsville and Somerset for their fine contributions. Last but not least I thank the honourable member for Callide for the final contribution that was made to the debate on the Estimates.

I thank Mr. Whitrod, Mr. Whiting and all the other members of my personal staff for all the assistance they have given me throughout the year. I look forward to greater things ahead for the Police Force in Queensland.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! By agreement, 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 Police.

The questions for the following Votes were put, and agreed to—

	\$
Police—	
Police	69,861,571
Balance of Vote, Consolidated Revenue and Trust and Special Funds	14,366,668
Progress reported.	

FISHERIES BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (9.45 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced 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.”

I rise to introduce a Bill the principles of which are intended to be a blueprint for the development of an industry which, in the years ahead, will provide food for a hungry world—a resource as important as fuel deposits during the present world energy crisis.

I refer, of course, to our fishing industry and the Bill is the Fisheries Bill 1976 to replace the Fisheries Act 1957, which has not known a major re-draft such as the one I propose for almost 20 years. And those

20 years have seen vast changes in technology which have had a tremendous effect on our fishing industry, and I propose the Bill, which will bring a major change in fishery thinking, to keep this State's legislation abreast of its changing technology.

The Act has from time to time been amended but now is the time for total re-think. We saw the difficulties the country faced when it was forced to counter the effects of the Arab oil embargo. There was a nationwide flurry of remedial measures.

Our fishery, as a food resource, must be prepared for future-demands—and this Bill will enable us to do this in the best interest of our professional and amateur fishermen, our consumers and those groups interested in conservation and those in development.

The fishing industry in Queensland started out as a sheer hunting-type existence. The natural resources were plundered—in the North, pearl-shell, beche-de-mer, and turtle; and in the South, whales, oysters, mullet, crabs and prawns. There was little concern for the future and the danger of such folly can be seen in the whaling industry, a resource so abundant that it was impossible to consider extinction, but that is what we have today—extinction—and the centre of that carnage in Moreton Bay is today a peaceful tourist resort.

The present act was designed to control activities of mainly small-time fishermen—hunters—with limited mobility supplying the local wet-fish trade. It was also a means of off-season employment for out-of-work cane cutters, meatworkers and other transients of that era. But within the past 20 years the situation has changed dramatically. Several of our fisheries are highly developed, using sophisticated boats and equipment such as radar and other electronic devices—all of which represent a large capital investment.

Sections of the industry, such as prawns and scallops, are an export trade with a very high reputation on the world market.

Fishermen, both professional and amateur, are now wide-ranging operators with modern technology taking them to places previously inaccessible—and therefore previously safe from exploitation.

The outboard motor has caused multiplication in the ranks of the amateur fishermen, taking them far to sea in thousands—a fact which has resulted in a common occurrence today, the conflict between professional and amateur fishermen over territorial rights and over sharing the resource.

The conflict is not confined to the sea but with four-wheel-drive vehicles and freezer units the conflict is now on the land with fishermen trespassing on private property, raiding waterholes, using illegal methods, damaging property and stock. The obvious example is the assault presently under way on barramundi stocks in North Queensland. This behaviour is not truly representative

of fishermen, but it does exist and must be stopped. To put it plainly, it is a different ball game and we need different rules.

The establishment of the Queensland Fisheries Service last year gave us the machinery for forward planning. Presently the service is mapping the State's wetlands—the sea-grass meadows and the mangrove swamps—on which much of our fishery depends. As well, biologists are maintaining and developing research programmes in many areas including mud-crabs, oyster, scallops, mackerel, reef fish and fish diseases, also estuarine angling fish from the research station at Deception Bay and freshwater fish from our stations at Cairns and Walkamin on the Atherton Tableland.

As well, at Hervey Bay we are presently surveying the effect of prawn trawling on the local fishery.

The service is also continuing its involvement in biological research and survey work on the Great Barrier Reef. Recent activities include a survey of the outer Barrier Reef from Portland Roads to Thursday Island, a survey of the Lizard Reef system, research on conservation of coral and the giant clam.

Much of this work is oriented towards the establishment of marine parks.

To assist in research and survey programmes in this field, honourable members may already be aware that a prototype underwater robot has been developed by fisheries biologist Dr. Goeden in Cairns. Dr. Goeden has also completed a study on the Heron Island Marine Park, a draft departmental policy on marine parks and a draft management plan for the Capricorn and Bunker Groups.

To manage a fishery as a long-term resource we must be aware of its potential and its limitations. To do this we need research and, although our research staff are actively involved in a variety of fields, they are hampered by equipment shortages—particularly suitable boats for offshore work. Moreover, there are many avenues of worthwhile research which we cannot yet afford to touch.

Research at sea is expensive and funds are not abundant, but this Bill will set up the mechanism for the establishment of a special fund for the expansion of fisheries research in Queensland. The money in this fund will attract a dollar-for-dollar contribution from the Commonwealth into a fund administered by federal authorities, called the Fishing Industry Research Trust Account, from which our fisheries research staff are eligible to seek further grants. We can expect as a result of this Bill a considerable increase in fisheries research activities in this State, apart from those projects which are or will be funded through normal revenue channels.

Future research is only one aspect of this Bill, and for members' benefit I will attempt to cover briefly its wide spectrum. This Bill

introduces major significant changes for which no provision currently exists. It introduces many other changes to delete or update present situations.

The new proposals deal with the research fund I mentioned earlier to give greater research scope in the future.

It also deals with establishment of marine parks—the ocean's equivalent to national parks on the land.

As well, all over the world interest is turning more and more to the farming of fish and shellfish, and this Bill will permit the keeping of fish for farming purposes in an effort to encourage aquaculture in Queensland.

On the other hand, the Government wants to control the keeping of environmentally dangerous exotic fish which could threaten our own native fish fauna. The jet age has increased the number of exotic aquarium fish coming into this country by shortening delivery time from Asian countries to a few hours, and increasing the risk of introducing undesirable or dangerous species and associated diseases.

Recently piranha were on sale under the counter in Melbourne for \$6 a pair, and yet the Queensland Act presently gives me no power to confiscate such fish, which could easily become established in our rivers if released in the wild.

In some areas in the State, fish supplies to the Fish Board depots from master fishermen are not sufficiently high in volume to meet the board's needs and therefore the Government has decided to set up machinery to enable the issue of special limited permits in these areas to help augment the fish supplies.

The Bill will establish criteria for those seeking to enjoy the privileges associated with being a master fisherman. Moreover, the Bill will make it obligatory for any interstate fisherman landing fish for sale in a Queensland port to hold a Queensland licence.

It is proposed also to provide a system for licensing establishments or premises and vessels for the processing of fish and marine products throughout the State. Such licensing will be a means of protection for the resource, to ensure it is not overfished, and for the processors involved to avoid "crowding the market" to the detriment of the viability of those directly involved and the surrounding district.

As the first step to upgrade the status of the oyster industry in this State, the Bill extends tenure available to oystermen who genuinely wish to develop their oyster banks, and will also give greater protection from poachers, by prohibiting unauthorised entry onto licensed oyster banks. Some honourable members have expressed concern that members of the public who innocently drift onto an oyster lease while fishing might be liable to prosecution. Such people would

not be committing an offence, as the following quotation from section 23 of the criminal code makes quite clear—

“A person is not criminally responsible for an act or omission which occurs independently of the exercise of his will or for an event which occurs by accident.”

I propose as well that a ban on the spearing of fish with the use of scuba gear be introduced.

In relation to remedies, the present Bill provides penalties which, through the inflationary trends of the years, are of amounts which would be a deterrent to those who deliberately set out to break the provisions of the Act.

For example, a person taking fish to sell without the appropriate licence, who today is looking at a fine of \$100 to \$200, will think again with a proposed penalty of up to \$1,000. Users of illegal nets or rigs can expect a maximum fine of up to \$1,000 as well, with confiscation of equipment.

Explosives which are used all too often, particularly in closed water-holes, destroying fish stock and environment, will attract an increased penalty from the present \$400 up to \$1,000.

As well, it is desirable to have a less onerous and time-consuming yet more streamlined system of penalty for minor infringements, while preserving the right of the individual to contest the challenge if he so desires, and this, too, is provided for in the Bill.

Honourable members can be assured increased penalties will not affect the person who wants to enjoy the benefits of the fishery and who acts in a responsible way.

Any penalties are aimed at those who go out, with selfish intent, to ignore the provisions of the Bill, which have been framed with the assistance of biologists for the good of the industry, the resource and the long-term benefit of the people.

Appropriate action has also been taken to transfer legislation dealing with the Commercial Fishermen's State Council from the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act to the legislation covered by my portfolio.

Other amendments include the appointment of honorary rangers and greater supervision of resources with improved licensing of employees in the fishing industry.

While whaling has ceased to exist as an industry off the Queensland coast, there is an ever-increasing interest in the use of dolphins and other small whales in public entertainment, and it is important that we ensure the catching, handling, and keeping of these intelligent creatures be done in a humane way and only by those experienced and with equipment to do so.

The Government feels there is no point in having an Act if it cannot be administered, and the key word is “efficiency”; therefore, we want to cut away the red tape that has become synonymous with bureaucracies in slowing down action.

