

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 1976**

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**WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 1976**

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

**PAPERS**

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Public Curator for the year 1975-76.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation under the Health Act Amendment Act 1975.

Orders in Council under—

District Courts Act 1967-1976.

City of Brisbane Act 1924-1974.

Forestry Act 1959-1976.

Explosives Act 1952-1975.

Mental Health Act 1974.

Grammar Schools Act 1975 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1975.

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

Regulations under—

Building Units Titles Act 1965-1972.

Business Names Act 1962-1971.

Group Titles Act 1973.

The Recording of Evidence Acts, 1962 to 1968.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1962-1974.

Companies Act 1961-1975.

Mining Act 1968-1976.

Land Act 1962-1975.

Mental Health Act 1974.

Report of the Perpetual Trustees Australia Limited for the year 1975-76.

(A) Proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration as State Forest of:—

(a) The whole of State Forest 456, parish of Ravenshoe, containing an area of about 1.619 hectares; and,

(b) All that piece or part of State Forest 281, parishes of Auckland and Toolooa, described as portion 50, parish of Toolooa, as shown on plan Ctn. 1065, deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General and containing an area of 0.488 hectares; and,

(c) All that piece or part of State Forest 840, parishes of Barns, Bingera, Gregory and Marathon, described as Area 'B' as shown on plan FTY. 856 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 57 hectares; and,

(d) All that piece or part of State Forest 83, parishes of Cherwondah and Conloi, described as portion 68, parish of Cherwondah, as shown on plan Ft. 863 deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General and containing an area of 187.6 hectares; and,

(e) All that piece or part of State Forest 915, parishes of Bidwill, Cowra, Gundiah, Poona, Tahiti and Ulirrah, described as Areas 'A' and 'B' as shown on plan FTY. 797 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 11.6 hectares; and,

(f) All that piece or part of State Forest 190, parish of Rockingham, described as portion 530, parish of Rockingham as shown on plan Cwl. 1623 deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General and Area 'A' as shown on plan FTY. 796 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 60.715 hectares; and,

(g) All that piece or part of State Forest 151, parishes of Haly, Neumgna and Tureen, described as portion 79, parish of Tureen as shown on plan Fy. 2380 deposited in the office of the

Surveyor-General and containing an area of 123.2 hectares; and,

(h) The whole of State Forest 86, parish of Eurimbula, containing an area of about 364.2 hectares—

under the Forestry Act 1959-1976.

(B) A brief explanation of the proposal.

#### QUESTION-TIME

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I wish to advise the House that agreement has been reached between the parties that question-time today will terminate at 12 noon.

#### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

##### 1. PREMIER'S OVERSEAS TOUR

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

(1) What were the reasons for his travel overseas this year?

(2) What specific topics and areas of interest were studied?

(3) When does he intend to report to Parliament on these matters?

(4) On what day did he leave Queensland for overseas and on what day did he return?

(5) What are the details of his movements, with specific reference to cities and towns visited on each of the days spent away?

(6) What persons accompanied him and/or were officially attached to his entourage at any time during his period abroad, for what periods respectively were they so attached and what were the duties of each person?

(7) What was the total expenditure incurred by him and members of his staff in fares, accommodation, other travelling expenses, entertainment expenses and all other expenses charged to the Government during the period from the date of his departure from Queensland until his final return on completion of his overseas tour?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 7) The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition will know that yesterday, in response to an Order of the House, I tabled a Return in the usual form of expenses of Ministers for the financial year 1975-76. No doubt, a similar return will be provided next year for the current 1976-77 financial period. So far as the other items mentioned in his question are concerned, I refer him to the answer I gave the honourable member for Wolston on 7 September last in this regard. No Minister in this Government travels overseas unless

it is on matters of vital and often urgent public business. As I have previously indicated, I see no need to elaborate on this statement of fact in answering parliamentary questions such as this which do not serve the public interest.

## 2. CHANGES IN PERSONAL INCOME TAX SHARING

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

(1) Has he received a communication from the Prime Minister concerning proposed amendments to the Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Bill? If so, what are the proposed amendments and do they satisfy any objections raised by his Government concerning the Bill?

(2) Does his Government totally support all aspects of section 4 of the Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Bill and in particular section 4 (b) (ii)?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. The amendments referred to by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition have been incorporated in the Bill and details are therefore available to him. The Commonwealth Government has either amended the Bill or provided explanations which satisfy the objections raised by my Government.

(2) My Government has no objection to the provisions of clause 4 of the Bill as amended.

## 3. MORETON ISLAND INQUIRY

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

(1) In relation to the Moreton Island Inquiry, are any non-legal advisers attached or seconded to the commission for the full duration of the inquiry? If so, how many are there, who are they, what are their qualifications and what departments or organisations are they from?

(2) What is the total budget of the commission and what is the breakdown of that figure?

*Answers:—*

(1) No non-legal advisers have been attached or seconded to the committee of inquiry.

(2) I have no details as to the total expenditure likely to be incurred by the committee in the course of this inquiry. Prior to appointment of the committee, Cabinet decided that a special allocation, \$30,000, should be included in the Valuer-General's 1976-77 Estimates.

## 4. TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR KENT ST., MARYBOROUGH, OPPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Will he take urgent action to have traffic lights installed forthwith in Kent Street, directly opposite the main entrance of the Maryborough High School, before students are seriously hurt or killed while crossing the road to attend classes in the school classrooms, which are located on both sides of the road?

*Answer:—*

These lights are on a council road, but the Main Roads Department has prepared a design for the council. It is understood the council will proceed with the work as soon as possible.

## 5. ALLEGATIONS OF SEIZURE OF RUM FROM TEACHER AT AURUKUN MISSION

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

(1) Has he seen an article in the "Sunday Sun" of 31 October in which it was stated, inter alia, that two bottles of rum were seized when they arrived by air addressed to a white teacher at Aurukun Mission, that the teacher was threatened that he would be brought before an Aboriginal court, that the headmaster was threatened with arrest if he tried to interfere and that the industrial officer of the Queensland Teachers' Union at Townsville, Mr. John Rockett, who is also a prominent member of the A.L.P., was given certain statutory declarations by teachers that 10 members who are white fear for their safety at the hands of mission officials?

(2) Have any investigations been made into these serious allegations and, particularly, has any investigation been made into the startling allegations that the rum was air-freighted to Aurukun Mission by an agent of the Teachers' Union and that the statutory declarations were prepared by Rockett (and merely signed by the teachers concerned) to provoke racist strife at Aurukun and provide Rockett and the union with a manufactured opportunity to parade themselves as champions of civil liberties in an attempt to rehabilitate themselves with the teachers who were sold down the river by Rockett and the union in the recent teachers' strike over the pot smokers and, if so, will the Minister fully inform the House on this aspect of the matter?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Yes; my attention has been drawn to the report in the "Sunday Sun" concerning two bottles of rum addressed and forwarded by air transport to a teacher employed by my department who is presently working as a teacher at the Aurukun Mission.

As the honourable member knows, the Aurukun Mission, by a decision of the Aboriginal people at the mission, is dry, and alcohol is not permitted. In point of fact, the matter of the confiscation of the rum and the possibility of the teacher being in trouble because of it were investigated by my department even prior to the publication of the report in the "Sunday Sun".

At considerable cost, an inspector from the Townsville Education Region was flown into Aurukun to investigate the matter and to ensure that the rights of the teacher were protected. Although it was found impossible at that stage to discover who was responsible for dispatching the rum, the inspector was successful in satisfying all concerned that nothing was to be gained from blowing up the situation out of proportion.

However, after the inspector left, Mr. John Rockett, industrial officer of the Queensland Teachers' Union stationed at Townsville, flew into Aurukun, not merely once, but in and out on two separate days, no doubt at the expense of union members.

Our investigations suggest that Mr. Rockett made it his business to stir up as much trouble and ill feeling as he could, and then issued a Press statement charging my department with failure to protect its teachers. I have to inform the honourable member, and this House, that at this time, although the investigation is continuing, there is still no positive evidence of how the bottles of rum came to be rocketed to Aurukun in the first place. Nevertheless, I can well understand the honourable member's concern at the actions and statements made by Mr. Rockett of the Q.T.U. and can assure the honourable member and this House that the apparent priorities of the present executive of the Q.T.U.—priorities which include the defence of the illegal uses of drugs and alcohol, as well as the deliberate disruption of the work of teachers and schools generally—are of deep concern to parents throughout the State.

#### 6. PRISON OFFICERS AT H.M. PRISON, BRISBANE

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

(1) How many prison officers were employed at Brisbane Prison on 1 July 1972 and how many prisoners of all categories were held there?

(2) How many prison officers are employed at Brisbane Prison at present and how many prisoners in all categories are held there?

(3) Do prison officers have their own catering and kitchen staff, as distinct from the prison kitchen and catering staff which is drawn mainly from prisoners?

(4) Are prison officers provided with a hot three-course meal of excellent quality and abundant quantity for 31c?

(5) Is one of the chief trouble-makers among the officers known to be a homosexual who openly kisses prisoners and other staff members and, if so, is this considered to be part of some plan of rehabilitation and, if it is, what is it hoped to achieve?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) At 1 July 1972 a total of 187 prison officers were employed at Brisbane Prison, made up of 172 males and 15 females. As of yesterday, the officer strength at the prison had risen to 301, made up of 281 males and 20 females. The number of prisoners in custody at the prison at 1 July 1972 was 603—571 males and 32 females. The total yesterday stood at 589, made up of 559 males and 30 females.

(3) No. However, the officers' mess is separate from the prisoners' mess and is supervised by a security officer.

(4) The prison officers at Brisbane Prison are provided with an adequate two-course meal for 31c.

(5) No.

#### 7. COUNTRY PEOPLE DENIED DAILY NEWSPAPERS

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

(1) Is he aware that certain trade union officials, acting as they did in the recent power strike, are again persecuting the country people of Queensland by refusing to allow daily papers to be made available to them and are using their typical cowardly, contemptible tactics to enforce their arrogant action by threatening a confrontation between the trade union movement and the Government if any action is taken to put the country people on the same basis as the Brisbane people?

