

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 1976**

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## WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 1976

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

### STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

#### RESIGNATION OF MR. J. MELLOY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received from Mr. J. Melloy his resignation as a member of the Standing Orders Committee.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. W. HOUSTON

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

“That Mr. John William Houston, member for the electoral district of Bulimba, be appointed a member of the Standing Orders Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. J. Melloy.”

Motion agreed to.

### PAPERS

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

Reports—

Commissioner for Railways, for the year 1975-76.

Parliamentary Library Committee, for the year 1975-76.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Regulation under the Building Societies Act 1886-1976.

### PETITION

#### PAY-ROLL DEDUCTION OF RAILWAYMEN'S UNION DUES

Mr. YEWDAL (Rockhampton North): I present a petition from 250 railway employees in Rockhampton praying that the Parliament of Queensland will grant pay-roll deductions of railwaymen's union dues.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! That petition is a matter not for the Parliament, but for the Department of Transport. I suggest to the honourable member for Rockhampton North that he submit it to the Minister for Transport. It deals with a subject outside the realms of Parliament.

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1. BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL ELECTRICITY PROFITS

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

(1) What profits has the Brisbane City Council made from the sale of electricity to its consumers for each of the past five financial years?

(2) Do the profits indicate that charges to Brisbane consumers have been excessive?

Mr. HINZE: I believe the honourable member would accept that the full explanation given by my colleague the Minister for Mines and Energy during the debate on the third reading of the Electricity Bill last evening sets out quite clearly the profits that have been made over the past four or five years by the Brisbane City Council in its electricity undertakings, so therefore there is no need for me to further answer the question. A brief reference to “Hansard” of yesterday's date will provide him with sufficient information.

#### 2. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, SPARKES HILL RESERVE, STAFFORD

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

(1) With regard to the reserve bordered by Macnaughton and Byth Streets, Stafford, previously nominated as the Sparkes Hill children's playground and used as such over the past twenty years, why are Brisbane City Council bulldozers ripping it up and what is planned for the area?

(2) Is the council legally entitled to change the function of the reserve without giving local residents notice of its intention to do so?

(3) What advice can he give to the hundreds of concerned residents of the Stafford/Sparkes Hill area who wish to retain the Sparkes Hill children's playground as a playground for children?

Answers:—

(1) I am informed that the Brisbane City Council is levelling an existing football field and no other work is planned.

(2) No change in use of the land is involved.

(3) In view of the answers to (1) and (2), I do not think that this question requires an answer.

3. SUBSIDY FOR STATE SCHOOL SWIMMING-POOLS

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

(1) With regard to the construction of State primary school swimming-pools and, in view of the enormous cost increase over the past 12 months, has consideration been given to increasing the maximum \$42,000 Government subsidy?

(2) If so, will he announce the new increased maximum subsidy so that the hard-working and dedicated parents and citizens' committee of the Grovelly State Primary School may proceed immediately with this much-needed amenity before spiralling costs make construction impossible?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes, and I am indebted to the honourable member for his continued interest in the matter of increased subsidies for parents and citizens' associations.

(2) Cabinet has approved, operable on projects approved after 1 July 1976, that the maximum subsidy payable on a swimming-pool at a State primary school be increased from \$42,000 to \$49,000. This increased subsidy will apply to the swimming-pool to be built at the Grovelly State School.

Whilst I have made a Press statement on the subsidy changes under the School Improvement Subsidy Scheme, for the information of honourable members the increases also cover—

Assembly hall (high school) from \$84,000 to \$98,000;

Activities building (primary school) from \$35,000 to \$41,000;

Swimming-pool (high school) from \$50,000 to \$58,000; and

Grandstand (at pool or oval) from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

4. CYCLONE RESEARCH, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

**Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Aikens**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

In its investigations as a cyclone research centre, particularly following the grant of \$100,000 which the Minister for Works obtained for them, will the James Cook University seek the co-operation and assistance of people in North Queensland who have extensive and intensive knowledge of cyclones and their devastating effects on buildings, together with suggestions as to the best ways of minimising those effects and preventing damage, or will the investigations be confined to interviews with, and suggestions from, those attached to and associated with the university?

*Answer:—*

I am pleased that the honourable member drew the attention of the House to my announcement last week of a \$100,000 research grant from the Australian Housing Research Council for an investigation into the effect of high winds on structures at the James Cook University. The money is for a particular technological programme, possible only within the research facility of the university.

Knowing that I do not control the activities of the university, he will be aware that I cannot speak for it. I feel sure that, as the responsible body it has shown itself to be, it will continue to maintain close, active liaison with the building industry and with the architectural and engineering professions in North Queensland and elsewhere.

5. MISLEADING NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING ON OPAL COTTAGE INDUSTRY

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

Has he seen an advertisement in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 13 November headed "Subcontract Work", wherein someone who uses a newspaper box number assures all and sundry that, in a week, any inexperienced person who has a 3 x 5 table and is prepared to fork out \$6,850 can, with the help of an unnamed company which will supply opals and all equipment required for the subcontractor, finish up cutting 150 carats a day at 95c per carat, plus a lot of other "come on" malarkey and, if so, will he have inquiries made as to the business standing of the advertiser and inform the House why such advertisements can be inserted in reputable newspapers?