The Bill provides the power to implement more simply, and modify more easily, the normal management tools of the Fisheries Administrator such as closed seasons, netting restrictions, and fish-size limits. With respect to size limits, honourable members have asked me to make provision that people fishing by line purely for recreation should not be penalised for taking undersized fish unless they do so on an immoderate scale. We will frame the regulations so that, for example, Dad, Mum and the kids who are out wetting a line on a Sunday afternoon will not be breaking the law by catching and keeping a few undersized fish. A happy medium will be set under examination provisions in the regulatory powers of the Bill.

The Bill will provide appropriate measures for the selection, setting apart and declaration, of sanctuaries, reserves, and marine parks, for the protection of marine fauna and flora, the maintenance of areas of marine productivity and the preservation of the beauties of the undersea world.

The new Bill represents a change in thinking from a small-scale, localised industry with simple conservation measures, to meet a complex and changing technology with the accent on management of fisheries and marine resources.

It will encourage the development of new industry and protect those involved to guarantee a good return to the producer and a wide range of choice to the consumer.

This Bill will complement the Fish Supply Management Act, to which I introduced amendments in this Parliament only recently, and, with proper management of the primary resource and orderly marketing of the product, I am sure that we as Queenslanders can look forward to a bright future for our vital fishing industry.

It will also give those involved in the Queensland Fisheries Service new horizons for their endeavour, which will benefit this State with an enthusiastic and progressive fisheries service.

The Bill will not infringe on the right of any Queenslanders to share in our marine resources; in fact it will encourage involvement from all sections by ensuring those resources will endure to be enjoyed for many years to come.

I commend the Bill to honourable members.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (9.59 p.m.): All honourable members will welcome a Bill to bring the fishing industry into the 20th Century from the days when it was a family

cottage-type industry regarded by those in it more as a way of life and sons followed fathers into the industry.

In the past we fished mostly in our estuaries, rivers and bays. In fact, as the Minister said, it is one of the few of the primary industries that is suffering from undersupply and not oversupply. Generally the problems associated with a primary industry are producing too much and not having the markets. In this particular case, except during the glut in the mullet season, the fish market at Colmslie and most other fish markets are unable to continue to meet the local need.

A couple of weeks ago, in talking in this Chamber about the Fish Supply Management Bill, some of us made the point about the importation of overseas fish. Last week I spent a couple of hours at the Colmslie market. I was told by many retailers there that if they could not buy imported fish they would not be able to keep going in the industry. Business is quite good during the winter months when the mullet are running and when there are quite a few tailor about, but when the tough times come in the summer, with only whiting and a few other types of fish in scarce supply, they find it very difficult. Many fish and chip shops just could not operate unless they were able to buy imported fish or fish processed by the Fish Board and resold later.

There has been considerable criticism of the Australian fishing industry. Many people who throw a line into the water are the first to attack the professional fishermen. Whilst Australia ranks about fifty-fifth among the nations in terms of the catch of fish, it is readily accepted by most people that Australian fishermen work as hard as, or harder than, their counterparts elsewhere. I have observed the fishing industry in many countries and I agree that that is so. The conditions under which Australian fishermen have been operating have been very difficult for them. The wet supply fishing industry has been undercapitalised and in most cases it has been based on the family itself.

One of the messages that came from the Minister's speech was his reference to special limited permits to overcome the problem of under-supply. I am a little worried about this, as I think most fishermen will be until it is spelt out in clearer terms. Many fishermen count on the mullet and tailor season as the good time in which they earn their bread and butter. This is the time when they need to be certain that they get large catches in a short period. If extra fishermen are to be licensed to move in at this time and help to break up the return from bread-and-butter lines, an unfair burden will be placed on full-time fishermen. Until we see the Bill we do not know, of course, what is meant by "special limited permits". However, the Minister made the point that such permits are to be issued and I see them as a threat to present fishermen if they are used in that way.

I believe there is a need for the Bill because this country is facing a period of great potential in the fishing industry. I see that potential as a result of the coming decision to extend the area of Australian influence to a distance of 200 miles from the coastline. That represents an area of water approximately equal to the area of land in this country. That is a vast area to farm and manage as a fishing industry. It has to be remembered that fish know no boundaries and that, unless we are prepared to fish and market in these waters, fishermen from around the world will come and work through them, as they have been doing for some time in the North.

The other day I read a statement by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Sinclair, that if we did not fish our off-shore areas it would be hard for us to justify on the world scene our refusal to allow fishermen from other countries to fish there. That brings me to vital points that emerge whenever one speaks to fishermen about problems in their industry. When we talk about updating the fishing industry in this State, we are told that we need research, finance for vessels, special grants and long-term loans, fuel subsidies, education and training of crews, preventive maintenance and things of that nature.

Let me look first at research into fishing, of which the Minister made special mention. If Australia is to have an area extending 200 miles off the coast to develop, manage, control and farm, it should provide Government research vessels in these waters. We need to know what species of fish are there, the extent of likely catches in the area and how the fish can be processed and used so that fishermen who venture to these waters can be assured of a reasonable return. I think that is only fair and reasonable.

I turn now to the financing of vessels. Most fishermen today have been forced out of boats of 14 ft. or 16 ft. with the 4 h.p. Clae diesel engine or the old chug-chug motor that they used for ploughing across Moreton Bay. More and more fishermen are now going into vessels of the trawler type and spending \$60,000, \$80,000 and even \$100,000 and even more on them. When I was in Karumba not so very long ago fishermen were pointing out their \$150,000 trawlers. That is a very substantial investment for anyone to make and we ought to be able to assist them. When looking through some books on fishing, I saw that in Canada fishermen are granted loans plus grants of 70 per cent to 90 per cent of the capital cost of a vessel, at 3 and 4 per cent interest. I must admit that those figures are from about 1972 or 1973, so the percentage could be higher today, but at that time Queensland was not even offering grants or loans. In South Africa, a fisherman who is purchasing a vessel has loans available to 75 per cent of the purchase price at 5 per cent over 20 years. That is a tremendous

incentive to a fisherman to expand. In Japan there are a number of schemes, but the major point of the Japanese scheme is that there is no repayment under the Government-guaranteed loan for the first three years, and that of itself must be of assistance.

Another question that comes up consistently, both because of the great distances fishermen have to travel to fish and now because of the cost to people travelling miles out to sea to fish, is the subsidy on fuel prices. It is easy to talk about the Whitlam Government or somebody else in this regard, but the position of fishermen operating out of Thursday Island or Karumba, where the price of fuel is so high that it must add considerable cost to the end product, has to be considered. So again, in talking about assisting the fishing industry we have to look at these issues.

Earlier I spoke about imported fish and, as I said, we are now told that half of the fish eaten in Australia is imported. As we all know, there are seasons of feast or famine in the fishing industry, and that leads me to the question of research. The Minister said research was needed into the potential and limitations of the industry itself, that there would be a special fund for fishery research and dollar for dollar assistance from the Commonwealth. Let me say that I believe this is very important. One of the areas where possibly more research could be carried out is the Gulf of Carpentaria. When I went to the Gulf and spoke to fishermen from throughout the State, I found there were many failures in North Queensland and the Gulf, caused mostly by lack of support, in some cases by poor management, in others by lack of facilities, and others by poorly designed ships. It would be fair to say that the future could be bright for the prawn fishing industry in the Gulf, but not for individual trawler owners or crews unless they receive some support from the Government.

The major problem up there, of course, is remoteness and the high costs that trawler operators must face. Research is needed into the type of fishing boat that is required. When I was in the Gulf talking to fishermen I found that most of the people who developed the industry were those who used the old-type trawler fitted with the salt-water refrigeration process for keeping the catch. They travelled to the Gulf with the smaller trawlers because this type was the most easily capitalised.

After a while they found that the banana prawn was moving out to sea. They found that most of their catch which was put into the refrigerated brine tank on the back of the boat would keep for only three days, and that, if they were four days out of port and caught a large load of prawns, by the time they had sailed three days on the way back the prawns were starting to deteriorate. This caused problems. They also found that

in the Gulf, which can produce a large rolling swell, the movement of the prawns in the salt-water brine tank lowered the quality of the prawns.

We discovered that the ordinary small prawn operator, the bloke who had been operating rather successfully in Moreton Bay and along the coast and had moved up there for the big money, found that he then had to spend big money to get out after the banana prawns. If he fished for tiger prawns he went out at night, and in a big catch he might get 3,000 lb. In one night, in a small brine refrigerated trawler, that was a substantial catch, and it could be brought home in time to preserve its quality. But in the Gulf, people found they were catching as much as 30,000 lb. of banana prawns. They were sailing well out and they needed freezer-equipped boats which snap froze the prawns. Banana prawn operators found they could trawl for eight or nine days before they hit a big boil of prawns and then they had to work very hard. It was not economic to operate with a small boat, take a small amount of prawns and sail all the way back to port, because by the time they got back out to sea they could not find the boil again. The best method is to fish the boil right out and to have either sufficient freezer capacity for the storage of the prawns or alternatively a mother ship available. Although the necessary facilities were not available, a lot of small operators went into the area and many of them went broke because they found they had overreached themselves getting into the area and the money just was not there.