(2) If so, in the interests of justice and equality for all Queenslanders, will the Government take immediate and the strongest possible action to expose these Queen Street Al Capones for what they really are?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I do not consider the ban placed on the transport of newspapers to the country areas of Queensland as being in the nature of an industrial dispute. It is a secondary boycott. In these circumstances, I consider that it would be quite proper for the Government to lift the immunity from civil action which presently applies to the unions and unionists who have placed these bans.

8. OVERSEAS TOUR BY MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

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

(1) What were the reasons for his travel overseas this year?

(2) What specific topics and areas of interest were studied?

(3) When does he intend to report to Parliament on these matters?

(4) On what day did he leave Queensland for overseas and on what day did he return?

(5) What are the details of his movements, with specific reference to cities and towns visited on each of the days spent away?

(6) What persons accompanied him and/or were officially attached to his entourage at any time during his period abroad, for what periods respectively were they so attached and what were the duties of each person?

(7) What was the total expenditure incurred by him and members of his staff in fares, accommodation, other travelling expenses, entertainment expenses and all other expenses charged to the Government during the period from the date of his departure from Queensland until his final return on completion of his overseas tour?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 7) A report on my recent overseas visit has been presented to Cabinet. Expenditure on the visit will be presented when my ministerial expenditure for the year is tabled at the appropriate time.

9. NEED FOR OVERHEAD LIGHTING AT INTERSECTION, OLD CLEVELAND ROAD, CAPALABA

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

(1) Is he aware of the serious traffic hazard caused by lack of overhead lighting at the intersection of Old Cleveland Road with Victoria Point and Mount Cotton Roads, Capalaba?

(2) Has his department any plans to light this dangerous intersection and, if so, when will the work be carried out?

*Answers:—*

(1) This is a very difficult and costly intersection to light, owing to the heavy concentration of services in this area, but the importance of the lighting is recognised.

(2) Plans are being prepared but much detailed work has still to be completed. It is hoped to programme the work next financial year.

10. REZONING OF RESIDENTIAL ALLOTMENTS, MORETON ISLAND

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

(1) Is he aware that the new Brisbane Town Plan has zoned land on Moreton Island, previously sold by the Lands Department as residential home allotments, as open space?

(2) Will the owners be permitted to build on these allotments and, if not, will they be compensated by the Brisbane City Council?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. It appears that several residential-sized allotments on Moreton Island are included in the existing and proposed open space zones under the modified town plan for the city of Brisbane that was recently on public exhibition, whilst other similar allotments on the island are included in the non-urban zone. I understand that a number of objections were lodged with the Brisbane City Council against these proposed zonings.

The City of Brisbane Town Plan Modification Act 1976 requires the council to forward the modified town plan, all objections thereto and its representations thereon to me and the final decision on the town plan is a matter for the Governor in Council. I can assure the honourable member that all objections duly lodged with the council will receive full consideration before the plan is submitted to the Governor in Council.

(2) I am advised that the modified town plan, as exhibited, provides that the erection of dwelling-houses is a prohibited use of land in the existing and proposed open space zones. The City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964–1975 provides that an owner of land that is included in a proposed open space zone or an existing open space zone has a right to claim

compensation from the council for injurious affection to the land concerned in the circumstances set out in section 13 of the Act.

11. EFFECT OF ABOLITION OF DEATH  
DUTIES ON CASE BEFORE GRANTS  
COMMISSION

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

(1) As it has been announced that Queensland has been successful in its application to the Australian Grants Commission and legislation has already been put through the Commonwealth Parliament authorising a further \$18,000,000 on top of the \$9,000,000 previously granted to this Government and as it had been suggested that if Queensland abolished death duties our case to the Grants Commission would be considerably weakened, has the abolition of death duties in any way prejudiced his Government's case?

(2) Is it possible for any Government policy, such as the abolition of taxes, to affect any State's application to the Grants Commission?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The methods adopted by the Grants Commission in determining the financial needs of a claimant State ensure that the size of the recommended grant is not affected by policy decisions taken by a claimant State, such as the abolition of death duties in this State. In other words, under the methods used by the Grants Commission, the amounts of grant recommended for Queensland in future years will be no less than they would be if death duties had been retained in this State or even increased.

12. REGISTRATION OF PLUMBERS'  
ASSISTANTS

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

(1) Is he aware that, even though plumbers' assistants have had from five to 19 years working with registered plumbers, it is impossible for them to be registered?

(2) As such periods of experience would be sufficient qualification for registration in New South Wales, will he instigate legislation to correct this anomaly?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am aware that the Sewerage and Water Supply Act 1949-1974 provides that

it is an offence, in Queensland, for a person to perform any work governed by the provisions of—

(a) The Standard Sewerage By-laws, or

(b) The Standard Water Supply By-laws unless at that time he is the holder of a licence or interim licence which entitles him under that Act to perform that work, or unless he is an apprentice and performs such work under the direct supervision of a person holding an appropriate licence or interim licence.

(2) However, section 12 (6) of the Act empowers the Plumbers and Drainers Examination and Licensing Board in the case of hardship to grant a licence to a person who, by reason of experience and/or examination, satisfies the Board that he is qualified to hold a licence.

I am prepared to obtain a copy of the New South Wales legislation referred to, for comparison with the Queensland Act, and obtain the advice of the Plumbers and Drainers Examination and Licensing Board thereon.

13. BRUCELLOSIS TESTING PROGRAMME;  
SOUTH BURNETT DISTRICT

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

(1) How far advanced is the brucellosis testing programme in various areas in Queensland?

(2) When is the programme likely to be completed?

(3) When is testing likely to commence in the South Burnett district?

*Answers:—*

(1) The brucellosis eradication programme officially commenced with the gazettal of the Queensland bovine brucellosis protected area on 27 October 1976. The area comprises a large area of north-eastern Queensland from Proserpine Shire north. Eradication was preceded by a brucellosis survey of beef and dairy herds over a period of three years. This has defined prevalence of the disease in most areas of the State and has identified infected herds. The results show that much of the State has a low prevalence, the exceptions being the Far South-west, the Brigalow Development Scheme and the Brisbane milk supply area.

(2) The eradication programme is scheduled to result in provisional freedom of the State by 1983-84, but this depends to some extent on the economic revival of the cattle industries.

(3) Eradication testing is scheduled to commence in the South Burnett in 1979. Testing of stud herds undergoing accreditation has already commenced and there is some possibility of commencing eradication testing of dairy herds prior to 1979.

#### 14. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

(1) When was the Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs created and who are its members?

(2) On what dates has the council met and what recommendations have come from the meetings?

(3) For how long is each member appointed and what guide-lines were set for appointment?

(4) Will the council be compiling any report and, if so, will it be tabled in Parliament?

*Answers:—*

(1) Cabinet approval for the establishment of a Cultural Advisory Council was given on 27 July 1976. The following appointments were made by Cabinet on 25 October 1976:—

Chairman:

**Mr. W. L. Hamilton**, B.Econ., B.Ed.(Qld), M.Ed.(Alta.), Deputy Director-General of Education.

Members:

**Mr. A. Martinuzzi**, Chairman of Directors, North Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

**Mrs. C. W. Bosly**, State President, Queensland Arts Council.

**Mr. G. Littlewood**, Corporate Affairs Manager—Queensland, Comalco Ltd.

**Professor K. W. Ryan**, Ph.D.(Camb.), B.A., LL.B., Faculty of Law, University of Queensland.

**The Very Rev. John Bayton**, Dean of Rockhampton.

**Mr. W. R. J. Riddel**, O.B.E., Managing Director, McDonnell & East.

**Mr. R. J. C. O'Loan**, M.B.E., Managing Director, David Jones (Brisbane) Ltd.

**Mrs. R. R. Thomas**, B.Sc., Director, Garowie Gallery, Ipswich; Secretary, Ipswich Cultural Centre.

**Mr. R. K. Boughen**, M.Mus., F.T.C., L.R.S.M., Cathedral Organist.

(2) The first meeting of the Queensland Cultural Advisory Council has been arranged for 25 November 1976.

(3) Appointments are for a period of three years. The members were recommended because of their involvement with associated fields of the arts, including art education and arts administration, or with law, finance, management or other areas associated with the promotion and administration of cultural activities.

(4) The chief function of the council will be to advise and make recommendations to me and to the Director of Cultural Activities. It is not anticipated that the council will be required to compile a report separate from my annual report.

#### 15. PRE-SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

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

(1) How many State pre-schools are in existence at present?

(2) How many qualified pre-school teachers are attached to these schools?

(3) How many teacher aides are employed at the pre-schools?

(4) How many vacancies exist in the new academic year for pre-school teachers?

(5) How many pre-school teachers are expected to graduate from the Kindergarten Teachers' Training College this year?

(6) If there is a surplus of teachers from the training college, what proposals does the Government plan to implement to offer them teaching positions?

(7) Will some graduates be appointed to class VI, V and IV schools and will they be required to teach grades 1 and 2 as well as pre-school children?

*Answers:—*

(1) There are presently 239 State pre-school centres comprising 347 units operating throughout Queensland. In addition a pre-school correspondence programme caters for an enrolment of some 800 children living in isolated areas; special pre-school facilities for handicapped children operate in most major centres; pre-school services operate in three major children's hospitals and pre-school enrolments have been integrated into 19 small rural schools on a pilot basis.

(2) The department presently employs 500 qualified pre-school teachers to provide the above services.

(3) 347 teacher aides are presently employed in State Government pre-schools.

(4) It is proposed to employ a total of 580 State pre-school teachers for the commencement of the 1977 school year.

(5) The Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers' College has advised that there are 134 students undertaking the third year of their course in 1976.

(6) Because the demands of the community kindergarten sector are neither known nor controlled by the Department of Education, it is not possible to ascertain whether or not a surplus of teachers will graduate from the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers' College this year. However, the Department of Education will employ all State scholarship holders graduating from the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers' College this year. Furthermore, employment will be offered to a number of non-bonded graduates within planned departmental needs and related budget control limits.

(7) A small number of teachers with appropriate qualifications in early childhood education may be employed in class IV schools to work with integrated classes of pre-school and lower primary school children.

#### 16. RAIL FREIGHTS FOR NORTH QUEENSLAND FRUIT GROWERS

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

Will he grant rail-freight adjustments to the current Budget rail-freight increases for North Queensland fruit growers similar to those granted to the growers following the 1975-76 budgetary rail-freight increases?