*Answer:—*

I have seen a copy of the particular advertisement. Undoubtedly the offer by the unknown company could cause reasonable persons to suspect the accuracy of the representations. However, in the absence of proof that the representations are false, no prosecution can be launched. Proof involves more than mere suspicion, and the falsity of the representations would need to be proved to the required standard. There is no legislation which presently prohibits newspapers from publishing business offers.

If the honourable member has any reasonable suspicions in regard to the offer, he should refer the matter to the Minister for Police for investigation.

## 6. MEDIBANK COVER FOR PENSIONERS

**Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Aikens**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

Is he aware that, despite repeated assurances by the Commonwealth Minister for Health that pensioners with no other source of income will be automatically covered by Medibank, pensioners, many of whom are unable owing to physical disabilities caused by age to understand or fill in the forms, are being dragooned into accepting a complicated Medibank application form and ordered to fill it in and, if so, will he make the strongest representations possible to his Commonwealth counterpart to put an end to this persecution of aged and infirm pensioners?

*Answer:—*

I am not aware of the matter raised by the honourable member. However, I suggest to him that if he has specific instances, he take the matter up with the Federal Minister for Health. If at the same time he informs me of the specific instances, I would be only too happy to take the matter up personally with the Federal Minister.

## 7. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND SUB-DEPARTMENTS OCCUPYING LEASED OR RENTED PREMISES

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

(1) What departments and/or sub-departments under his ministerial control are located in premises not owned by the State Government?

(2) If there are any, where are the departments and/or subdepartments situated and what is the anticipated rent or leasing costs of such departments for the current financial year?

(3) How many officers of the Public Service are working in these departments and/or subdepartments under his control?

(4) For how long have the departments and/or subdepartments been situated in these locations and can he indicate how long it is anticipated that these departments and/or subdepartments will continue to operate in rented or leased accommodation?

(5) On what dates do the rental or leasing agreements for these buildings come up for review?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 5) The provision of accommodation for departments under my control is not handled by my department.

## 8. DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ON CID ISLAND

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

(1) When and upon whose advice was the decision made to invite applications from persons who desire to develop tourist attractions on Cid Island following the theme of the "Sea World" or "Marineland" type of venture presently operating on The Spit at Southport?

(2) Why was no environmental impact study required before that decision was made?

(3) Was the matter referred to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife before a decision was made and, if so, what was his decision and upon what investigations did he make his decision?

(4) Have applications been received and, if so, from whom?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) The honourable member should refer his questions to my colleague the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

## 9. FOREIGN LANGUAGES TAUGHT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

(1) With reference to recent reports in "The Sunday Mail" of 7 November that foreign languages are being phased out of secondary schools in Queensland and that students are being denied the right to learn any foreign language, what foreign languages are now being taught and how many students are studying which languages?

(2) Which schools are withdrawing foreign languages from students' choices of subjects?

(3) Will he undertake to this House that he will ensure that the choice of foreign languages will not be eliminated from or downgraded in the students' curriculum?

*Answers:—*

(1) The following foreign languages are being taught in Queensland schools:

French; Italian; German; Latin; Japanese; Indonesian; and Russian.

Information relating to the number of students undertaking each language is not readily available and I could not justify the expense involved in its collection.

(2) I do not know of any school which is withdrawing language study from the students' choice of subjects.

(3) No steps will be taken by my department to discourage the teaching of foreign languages in State secondary schools.

10. IMPROVEMENTS TO SURFSIDE AND SMEKEL'S BUS LINES, GOLD COAST

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

In view of the many complaints that have been directed to my office regarding the restrictions on intercity transport picking up local passengers in the Gold Coast area, what improvements to the local bus services will be made by Surfside and Smekel's Bus Lines?

Answer:—

The honourable member will be aware that over the years considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed by legitimate inter-city commuters between the Gold Coast and Brisbane concerning the progressive lengthening of travel time and the standard of comfort for the long-distance traveller. It became apparent that a lot of the cause for complaint was due to local travellers using the inter-city bus service for short distances on the coast when there was already a local service available for their journeys.

Since I took office as Minister for Transport, I have become increasingly concerned at the deterioration of the inter-city services as well as the local services for Gold Coast residents, and for the past two years in particular a detailed investigation has been made of these services with a view to improving the comfort, convenience and travel time for the long-distance traveller and at the same time providing a better local service for residents of the Gold Coast.

A special committee consisting of representatives of the Gold Coast City Council, the Department of Main Roads and the Department of Transport has looked at all aspects of the operation of both the inter-city service and the local service. The changes which have become effective as from 1 November have been accompanied by improvements to the local bus services provided by Surfside and Smekel's Bus Service. These improvements are—

Surfside Buslines Pty. Ltd.

Twenty additional services, Monday to Friday.

Five additional services on Saturdays.

Twelve additional services on Sundays.