To catch banana prawns, people began building very big boats. The type of boat that is required today is one about 70 ft. to 90 ft. long with the capacity to carry 500 tonnes of fuel and 8 tonnes of fresh water as well as the facilities to hold a large quantity of frozen prawns. That is a substantial investment for an ordinary fisherman. He finds that the banana prawn season is so short that he does not have sufficient time to gain a financial return on the money that he is spending. So he needs to be able to fish banana prawns for a certain period and then, for about seven months, come back to tiger prawns, Endeavour prawns or any other prawns to make it a viable proposition.

It is necessary to design a boat that that fisherman can use for both purposes, because if he spends all the money and outlays the large amount of capital merely to go up to the Gulf after banana prawns for three months of the year, it is not a good proposition. In fact, it is a financial-loss proposition for about seven months of the year as he tries to work the tiger prawn areas and the other areas with the over-capitalised boat that he has set up.

The Gulf was opened up not by the Government but by the small private-enterprise operator—the little prawner, the bloke who

took his small boat there and discovered that he did not have the type of equipment that was necessary. They are still learning, and because it was a tough year this year, many more of them face the prospect of going to the wall.

In talking about developing the fishing industry and about the great resources that are available, we must not forget that Australia is not supplying seafood in sufficient quantities even for its own people. In fact, Australia is one of the poorest nations in the world from the point of view of the quantity of fish eaten. If the Government is going to face up to the task that the Minister has set tonight, it must first conduct research and design the type of vessel that can be provided in some sort of standardised form or in some other way that will enable it to be built as cheaply as possible. It must provide the sort of financial assistance that is expected of Governments in Canada, Japan, South Africa and many other countries around the world. It must accept that that is its responsibility and that it has to provide substantial funds.

Especially in the Gulf, where the industry has learned by its mistakes, the Government ought now to inject a little capital to try to help it overcome the difficulties that have developed. In the Gulf, the lack of repair and service facilities, poor communications and lack of Government support in many ways does make it very difficult for the prawner, even the one with a good vessel. When he shifts his family there, the high costs are a major problem for him.

If the Government is not going to provide major hospital facilities there, it could look at the possibility of operating some sort of hospital ship in the prawning season when large numbers of people are there. The State is earning a lot of money from the industry. The prawn industry in the Gulf is a major export earner, and patrol boats are needed there to keep out some of the others who are ruining the prawning grounds and the fishing fields. Further navigational aids need to be installed. With all due respect, I think the Government has done rather well in assisting the industry by providing navigational aids. But in some of the outside waters, those far from the major fishing areas, the Government needs to ensure that it provides navigational aids and assistance so that people who are operating there will have the radio and wind and weather reporting facilities upon which their lives depend. They must be assisted in every way.

The Minister spoke about marine parks and catching dolphins. I could not support him more in his desire to do something to control these activities. I can remember being at Tangalooma, on Moreton Island, years ago and watching a school of dolphins that came in every day. They were so tame that the children used to feed them

from the beach. One night, along came someone with a boat and a net and netted them all. It is easy to imagine the feeling of the people on the island next day when they discovered that the dolphins had all been dragged away and put in a dolphin pool somewhere along the coast. As I said, they were tame, and it was one of the enjoyable features of living on a virtually uninhabited island in the bay to see the dolphins come right into the shallow water and play with the children. They were completely untrained. It was just the natural joy of playing and mucking about with balls and children throwing them fish heads, and so on. It was a tremendous experience. However, as I said, someone decided to come along and haul them away. There ought to be some rules to protect these creatures of the sea and other creatures that are exploited by the people who believe that their right to their own personal enjoyment comes before that of the general community.

I know that some concern will be expressed about the Minister's desire to control the aquarium fish industry, but I think he is taking the right steps in trying to control it. I hope that he is not going to place undue controls on the ordinary family man who wants to have a couple of fish in a tank in his living room. I would not suggest that he would want to keep a couple of piranhas in a tank in his living room—but I suppose it is a matter of everyone to his own taste.

As to the laying down of criteria for master fishermen—I think the Government can raise the number of pounds of fish to be taken to the market. When one talks to the Commercial Fishermen's Organisation it is obvious that time and time again the people the Minister is including in the list of registered or licensed fishermen in the State are very hard to find. People are getting fishermen's licences and are pretending to be showing an interest in the development of the fishing industry merely to get the discounts and the sales tax reduction on nets and other gear. I do not think the line fisherman or the professional fisherman is going to object to the increase in penalties on those who illegally net. They are the ones who are destroying the industry. There are not many decent, honest professional fishermen who are illegally netting or netting areas where it is likely to ruin their own industry. They have to live and fish in the same area day in and day out. They need to ensure that the fish population is able to regenerate so that next week, next month and next year they can come back into the area and continue to earn their living. If the Government is to give professional fishermen an opportunity to earn a living it has to catch and stamp out the illegal operator who stakes off an area, sets up mesh and other nets where they should not be, blocks off creeks and rivers and then gets up the stream and chases the fish down. Fishing is not a good living.

Some fishermen are doing very well, but many of them are not doing as well as they should.

As I said the other day, more notice should be taken of the retailers and others in the industry. Although the marketing Acts are basically associated with producers, and aimed at the producer himself, there is a lot to be learnt from talking to the people who have developed the fish-selling industry in this State. If their co-operation can be obtained in the marketing process, the consumption of fish in the community could be increased. When a comparison is made between the kilos of fish consumed per head in this country and the quantity consumed in other countries of the same nature as ours, it will be seen that ours is well down the scale. With co-operation between fishermen, retailers and all other sections of the industry, the sale and consumption of fish could be promoted. I have in mind especially very good fish such as tailor and mullet which come in in very good supplies and are packed in excellent condition by the Queensland Fish Board at the market at Colmslie.

The final point I made in the notes I wrote when the Minister was making his speech concerns the decision to do something about genuine oyster-bank operators. That is not before time. When I was a lad knocking around the bay—I have had a number of boats of all sizes and fished the bay for a long while—there were large numbers of areas gazetted, with signs indicating what were oyster banks. In those days one never saw anyone throw a shell on the bank, rake it over or do any work on it at all. Area after area was named after the old Moreton Bay Oyster Company where oyster leases were supposed to exist. I am not too sure what they were doing there. In fact I think many of them were areas that were just left to die.

(Time expired.)

Mr. LAMOND (Wynnum) (10.20 p.m.): I congratulate the Minister on this long-needed legislation. He pointed out that the existing legislation in this field had not been amended for 20 years. There is no doubt that since the introduction of the original legislation in 1957 incredible changes have taken place not only in the technology of fishing but also in the marketing of fish, with additional types of fish now being available for the consumer. The markets and the demand for seafoods have greatly affected the form of the new legislation to cover our modern fishing industry.

A Government Member: There have been great changes.

Mr. LAMOND: There have been great changes and I am as hopeful as the Minister that this legislation will assist the industry at this time. It certainly needs the assistance of good, sound legislation.

This subject was discussed here long before I entered Parliament. Suggestions have been offered about changes in the legislation to improve the industry. When we talk about changing the legislation, we must keep in mind what the Minister said about the fields of fish supply which, undoubtedly, have changed. The areas where fish can be farmed have most certainly changed as has the market itself. At the same time different types of fish are now being consumed.

The proper development of the industry under this legislation can do much to improve the industry and so help it to meet the market. As has been said in earlier debates on fisheries legislation, much fish is imported from overseas because our own industry is not capable of meeting our requirements. I believe that with sound legislation and guidance the trend can be changed.

I note the Minister's comments about amateur fishermen. This is a vital point because fishing is an interesting sport for many people and it is a wonderful tourist attraction. If we develop amateur fishing in Moreton Bay, it will be a great tourist feature and, with correct legislature control, the professional and the amateur will be able to live in harmony, each helping the other.

The Minister's reference to various types of licences will probably be commented on by other honourable members. I am concerned about the types of licence to be issued. I believe that they should help the industry rather than help people who enter the field purely to supplement their income, to the detriment of the industry as a whole. Appropriate licensing which is properly controlled will do much to control the black-marketing of fish in Queensland. Honourable members who have travelled along the coast and visited the various marketing areas know without a doubt that the black-marketing of fish is not helping the fishing industry. Rather, it is detrimental to the industry as a whole and to the consumers as well.

The Minister referred to fish sizes. This matter is considered to be a hot potato. I have on my table here a rule given to me by the Minister setting out the legal size of fish. I believe there should be great flexibility in setting the legal sizes of fish. Rather than set a legal size for a specific fish, we should consider the marketable size of fish, with a certain general flexibility—flexibility controlled by the supply of fish at a given time; flexibility controlled by the market demand. We should not adopt a rigid rule setting fish sizes for all times of the year and for all markets, that is, a rule which must be accepted as a rigid control.

The Minister commented about the rights of mum and dad and the family to catch undersized fish. I think the proposal is pretty reasonable. Those who are involved with fishing—those who have anything to do with fish whatsoever—realise that a

great proportion of fish caught on a line will die after having the hook removed. From memory, the previous Act stated that it is illegal to catch a fish of a certain size. No-one can determine when he throws a line into the seas what size fish will be hooked; yet it is illegal for a fisherman to pull that fish into his boat. Frequently the fish when brought aboard dies as a result of having the hook removed. I think we have to be flexible and tolerant in our approach to penalising people for having undersized fish, because I do not think that really affects the ecology or the fish population.