*Answer:—*

I shall be only too pleased to examine any proposal which might be forthcoming in this regard.

#### 17. WEEKLY TICKETS ON CO-ORDINATED BUS AND RAIL SERVICE, REDCLIFFE-BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware that weekly tickets sold on the co-ordinated bus and rail service from Redcliffe to Brisbane can be used only on five days a week for travel on the bus but can be used for six days on the train?

(2) As this means that anyone who works a six-day week must buy an extra bus ticket for that day, did his department agree to this and, if so, for what reasons?

(3) If his department was not consulted, will he take steps to rectify the situation, which is an imposition on the people of Redcliffe who use the co-ordinated service?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) Because of the considerably increased costs incurred in the payment of penalty rates at week-ends, the bus proprietor sought to be relieved of the obligation to allow travel at concessional fares on Saturdays and Sundays. His request was approved and the availability of multi-trip weeklies for bus travel restricted to one return journey five days per week, Monday to Friday, inclusive.

The right applying generally throughout the suburban area of unlimited use for rail travel seven days per week of multi-trip weekly tickets has not been disturbed so far as travellers from Redcliffe are concerned.

I would add that the arrangement approved in this instance is not peculiar to the Redcliffe Peninsula Co-ordinated Passenger Service.

#### 18. RESOURCES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO COUNTER DISASTERS

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

As the State Counter-Disaster Organization Act states that local authorities shall use, as prescribed or so far as not prescribed as the Minister determines, for counter-disaster purposes the resources of the combined local authorities and resources made available to them for those purposes, what resources does the Government make available to local authorities?

*Answer:—*

I thank the honourable member for his interest in this matter. The State has provided vehicles, flood boats and emergency rescue trailers equipped with lighting plants, chain saws, lifting and pulling machines, rescue sets hydraulic, and several lesser items of equipment to local authorities. In relation to radio equipment, for example, this financial year provision is made to purchase communication equipment for Townsville, Cairns, Roma, Mt. Isa, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Gympie, Toowoomba and Southport and to install communication equipment in Townsville, Cairns, Mt. Isa, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Roma, Gladstone, Brisbane, Cooktown, Julia Creek, Charleville, Longreach, Barcaldine, Normanton, Blackall, Burketown, Texas, Inglewood, Tully, Kingaroy and Buchan's Point. Also, under a Commonwealth-State agreement, provision is made for equipment to be supplied to local authorities.

In addition, upon the declaration of a state of disaster, the chairman of the central control group under paragraph 25 (a) (ii) of the State Counter-Disaster Organization Act 1975, "may direct that the resources of the Government of the State and other resources that he considers necessary to relieve the effect of the disaster be made available".

#### 19. COMPENSATION FOR FINANCIAL LOSSES THROUGH UNLAWFUL STRIKES

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

(1) Is Queensland the only State in Australia which bestows immunity on unions and union members from court action by persons and/or organisations in the community who suffer financial losses as a result of unlawful strikes?

(2) If so, will he legislate to overcome this anomaly where the industrial laws favour the unions only in unlawful disputes?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Queensland is the only State that has adopted the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act 1906 of the United Kingdom, in that Sections 70, 71 and 72 of the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act grant immunity from actions in tort to trade unions.

However, I point out that the States of Victoria and Tasmania do not have a system of industrial conciliation and arbitration with a State industrial tribunal and registration of unions thereunder. In the case of New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia, where actions in tort are available against trade unions, such actions are very seldom used.

Under Section 72A of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Governor in Council can suspend those provisions of the Act that give immunity to unions from actions in tort.

I prefer to see industrial disputes settled in industrial jurisdiction, not civil jurisdiction; but I cannot regard the secondary boycotts now being imposed on the transport of newspapers to the country areas of Queensland as being in the nature of a genuine industrial dispute and, if this secondary boycott continues, there may be justification for invoking Section 72A.

#### 20. PRINTING DISPUTE, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Is he aware that, because of a strike at "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" by members of the Printing and Kindred Industries Union, there has been no newspaper printed in Townsville for the past five weeks?

(2) Is he aware that, at a compulsory conference between the employers and the Printing Union on 26 October last, Commissioner Birch directed the men to return to work in the public interest?

(3) As the men have ignored the direction to return to work, is the union acting in contempt of a direction of the commission and should not the union registration be suspended also?

(4) What action can he take to direct that a secret ballot be taken by the members of the union at Townsville as to whether they want to return to work, bearing in mind that at other centres in Queensland where secret ballots have been held the majority of the men have voted to return to work?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am aware that an industrial dispute exists between the Printing and Kindred Industries Union and the Regional Dailies of Australia Limited (Queensland Division). This dispute also involves "The Townsville Daily Bulletin". A log of claims was served by the union upon the employer and the major item unresolved is an increase in annual leave from four to five weeks.

(2) On 26 October 1976, Industrial Commissioner Birch, following two previous conferences at which conciliation did not succeed, summoned the parties into compulsory conference and, among other things, pointed out to the union that five weeks' leave would be a matter for the Full Bench of the Commission and any claim could be arbitrated at a relatively early date. When no agreement could be reached, the commission, in the public interest, directed the members of the union to lift all bans and limitations and return to work in accordance with the registered industrial agreement.

(3) The union, and those members thereof who have not returned to work, have contravened an order of the commission and it would be open for the employer to proceed in the Industrial Court against the union and those members who remain on strike. I am advised that, with respect to deregistration of the P.K.I.U., insufficient basis would exist at this stage to mount a successful application for deregistration or suspension of registration.

(4) I do not have power under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to direct that a secret ballot be taken of P.K.I.U. members employed by "The Townsville Daily Bulletin". However, if no fewer than 20 per cent of the employees of "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" applied to the Industrial Commission for a secret ballot, then it would be mandatory for the commission to direct the Industrial Registrar or an industrial magistrate to conduct the ballot. Alternatively, it would be competent for the employer to ask the commission to exercise the discretion it possesses and direct that a ballot be taken. However, it appears from Press reports today that the union has recommended to all its members employed by regional daily newspapers in Queensland that they return to work and arbitration will be sought on the claim for five weeks' leave.

21. INJURIES AND DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTS AT ROMA STREET RAILWAY GOODS YARD

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

(1) What is the number of deaths caused by accidents to workers in the Roma Street Goods Yard and what were the causes of the deaths and the date on which each took place?

(2) What is the number of injuries serious or otherwise caused by accident and what was the cause of each accident, the nature of the injuries and the date on which each took place?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I would ask the honourable member to repeat his question on Tuesday next, 16 November.

22. ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER COMMISSION

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

(1) When was the Aboriginal and Islander Commission created and who are its members?

(2) On what dates has the commission met and what recommendations have come from the meetings?

(3) For how long is each member appointed and what guide-lines were set for appointment?

(4) Will the commission be compiling any reports and, if so, will they be tabled in Parliament?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The honourable member is informed that although proposals are being considered, an Aboriginal and Islander Commission has not as yet been established or created.

23. ABORIGINAL RELICS PROSECUTIONS

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

(1) How many prosecutions have been instituted under the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act since its inception?

(2) What were the outcomes of the prosecutions and what penalties were imposed?

(3) What were the costs of instituting the prosecutions?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The purpose of the Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act is the protection, preservation and conservation of Aboriginal relics. The function of its administration is to educate citizens in this rich cultural heritage and to seek their willing co-operation in safeguarding and respecting it.

To achieve this the Government has established an Archaeological Branch staffed by professional archaeologists as well as the unique Aboriginal Ranger Service wholly composed of Aboriginal officers devoted to the location of relics, their protection and public education.

An honorary warden structure has been created numbering 290 active wardens who assist in the location, recording and protection of relics. Wardens are given and take the opportunity to attend training programmes designed to assist them.

It has been regrettably necessary to launch two prosecutions, which were successful. Fines of \$200 were imposed. Any costs were in the normal course of administration of the Police and Justice Departments. Details are not readily available.

24. ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT ALLOWANCES

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

(1) Is a family on an income in excess of \$2,983 per annum not eligible for student allowance for a child attending grade 10 schooling?

(2) Is it correct that husband and wife invalid pensioners who are receiving allowances for one child and who have a combined income of \$3,061 per annum are not eligible for the student allowance?

(3) Does he realise the financial hardships being experienced by such families in trying to educate a child?

(4) Will he review and consider increasing this means test to permit such families and other families similarly affected to receive student allowances?

*Answers:—*

(1) Parents with one child who live in the eastern part of the southern half of Queensland with an income in excess of \$2,983 per annum are not eligible for the student allowance.

(2) Except for those domiciled in the western area of the northern half of Queensland, a family with one child with a combined income of \$3,061 per annum is not eligible for the allowance.

(3) The hardship being experienced by low-income families with the education of their children is appreciated.

(4) The matter is under investigation in an attempt to assist those families which are experiencing financial hardship.

#### 25. CONTROL OF MOSQUITO PROBLEM IN BRISBANE

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

(1) Has the Queensland Government rejected a proposal to find the best way to control the mosquito nuisance in the Brisbane region, as suggested in reports by Professor Kettle of the Queensland University?

(2) In view of the concern of people in the Brisbane residential suburbs of Nundah, Hamilton, Ascot, Clayfield and New Farm regarding the nuisance, what action can be taken to alleviate the problem?

*Answers:—*

(1) A request was received from the Local Government Association of Queensland that the Government gives some financial assistance towards the cost of research into the control of biting midges. In an effort to find out what the cost of research into the control of biting insects—mosquitoes and sandflies—might be, Professor Kettle was asked to set out what scientific staff, materials and costs, etc.

would be involved. Professor Kettle was aware that no commitment to finance such a scientific unit was involved. After consideration of the likely costs of the research programme and the likely length of time the research would take, the Local Government Association of Queensland was informed that it was not possible to assist financially with a research programme into the control of biting midges.

(2) The control of biting insects—mosquitoes and sandflies—is considered to be a local authority responsibility.

#### 26. NEW PORT OF BRISBANE; PLAN AND CALLING OF TENDERS

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

(1) With reference to his recent Press statement announcing the calling of tenders worth more than \$10,000,000 for the building of a causeway and bridge across the Boat Passage and also for the supply of a container crane and for 5 000 tonnes of steel piling for wharf construction at the new Brisbane Port site, why has this action been taken prior to the setting up of the Port of Brisbane Authority and the appointment of the commissioners, who will have long-term responsibility for the establishment of the port and policy direction in the future?