The provision of services to newly developed areas which previously did not have an adequate local service in respect of—

(a) Currumbin to Burleigh Heads via Reservoir Road and West Palm Beach;

(b) Burleigh Heads to Broadbeach via Burleigh Waters and Mermaid Waters;

(c) An increase in the frequency of services between Burleigh Heads and West Burleigh Road area. Smekel's Bus Service.

An extension of services to Southport Gardens (Drive-in Theatre), with five return services per day Monday to Friday and two return services on Saturday.

On the Southport-Anglers Paradise-Runaway Town service, an additional service from Monday to Friday, two on Saturdays, and eight on Sundays.

Apart from the specific increase in services and services to areas which previously had no local service, Surfside Buslines are embarking upon the purchase of new, modern urban buses to provide a better standard of quality and comfort for local residents.

None of these improvements to the local bus services would have been possible without some rationalisation of the services and the recognition that inter-city transport should provide for inter-city commuters and not try to perform the function of a local service.

It is appreciated that there will be some complaints by people who wanted the best of both worlds, and indeed the complainants in many cases have been encouraged in their attitude by one of the inter-city operators, who for many years has refused to recognise that his main task was to provide an efficient, comfortable and fast commuter service between the Gold Coast and Brisbane. Despite my intervention and numerous interviews with all the operators, this one operator appears reluctant to co-operate in any shape or form, and indeed I am forced to conclude that he has no real interest in providing the fast, efficient service for the inter-city commuters which he has often professed to be his aim. I might add that so far as the establishment of inter-city bus stops is concerned, through his solicitors this same operator has—

“... enthusiastically endorsed the policy of fast, comfortable inter-city buses and the proposed reduction of stops available to inter-city operators being reduced from approximately 90 to 20 on the Gold Coast as a decided improvement”.

The special inter-city bus stops have been designated with new and distinctive signs. The new signs will more effectively

inform commuters where they should wait to board the modern air-conditioned coaches operating between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. They are unique to the Gold Coast and can be easily identified by the travelling public, including Gold Coast tourists who may wish to travel to and from Brisbane. These inter-city bus stops, as well as hail stops, are located at all the main centres of the Gold Coast from Coolangatta to Southport. I stress here that information by means of this sign to the public will result in improved services and indeed will encourage people to use the inter-city buses with a consequent advantage to the operators.

The changes which have been made in both inter-city bus services and local services will give the Gold Coast facilities for travel, both locally and to Brisbane, unequalled in Queensland.

I expect that all bus proprietors concerned will welcome the changes once they are established properly, and with their co-operation the public must gain from better time-tabling and travel times by a fast, comfortable service between the Gold Coast and Brisbane, as well as the provision of better services for the local residents.

It is important that the inter-city services, where there is already adequate competition, should concentrate on the inter-city traveller while the local bus services should concentrate on the movement of people within the Gold Coast area. If each task is performed well, there is no doubt in my mind that the public will recognise the improvement and increased patronage will result to the benefit of the public as well as the operators concerned.

#### 11. POLICE RADAR TRAPS AND ROAD TOLL

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

In view of recent criticism in this House regarding police use of radar traps and the strict enforcement of traffic laws, is such police activity having the desired effect in helping to reduce the State's road toll?

*Answer:—*

Yes. I believe I can honestly claim that the enforcement measures taken by police have a direct correlation to the reduction in the State's road toll, particularly when one examines statistics for the current year as opposed to the figures for the corresponding period last year. For the period 1 January 1975 to 16 November 1975 there were 553 deaths, whilst for period 1 January 1976 to 16 November 1976 there were 470 deaths, a reduction of 83.

The saving of one life alone would, I feel, justify the action taken by police, but when one considers that a total of 83 lives have been saved over the corresponding period last year, I feel that we must congratulate and not castigate police for their actions.

#### 12. RETRAINING OF FRASER ISLAND UNEMPLOYED

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

(1) In view of the decision made by the Prime Minister on the Fraser Island issue and his subsequent talk about retraining the hundreds of men who will be put out of work, is the Premier aware that some of the men are contractors living in other parts of Queensland, including the Albert Shire and Gold Coast?

(2) Is he aware that these contractors have purchased expensive plant and equipment such as Cat D9's and Volvo dump trucks?

(3) How does Mr. Fraser intend to retrain these men who own expensive equipment?

(4) Will the retraining scheme include lessons in bankruptcy?

(5) Will he advise the Commonwealth Government of the plight of these contractors and have them included in any construction work put forward by him in his recent statement in this House?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. Much of the equipment used by the subcontractors is of a specialised nature and of great capital value.

(3) As I have said elsewhere, this is a matter for the Prime Minister, who, when making his decision, would surely have given some thought to its consequences. However, I was informed last night that this particular aspect is being considered by him and his Government. I learned that indirectly.

(4) This again is a matter for the Prime Minister.

(5) I warned the Prime Minister of the effects the decision he subsequently made would have on these subcontractors and others. He still chose to make that decision and he must accept the responsibility for the results of that decision.

#### 13. PAST PARKING OFFENCES BY PARAPLEGICS

**Dr. Crawford**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware that in recent years paraplegics have been repeatedly fined for

parking offences by Brisbane City Council officers in the course of their ordinary routine duties?