The Minister's proposed ban on spear fishing by scuba divers is one that I most certainly support. Anyone who has done scuba diving or skin-diving around our coast over a period and who has visited a reef which had an abundance of fish of all types, will have noticed on his return four or five years later to that reef that it has been done over—and I use that term deliberately—by scuba divers. No longer are the fish in abundance. The spear fishermen have destroyed every moving creature on the reef, which, instead of being an area of beauty and plentiful fish life, becomes desolate. People with the aid of scuba gear and spears can certainly destroy fish life in a short time. I support that action by the Minister.

We must look at the long-range effect of this legislation and the policy we intend to adopt for the assistance of professional fishermen. We must not restrict that assistance to professional fishermen involved in net fishing, trawler fishing or line fishing. We must consider those people who are involved in amateur fishing and who, from what the Minister has told us, will ultimately be granted certain types of licences which will permit them to sell the fish that they catch.

It must be realised that various types of professional fishing takes place. I propose to refer particularly to the netting in Moreton Bay. Most fishermen use a net with a funnel-type catching area. It is quite impossible for a fisherman to lay his net, allow the tide to fall, keep his fish alive in the tunnel, remove undersized fish from his net and do all the things we lay down as having to be done if he is not to be penalised under our present legislation.

Our fishing inspectors should more frequently involve themselves in the guidance and help of the industry. They should control the length of nets that are being used. We lay down legislation governing the length of net to be used. We lay down certain requirements as to the mesh of nets that should be used. We lay down certain other requirements. Let us ensure that our inspectors are educating the people in the industry to use the right type and length of net instead of wasting time and frustrating people by imposing fines for having a small

proportion of undersized fish, thus creating a hindrance in the industry rather than a help.

The flexibility of both areas controlled according to the movement of fish is a matter that we must look at. Those who ask the Department of Marine Services to supply them with details of areas where fishing can take place will need to be Philadelphia lawyers to work out those plans, because they are very complicated. These areas are laid down very clearly but there is not much flexibility. We must look at greater flexibility in closed areas and greater flexibility in other areas. Determinations should take into account the movement of fish and the behaviour of fish and therefore should not be at the discretion of a member of the bureaucracy sitting at an office table.

We are back to the very important matter that I, with other honourable members, have spoken on before—research. There is no doubt that it will play a very vital part in the future of the industry throughout Queensland. Research has played a vital part in the future of the industry throughout the world. There is no doubt that we must look to research not only in the supply but also in the marketing of fish because the seafood that is available along the foreshores of Queensland has not been really touched. There are great supplies of fish and other seafood of various types that have not yet reached the market. It is only research into the marketing of this type of seafood that will encourage the buying public to become involved in this side of the industry.

I was interested to hear the Minister's comment on the preservation of the beauty of the undersea world. He said that certain research was being carried out in this regard. There is no doubt that this is an important part of his portfolio.

The Minister also commented on the transfer of the Queensland Fisheries Service to his portfolio. As we all know, since the creation of this portfolio some years ago, by slow process all sections of the industry have been coming under the control of the one Ministry. This is important.

The Minister suggested penalties of up to \$1,000 for people selling fish without a proper licence. I think this is good because this is the way that the industry will be controlled to a great degree.

The Minister referred to the expansion of funding to a dollar for dollar basis and other grants. This is another matter that will help the industry considerably.

I look forward with interest to reading the Bill when it is printed. It will give us full details of the proposals that the Minister has put forward. I find the Minister's submissions most interesting and I think that in principle the provisions of the Bill will do much for the industry, for amateur fishing and for all aspects of the marine areas along the Queensland coast. I congratulate the Minister on his submissions.

Mr. YEWDALÉ (Rockhampton North) (10.34 p.m.): I should like to contribute briefly to this debate. At the outset I endorse the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Wynnum on the need to look at the Fisheries Act and to tidy up many of the anomalies it contains.

I am fairly interested in the proposition regarding fish-farming. Several colleagues and I were afforded the opportunity recently to travel to China where we were taken to fish farms operating there. They were of great interest to us. I hope the Government develops some type of fish-farming in Queensland to help overcome the shortage of fish that was referred to earlier.

Mr. Jones: There are barramundi fish farms in South Australia.

Mr. YEWDALÉ: The Queensland Government is often well behind the Governments of other States in the development of many projects and fish-farming is probably no exception. Nevertheless, the proposal is better late than never, and apparently an attempt is being made now to move in this direction.

The fish ponds that I saw in China were in effect simply huge dams similar to those seen on most cattle properties throughout Queensland. In fact, the ponds were perhaps smaller than the dams seen on most properties. A particularly interesting point was that in one pond four types of fish were being bred. The principle behind this development and breeding was that each of the four types of fish had different natural food that was obtained at different depths. One type of fish fed in the mud at the bottom of the pond. Another type fed on the growth of weeds and other foliage growing at the bottom of the pond and to a certain height. There was another type of fish that found its food in the middle depth of the dam, and the fourth fed on the surface.

This was my first experience of this type of operation and it was very interesting. The water was treated in some way by aeration and the ponds were fished manually by the people in the commune by means of boats and huge nets that were dragged through the ponds. Fish of a certain size were taken about every 21 days, I think it was, and the marketable fish were sent to markets in the cities in the more heavily populated areas. Fish-farming would be of great benefit to Queensland and it would seem that it could well have been developed a long time ago.

From time to time fishermen in Central Queensland make inquiries about obtaining up-to-date copies of fishing regulations. They tell me that the stock answer that they receive from departmental officers in Rockhampton is that they do not have copies available. It seems to me that it is very difficult for up-to-date copies to be obtained.

I return to comments that I made recently on the wording used not only in Bills brought down in this place but in Acts published for the use of the people. If there are to be amendments of the extent referred to by the Minister, surely the department could prepare for the use of the community, particularly those in the fishing industry, material that could be easily read and understood. That does not mean that regulations should not be printed in the form in which they are printed now. However, I feel that many fishermen would like to see regulations in a form that would be more readily understood by them. I do not know why these people are unable to obtain copies of the fishing regulation. Perhaps the Minister might deal with this problem at a later stage.

I applaud the assurance that the amateur or family fisherman will not be pestered at any time by fishing inspectors. It has been said by others, and I agree with it, that the number of fish taken from the water by the average family fisherman, and the kids who like to wet a line on the beach or in a lake or pond, has little effect on fish numbers generally.

I look forward to studying the Bill when it is printed and I will probably make some further comments at the second-reading stage.

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (10.40 p.m.): Any businessman who is considering putting a commodity onto the market would obviously do a little bit of market research beforehand, and anybody who is thinking of going into the fishing industry in Australia today would be very pleased with the limited amount of research that is available to him because he would find that in the last year Australia produced about 113 000 tonnes of fish with a total value of roughly \$100,000,000. He would also find that half the fish eaten by Australians is imported; therefore it would appear that the market is wide open for extra people to enter the industry and attempt to take up the half of the market presently filled by imported fish. So this Bill should be welcomed by all who are interested in the fishing industry.

The Minister is to be commended on the time taken in the preparation of the Bill. He has gone to great lengths to make sure that the ideas contained in it have been discussed by various interested groups. I believe that he is to be commended on such an attitude, and it is a pity that it is not adopted more often. I presume there will be people who will not be very happy with some parts of the Bill but I think our primary concern should be to try to make the industry more lucrative for those who participate in it.

Our job is also to provide the consumer with a greater variety of fish from which to choose, and research that has been done by the fisheries division of the Federal Department of Primary Industry indicates that the Australian public at the moment eat between

7 and 8 kg of fish per head per year and would readily eat more fish provided it was presented more attractively, it was fresh, it was competitively priced and was presented without small bones in it. Of course, that is always difficult and brings me to the importance of adequate filleting. The wage structure of this country comes into this problem because it creates difficulties in both obtaining the fish and presenting it.

The Queensland Fish Board does an excellent job at the moment, and I believe that with its new chairman it will certainly be far more aggressive in the marketing of fish. But it must have fish to market, and these fish must be attractively presented at the market. The fishermen who have traditionally been involved in a cottage industry, as was mentioned earlier, have been able to catch fish and just throw them onto the market-place. Because of the paucity of supply, they have been able to sell them, but they too, must change their attitude. I believe that with this Bill a change in attitude must come about.

We should be raising the standards of professional fishermen. The limited permit system which the Minister mentioned in his introductory remarks will increase the amount of fish available through the market-place. There is a traditional and growing antagonism between the professional fisherman and the so-called amateur fisherman who is supplying so much fish to our markets. I hope that with the introduction of a limited permit system which will allow so-called amateur fishermen to supply fish markets with their catches, the antagonism and the heat generated between these two groups may be dissipated and an increase in the quantity of fish available will result. I would also hope that the permits are not going to be expensive, and I sincerely hope that the permit system is not going to be a back-door method of pricing amateur fishermen out of the market, as it were; if it does that, it will defeat its purpose.

We are, I hope, trying to implement and maintain an orderly fish-marketing system. We will not maintain an orderly marketing system if, by some back-door method, we try to price the amateur fisherman out of the Fish Board and the markets. It must be made attractive to him to deliver fish to the fish market so that they can be sold with the catches of those whose sole income is derived from fishing.