(2) In respect of the master plan for the development of the port referred to in his speech in this House recently, what is the name of the firm of consultants responsible for the preparation of this plan and what was its cost to the Government?

(3) Is it intended to make this public so that it can be examined by interested parties, including the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development?

(4) Have all the provisions of the master plan been approved by Cabinet and, if so, does this approval pre-empt any future decision of the Port of Brisbane Authority?

*Answers:—*

(1) In view of the significant delay in the passing of the Port of Brisbane Authority Act by this House, shipping companies have expressed deep concern that modern port facilities will not be available on time to service the larger container vessels expected to use the port in the near future. With this in mind, and being aware that the Port of Brisbane Authority Act authorises the construction of a causeway and bridge across the Boat Passage, Cabinet recently decided to proceed with the calling of tenders for the works mentioned by the honourable member.

The tenders when received will be considered by the port authority and that authority's recommendations on the tenders will be considered by Cabinet, together with the authority's advices on cash flow to support the viability of the proposed developments.

(2) The master plan for the port was prepared by Rendel and Partners, consulting engineers of Brisbane. The plan was not financed by the Government but its cost of \$617,000 was met from Port of Brisbane Harbours Corporation funds.

(3 and 4) When the port authority takes office, the master plan will be entrusted to that authority for its consideration and implementation as it sees fit in accordance with established procedures for harbour authority developments requiring loan raising. The extent to which the report is made public will be a matter for the authority, but established procedures would call for close liaison with other Government and semi-Government agencies and port users on matters of importance to them.

27. NEED FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS IF STOP SIGN RULE CHANGED

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

(1) Has he seen recent Press reports wherein Brisbane City Council Alderman Ardill stated that the council would face a \$3,000,000 bill for new traffic lights if the Government changes the purpose of stop signs?

(2) Has he received any detailed submission to this effect from the council?

(3) Can he see any way in which a change of status of stop signs would necessitate their replacement by traffic lights?

(4) Who are the suppliers of traffic lights and associated equipment to the council, and does he have any information as to the extent of expenditure by the council for this equipment in recent years?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) Yes. One such instance could be at intersections where four-way "Stop" signs are now provided. It may also be necessary to signalise additional intersections in some areas to cope with motorists' changing driving habits following the erection of more "Stop" or "Give Way" signs on side roads to improve traffic flow on major arterial roads.

(4) I am unaware of the name of the suppliers of traffic lights and associated equipment to the Brisbane City Council; nor have I any information as to the extent of any expenditure by the council on such equipment.

28. SPECIAL DELIVERY OF DAILY NEWSPAPERS TO COUNTRY AREAS DURING BAN

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

(1) As people living in Central Queensland have been denied the local morning newspaper and a black ban has been placed on the delivery of country editions of "The Courier-Mail", the "Telegraph" and "The Australian", what action has been taken by him to have newspapers delivered to country areas.

(2) Will he take appropriate action to ensure that country people receive a paper, as they have suffered enough owing to depressed markets and are now suffering a lack of communication?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I do not consider the ban placed upon the transport of newspapers to the country areas of Queensland as being in the nature of an industrial dispute. It is a secondary boycott. In these circumstances I consider it would be quite proper for the Government to lift the immunity from civil action which presently applies to the unions and unionists that have placed these bans.

29. RACING NEWS FOR COUNTRY PUNTERS DURING BLACK BAN

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

(1) As country people are being denied all newspapers and the printers' strike which is supported by the Australian Labor Party shows no sign of being called off, will he take action to see that typed sheets giving the names of horses and jockeys in races in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne are displayed in country T.A.B. agencies for the benefit of thousands of T.A.B. investors?

(2) What is the estimated loss of revenue to the T.A.B. due to the black ban on all country newspapers?

Answers:—

(1) Official typed sheets showing the T.A.B. number of horses, the names of those horses, the weights involved, the race distance and the anticipated track conditions are being displayed in all agencies. Unfortunately, it is not practicable to include the names of the various jockeys as these are not available at the time of the issue of the race sheets.

(2) The loss of revenue resulting from the strike cannot be estimated at this stage.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE, ALUMINA REFINERY, GLADSTONE

**Mr. BYRNE:** I ask the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs: In view of the serious economic and social disruption caused at Gladstone because of the recent industrial strife there, will he explain to the House the present situation obtaining there and whether industrial peace can be expected to be maintained? Will he also tell the House what stand the honourable member for Port Curtis took on this dispute?

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** Naturally, I am pleased that common sense has at last prevailed and that the employees of Queensland Alumina Limited at Gladstone have decided to return to work. I have faith in the ultimate resolution of this dispute now that the negotiations have been handed back to the State secretaries of the four unions involved. I am sure that those officials, in their consultations with Queensland Alumina Limited, will be able to reconcile the differences that now exist.

As to the latter portion of the member's question—I would be interested to hear from the honourable member for Port Curtis about his activities in this dispute. I would like him to deny suggestions that have been put to me that his actions in the dispute tended to hamper the resolution of the problem rather than assist.

##### INCREASES IN LENDING RATES OF BUILDING SOCIETIES

**Mr. HOUSTON:** In asking a question of the Premier, I draw his attention to a report in yesterday's "Sydney Morning Herald" that the Australian savings bond interest rate is expected to rise again today, by 0.3 per cent to 9.8 per cent. I now ask: Will such a rise mean the investment rate for building societies, increased only two days ago, will undergo a similar rise, almost certainly pushing up lending rates still further?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** What did the honourable member want to know?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I asked first of all whether the Premier read yesterday's "Sydney Morning Herald".

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Yes.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** What I want to know is whether this increase in bond rate will cause a further increase in the rate charged by building societies to those borrowing money from them.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Of course, I cannot disclose any information of that nature to the honourable member or to the public generally in this way.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I have a supplementary question: I quite often find that the Premier refuses to give me information on important matters, but would he mind giving the public of Queensland that information, particularly those who have borrowed money through housing societies?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I would have to give the honourable member the same reply.

##### DARWIN CYCLONE "TRACY" RELIEF TRUST FUND

**Mr. CASEY:** I ask the Premier: Has he seen articles in this morning's Press in which Major-General Alan Stretton has alleged that all was not well with the distribution of the Darwin cyclone "Tracy" relief trust funds? As most of the Queensland donations towards the people of Darwin went through the Premier's fund in Queensland, has he been given a copy of this report and is he convinced that the Queensland money was used properly and, if not, is it possible for him to obtain a copy of the report, examine it and have it tabled in this House?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I am not aware of the information outlined by the honourable member. I do not think that a report or any information has been given to my department.

Queenslanders did donate a great deal of money for this purpose. Naturally it was passed on to the Federal Minister at the time. We believe that he would have had it distributed in a fair and just way. To what extent this has applied to Queensland money is something on which I cannot advise the honourable member at the moment. It might be possible for me to obtain some information as to the way in which the Queensland money was used.

##### DISTINCTIVE NUMBER PLATES FOR QUEENSLAND MOTOR VEHICLES

**Mr. LESTER:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: Will he be kind enough to introduce to this State coloured reflectorised number-plates depicting Queensland as the tourist State?

**Mr. HINZE:** Whether he is walking backwards to Toowoomba or coming forward with a proposal for a special flag of various colours or the introduction of special number-plates, the originality of the honourable member for Belyando never ceases to amaze me. Frankly, such brilliance deserves recognition. I certainly propose to take notice of this original thought and I will make the necessary representations at the next conference of the Australian Transport Advisory Council. Obviously, if the proposal is accepted we will allow sufficient space on the plates to show that they are the result of an original thought emanating from the honourable member for Belyando, Mr. Vincent Lester, M.L.A. 1974 ad infinitum.

**THREATENED SUING OF MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY**

**Mr. LESTER:** I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: Has he read in recent Central Queensland newspapers that some people there are threatening to sue him?

**Mr. CAMM:** It has been brought to my notice that some people on the Central Queensland gem-fields feel that they are entitled to some redress. This matter is being investigated at the present time. I can assure the honourable member that the regulations dealing with the gem-fields were brought in to protect the interests of small miners and tourists who visit the area. If there are some big miners who endeavour to beat the regulations by pegging in restricted areas, they certainly will not have those leases granted or those claims recognised.

**PROPOSED BACHELOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE, KELVIN GROVE COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION**

**Mr. LAMONT:** I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities: With reference to the proposed Bachelor of Education Degree being offered at the Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education in 1977, can he assure the House that this less academic degree will not be confused with the academic Bachelor of Education Degree of the University of Queensland? If confusion is likely to occur, will the Bachelor of Education graduate from the University of Queensland be entitled to change the name of his degree to that of Bachelor of Educational Studies so that no confusion will arise?

**Mr. BIRD:** I am not aware of how much, if any, confusion does exist on this subject. I should have thought that the honourable member would have placed this question on notice so that I could ascertain the amount of confusion that exists, but I will have the matter investigated to find out how much confusion there is and whether action to overcome such confusion is necessary.

**SAWMILLS LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

**THIRD READING**

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

**COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES**

**REFERRAL OF COMPULSORY LEVIES ON SALARIES OF CERTAIN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth):** I move—

“That the matter raised on 9 November by Mr. Jensen, the 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.”

Motion agreed to.

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**CHRISTIAN CONCERN OR POLITICAL BIAS**

**Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12.2 p.m.):** It is very apparent that the strongest criticism is reserved for those people who dare to question the motives of self-styled “concerned Christians”—a group of people whose actions, whatever may have been intended, sustain and promote Left-wing aims and A.L.P. endeavours.

A fortnight ago I spoke of Action for World Development—A.W.D.—which is an offshoot of the World Council of Churches, and this latter body tries to appear as the authentic voice of world ecumenical Christianity. I have no doubt that as such it influences those who hold themselves out to be practising Christians. But I wonder how many people know that the World Council of Churches was initiated in 1948 by the United States National Council of Churches, which was a body that already had, on its own published material, a long record of promoting Communist aims, including clemency for convicted spies, and of opposing loyalty oaths and security laws.