(2) Is he aware that the council has now instructed its officers to cease fining these incapacitated persons but has no power to forgive fines already imposed, at least one of which has already been the subject of a court case?

(3) Will he therefore, if informed of the details of fines previously imposed, exercise his ministerial authority to forgive the fines in order to prevent paraplegics from being incarcerated?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) No. Consideration of any application for the remission under section 177 of the Justices Acts of the whole or any part of any fine, penalty, forfeiture or cost imposed by a conviction is a matter for my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

14. ISSUE OF SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

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

With regard to registration plates for motor vehicles, concerning which he has recently made a statement about new plates, will he investigate, with a view to implementing, the New South Wales practice of issuing special plates often incorporating the owner's initials, which are sold for charitable fund-raising purposes?

*Answer:—*

The use of other colours, attachment of slogans, reflectorisation and issue of personalised plates will be considered when major changes to the system, including country issuing offices, currently being implemented are complete. If the scheme were adopted, it would appear that the Government, instead of attempting the selection and distribution of funds to numerous charities, who would feel they should benefit if the moneys were to be made available to private bodies, would be better advised to use any revenue from personalised plates on, say, road-safety purposes, as in New South Wales.

15. NEW YORK MEASURES TO REVIVE BUILDING INDUSTRY

**Dr. Crawford**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Is he aware of an announcement in the "New York Times" of 31 August 1976 that building workers in that city have voluntarily accepted a 25 per cent reduction in salary so that the building industry can be rejuvenated?

(2) Will he make representations to the Prime Minister that the Commonwealth Government combine personal tax reductions currently being discussed with a scheme such as has been accepted in New York, to involve as wide a spectrum of Australian citizens as possible in a concerted attack on inflation?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) Such an arrangement may be possible in New York city or the United States of America generally, where the unions and individual employers negotiate labour agreements across the table. However, I cannot imagine that a scheme of this nature would fit into the pattern of Australian industrial relations. So far as attacking inflation and stabilising the economy are concerned, it will be recalled that at the last four Premiers' Conferences I have strongly urged the freezing of income tax levels and the lowering and freezing of sales tax rates as the best and most efficient means of bringing about this desirable result.

16. JAPANESE AND AMERICAN MEAT QUOTAS

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

(1) With reference to the article in "The Courier-Mail" of 16 November under the heading "Japan cuts meat quota", is the 2 000 tonnes of chilled beef due for shipment to Japan in November-December now locked out of the market?

(2) What will be the quotas for January to June and June to December, 1977?

(3) Can any reliable estimate be gained as to the limits of meat to be allowed into the American market in 1977 following the controversial statements made during the election campaign by the President elect, Mr. Carter?

*Answers:—*

(1) No. There is no suggestion, at this stage, that the 2 000 tonnes will not eventually be shipped. The 2 000 tonnes of chilled beef has been deferred from November-December 1976 to January 1977 to avoid over-heavy imports of meat in the November-December period.

(2) The Japanese import year is April to March, and import quotas are allocated on this basis. The quota for the second half of 1976-77, that is, October 1976 to March 1977, was 45 000 tonnes. The Japanese Government has now informed the Commonwealth Government that the quota for the first half of 1977-78, that is, April to September 1977, will be only 20 000 tonnes.

I understand the Prime Minister has made strong representations to the Japanese on this severe cut, which will have serious adverse effects on the Queensland industry. I fully support him in these representations, and commend him for them.

(3) The future level of Australian beef exports to the U.S.A. has not yet been clarified, and therefore no reliable estimate can be made.

#### 17. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE FOR ARAMAC

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

As a pre-school centre at Aramac is urgently required, will a centre be open for the 1977 school year?

*Answer:—*

I thank the honourable member for his continued interest in education generally and in pre-school facilities particularly. I have to advise him that State Loan Funds are not available for construction of State pre-school facilities at Aramac in the 1976-77 financial year.

#### 18. NEW RAILWAY CAMP WAGONS FOR CENTRAL WEST

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

As the agreement between the department and the union regarding the upgrading of accommodation for bridge and flying gangs expires on 31 December 1976, when may the first of the new type camp wagons be expected in the western extremities of the Central Line?

*Answer:—*

The construction of two-man, three-man, four-man and six-man camp wagons of the new type has been proceeding in departmental workshops for a period of some six years and in that time 138 camp wagons have been placed in service throughout the State—30 in the Central Division.

A programme of camp wagon construction is being continued in conjunction with the implementation of the agreement between the department and the unions for the upgrading of accommodation for migratory gangs. In the latter respect modern permanent camping sites have been established at Kuranda, Bajool, Mt. Larcom and Strathpine. The department has supplied modern units to provide a transportable camp in the north-western area of the Northern Division and expects to provide similar units within the course of the next few weeks for the establishment of a transportable camp in the Emerald district.

#### 19. MR. D. P. O'SHEA

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Did Mr. D. P. O'Shea and the Managing Director of Great Australian Permanent Building Society, Mr. F. J. Coory, attend the Office of the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs on 17 June 1975 to discuss the inclusion of "intangible assets" in G.A.P.B.S. financial accounts, after the directors' treatment of the "intangible assets" had been the subject of auditors' queries?