As the Minister mentioned in his opening remarks, many of the so-called amateur fishermen are seasonal workers—people who traditionally work in the cane industry and the fruit industry who spend the off season on the coastline catching fish. Some of them produce enough fish to enable them to obtain a master fisherman's licence, but most of them do not. They should be fostered and, as far as possible, their catches should be directed to the Fish Board market so that we can get away from any black-marketing.

I noticed that the Minister said that the fines for people taking fish to sell without the appropriate licence will be changed from the present \$100 to \$200 to \$1,000. That is commendable so long as something is done also to channel fish into the market. As I said earlier, the permit system is one way of doing it, but I hope that that system will not be used as a back-door method of pricing amateur fishermen out of the fish market.

In Australia roughly half our fish is imported, and we have an annual consumption of between 7 and 8 kg per head. That is roughly equal to the figure in New Zealand, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and some European countries, but it is only a quarter of the amount of fish consumed by the Japanese and about half that consumed in the Mediterranean and Scandinavian countries and in the Soviet Union. Surely there is great scope for us also to sell more fish.

I understand that it is hoped at an international conference next year to have fishing limits extended to 320 km. If Australia agrees to that—and I sincerely hope it will—a vast quantity of sea will be reserved for us to fish. If our fishermen are not prepared to use that area, then I suggest that, as a country, once again we are going to need some foreign capital to assist us to develop that resource.

It is also suggested that if a country does not develop its resources within the 320 km limit, something will have to be done about inviting other countries in. We all know the present situation of Japanese and Taiwanese long-line fishermen who fish for the copious quantities of tuna off the Australian coastline. The interesting point is that most Australians will not eat the tuna that is caught by the Australian fishermen but they will eat the tuna that is caught by the Japanese fishermen, processed and sent back to Australia.

I wonder why our own Australian fishermen are not maintaining an industry such as that. Anyone who has been into the Barrier Reef waters—and I presume it applies also in New South Wales waters, but I am not familiar with them—knows that thousands and thousands of pounds of tuna are available at various times of the year. They are there, ready for the taking, and they are the easiest fish in the world to trick into taking a lure and catch. We are letting that great resource go begging; we are letting it go to another country. If the 320 km limit is introduced, we must do something to promote and develop the industry.

I can foresee a situation in which the lagging economies of some coastal towns in Queensland—and, of course, one that borders on my electorate comes to mind immediately—could be boosted by the establishment of a fish-canning industry based on tuna fishing. Such an industry could be

maintained without any trouble, and I would sincerely hope that some of the money for research about which the Minister spoke earlier will be used in this field if it is needed. Maybe research information is already available. Maybe we could go into it fairly easily as long as we got the money to develop the industry. There I can see an industry going begging through the want of someone to do it. If we could develop that industry we might be able to turn the tables on the Japanese by exporting from Australia to Japan some of the tuna the Japanese are currently pinching from us.

Fish is one of the world's major food resources, and the only one largely based on the natural production of an ecosystem that is still relatively undisturbed; but that ecosystem is being disturbed rather severely on the near-coastal and estuary areas of the State. Once again I hope that the Minister is instituting research to indicate the conservation methods necessary for the fishing industry. We do have some fish habitat reserves but we need more. We need places where fish can breed undisturbed and grow to maturity.

The previous speaker spoke about fish of marketable size and about not fining people for taking undersized fish. I might go along with the suggestion that there may be no harm in a young boy or a small family taking a few undersized whiting or bream, and eating them—no doubt they would be plagued with bones—but I would hate to see the abolition of the provision for a minimum size for the sale of fish. I suggest that the minimum size should be such that the fish taken must have reached sexual maturity. If fish can legally be taken before they have been able to reproduce, it is quite obvious that the fishing industry will be depleted in a certain area very quickly.

In a previous speech on this subject I made a plea that some research be carried out, especially into tailor and mackerel because those fish are taken in large quantities in this State by amateur, semi-amateur and professional fishermen. If small ones that have not been able to reproduce are taken, then the industry will collapse. The conservation of fish is something that we must take great notice of and I sincerely hope that adequate research will be done into it.

A previous speaker said something about not being able to determine the size of fish a person is going to catch. Some people cannot determine whether they are going to catch any or not. When line fishing it is fairly simple to determine by the size of the hook used whether one is likely to catch an undersized fish. Anybody who uses a very small hook is obviously likely to catch very small fish. The larger the hook used the more likelihood there is a catching fish of legal size. Perhaps we should be looking very carefully at the sort of gear used. Again it is not the occasional

fisherman who is going to deplete stocks. It is the person who is ripping fish out with small nets who is going to cause the trouble. I am very pleased to see that the users of illegal nets or rigs can expect a fine of up to \$1,000 and the confiscation of equipment. Persons who use nets illegally are causing untold damage to the ecosystem and untold damage to young fish. I am very pleased to note that offenders can be fined up to \$1,000 as well as having their gear confiscated. That is a very desirable penalty.

I was also pleased to hear the Minister state that the use of scuba gear for fishing is to be banned. Anyone who has done any reef fishing knows that scuba gear spearman can pick off every fish of a certain variety from a reef. Certain reefs in the Bundaberg area that yielded prolific catches of coral trout, red emperor and red sweetlip have been cleaned out completely by people using scuba gear. They have picked off every one of these most desirable table fish; all of these species have been taken from the reefs. As I said, I am very pleased that scuba gear is to be banned under this legislation but I am a little concerned about how it is to be policed. I wonder how we could police it in the Bunker Group, which is north-east of Bundaberg, 40 to 45 miles offshore. However, it is a desirable provision in the Bill which I support entirely.

In summing up I emphasise that we must firstly ensure that our present resources are carefully husbanded. Secondly, in expanding the catch, there must be an awareness of the interdependence of each part of the system.

The suggestion that aquaculture will be promoted is excellent. Parts of my electorate in Great Sandy Strait lend themselves admirably to aquaculture. If the Minister receives a proposal for the establishment of a fish farm in this area I hope that he considers it very carefully because this is an excellent area for farming mullet, whiting, crabs and prawns. I hope that research on fish-farming will be undertaken. If anybody makes a proposal to the Minister for farming fish in this area I hope that he will consider it sympathetically.

To revert to my comments on tuna fishing and aquaculture, I emphasise that these enterprises will need considerable finance and fostering. While I sincerely hope that free enterprise will be able to operate these two industries and other developments in the fishing industry, I believe that free enterprise alone will not be able to provide the colossal capital investment required or survive the length of time required to get an adequate return. It is quite obvious that some Government assistance will be required. Perhaps the Minister's department could consider fostering the industry in a manner similar to that in which the Department of Industrial Development assists industries on industrial estates and fosters industries in decentralised area. Although in many ways

fishing is not thought of as an industry like the manufacture of cane harvesters and other consumer goods, it is an industry that requires finance, a great deal of expertise and people with a lot of foresight. Officers of the department obviously have to look at the establishment of these new types of fishing with a deal of compassion and a deal of foresight. If a reasonable proposal is put up to them, it is no use their just wiping it simply because they are in a Government department.

(Time expired.)

Mr. ROW (Hinchinbrook) (11 p.m.): I have much pleasure in making a contribution to the introductory debate on this Bill, the main purpose of which, as has been stated by previous speakers, is to consolidate the Queensland fishing industry and to put it on a sound commercial basis. Many issues are involved which tend to complicate the processes that have to be undertaken.

At this stage I praise the Minister and his staff in particular for the concerted efforts they have made over quite a considerable period to get the Bill before the Committee in a form that will be most acceptable, as has been indicated by all speakers in this debate so far. I commend those representatives of the Fishermen's Council, the fishing industry in general and the Minister's committee, who have on many occasions conferred and thrashed out the contentious matters. This presentation of legislation for the fishing industry, as a result, has a semblance of some order about it.

I believe that the Queensland fishing industry has tremendous potential in its resources and in the future development of domestic and overseas markets. Our marine products are now being sought in other countries. Recently I joined a group of people from the Pacific and Asian region who were involved in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association seminar which was held in Australian States earlier this year. One gentleman in particular with whom I became friendly is a member of the Upper House of the Parliament of Hong Kong. Among his many business interests, he is an importer. He is very keen to import Queensland marine products for consumption in the vast metropolis of Hong Kong. I was a little concerned that his interest in the Queensland product might be somewhat dampened by our lack of ability to supply great quantities. I am pleased to say that, with the co-operation of the Queensland Fish Board and its officers, I was able to make that gentleman happy and send him away as a potential customer of Queensland. It is also interesting to know that a place such as Hong Kong is very short of fish, fish being one of the principal and traditional diets of the Chinese people.

They are endeavouring to import fish-food products from all over the world. Some of the products that they have found it necessary

to import are not entirely acceptable to them. I am sure that the State of Queensland with its vast resources would have much more acceptable products if we could develop and market them.

I believe that the whole Australian fishing industry could develop very greatly, as has been pointed out by other speakers in the debate, with almost unlimited development in the foreseeable future. I understand from some statistics that have been made available to me that Australia ranks only 55th as a fish-producing country, and as our continent is surrounded by oceans surely we should be able to improve our performance vastly. Surely Queensland could greatly augment the supply of fish and produce a much more stable industry and a stable living for many more Queenslanders than are engaged in the industry at present.