The World Council of Churches has been avowedly Left-wing since its inception, and markedly more so after 1961, when it admitted to full membership the Russian, Polish, Rumanian and Bulgarian Orthodox Churches, each one of which is an extension of the totalitarian apparatus in its own country. In 1968 in Geneva its annual assembly equated the necessary change in the Western countries with the revolution, and Archbishop Waronov of the Russian Orthodox Church said, “The motto of Communist society formulated by Karl Marx—‘to each according to his needs and from each according to his abilities’—is rooted in the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I think that would stagger some people who see themselves as Christians.

In 1972 Dr. Blake, the Secretary General of the World Council of Churches, said—

“A theological reflection on Marxism has now become a common necessity for all churches notwithstanding the form of government that they have to live with.”

In 1975, proclaiming support for liberation forces, the World Council of Churches Assembly made this official statement—

“Liberation fighters in southern Africa are motivated by love, not hate.”

I wonder how that appeals to people who have suffered their bestial atrocities and their cannibalism!

In January this year, the same body—the World Council of Churches Assembly—refused to accept a mild amendment that would have committed the W.C.C. to investigations into alleged restrictions on religious freedom inside Russia. It would not accept even that mild amendment.

I have been very widely attacked for doubting the bona fides of the World Council of Churches, and I think it is important that these facts should be known, because the expressed theme of the World Council of Churches is to mobilise people, especially youth, in the name of Christian concern against “oppression, erosion of civil liberties, imperialism, racism”. But let me say this: nowhere in its vast propaganda outpourings can one find one word to condemn the mass killings and the ruthless suppression of civil and religious freedoms that is endemic in all Communist countries. Nowhere is there one word of criticism of totalitarian regimes. But there is always a torrent of criticism of Western countries.

I mention the World Council of Churches only because of its begetting of Action for World Development, or A.W.D. Since speaking a fortnight ago I have been deluged with letters and calls, many of them from clerics, the overwhelming majority of whom thanked me for bringing this matter into the harsh light of public scrutiny. There must be a huge number of people in all church communities who are dismayed and bewildered by what appears to be the determined promotion of Left-wing partisan political causes under the guise of expressing nothing more than Christian concern. Together with those people who have been in touch with me, I cannot comprehend how on the record of the last half century anybody can equate Communist aims with the Christian ethic.

Lenin said—

“We must combat religion; this is the A.B.C. of all materialism, and consequently Marxism.”

Lunarcharsky, who was Commissar for Education, said—

“We hate Christians and Christianity. Christian love is an obstacle to the development of the revolution. What we want is hate.”

I have no doubt that many or probably most of those people associated with A.W.D. operations sincerely believe in promoting Christian aims. But it is not enough to believe and suspend discernment; it is not enough to intend well. The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Earlier I have given chapter and verse that the A.W.D. consistently adopts Left-wing attitudes. Let me take a little more from its own documents. In 1973 its executive secretary was named an official trustee to the A.U.S.-sponsored Vietnam-Aid Appeal. A.U.S. (Australian Universities Union of Students) was, and is now, under tight Communist control. The A.W.D. later arranged to bring to Australia the African Nationalist leader Eddison Evobge, who was head of the Z.A.N.U. guerilla group, and provided forums for him to address. Incidentally, he was later assassinated by a rival guerilla group in his own country.

The April-May “DEED”, the official organ of A.W.D., said that what had happened in China since 1949 was a manifestation of Christianity in China. Dr. Johnson of the Canadian Council of Churches asked, “Has God used Mao as his special servant in this particular historic task?”

On an earlier occasion I mentioned the 1974 National Peace Liaison Committee in Canberra. The A.W.D. was very much a part of that, in close association with Boatwain, the secretary of the Moscow-directed Socialist Party of Australia; K. Wilson, a Communist member of the Newcastle Labor Council, and Laurie Carmichael of the Metal Workers' Industrial Union. Nobody doubts where his affiliations lie. I am told that A.W.D. has since repudiated the Canberra action. Does anybody suggest that by a statement of repudiation the slate is then wiped clean, and one can forget what has been done?

Just prior to the 1974 Federal poll a statement signed by 75 prominent churchmen supporting the A.L.P. was promoted and distributed throughout Australia by voluntary A.W.D. workers in the various States. In 1975 A.W.D. was again active with the A.L.P. Its secretary, Mr. Vaughan Hinton, said—

“We believe it would be a major set-back in many areas if Labor lost office. It is our conclusion that there is no choice for those Christians concerned with social justice but to vote for the return of the Labor Government.”

I make these facts known in order to demolish those person who, hurt by criticism, react by suggesting that people like me are hysterical conservatives who see a Communist behind every bush and under every bed. So I have given facts for the record. If people want to negate the facts, let them do so; but let them not take refuge in sneers and smears.

I say that there are many church communicants who are deeply concerned. People are worried about what happens here when we have somebody calling a prayer vigil and suggesting that there is an area of great Christian challenge existing because of the actions of this State Government. One of the points was that the State Government was "a style of government that seems reluctant to listen to voices of dissent". What un-Christian poppycock! What dissent has been ignored? Have free elections been halted? Were voters stopped from expressing dissent, if they wished to express it, in the by-elections of Clayfield and Lockyer? In what way has any citizen been precluded from publishing any dissent at all?

If all this means that Christians should be concerned because a rabble, shouting obscenities at police, are not allowed to occupy the streets without a permit, all I can suggest is that those professing that type of so-called Christian concern set about re-examining both their conscience and their intelligence.

I say again that there is no doubt that a great many well-intentioned people are swept along by the A.W.D. type of emotive rhetoric. I say again that that is not enough. Anybody has a right to voice criticism of this or any Government, but no-one has a right to present that criticism as entirely non-political, as the authentic voice of a church community and an outraged Christian conscience.

I want to make it quite clear again—and I will say it in plain terms so that it cannot be misunderstood—that I accept that anybody can criticise this or any Government, but no-one should do that when sailing under false colours. It is utterly wrong for self-advertised Christians to pretend that things are so rotten in the State of Denmark (or, in this case, in the State of Queensland) that all decent Christians should be so outraged as to rise in righteous wrath. If they want to be political critics, let them be honest enough to admit their consistent, enthusiastic proselytising of A.L.P. Left-wing causes.

As for the attack on the Premier, I find it despicable and contemptible that anybody should use the facade of Christian concern to achieve partisan political ends and, in pursuance of those ends, attack him, alleging him to be an un-Christian person. No church, no cleric, serves Christian ends with this type of vitriol.

(Time expired.)

#### ADVERTISING OF CARNABY STREET ESTATE

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (12.12 p.m.): The matter of public interest I wish to raise today concerns the sale of an estate in the suburb of MacGregor and the use of

advertising which, in my opinion, is downright deceptive and deceitful, and certainly misleading. The estate in question is the Carnaby Street Estate being developed by Lantelle Developments Pty. Ltd., a Sydney land developer. The land was bought for about \$500,000 and the 51 residential A blocks will return in the vicinity of \$1,200,000. I think you will agree, Mr. Speaker, that that is not a bad profit on such an outlay.

I have here the very attractive brochure published to sell the development. It is entitled "Carnaby Street Macgregor". Like many land sharks, Lantelle uses sex and similar symbols to sell its product. The frontispiece portrays a very attractive young lady.

**Mr. Frawley** interjected.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** This model is probably used to stir the strong biological urges of some people like the honourable member for Murrumba to induce them to buy the land.

The brochure is worded in the following terms:—

"Every distinguished city has a 'Carnaby Street'—a place to live—with a touch of class.

"Brisbane's Carnaby Street offers something a little different—a little special—Cool breezes, deep red orchard soil, high, cool, dignified. — — — In a new suburb like Macgregor you can be guaranteed of a modern life style in the midst of everything at Sunnybank. Carnaby Street is like living on top of the world.

"Carnaby Street is something special; and the quality homes to be built there will enhance it even more to ensure it retains that touch of class.

"To live in Carnaby Street will be to live with a touch of class."

The brochure uses the term "touch of class" to describe Carnaby Street. The word "touch" is very appropriate—the blocks are selling at from \$21,000 to \$24,000! That's a nice touch! I am sure that the honourable member for Redcliffe, a realtor, will agree that this state of affairs leaves a lot to be desired.

I understand that with land selling at this price it is usual for homes to be designed and built to complement the land. This would entail the erection of homes costing between \$50,000 and \$80,000. The land is also described as "Brisbane's most exclusive residential estate". The brochure lists all the nearby amenities and emphasises the land's proximity to the Gold Coast.

I presume that some southern sales are contemplated. I am concerned not about the 51 residential blocks but about the 11

blocks that are blacked out on the plan in the centre of the estate. The brochure makes no reference whatever to their future use but a little careful digging reveals that they are zoned residential B, which, of course, means high-rise development and this in turn usually means flats. To prove my point I have here a photostat copy of the proposed rezoning for that area. I am prepared to tender it. The area is marked as residential B. This is a nice old con job by a Sydney land shark!

I am sure that, if the purchasers of these blocks knew about the residential B section, they would not have paid such inflated prices for the land. It is downright dishonest not to tell the people that this area is zoned residential B. They should be told now—not after they have bought the land and built a house on it. Some of these people who buy the land will get one hell of a shock when high-rise flats are constructed on that part zoned residential B. The area is a natural for flats. It is close to the Griffith University, close to the Mt. Gravatt Hospital and, of course, very close to the Commonwealth Games site.

I know that the legal eagles will tell me—if the honourable member for Brisbane was here he would probably tell me—that the company is not breaking the law. If it is not breaking the law, it is certainly guilty of some very serious sins of omission. To my mind, if the land developer advertises this estate in such glowing terms as these and then allows blocks of flats to be erected to spoil the environment, that firm is guilty of gross misrepresentation. Fortunately the word will probably spread in Brisbane, and that should force this land-shark company to advertise at least in a reputable and honest manner. However, anyone living outside Brisbane or interstate is fruit on the sideboard for these land sharks. This situation bears out what I have been saying for a long time—that, whoever this Government is interested in, it is certainly not the buyer. On numerous occasions in this House I have documented and tabled evidence proving that white-collar and corporate crooks are operating in land development. I have also proved that some of the operations of land developers in Queensland amount to land-sharking and leave a lot to be desired. I have named the people involved. I have named Peter Kurts; I have named Harry Londy.