(2) If so, was D. P. O'Shea a director of the society at the time and, if not, in what capacity did Mr. O'Shea, who had been expelled by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, attend this meeting?

(3) At 17 June 1975, was Mr. O'Shea a director of Nursing Centres of Australia, an organisation which had been loaned in excess of \$1,000,000 by G.A.P.B.S.?

(4) Was Mr. O'Shea at 17 June 1975 a director of Gotha P/L, South West Holdings P/L and Golden Years Convalescent Home P/L, all of whom had massive loans from G.A.P.B.S. and United Savings Permanent Building Society?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am advised that brief informal meetings were held between the former Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and Mr. Coory and including Mr. O'Shea on perhaps one or two occasions. I am not in a position to know whether or not a meeting was held in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs on 17 June 1975 attended by Messrs. D. P. O'Shea and F. J. Coory. It is probable that the matter of the treatment by the management of the Great Australian Permanent Building Society of intangible assets amounting to \$131,690 and fully documented in the 1973-74 accounts subsequently published in September 1975 was discussed.

The honourable member for Archerfield will recall that special audits of Great Australian Permanent Building Society, United Savings Permanent Building Society and City Savings Permanent Building Society were commissioned on 1 October 1975 and administrators appointed to conduct the affairs of these societies on 17 December 1975.

(2) Mr. O'Shea was not a director of the society on 17 June 1975.

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes. It might be noted that Golden Years Convalescent Home Pty. Limited is now known as N.C.A. (Mermaid Beach) Pty. Ltd.



QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

DAIRY INDUSTRY INQUIRY

**Mr. GUNN:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: In answer to a question I asked the Minister several weeks ago he informed me that the inquiry into the dairying industry would be completed on 15 November. Is this inquiry now complete? Has Cabinet considered the report, and when will the report be released to the public?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** When the committee of inquiry was set up to look into the dairy industry and report, I asked it to endeavour to have the report to me by 15 November. Last week I was advised by the chairman of the committee (Mr. Lee) that the study has been done but that the report will not be in my hands until 26 November, which is Friday of next week. After that, it will go to Cabinet for consideration and Cabinet will take a decision from there.

"COURIER-MAIL" CARTOON ON POLICE COMMISSIONER'S RESIGNATION

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** In asking the Premier a question, I refer to the cartoon in today's "Courier-Mail" depicting him and the retiring Police Commissioner and carrying the caption, "Always wanting to stop corruption and crime—what sort of attitude was that for a senior police officer?" Will he ensure that the proposed inquiry into the force is wide enough to free dedicated police officers from such damning innuendoes which no doubt arise from his interference in police matters?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The honourable member has asked a very facetious question. He knows jolly well that I did not tender to the Police Commissioner his resignation papers; he made his decision quite independently of me or anybody else. I did not know it was coming.

The whole matter of the inquiry and the procedures to be followed were outlined and a very clear indication has been given that there will be a very interesting and worth-while inquiry carried out by responsible men. When it comes, I am sure that the honourable member will be satisfied; and that is saying a lot, I am quite sure.

CHARGES AGAINST POLICEMEN OVER CEDAR BAY RAID

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I preface a question to the Minister for Police by drawing his attention to a report on the front page of today's "Courier-Mail" regarding summonses to be issued against police in relation to the Cedar Bay raid. Is the Minister able to confirm now that a police inspector is

travelling to Cairns to issue 25 summonses against four police officers, and, if so, what is the nature of the charges?

**Mr. NEWBERY:** The report has been received by the commissioner and is receiving attention. As soon as circumstances permit, details will be made available.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE, TEWANTIN-MARYBOROUGH HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. SIMPSON:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: In view of the loss of employment and revenue, both locally and to Queensland, from the recent decision of the Federal Government to stop mining on Fraser Island, will he investigate the possibility of obtaining federal finance for a new highway from Tewantin to Maryborough via Cootharaba and Como to service tourists wishing to see Fraser Island and to compensate to some degree for the loss of revenue from mining? I point out that such a highway would be about 30 miles shorter than the existing route.

**Mr. HINZE:** It is easy to understand the honourable member's concern, which emanates, of course, from the Federal Government's decision on Fraser Island. A meeting of ATAC will be held on 3 December, and I shall certainly put forward his proposal. Peter Nixon, the Federal Minister for Transport, will be at that meeting and, as the honourable member is aware, he was the Minister to whom the Prime Minister delegated the task of coming to Queensland to inform the Government of this State of the Federal Government's decision. Under the circumstances, I shall put forward as strong an argument as I can to ensure that people living in the area receive some benefit in substitution for what has been taken from them.

KAMERUNGA ROAD-CAPTAIN COOK HIGHWAY JUNCTION, SMITHFIELD

**Mr. JONES:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: In view of the recurring accidents with increasing frequency to Cairns residents, and a recent fatality at the junction of Kamerunga Road and Captain Cook Highway at Smithfield, will he have investigations undertaken with a view to the urgent allocation of funds to eliminate that death-trap for motorists in the Cairns area?