As the honourable member for Isis pointed out, only half of the fish eaten in Australia is produced in Australia; the remainder is imported. He also mentioned that our consumption of fish is not high. I understand that it is between 6 and 8 kg per capita and that the normal consumption in fish-eating nations is almost double that weight. I feel that the Queensland industry should be looking not only at the development of the product or the resources to produce the product but also at the promotion of fish.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. ROW: The honourable member for Bundaberg has made reference in several interjections to Taiwanese fishermen. It is a matter of concern that they have been plundering our resources for many years. One can hardly accuse them of plundering when the industry is open to exploitation simply because we have not developed the resources in order to match their efforts in the harvesting of marine products. Until we develop these resources, it is difficult to point the finger at anybody else or act like a dog in the manger and say that they cannot have the fish even though we cannot catch them. This is another reason why this industry should be developed rapidly. Another thing in Queensland's favour is the Great Barrier Reef running almost the length of the Queensland coastline. Surely it is one of the richest potential harvesting regions and also one of the best marine ecological regions in the world. If we cannot make use of it to advantage we deserve to have it exploited by foreign fishermen.

One of the things that I have observed personally is the obvious depletion of native resources along the coast of Queensland during a period of several generations. On listening to the stories of the old-timers about the quantities of estuarine fish and freshwater fish that existed in our coastal regions, it is amazing to contemplate how the fish have diminished in numbers or have moved because of the habitation of man or for some other reason. It is in the light of this

development that I feel our ecological regions should be considered carefully for preservation so that we do not allow any further depletion of our native resources or as great a diminution in the numbers of fish as has occurred in the comparatively short period of perhaps 40 or 50 years.

Mr. Casey: Do you reckon that the new Lucinda Point jetty will upset the ecology in the area?

Mr. ROW: I would be very quiet about somebody else getting something if my electorate had enjoyed as much free development—it was paid for by the Government—in the way of harbour and marine facilities as the honourable member's electorate has had.

Mr. Burns: Are there any fish in the river at Halifax—the one that's polluted?

Mr. ROW: From tales that I have heard of bygone days, there were things done then that cannot be done now. Apparently people used to row dinghies in those streams and have fish following behind in a solid black line. By river-banks where native trees dropped their fruit into the river, fish were so abundant that they could be scooped out. That cannot be done today. I wonder what happened to those fish. Surely they have not been removed by man. However, for some reason, they are not there any more.

Mr. Casey: Do you think it's pollution?

Mr. ROW: It could well be.

The fishing industry generally was very strongly challenged in a statement made recently by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Sinclair. When speaking at a function in Western Australia he said—

“If Australians do not get out and develop their fishing resources, the Australian Government will be obliged, under the terms of the Draft Law of the Sea Convention, to allow access by distant fishing nations to surplus stocks which it is unable to harvest within the 200 mile zone.”

For so long our resources have been plundered, and now we find that the Australian Government is considering legalising something that we have considered to be objectionable. As a result of this challenge, there has been formed in Western Australia a new organisation known as the Two Hundred Mile Fishing Zone Development Association of Western Australia Inc. Those persons are certainly taking steps to try to avoid a situation in which the Australian Government will find it necessary to allow foreign fishermen to enter the 200 mile zone to fish. Queensland should also consider seriously a similar investigation.

I think that this State must move much faster in improving its marine products industry and resources. Internationally, of

course, as I think the honourable member for Isis mentioned a few moments ago, fish is one of the whole food resources—indeed, the only one—which are based on the natural production of an ecosystem that is relatively undisturbed. When one considers the vastness of the world's oceans and submerged lands, this ecosystem is seen to be relatively untouched. We do not seem to have found the proper means of preserving the small portion of it to which we have access round the shores of our nation, particularly this State. I think there also has to be a very strong awareness of the interdependence of various parts of the ecosystem.

This brings me to a commendation of the clause of the Bill providing for the control of marine parks by the Fisheries Service of this State. I know that this has been a matter of some contention and I am pleased to note from the debate so far that it seems to have been accepted as reasonable to have control of marine parks vested in this portfolio. I believe firmly that the Fisheries Service has contributed more than any other service to the development and preservation of those submerged lands of this State that could be dedicated as marine parks.

I think it is a most reasonable proposal that these marine parks should come under the control of the Queensland Fisheries Service, because surely this is going to be a major element in the preservation of the whole of the ecosystem that relates to fishing. I know it has been claimed that parks are normally regarded as places where the public can enjoy observing the wonders of nature. Although this point must be appreciated, it should not be overdone. I do not think we can simply set aside a whole lot of our valuable resources just for the benefit of nature lovers. Surely if man is to benefit fully from these things, then not only should he be able to observe them but he must also be able to farm some of the resources. I think the only way we will achieve a proper balance in this regard is to have these parks placed under the control of the proper authority, and so I commend this part of the Bill particularly.

There are other domestic considerations in this Bill which I think are only more or less machinery measures, and they have been referred to by other speakers. Undoubtedly the provisions of the Bill relating to scuba fishing will upset a few of our scuba divers, but I believe there is a very fine point to be considered and people who want to indulge this kind of sport should appreciate the fact that they cannot be allowed to just simply go and wipe out whole areas of fish habitats and reefs without being subject to some kind of control.

I also appreciate the licensing provisions of the Bill. I think there are many people who undertook to carry out the requirements of a commercial fishing licence and who found themselves caught by the strict supply requirements of a commercial fishing licence

after having operated simply as an amateur. I think many of these people will be relieved and happy to relinquish their commercial fishing licences and allow them to go to people who are properly equipped to carry out commercial fishing on a full-scale viable basis. These semi-commercial fishermen can now become licensed amateurs and make a very valuable contribution to the fish-supply position without placing themselves under the strain of the stringent supply conditions imposed by a full commercial fishing licence.

There are other provisions in the Bill dealing with entry into dwelling-houses and suchlike. I was concerned a few years ago about some of the Act provisions under which fishing inspectors were able to enter people's homes and create disturbances and dissension. We also had overzealous honorary inspectors, but I think we might have the situation in hand now that we have altered their designation a little. All in all, I believe the Bill is a very worthy one, and as a member of the Minister's committee I am certainly happy to give it my full support.

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (11.19 p.m.): I have very little to say and I will be as brief as possible. The scope of this Bill is very wide because it covers not only fin-fish products generally but also pearling and oyster cultivation. My plea tonight is on behalf of the amateur fisherman. Enough has been said about the professional fisherman, and as one who has spent most of his lifetime in the Moreton Bay area, I feel that the time is due when we should close the estuaries running into Moreton Bay and, in fact, Moreton Bay itself for at least five years to give the fishing grounds a chance to rejuvenate themselves and get back to some semblance of what they were a few years ago.

The close-in fishing grounds have deteriorated to a great extent over the past few years. This has been caused by prawn trawlers operating very close to the shore. We have a one-mile limit on prawn trawling but they are working well within that limit. We are limited in that we have only a certain number of fishing inspectors to police breaches of the Act, and this breaching of the one-mile limit is something which should be strictly policed. If you speak to any amateur line fisherman who spends a week-end, or even a day, fishing in Moreton Bay, especially in the Sandgate area, Mr. Hewitt, he will tell you that he has to work very hard, that the bay has been virtually fished out. That is why I suggest that fishing should be prohibited in estuaries and creeks for at least five years to give the industry a chance to be rejuvenated.

Fifty years ago there was a fish-canning factory on Bribie Island canning mullet. Honourable members will see from that how good the fishing was in Bribie Passage in those days. The factory closed some years ago because of the heavy demands made on the fishing grounds in Bribie Passage.

The Pine River is another area that has been invaded by prawn trawlers. Many of them have been moved from the Brisbane River and they are working the Pine River very intensively. This is causing havoc among the line fishermen. For many years Deepwater Bend on the Pine River was one of the favourite fishing spots for Brisbane people. It is very difficult now for an amateur fisherman to get any sort of a catch at Deepwater Bend, or, for that matter, in the Pine River generally.

The increased penalty mentioned by the Minister does not mean a great deal. We have passed many laws in this place increasing penalties under other Acts, but it is always difficult to enforce them. I do not think that the increased penalties imposed in this instance will have the desired effect.

In his introductory remarks, the Minister mentioned special limited permits. In my opinion they should be very limited indeed, because I have fairly reliable information that many people who have such licences use them only for a pastime or a hobby and are not very particular about the size of the fish that they catch. They are selling these fish. It would not be so bad if they gave them away, but they are selling them. Of course, that is against the interests of the professional fishermen generally.

I think I should put on record that action similar to that which I suggested earlier is also necessary at Tewantin lakes. Some of the lakes are very shallow, and they are now being trawled by prawners. That is destroying another area that is very valuable to line fishermen.

In my opinion, the time has come to take some drastic action. I suppose that the closing of the bay and the estuaries could be called drastic action, but some action must be taken before the line-fishing areas are ruined completely. I remember the time—and it is not so many years ago—when greasy-back prawns used to come into the Shorncliffe area and one could scoop them up by the bucketful. There is no hope of scooping even one prawn up now, because the grounds are worked very intensively.