**Mr. Jensen:** You've named a lot of solicitors, too.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I have not actually named the solicitors. What I have said in the House is that the only reason why some of these land sharks and white-collar and corporate crooks can operate in Queensland is that they have been supported and advised by some shyster lawyers—members of the

legal profession who are prepared to prostitute their time-honoured profession and act as what I think the Mafia term as *consiliari*, which means "counsel".

Of course, these people are counselling the land sharks. Something has to be done about it. If something is not done about this land out at MacGregor, a lot of people who buy the land will certainly, if I may use the colloquial term and paraphrase the slogan "A Touch of Class", be touched. I urge the Minister to do something about it.

#### UNLAWFUL STRIKES IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER** (Townsville West) (12.18 p.m.): I wish to bring to the attention of the Parliament the disastrous consequences of the series of unlawful strikes perpetrated by militant trade unions against the community of North Queensland in the past few months. I use the word "unlawful" very carefully, as never at any time have I denied the right of any individual to refuse his or her labour or of any union to go out on strike in order to obtain better conditions for its members. However, I do believe that, if early discussions or negotiations between the employer and the union fail to reach a settlement, then the matter should be put to the Industrial Commission for resolution and determination. Upon a determination being made, that should be the end of the matter for the time being or for a given period. Twelve months, say, should elapse before any similar claim can be put before the employer or the commission again. That is how our civil law operates and that is how our industrial laws should operate, instead of, as presently happens, favouring the unions only. The law of the jungle is allowed to disrupt the whole community.

The unlawful strikes I intend to refer to are those in North Queensland, where the unions have had their claims rejected by the Industrial Commission and have defied the directions of the commission to return to work. Instead, they have adopted gangster-like tactics by going on strike, holding a gun at the head of the employer organisations and saying, "Pay us what we demand or we will inflict hardship on the community of North Queensland, and the people of the North will urge you to give us what we want." How these people are misguided by their Left-wing Communist union leaders!

The people have not forgotten the disasters of the Whitlam Labor Government. They recall very vividly Ministers like Clyde Cameron, who incited workers to claim more than our economy could afford or their productivity could warrant, and Jim Cairns, who urged workers to break any law that they did not agree with. The people tried that medicine and they didn't like it. The sooner the heavies at the Trades Hall and the A.L.P. realise this, the better it will be for them, or else, after the next State elec-

tion, Tom Burns will not have a cricket team; he will be lucky to be a member of a barber-shop quartet.

I shall refer briefly to the background of the stoppage by the Collinsville maintenance workers. These 59 men blacked out the whole of North Queensland, put thousands of people out of work, created indescribable hardships on mothers and aged people in nursing homes, caused large financial losses to commerce and industry and disadvantaged the whole of the community.

I remind the House that some seven or eight months ago the four unions involved appeared before the Full Bench of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission for an isolation allowance of \$12 a fortnight because they were isolated in Collinsville. What a joke that would be! There is an all-weather road from there to the coast 50 miles away. The Full Bench decided that the claim was unjustified and rejected the application.

The four unions involved, to which the maintenance workers belonged, then claimed \$10 a day (or \$100 a fortnight) as an allowance from the Northern Electric Authority and started a series of irresponsible strikes calculated to make the N.E.A. capitulate, which is the Trades Hall meaning of "negotiation".

**Mr. Aikens:** And they were supported by every A.L.P. member on the Townsville City Council.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** That is right. I shall refer to that matter later in my speech.

The N.E.A. rightly refused to capitulate, saying that if the unions had any more evidence to produce to support their claim they should reappear before the Full Bench and that the N.E.A. would accept the decision of the Full Bench.

Later, at a compulsory conference, Mr. Commissioner Pont told the unions that he did not have the power to grant the claims of the unions but offered his services as a mediator in the dispute with N.E.A. "Mediation" is another adaptation of the union meaning of "negotiation" or "capitulation to their demands" and this appealed very much to the unions, although it would not have been the interpretation placed upon the word by Mr. Commissioner Pont.

The N.E.A. still wanted the issue heard by the Full Bench of the commission and I am very pleased that a very full inquiry is being undertaken by the commission into the working conditions of employees at all power stations. When the recommendations are finally made public—and they will be because the Premier promised that they would be made public—I hope that the decision will be accepted by all parties to this industrial dispute.

During the past three months the four unions on strike have had the protection of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Section 70 (1) of that Act provides—

"An action against a trade union, including an industrial union registered under this Act, or against any members or officials thereof on behalf of themselves and all other members of the union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the union, shall not be entertained by any court."

In other words, unions and their members have complete immunity in Queensland against any claims for loss or damages. And we are the only State in Australia that grants this generous concession. This law must be changed to allow individuals or commercial and industrial organisations to lawfully seek damages against unions and their members who cause losses through the withholding of essential services when engaged in unlawful strikes. The State Government should also give stronger support to organisations that become the victims of unlawful strikes.

Most of the regional daily newspapers in provincial areas have been closed down in recent weeks because of an unlawful strike by members of the Printing and Kindred Industries Union. Their union branches (or chapels as they prefer them to be known) have an annual agreement with their employers. When the agreement came up for discussion some two months ago, the P.K.I.U. submitted a log of 27 claims. Of these, agreement was reached on about 25 issues until they came to the stumbling-block—the union's demand for one week's additional annual leave.

In this respect the union leaned heavily on the fact that unionists employed in a similar occupation in "The Courier-Mail" received six weeks' annual holiday where the employees in Townsville received four weeks. They did not make it public—because there were no newspapers—that the six weeks' annual leave enjoyed by employees of "The Courier-Mail" results from their working on eight statutory holidays without any penalty payments, whereas the unionists in the provincial areas receive double time and a half, which gives them \$86 a shift on a holiday as against the \$29 received by their Brisbane counterparts. They do not make those matters public. They say "We want parity with the men in Brisbane but we do not want to give away our penalties enjoyed in the provincial areas."

This is where the insidious planning of the Trades and Labor Council and the A.L.P. saw a further opportunity to expand their unlawful policy of disrupting the orderly life of the community, of creating chaos and financial losses in business and commerce and of generating greater unemployment in

the community—all in the vain hope of making law and order a mockery and of destroying this Government.

The Trades and Labor Council and the A.L.P. openly tried to remain detached and aloof from these issues, but the people at the Trades Hall in Townsville (I refer here to the original community or civic centre as we know it) were not so subtle. The deputy mayor (Alderman Mike Reynolds) and a member of the Townsville Regional Electricity Board went on radio station 4TO during an open-line programme and openly supported the striking unionists at Collinsville.

Of course, we all know that when the mayor (Alderman Percy Tucker) offered the civic centre as a venue for striking members of the Printing and Kindred Industries Union, the citizens of Townsville objected quite strongly to its use as a meeting-place for people engaged in an unlawful strike. No wonder the concerned citizens of North Queensland supported the chambers of commerce in 16 districts and the four development bureaux which held protest meetings to urge the Government to implement stronger legislation to protect the community against militant trade unions.

When I conveyed these views to the Premier, he readily agreed to come to Townsville to talk to the people of North Queensland, to listen to their grievances and to try to do something for them. The mayor of Mackay (Alderman Abbott) also readily came to Townsville to put before the Premier the concern of the people of his city. But the mayor of Townsville declined to attend the meeting; he saw no benefit in it. In fairness to him, I should say that I do not think that he was allowed to go. Personally I think that he would have been concerned, but the Trades Hall boys and the A.L.P. said, "You won't go along. If you do, you will be seen as being on side with the community and as trying to stop the strike."

I should now like to refer briefly to some of the submissions put forward at the conference with the Premier in Townsville last Friday. The tourist industry brought home to the Premier some of the problems associated with that industry. In large hotels and motels no power was available for air-conditioning. There were blackouts and food was ruined. Restaurants closed down because they could not supply food. There were large cancellations of bookings. Sewerage pumps were not working and raw sewage was overflowing. Those were some of the problems being experienced by the tourist industry. At the meatworks, six days' production, representing 3,165 cattle, were lost.

(Time expired.)

COMMONWEALTH-STATE CONFRONTATION,  
FRASER ISLAND SAND-MINING

**Mr. ALISON** (Maryborough) (12.27 p.m.): I rise to make some brief comments on the Fraser Island sand-mining issue. Last Thursday, at the invitation of the Premier, I had the honour to travel with him and the Minister for Mines and Energy to Canberra. I should like to express my gratitude to the Premier for the opportunity given to me to make this trip and to express in Canberra the opinion of my community. We met the Prime Minister, the Minister for Transport (Mr. Nixon), the Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Sinclair), and the Minister for Environment (Mr. Newman). We spent an hour and a half with them and we came away with the impression that we had this week in which to put a community submission from Maryborough, and a State Government submission, before the Minister for Environment.

To cut a long story short, the Minister for Mines and Energy and I found out by a direct telephone approach that we had only until Monday to present this submission. We arrived back from Canberra on Thursday night. We therefore had Friday and the week-end in which to send a submission to Canberra in reply to the recommendations contained in the report. I think it would be fair to say, in Queensland terms, that we were given the rough end of the pineapple. There is speculation in today's Press—I sincerely hope that it is only speculation—that the Federal Government is still of a mind to cancel the export licences of sand miners.

I see that we have with us today in this House Mr. Nixon and Mr. Newman who, I suppose, are having discussions with the Premier and possibly other Ministers. I hope that these Federal Ministers are here to discuss with the State Government areas of concern for the environment felt by the Federal Government and perhaps to negotiate on a reduction of the areas of mining leases and perhaps the excision of areas that are presently under mining leases but to which the Federal Government feels sensitive. I hope that this is so and that the Federal Government has not sent these two Ministers here once again to wave the big stick over us and tell us that they know best and that in fact export licences are to be cancelled.

Frankly, from the discussions in which I took part last Thursday and the happenings since, I am shocked and appalled that this Federal Liberal-National Country Party Government seems to see fit to put sand dunes before people, to put spinifex grass before people's jobs and their welfare. I am still in a state of shock that any Government, irrespective of its political colour, should consider taking this kind of action. If this is co-operative federalism, I want no part of it, and I give notice that I will fight this sort of thing wherever I find it.