**Mr. HINZE:** Yes.

NATIONAL RURAL BANK AND QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL BANK

**Mr. MELLOY:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: What steps has the State Government taken to persuade the Federal

Liberal-National Country Party Government to honour its election promise last year to set up a national rural bank? Further, what action has the State Government taken to honour its undertaking given in 1974 to upgrade the Agricultural Bank?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** In reply to the first part of the question—over the past nine months or so, since the present Federal Government took office, there has been dialogue between it and the State Government on this matter. However, I cannot indicate what the policy of the Federal Government will be in relation to the establishment of a national rural bank.

As to the second part of the question—the deputy director of the Agricultural Bank was sent by the Government to New South Wales and Western Australia to examine the functions of the Rural Banks in those States. A report has been made to Cabinet and the matter is now in the hands of the Treasury Department. Officers of that department as well as officers of my own department are examining the position at present.

The honourable member refers to the upgrading of the Agricultural Bank. I would point out to him that over the past two years the maximum amount that can be borrowed from the bank has been raised, firstly, from \$20,000 to \$30,000 and, later, from \$30,000 to \$40,000. So we are certainly showing our concern in this matter.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! In terms of the agreement reached between all parties, the time allotted for questions has now expired.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is referring to a matter that came before the Industrial Commission. The Hospital Employees' Union has appealed to the Industrial Court. A date has been set for the hearing of the appeal, namely, 8 December. The judge is Mr. Justice Matthews. I consider—and I ask for your ruling, Mr. Speaker—that the award and conditions of employment are sub judice.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! In view of the submission by the Minister, I rule that the matter is sub judice.

**Mr. Hinze:** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! As a date has been set for the hearing of an appeal in this matter, I rule that it is sub judice—as I have done in respect of other matters. I accept the Minister's submission.

**Mr. YEWDALE:** I believe that the submission made by the Minister that this matter is sub judice is not valid. Mr. Speaker, I do not feel that your ruling is correct, in the sense that the Minister has nothing to back up his submission. He is only trying to stall discussion. He is embarrassed by his own actions.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There will be no further discussion. I have ruled that the matter is sub judice.

#### SAND-MINING, FRASER ISLAND

**Dr. CRAWFORD (Wavell) (12.3 p.m.):** The matter of public interest I raise today concerns the controversy raging currently over the Federal Government's action concerning sand-mining and other activities on Fraser Island. The letters patent under which the Queensland Government functions were issued originally in 1868. Under the heading "Power to make leases and grant licenses—Minerals, and guano licenses", they set out quite succinctly the following—

"And we do hereby further authorise and empower the said Governor of the said Islands, so long as he shall be Governor thereof, by any instrument under his hand and seal, to make leases and other dispositions . . . to issue licenses . . . to take minerals or guano, or other fertilising substances, or other produce from the said Islands or any of them, and to insert in such leases, dispositions, or licenses, as the case may be all such reservations by way of rent or royalty, or otherwise, and all such conditions, exceptions, and stipulations as may to him seem advisable."

It appears that these rights, which have obtained for more than a century in this State are now being abrogated by the Federal Government under its power to refuse to allow the export of minerals from this

#### MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

##### NEW CARING PROFESSION FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED

**Mr. YEWDALE (Rockhampton North) (12 noon):** The matter of public interest I wish to speak about today relates to the new caring profession for the intellectually handicapped that the Minister for Health and the Government intend introducing in Queensland. This move will have a twofold effect. The new concept of care of these less fortunate people will ensure that life is made easier for them and no doubt the practical application of skills and the participation by the people involved in this profession in their care will mean that these unfortunate people can look forward to a general improvement in their lives.

My reference to the twofold effect concerns the manner in which the Minister, his departmental officers and the Government are moving to have the very vital components involved in the new scheme subjected to a complete change in identity and working conditions. The components I refer to are the people who have been engaged in this calling for many years, working under specific conditions as members of the Hospital Employees' Union—

country. I believe that its action constitutes a grave injustice to the State of Queensland, and particularly to the citizens of Maryborough, Hervey Bay and adjoining areas.

This part of Queensland is an outstanding tourist area and those who visit it cannot but be impressed with its beauty and its safe conditions, particularly for family holidays. The mandatory decision of the Federal Government will interfere with industry there and also, in the long term, will probably impair its potential as a tourist area.

For 100 years timber has been taken from Fraser Island. This industry has been conducted in a responsible and first-class fashion, with good administration. I have inspected the area on Fraser Island from which the timber is taken. It is a very beautiful and well-kept area of which the Government and the people of Queensland can be extremely proud. The industry provides employment and much-needed timber for use in the building industry in Queensland.

In his speech on this matter in the Federal Parliament recently, the Prime Minister said he hoped that the whole of Fraser Island, which is 90 miles long, would become part of the National Estate. On the literal interpretation of that term, I understand that we would not be able to use it as it is being used currently by the building industry, that is, for the growth of timber and its removal. The abolition of the timber industry there would be another major blow that the people of Queensland in particular and of Australia generally would regret.