I ask the Minister again to give very urgent and serious consideration to closing off the bay and the estuaries in it so that some of the past glory of the line fishermen can be restored.

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries) (11.23 p.m.): in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate. I have been very interested in their comments, and I believe they will find that the legislation is worth while.

I was pleased that the Bill received the general support of the Leader of the Opposition. He referred to a matter that he has raised previously—the shortage of fish and

the importation of fish—and it is one of the problems that we face. It is necessary, of course, to feed the people of this State and provide them with a variety of food. I hope that when the legislation takes effect it will lead to greater production of fish in Queensland to meet the needs of a rising market. Of course, fishermen work very hard, and probably Australian fishermen work harder than fishermen anywhere in the world.

Special limited permits have attracted some comment and are very important. Far from being a threat to commercial fishermen, special limited permits will in fact provide a means of regulating supplies and avoiding the shortages to which the honourable gentleman referred earlier. These are permits, not licences. They are permits designed to meet a shortage which is experienced by the Fish Board from time to time. They are limited. They are a special sort of permit. They will be of short duration to meet the needs of the consumers of the State.

We have a commercial fishing industry, but the influx of a great flood of sporting boats that go out to the reef and catch fish which are sold, very often not through the Fish Board, has detracted from the stability of that industry. The commercial fisherman has to pay a \$25 fee, plus organisation fees, survey fees and mooring fees; so it is obvious that he is at some disadvantage compared with someone who does not even have to get a permit. We are providing the machinery to issue special limited permits of a temporary nature to meet the demand and avoid shortages. These permits will be very closely watched so that, if possible, we can create a real balance in the fishing industry. I would hate to see anything injure the commercial fishing industry. On the other hand, because of shortages at times we have to look after Queensland consumers.

The honourable gentleman referred to the 200-mile economic zone. It is a matter of management. This is one of the things that we must interest ourselves in. It will be May 1977 before the matter will be discussed again, at a Law of the Sea Conference. I believe that this will eventually come to be in Australia. I hope it will, and I hope that each State will be able to manage its fishing industry to the 200-mile limit. I believe that by doing so we will overcome some of the problems in that field.

Certainly there is a need for research. I think all honourable members have commented on the need for a research fund. It is something this State has not had. One of the objects of the Bill is to provide a research fund so that we can attract Commonwealth funds as well as our own for research into the resources, processing and all other aspects of the industry for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

The Leader of the Opposition raised the matter of finance for boats and fuel, and referred to what was done in other countries.

Boats are being subsidised now, but they are the larger ones. A prototype vessel is being developed in Queensland and it will probably better serve the interests of fishermen in the Gulf than some of the larger vessels that are over-capitalised. I hope that what is being done by private enterprise and by way of research will provide some means of overcoming the problems associated with fishing in the Gulf. That also applies to the processing side of the industry. It is a little ironical for the Leader of the Opposition to mention fuel subsidy when his own Labor Government removed it.

Mr. Yewdale: What about returning to the fuel subsidy?

Mr. WHARTON: The Federal A.L.P. Government withdrew the former fuel subsidy. I hope in time that it will be reintroduced.

We have carried out some research in the Gulf. We have set out a three-year programme of research. It has been jointly operated by Queensland and Northern Territory departmental officers, in association with representatives of the commercial fishermen and the Queensland and Northern Territory Branches of the A.F.I.C. This research programme will finally determine the position in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The honourable gentleman mentioned the Gulf ports. Karumba is one of the vital fishing areas. I have no doubt that as the research programme gets under way Karumba will expand its part in Queensland's fishing industry.

I am sure that all honourable members accept the provision for dolphins to be kept for public display and entertainment at various places on the coast. This aspect has not been provided for previously and I believe that it will help the tourist industry to expand.

I know that honourable members are concerned about the aquarium industry. The Commonwealth desires to regulate the importation of aquarium fish. I do not think anyone will suffer from such quarantine regulations. It is likely that the restrictions imposed by that Government on the importation of aquarium fish to prevent diseases will be helpful to the local industry by encouraging the breeding of aquarium fish and other types of fish.

Since I became Minister commercial fishermen have had their quota qualification increased by 300 per cent. That is appreciated by them.

The contribution made by the honourable member for Wynnum indicated his keen interest in the fishing industry. He is closely associated with Moreton Bay and has a good, sound knowledge of fish in that area and elsewhere in the State. He spoke of amateur fishermen and professional fishermen working in harmony. That is what we are trying to achieve with this Bill. It provides a place for everybody.

The honourable member also referred to permits. As I said, they will be watched closely to ensure orderly marketing so that Queenslanders and the fishing industry will get along well. If there are too many fish there will be very few permits. Conversely, if we are short of fish there will be some permits in the short term and these will be watched closely. I appreciate the honourable member's comments on the size of fish. This is an important matter. I am sure that we will see good relations between fisheries inspectors and fishing people generally. We must have good relations and if inspectors can guide the industry and the people in it we will get much better results because people will understand the law.

Honourable members generally support the banning of spear fishing with scuba gear. This provision is a step in the right direction. When I discussed this matter with all sections of the industry I did not find anyone who supported spear fishing with scuba gear. The provision was placed in the legislation to facilitate conservation.

Mr. Jensen: What is the difference between line fishing and scuba gear fishing? They will both supply the market if you are short of fish.

Mr. WHARTON: Now that the honourable member has finished his contribution, I point out that the long-range effects of the Bill will be appreciated by the professional fishermen.

The honourable member for Rockhampton North dealt with fish farming. This important method of supplying fish has not been undertaken in Queensland. At Beerwah we have a fish farming project to breed fish. We hope that it will catch on in the numerous dams in the State. If it does so it will do much for Queensland, as it has for other countries. Copies of the regulations have been available lately, but they go back over a long period and I appreciate the difficulty in getting them. I assure the honourable member that the service will provide an up-to-date set of regulations which will be easy to read.

The member for Isis made a worth-while contribution to the debate. He touched on one of the vital aspects of fishing, namely, the marketing of fish products. I have raised that matter with the Fish Board, to which we have appointed a full-time chairman. Research has been conducted into this. A conference of the marketing section will be held after Christmas so that we can get down to the business of establishing the orderly and stabilised marketing of fish in Queensland. A new plant is being installed at Colmslie for the filleting of fish. That, I am sure, will make its contribution.

The honourable member also referred to the economic zone and tuna fishing. That is something we must interest ourselves in.

We cannot leave all these things to somebody else. The moment we are seen not to be doing some of these things ourselves, someone else will do them. The 200-mile economic limit will soon be proclaimed. I believe that Queensland and the other States should at least play their part in taking advantage of that. I inform the Committee that a private enterprise organisation has already shown interest in research in this field. I have no doubt that we, too, will make our contribution so that we can profit from those waters coming under our jurisdiction. I appreciate the contribution of the honourable member for Isis towards the conservation of fish. The points he raised on that subject were very important.

I pay a tribute to the honourable member for Hinchinbrook for his efforts generally and for the assistance he has given in the preparation of this Bill. He understands the facts of the fishing industry and he has made his contribution. I appreciate what he said about marine parks. I make the point that marine parks relate to the land below high-water mark. Naturally, the fishing industry is affected by marine parks, just as wildlife is affected by national parks on the land. I draw that distinction, and I think it will be appreciated that this is appropriate legislation. The honourable member referred to the Taiwanese fishing boats. They do pose a problem, and we are watching it. Patrols are carried out. I think that as time goes on the matter will be better attended to. When the 200-mile economic zone is declared, we will have a greater opportunity to consider the matter.

I appreciate the comments of the honourable member for Sandgate about amateur fishermen. They are important people, and there are a lot of them. Queensland has a population of 2,000,000, and I suppose half of them are amateur fishermen. I appreciate what he has said. I assure the honourable member that I have tried to maintain a balance between the amateur and the professional. I inform the Committee that there is no prawn trawling in Lake Weyba in the Tewantin area. I respect the wishes of the honourable member in that regard and trust that he agrees that we are adopting a balanced attitude there.

In my second-reading speech I will refer to some of the other matters in the Bill in more detail. In the meantime, I thank honourable members for their contributions and I also thank my departmental officers for the time they have spent in assisting to prepare this Bill.

Motion (Mr. Wharton) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Wharton, read a first time.

SAWMILLS LICENSING ACT
AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (11.40 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

It was very pleasing to note that the introduction of this Bill was generally well received and its purpose appreciated by honourable members from both sides of the Chamber. I wish to thank the honourable members for Bundaberg, Isis, Windsor, Cairns, Landsborough, Warwick and Mourilyan for their contributions during the introductory debate.

As I spoke at some length during the Bill's introduction, it should not be necessary for me to go over the same ground again in great detail. However, I do intend to make a few pertinent comments before listening to any points which honourable members may wish to raise now that they have had the opportunity to study the Bill.

The purpose of this Bill, as previously pointed out, is to make statutory provision to increase, by doubling, the maximum penalties for all offences against the Sawmills Licensing Act to bring them into line with present-day money values.

I would remind honourable members that the cardinal principle of the Sawmills Licensing Act is to provide for the stabilisation of the timber industry by the licensing of sawmills and veneer and plywood mills and for other purposes. In endeavouring to achieve this purpose, efforts are made to ensure that log timber supplies in any given area are available to support, over a reasonable period, the maximum productive capacity of licences granted.