I am also appalled that any Federal Government—again, I do not care about its political colour—in the present economic climate would consider throwing 300-plus jobs out the window. We are only a little community in Maryborough and district and yet we had 916 unemployed at the end of September. Even if we were doing permanent damage to the island, and I do not concede this, I cannot understand any Federal Government considering jeopardising 300 jobs. It is just insanity. It is political naivety. The Dillingham-Murphyores partnership employs 208 people on the island and at Maryborough; 40 per cent of those people come from Hervey Bay and 60 per cent from Maryborough.

**Mr. Aikens:** If this conservation gang had been in operation years ago, there would be no Mt. Isa today.

**Mr. ALISON:** Yes; I understand this is correct. I understand that Queensland Titanium Mines Pty. Ltd. employs over 100 people. Most of those people are situated in the Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach and Gympie areas. Whitlam and Connors issued the export licences. Let us give credit where it is due. It was an A.L.P. socialist Government which issued the export licences in the first place and allowed this industry to get off the ground. It gave the people of Maryborough the economic fillip we needed because the year before we had a good kick in the teeth from the same Federal A.L.P. Government, which dishonoured its promise regarding the shipyards. Now we have a "turn on the lights" Government apparently thinking about cancelling these licences.

I give notice now that, if Maryborough is to be sold down the drain to the preservationists, if Maryborough is to become the sacrificial lamb to the preservationists and if the Federal Government sees its duty to stop sand-mining to benefit the rest of Australia, then I respectfully submit that the rest of Australia has a commitment to support the Maryborough district. On recent wage and salary figures paid to the people of Maryborough and Hervey Bay and on figures spent in the Maryborough and Hervey Bay area on supplies and services, on an annual basis the Maryborough district benefits from the Dillingham-Murphyores operation to the tune of \$6,240,000. The Dillingham-Murphyores operation is timed to run for 15 or 20 years, so on present-day values we would have benefited from income directly injected into our district economy to the tune of \$124,800,000.

I make the point again to the Federal Government that, if we are to be thrown to the wolves for the benefit of the rest of Australia—and God knows how many people are going to see Fraser Island, anyhow—then the Federal Government has a responsibility to make good some of the damage to our community.

I know that only 20,000 people live in the district. This is probably a fairly insignificant number when it is viewed from Canberra. There is no doubt about it, the further one gets away from the problem the more expert one becomes and the more one knows about it. But this will affect 20,000 human beings.

It is a lovely place to live. I live there by choice myself. Like any provincial area, it is an excellent place to rear children, and so if the Federal Government intends to take this action, then it has a commitment to the Maryborough community.

I also give notice that if this is to happen, then through the Premier, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and the Federal member I will insist on four projects being undertaken which will go part of the way towards making up the deficiency caused by the cessation of sand-mining operations.

Firstly, we have an excellent case for a college of advanced education; it has already been submitted to the State Government. We already have a site set aside in the area.

Secondly, we should go ahead with the Maryborough irrigation scheme project, and I understand that a report on this project will be available to the Minister for Water Resources by December. The latest cost estimate for that project is \$13,000,000—a bagatelle.

Thirdly, I envisage funds being made available for softwood forestry plantings north of Maryborough. The Coastal Lowlands Study has recently been concluded and I understand that a large area will be set aside for forestry plantations. If that is to be the case, I should like to see funds set aside by the Federal Government—after all, it is Queensland taxpayers' money—to enable forestry plantations to be set up.

Last, but not least, there is the Maryborough/Tin Can Bay Road, which the Forestry Department has already agreed to allow to be declared a tourist road and upgraded. I do not know what the cost would be, but it would be infinitesimal from the point of view of the Federal Government. That road should be sealed and brought up to tourist standards.

The Maryborough community worked over the week-end and provided a community submission that I hope was read in Canberra—I hope they at least paid us that courtesy—in which it was suggested to all the Cabinet Ministers, who received it by teleprinter, that surely there was an area for negotiation, as I said before, with the State Government. If the Federal Government really wants to buy in on environmental matters, let it not use a heavy hand with the export licences; let it communicate with and talk to the State Government. There are areas for negotiation. The mining leases take up only about 10 per cent, of the

island, or a little less, and only 1.18 per cent of the total area is to be mined. Surely that is a matter for negotiation, to begin with. I cannot see why the area of the mining leases could not be cut back to about 5 per cent. If that makes the Federal Government happy, well and good; it makes everybody happy.

I suggest also that if the Federal Government believes, in its wisdom, that there are sensitive areas with which no risk should be taken by allowing them to be mined, why not excise them from the mining leases?

**Mr. Aikens:** What about the long-haired nuts—the conservationists?

**Mr. ALISON:** We are sick and tired of them.

The people of Maryborough are not vandals, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Conservation articles written in the South give the impression that we are vandals who want to see the island ravaged and who want to make a quick quid out of it. What a lot of tripe! The people of Maryborough and the Maryborough district have more reason than anyone else not to want the island damaged, if for no reason than that they realise that their economy relies so heavily on it, not only for sand-mining but also—and to a greater extent—for the timber industry.

Let me make just a couple of brief comments on the kangaroo court of two environmentalists that was set up by the former Federal Labor Government. Can honourable members imagine anything more stupid than that? On an issue that covers more than the environment, two environmentalists were set up as judge and jury. Why was there not a sand-mining engineer on it? Why was there not an economist to study the socio-economic side of the question? Why was there not a representative of the community on it? That would have ensured a balanced report.

#### DISAPPEARANCE OF GOODS, ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

**Mr. WRIGHT** (Rockhampton) (12.38 p.m.): I wish to raise a number of complaints that have been brought to my notice relating to the intrastate and interstate road transport industry.

Over some months I have been collecting a dossier that I believe could be the basis for an Agatha Christie novel; it has certainly become a matter of mystery. The honourable member for Rockhampton North and I, through the Consumers' Association in the Central Queensland region, have been documenting various complaints we have received over a long period. They relate not only to the Rockhampton district but also to Mackay, Bundaberg, southern areas, Brisbane, and even to some of the other States.

They involve the disappearance of goods, mysterious breakages and damage, goods being stored in various depots in the State and then suddenly vanishing, furniture and personal effects being loaded onto transport trucks and starting from point A but never reaching point B—they simply do not arrive at their destination.

**Mr. Jensen:** It used to happen on the wharves; now it is happening in the transport industry.

**Mr. WRIGHT:** It certainly is happening in the transport industry. These incidents and cases are most intriguing, and I think they would test even Sherlock Holmes. I should like to put before honourable members some of the cases that I have here.

One relates to the disappearance of six parcels or packages, a small step-ladder and a laundry basket. These goods, together with 90 other parcels, were collected from a home in the Gold Coast area for shipment overseas. They were all numbered before they went, and the people were present when they were loaded onto the truck. They were transported to the storage point, but they were never rechecked for shipment. There is no record that they ever left the depot. We know that they were taken to the depot, but they then disappeared. An extensive search was carried out—I went down to the firm myself—but no explanation has been given.

It has been a great loss to the person concerned. The woman went to Holland and came all the way back to try to find the goods. They were of personal interest to her, and some of them were family heirlooms. She went to great expense to try to recover these goods, which included valuable handicrafts that she had made herself.

I personally wrote to the Minister for Police at the time but have not received any reply from him. I went to see the local manager of the firm, and I also spoke to the State manager. It was admitted that these goods were collected. It was known that there were 90-odd parcels. It was known that they were taken to the storage depot and that they were to be consigned to Holland. But no-one knows anything further about them. We were told that no inventory was taken, and the companies refused to accept responsibility.

Case 2 relates to the disappearance of furniture and personal effects that were in transit up the coast to the Yeppoon area. Just south of Bundaberg the truck broke down, and some of the articles were off-loaded onto another vehicle. But they never arrived at their destination. The person concerned said to me, "They have done a phantom." That is exactly what happened. They were off-loaded. No explanation was given as to where they had gone, and no responsibility has been accepted by the

transport firm. We have written to the firm in question, but it simply will not answer the letters.

Case 3 also relates to furniture and personal effects. These belonged to a public servant who was transferred, and the goods were being shipped interstate for eventual transportation overseas. Many hundreds of dollars worth of damage was done and some articles disappeared. Again no explanation was given and no responsibility was taken.

A case handled by the honourable member for Rockhampton North concerned some engine parts that were found to be unnecessary for a repair job in Rockhampton. They were consigned to the manufacturer through a transport firm. But they never arrived back at the manufacturer's premises. They just didn't arrive.

It looked as if the Central Queensland firm which ordered the goods would be left to carry the debt, but in this instance the consumer said he would pay up. Again no explanation was given.

**Mr. Aikens:** Didn't the manufacturer consign them back?

**Mr. WRIGHT:** They were not consigned back by the manufacturer. They were consigned by the firm in Rockhampton which ordered them from the manufacturer. They were never received back by the manufacturer. He was not prepared to give a refund, because the goods were never received by him. The consumer finally had to pay.

Another case concerns a washing machine that was sent back to the manufacturer by road transport. Somewhere in the 650 km journey it disappeared; it just vanished. No one knows to this day what happened to it. It was worth about \$650, but it just disappeared. Again no explanation was given. Neither the manufacturer nor the road transport firm was prepared to accept any responsibility.

Another case concerned a car engine that was completely boxed up in a sealed crate, which was itself encompassed in a metal frame. The whole shebang disappeared, and no explanation was given. There was a record of its being loaded onto the truck, but it never arrived at its destination. Again the consumer has been the bunny; he has had to pay.

I know of a case of goods that was consigned to Newcastle and disappeared for four months. We kept at the firm and it finally traced the case to somewhere in the Northern Territory area and said that it was somewhere in Darwin. But it disappeared again, for two months. After six months it finally reached its destination.

We also had the instance of two surfboards that were sent to the Mackay area.

**Mr. Moore:** What are you making your speech about?

**Mr. WRIGHT:** I am trying to instance all the various cases. I have some recommendations to make.

When the surfboards arrived in the Mackay area they were damaged beyond repair. One was packed loosely next to some metal parts. There have been instances of TV sets being sent away for repair and coming back in a worse condition than when they were originally sent. That happens also to transistor equipment.