Those of us who have inspected the island were impressed also with the fact that, although many more leases are in existence than are being operated, the actual mining was being conducted on a very limited part of the southern tip of the island. If it were proposed seriously that mining take place in all other parts of the island where tourists go, I, for one, would be diametrically opposed to it. There is no doubt that to date the mining has been carried out with a correct appreciation of conservation and of the rehabilitation process. The mining companies have botanists and other experts whose full-time job is the rehabilitation of areas that have been mined.

In fact, tourism, in an area as remote as Fraser Island, is itself a major element of pollution. If tourism on Fraser Island does boom and two or three times the number of tourists visit the area, an army of inspectors would be needed to control them. The resultant destruction would be a much greater problem than the so-called damage done by mining.

Under the National Estate concept, no roads can be built. Even if roads were built, they would interfere very seriously with the ecology. Roads and beach buggies would in effect lead to more damage than has resulted from the limited sand-mining that has taken place to date.

I draw the attention of the House to the Burleigh esplanade between Big Burleigh and Little Burleigh on the Gold Coast. This area is one of the area's favourite spots for recreation and holidays. It was mined years ago and it was restored and rehabilitated by those who mined the area. Certainly there is no evidence that mining damaged either the ecology or the tourist potential of that part of the coast.

Conservationists now have a moral obligation to use their considerable lobbying influence to delay the cessation of sand-mining so that the potential unemployed in Maryborough can be retrained and new industries and schemes can be implemented. As the honourable member for Maryborough pointed out, it is important that there should be time for new jobs to be found for the work-force that will be thrown out of work in a few weeks' time and for the work-force to be properly settled into those new areas of employment.

In this whole matter talk is cheap and political talk is cheaper than most. I believe that decisions made by Governments should always be made with due regard to their effects on people and that priority should not be given to altruistic concepts, however worthy they are in themselves.

No member of this House, I am sure, would wish to see sand-mining carried out over the whole of Fraser Island, but, in the name of ordinary humanity and justice to the people of the Maryborough area, I believe that the effects of this decision should be delayed and that the conservationists who have been so vocally active in bringing it about should now use their efforts to have it reversed or at least to persuade the Prime Minister to delay its implementation. Timber is cropped only from areas where it is managed correctly and then only every 90 or 100 years. Sand-mining is carried out in an area only once and, if it is carried out in a responsible way, under no circumstances can it be claimed to be detrimental to the nation.

#### DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A STABLE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT

**Mr. GIBBS** (Albert) (12.12 p.m.): I rise to bring to the notice of the House a matter of considerable public importance. It follows an article of mine that appeared in the "Gold Coast Bulletin" of 14 November 1975 in which I called on the Labor Party to turn into a good Opposition. I quote from that article—

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party—is the sentence of the week.

"And the party I'm talking about is the A.L.P., would you believe.

"At long last the nation will go to the polls, and the people will decide how things should be run. However, the sacking of the Whitlam Government now opens the door for the A.L.P. to lift itself out of the morass into which it has fallen.

"Now is the time for people to stand up and be counted."

We now see the further disintegration of this party; we see signs that it is coming apart at the seams. I make an appeal to people connected with the Labor Party to stand up and be counted and to try to put things back into order.

It is not because I have any love for the A.L.P. that I am making this appeal. I make it simply because I believe that the State cannot function without a stable Government and a good, stable Opposition. Today in Australia we have stable government but the stability of the Opposition is very much open to question. Of more concern is the fact that there is a very rough, outside chance that at some time far in the future the A.L.P. might become the Government of this State. If that time comes—and it is a big "if"—the State is entitled to government by a good party—and the A.L.P. is far from that at present.

All thinking Queenslanders—and, more particularly, all thinking A.L.P. supporters—must be wondering about the circumstances that led to Mr. Bart Lourigan's seeking early retirement from the A.L.P.'s top post in this State. From the Q.C.E. came carefully leaked reports that Mr. Lourigan had somehow got out of step with his political bosses. That is perhaps a tragedy in itself. From Mr. Lourigan, a loyal party man prepared to put the party before himself, came no comment at all. I believe the important question that must be answered in the interests of political stability in this State is this: why did Mr. Lourigan decide to get off the band wagon? Obviously it was not because he had become disenchanted with socialism. Indeed, from Mr. Lourigan's track record as a socialist, he will be seen to stand in far better light than many of his Q.C.E. colleagues. His record of work for the Labor movement is very impressive. It is hard to believe that a man who worked successfully to defeat Churchill in Britain's first post-war election should now decide that the cause of socialism is not worth fighting for. I believe that he has perhaps been treated very harshly.

So far everything has been leaked to the Press except the truth and I believe it is the truth about this matter that should be demanded by A.L.P. supporters throughout the State. If I were an A.L.P. rank-and-file member, I would lend my unqualified support to Mr. Lourigan and demand that the facts be made public.

We have been told that over the past several months the Q.C.E. inner executive has conducted a series of secret meetings, at which Mr. Lourigan was not present, in an endeavour to devise a method of eliminating him without open warfare. Of course, the Q.C.E. could not afford to have an open fight; they knew that Mr. Lourigan would get substantial support from the rank-and-file members of the A.L.P. Considerable

pressure was brought to bear and the suggestion was made that the Q.C.E. might be prepared to bend the retirement fund rules a little in return for silence. Of course, we all know this was not necessary because Mr. Lourigan is a very good party supporter and a loyal member of the A.L.P. He would not do anything that he thought might harm basic Labor principles. He is in fact a loyal man and a man of principle, and that is why he got to the top.