It is obvious that the operations of any unlicensed sawmills or the operation of licensed sawmills in excess of the maximum productive capacity granted could place the object of the Sawmills Licensing Act in jeopardy. These operations would also deplete the already inadequate supplies of timber available to the detriment of the long-term interest of the community in general, and industry in particular. Therefore maximum penalties must be sufficiently severe to act as a meaningful deterrent. It is anticipated that the doubling of existing penalties as prescribed in this Bill, will achieve this purpose.

The local forest officer in an area is charged with the responsibility of undertaking periodic inspections of licensed sawmills. His familiarity with the local timber industry ensures the early detection of any unauthorised operations within his general area.

I was pleased to note the interest shown by many of the honourable members in the general welfare of the timber industry in

this State. Honourable members will realise that efforts in the past few years have been made to improve the stability and economics of the timber industry, the most important of these being the implementation of the amalgamation policy and the replacement of the auction sale system with a non-competitive arrangement.

Whilst it is agreed that the amalgamation policy has in some cases meant the closure of country sawmills to the detriment of the local community, it has been instrumental in permitting the build-up of viable sawmilling units so necessary to economic operation. I mention that this policy was well supported by the industry.

The allocation of non-competitive quotas will provide small sawmillers, whose licences have an unrestricted component, and who desire to remain operational, with guaranteed Crown timber supplies or with a value component if amalgamation is proposed.

The resawing and sale of imported sawn timber, although of vital interest to the sawmilling industry, is not a matter which falls within the ambit of the Sawmills Licensing Act. Any action to limit these imports would need to be dealt with under the appropriate statutes.

During the introductory debate the honourable member for Cairns referred to the softwoods agreement. I would like to mention that two Softwood Forestry Agreements Acts have been enacted so far, one in 1967 and the other in 1972. Their main purpose was to provide financial assistance to the States to permit expansion of the softwood planting programme by the State forest services to a total of 23 700 hectares per annum during the five-year period of the first Act and to 22 120 hectares during the five years of the second Act, which terminated on 30 June 1976.

The third agreement is currently being sought by the States but has not yet been finalised. The Commonwealth has agreed to extend assistance a further year to 30 June 1977, during which negotiations of the third Act will be finalised.

A total amount of \$6,000,000 has been allocated to the States for 1976-77, and of this \$1,469,000 has been allocated to Queensland. During the 10-year period of the first two Acts, \$47,000,000 was lent to the States, with Queensland receiving more than \$12,000,000.

I consider the introduction of this Bill both desirable and timely and commend it for favourable consideration.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (11.45 p.m.): The Minister said that the purpose of the Bill was to make statutory provision to increase, by doubling, the maximum penalties for all offences against the Sawmills Licensing Act to bring them into line with present-day money values. That is really all the

Bill is about, although the Minister dealt with other points this evening because they were raised at the introductory stage.

When introducing the Bill the Minister said that the fines prescribed were up to £1,000 in the case of a company and £250 in the case of a person found guilty of erecting and operating a sawmill without a licence. The other penalties were similar. Then he went on to say that magistrates had handed out fines of \$50 to \$75 which, he said, equate roughly with the combined application and renewal fees which an applicant for a sawmill licence would be required to pay under normal circumstances. Although a maximum fine of \$2,000 was prescribed, magistrates have imposed fines of only \$50 to \$75. Now the Minister is doubling fines to make them \$4,000 instead of \$2,000, and \$1,000 instead of \$500, in the hope that magistrates will increase the fines that they impose. I doubt that they will. A few minutes ago the Minister said—

“It is anticipated that by the doubling of existing penalties as prescribed in this Bill, this purpose will be achieved.”

I said at the introductory stage that there should be minimum fines. But the Government does not believe in minimum fines. This Parliament is the highest tribunal in the land, yet the Government says in effect, “We don’t want to tell magistrates what to do. They know what to do.” I say that the Minister will not achieve very much by doubling fines because whilst the maximum fines have been \$2,000 and \$500, fines of only \$50 to \$75 have been imposed. When they are doubled to \$4,000 and \$1,000, fines will be about \$100 or \$150. Will this new provision be adequate? I do not think so.

I am not going to labour the point. I know the Government says that it does not believe in minimum fines. I think that that attitude is completely wrong. This House has the right to say, “There will be a minimum fine of \$100 and a maximum of \$4,000” or, “There will be a minimum fine of \$500.” Magistrates can then determine whether to impose the minimum fine or a fine half way to the maximum. I cannot see why this House should not prescribe a minimum fine. I said at the introductory stage, and I repeat it now, that I do not think the doubling of fines because of inflation will have much effect on the observance of this legislation.

The Minister went on to say—

“... the Sawmills Licensing Act is to provide for the stabilisation of the timber industry by the licensing of sawmills and veneer and plywood mills and for other purposes. In endeavouring to achieve this purpose, efforts are made to ensure that log timber supplies in any given area are available to support, over a reasonable period, the maximum productive capacity of licences granted.”

He said that some sawmills were closing down. He then continued—

“It is obvious that the operations of any unlicensed sawmills or the operation of licensed sawmills in excess of the maximum productive capacity granted could place the object of the Sawmills Licensing Act in jeopardy.”

Many sawmills have been closed down because of lack of capacity, and today the bigger sawmills which bought small country sawmills have now installed the latest machinery in their city sawmills and are using the quotas of those smaller sawmills in those bigger mills. They had to get bigger to make the operation more economic. There are still a few sawmills operating under conditions which applied in the 1960s but they are not economic today because of wage increases and inflation. Their quota is not satisfactory under the present wage structure and it appears that there is no way for them to get an increase in their quota. The Minister has said it is such a serious matter that he has had to double the fines to be imposed on any sawmill found operating outside its licensed quota, and under the present economic conditions there seems to be no chance of those sawmills doubling their quotas.

I hope the Minister will look into some of the cases I have mentioned. I know of one in my area which I will bring to his attention by letter.

The Minister did mention the two softwood forestry agreements of 1967 and 1972, each for a period of five years. The last agreement was supposed to finish in June 1976, but the Minister did say that the Commonwealth had agreed to extend the assistance for a further year to 30 June 1977. He is hoping then we will be able to enter into a third agreement. I hope so, too, because the softwood forestry agreements have done much for our sawmilling industry and the preservation of our timber for the future.

The Minister mentioned that during the 10-year period covered by the first two agreements \$47,000,000 was loaned to the States, of which Queensland received \$12,000,000. This year we will receive nearly \$1,500,000 for softwood planting, but I hope the Minister can negotiate a further agreement with the Commonwealth Government to ensure that the Forestry Department can continue with its good work in the softwood planting programme in Queensland.

Mr. ROW (Hinchinbrook) (11.53 p.m.): I regret that during the introductory debate I was absent on other parliamentary business, so I would now like to make some comments on the Minister’s remarks concerning the re-enactment of the Commonwealth-State Softwood Forestry Agreements Act. I would like to remind the Minister of the protracted representations I have made over many years concerning the reforestation or softwood

planting programme in the Ingham and Kennedy areas in my electorate. I do not want to appear parochial in this respect, but I do not feel I can let this opportunity pass without reminding the Minister of the situation that exists—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I remind the honourable member that this is a second-reading debate and he must restrict his remarks to the Bill. If he had anything of that nature to say, it should have been said during the introductory debate, and as he was not here for that debate, he must confine his remarks to the principles of the Bill.

Mr. ROW: Reference to the agreement has been made in this debate tonight by other speakers, and I wish to remind the Minister that this matter is one of vital concern to certain areas in my electorate. As I understand it, negotiations are pending between the Minister and the Commonwealth Government concerning this matter, and I would like to remind the Minister of its importance.

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (11.54 p.m.), in reply: I would like to thank the honourable members for Bundaberg and Hinchinbrook for their contributions to the debate. The honourable member for Bundaberg again raised the question of minimum penalties. We believe that by raising the maximum penalty we give the magistrate an indication of Government policy and show that we believe in more severe penalties. I do not like to say to magistrates why we have raised the maximum penalty, because they are people of great intelligence who should be able to work it out. I believe that answers the first point raised by the honourable member. He also mentioned that we hope to extend the softwoods agreement. Like him, so do I. If we can, it will assist in very many ways.

The honourable member for Hinchinbrook raised virtually the same question, because he said that if the softwoods agreement can be continued it may be possible to help North Queensland. I do not blame him for saying that, and I think it is fair comment.

As I see the situation, we are dealing with a Federal Government that has extended the softwoods agreement for one year. What it does in the future is, of course, up to it. I attend forestry conferences, and I have done all I can to point out that in the depression years an attempt was made to use the planting of timber on forestry lands as a means of relieving unemployment and that the situation today is very little different. I say to the honourable member for Hinchinbrook that the suggestion he has made will be actively pursued by me.

Generally speaking, the building up of plantation timbers in Queensland certainly has my strong support, because Queensland is a net importer of timber and we must try to correct that situation.

As those were the only two points raised, Mr. Speaker, I shall leave it at that.

Motion (Mr. Tomkins) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 10, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

The House adjourned at 11.58 p.m.