Let me recall the Brisbane flood. After it certain manufacturers sent goods away to consumers and the goods were damaged in transit. They gave no explanation and accepted no responsibility. There was no compensation and no redress.

I accept the fact that each week hundreds of thousands of articles are transported without any problems, but the number of instances of disappearance and damage is certainly increasing. I am starting to wonder whether there is some type of racket in certain aspects of the transport industry.

The main problem is that under the Carriage of Goods by Land (Carriers' Liabilities) Act the maximum compensation obtainable is only \$20. In the light of the high cost of products and transport today, that is plain farcical. It does not matter whether the goods are worth \$2,000 or \$20,000, the maximum compensation that can be claimed is \$20.

Few people bother to insure their goods against loss or damage. If they check up they are told, "Yes, you are covered. If something goes wrong there will be compensation." They are not told the quantum; they are not told it is only \$20. It is time we had some changes here. I believe that we need to clean up these problems.

This matter could well be put in the hands of the Consumer Affairs Council. It could call on the people to come forward and list all known cases they have been involved in. Many people have said, "I will just cop it. It is too late; I cannot do much about it. I have no legal redress, therefore I will accept it." From the instances cited the Consumer Affairs Council could document the cases completely and find out who is responsible. It might also come up with some recommendations, the first of which could be to substantially increase the compensation payable under the carriers' liability Act to at least \$250. That would be a fair figure.

We have to introduce a system whereby information relative to insurance is placed on all contracts. When a consumer consigns something he should be given some information about the insurance cover. We should

also enforce requirements on road transport firms to keep complete inventories of all goods carried. That cannot be done, of course, in every instance. All boxes and packages cannot be opened to find out how many cartons of this and that they contain. But some record should be kept of parcels and boxes and where they are to be stored.

More than anything else, we need to upgrade the checking system from the point of loading to the point of delivery and have some type of registration whereby the person who assumes responsibility signs for the article and when it is delivered someone else signs for it again. Quite often the article disappears between point A and point B. This all comes back to the upgrading of the total record and inventory system relative to storage.

**Mr. Jensen:** Don't you think that half the trouble is that they cannot sack the drivers?

**Mr. WRIGHT:** I am not sure that we can simply blame the drivers.

I accept that the transport companies must have a limited liability. We cannot expect them to cop liability for everything. I also accept that employees of these companies have an onerous task. Quite often people bundle things into boxes without packing them properly. But it is totally wrong that when goods disappear the owner cannot be given redress or compensation. Instances of damage must be minimised, but, most importantly, cases of disappearance must be dealt with seriously. Too many are occurring time and again. For the sake of Queensland consumers I urge the Minister for Transport and the Minister in charge of consumer affairs to take action on this matter.

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

**Mr. TENNI** (Barron River) (12.48 p.m.): I rise to express my concern about the industrial disputes and strikes now taking place in North Queensland and those that have taken place in the past few weeks.

The honourable member for Townsville West explained very concisely the problems created by the power strikes in the Far North in the past few weeks and the effect they have had on the people in that area. However, he was apparently unaware of one matter that thoroughly disgusts me as a representative of that area.

I refer to the power strikes and their effect on aged people in homes who rely on some form of cooling system to make the last days, weeks, months or years of their lives a little more comfortable. Unfortunately the 59 imbeciles—that is all they can

be called; they are not men and they are not things; they have no feelings whatsoever for the aged people—knowing the plight of these people, deliberately shortened their lives. That is the only way to put it.

**Mr. Aikens:** They would enjoy doing it.

**Mr. TENNI:** Of course they would enjoy it. They would enjoy every minute of it.

Unfortunately none of us know how many people lost their lives because of this power strike and the fact that air-conditioning and fans were not available. Because the newspaper employees are also on strike we do not know who died or how many died, whether they were friends of ours and whether funerals are being held that we should attend. Those problems were caused by strikes and more darned strikes, particularly in North Queensland.

I come back to my point about these 59 men who helped to murder some of the aged people of North Queensland. I am sure that all honourable members, particularly honourable members on the Government side, are disgusted with the attitude of these imbeciles.

**Mr. Aikens:** They should have been indicted for manslaughter.

**Mr. TENNI:** They should have been.

We have heard how people have been affected by the loss of meat in fridges, tobacco in barns and so on; but more important are the human beings who were affected—aged people who should have been allowed to spend their last days in comfort. These people made sure that they did not.

I will move away from the subject of the power strike, because it disgusts me. It has been led by a few lousy Communists. The rest of the strikers call themselves Australians but follow the Communists. They are not worth talking about any more.

**Mr. Aikens:** But they are supported by the A.L.P.; don't forget about that!

**Mr. TENNI:** I was just going to talk about that. In neither strike—the power strike or the newspaper strike (which was followed by the refusal by transport workers down here to send Brisbane papers up North)—have I heard the Leader of the Opposition or any member on the A.L.P. benches offer criticism. The reason we have not heard criticism from them is that they are financed by those unions. That is where they get their money from. How can they criticise those people who give them the money to run their campaign? No; they would rather see the aged people die through lack of air-conditioning and fans. They would sooner see the people of the North completely upset, not knowing what is going

on in the rest of the country, because there are no newspapers. They would sooner do that so they can get a lousy few dollars off a lousy, stinking Communist-infiltrated union—and I am absolutely fed up with it.

I do not claim that all union members are alike. It is unfortunate that those who go out on strike because the Commos call them out are so weak gutted. It is about time they woke up to themselves and became Australians. Let us remember the people who in the First and Second World Wars fought for this country and not allow the Commos to take it over now. It is about time those fellows woke up to themselves.

There is another thing I am disgusted with. Some of the fellows from "The Cairns Post" who are out on strike are actually working for cane farmers—

**Mr. Newbery:** And tobacco farmers.

**Mr. TENNI:** Yes, tobacco growers and printing works, and collecting massive wages. No wonder they can stay out on strike and inconvenience the rest of the people. That is what they are doing. They call themselves unionists. They are no more unionists than my dog is. It is unreal to think that they would do that.

Some of the fellows from "The Cairns Post" came to me with this report. Not all of them are doing that, but quite a few of them are—and it is alarming to think that we have to be inconvenienced when those fellows are not.

Tom Burton, State President of the A.L.P. and a member of the Trades and Labor Council, is State Secretary of the Printing Union and is using those people as puppets. I challenge the Press reporters in the gallery to write that down and put it in their papers. The other day in Brisbane I was talking to a correspondent from a well-known newspaper. I wanted her to take the story about the printers up in the North. She wouldn't take it. I said to her, "Haven't you heard of freedom of the Press?" She said, "There's no such thing any more." That is the disgusting thing about it. If the papers are not prepared to print these things, they should be deregistered.

**Mr. Wright:** What!

**Mr. TENNI:** They should be deregistered. They are not giving the people the advantage of the freedom of the Press by informing them about what is happening.

**Mr. Wright:** It is only if they write—

**Mr. TENNI:** The honourable member for Rockhampton has never supported the people of the North. He has never supported the old people who could not get power for their air-conditioning or fans, so he should not open his mouth now. He was not prepared to support those poor old people—people who died because a union that he supports deliberately put them to death.

**Mr. Aikens:** He backed them all the way.

**Mr. TENNI:** I agree completely with the honourable member for Townsville South.

I want immunity taken away from the unions and the union members. If they want to go on strike, I as a private person want the right to sue them. If I can't get that right—

**Dr. Lockwood:** What then?

**Mr. TENNI:** If I cannot get that right, I want the same protection for the people whom I represent as the unions and unionists have got. I want the right to say anything I want to outside this House at any time and not be liable to be sued, the same as the unions and the unionists. I want the same right as they have got. I demand that right. It should be one for all and all for one, and we have not got that.

**Mr. Wright:** Are you going to sue the graziers if they won't sell their cattle at a certain price?

**Mr. Aikens:** You have flattened Wright like a camel's foot.

**Mr. TENNI:** He has been flattened all his life. Look what happened to him again this morning. He was done cold. He thought he was going to be deputy leader of the A.L.P. What is he now—still the same old back-bencher.

I am sure that Cabinet will listen to a submission to remove the immunity of the unions and the unionists.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** Get the women in.

**Mr. TENNI:** I am sure that the women would be great. Look at what they did in Gladstone. They frightened the men back to work. It is the women who got the men back to work up there because suddenly they have become the strong Australians; they have become the strength, like our men who fought in World War I and World War

If to save this country. The women are going to do it the way they are going. They are getting out in strength and they are telling their husbands how wrong they are. They are not going to cop the Commos standing on them. I congratulate the women of Gladstone for frightening the men back to work as they did.

**A Government Member:** What did Prest do?

**Mr. TENNI:** The Press did nothing.

**A Government Member:** Mr. Prest.

**Mr. TENNI:** He did absolutely nothing. No-one even heard from him. He belongs to the A.L.P., which gets money from the unions. The poor old guy cannot do anything about it.

**Mr. Aikens:** They tried to make poor old Lou Jensen sling in for them, too.

**Mr. TENNI:** He is a man who stands up for his rights. He will not cop the A.L.P. telling him that he has to pay money. He will be returned at the next election as either an Independent or a National Party member.

(Time expired.)

#### WORKS OF ART FOR PARLIAMENT HOUSE

**Mr. MOORE** (Windsor) (12.58 p.m.): There are a couple of minutes left so I thought I would take the opportunity to raise a matter of real public interest—Parliament House itself. This is a very beautiful building but there are not many works of art in it. In the Parliamentary Library there are photographs of earlier Premiers, Governors, Speakers and other members of Parliament but they are becoming faded. I would like to think that Queensland portrait artists could be encouraged to paint from those photographs, present them to Parliament, and have them hung in the corridors for posterity. It would be an honour for the artists and would give them an opportunity to display their work in very suitable surroundings. In addition, sculptors could present busts of former Premiers. There is no reason why this could not be done. The architecture of the building is suited to that. In the former Legislative Council Chamber there are portraits of recent Speakers and Premiers.

I hope that this could be done by artists, particularly Queensland artists. However, it need not be confined to them if they do not come forward. The present Speaker is the most worthy Speaker we have had. He has done more for Parliament than any of his 10 predecessors. I am sure that if the Press gave this suggestion publicity and artists approached the Speaker, he would make the photographs available.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.