However, while the Q.C.E. inner executive might like A.L.P. men with principles while they are putting their hands in their pockets to boost party funds, they are not very keen on having them in positions where they can see what is going on. Time has shown that, by and large, the Q.C.E. inner executive have very little in the way of principles at all. When it suits them, they dump their mates in a ruthless manner, and when it comes to money they choose very strange bedfellows for a political party with alleged socialist ideals. For years now the A.L.P. has been running around Australia beating the drum against the capitalists and the multinationals. We are told by the A.L.P. that big business is the enemy of the people and yet it is big business that is paying the salaries of the A.L.P. staff in Queensland. I think we should all be aware of this.

It is big business that is maintaining the A.L.P.'s State headquarters lock, stock and barrel. The money which keeps the A.L.P. going comes from the revenue from A.L.P. Enterprises, of which radio station 4KQ is the principle component. This, of course, is big business and it is perhaps private enterprise at its best. Honourable members should not get me wrong. I think 4KQ is a beaut station which really does a good job; but there is no getting away from the fact that its revenue is derived from advertising, and the section of the community which pays for this advertising is the element that the A.L.P. has sworn to wipe from the face of the earth, and this is a pity. Perhaps Mr. Lourigan questioned this principle.

Perhaps Mr. Lourigan, like me, would like to know what happens to the rest of the A.L.P.'s income. It is always short of money. Perhaps Mr. Lourigan would like to know how it is that a party which does not have to raise one cent to maintain its administrative structure is always crying poor and, as we know, is always desperately short of funds for elections. Perhaps Mr. Lourigan would like to know what happens to the vast sums of money poured into the A.L.P. each year by well-meaning unionists. This must be a great worry to him. Perhaps Mr. Lourigan wanted to know just who is on the pay-roll of A.L.P. Enterprises, and just how much the tall poppies of the A.L.P. are getting to safeguard the workers' interests. As I have said, I believe Mr. Lourigan is too loyal a Labor man to air the dirty washing in public. However, I believe the

rank and file of the party are entitled to know what is going on. I think this is a question that is being asked in a lot of quarters. Indeed, the people of this State are entitled to know what is going on.

The Leader of the Opposition is a member of the Q.C.E. inner executive and a former prominent official of the Federal Labor Party organisation. He knows what is going on, and we should remind him that in this place he can come clean without fear or favour. I believe Mr. Lourigan to be a man of principle and I invite the Leader of the Opposition to display the same principles and tell the thousands of Queenslanders who support his party just exactly what is going on. I am sure they, like me, are not impressed by the fact that after 83 years the Q.C.E. has finally decided to pay lip-service to the fact that the rank and file should have their say. The Q.C.E. really must have something to hide, for it to take such a radical and far-reaching decision.

Let us take this discussion a stage further and discuss Sir John Egerton. When Sir John was knighted, this did not suit the organisation so he was axed; he was thrown out of the party. They embarrassed a man who I believe has done wonderful work for the A.L.P. and the whole Labor movement over a long period. Sir John had matured, as I believe Bart Lourigan had, into a fairly good A.L.P. leader, and these men, of course, did not suit the A.L.P. any longer. We have seen over the years various occasions when the A.L.P. has axed its own members. We have now got to the stage where our good friend, the honourable member for Bundaberg (Mr. Lou Jensen), who does not agree with some of the tactics that are being employed by the A.L.P., is about to be axed. We can see what is going to happen to him. In the last two or three speeches he has made in this Chamber, he has shown that he is a man of principle and that he has qualities of leadership.

**Mr. Powell:** Did you notice that the Press printed his speeches in full?

**Mr. GIBBS:** Yes, I noticed that. I expect that the executive of the A.L.P., people at the Trades Hall and others who were involved have been upset by what the honourable member for Bundaberg has said. He has shown himself to be true-blue by sticking to his principles. As we know, he is a great family man—we often hear him talking about his grandchildren—and that is really what life is all about.

So we have the Bart Lourigan affair, the Sir John Egerton affair, and now, closer to home, the affair of our good friend the member for Bundaberg, who has had his endorsement withdrawn because he does not agree with what the A.L.P. is doing.

On behalf of the people of Queensland, I express great concern about what has happened. I suggest that members of the A.L.P. in this Chamber should stand up

and be counted and bring their party back to taws and make it once again a good Opposition.

#### QUEENSLAND POLICE FORCE

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) (12.22 p.m.): I wish to speak on a matter that I believe is of grave public importance—that the Police Force in this State has now become a tool of politicians. On Tuesday, the last bulwark against this was removed when the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Whitrod, finally threw in the towel and tendered his resignation.

For years—in fact, ever since the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues made law and order a political catchcry—the Queensland Police Force has gradually been becoming a tool of Government. You might recall, Mr. Speaker, that every time the Opposition or the public complained about some action of the Police Force and the Government thought that the complaint was politically damaging to it, it made changes. Honourable members will recall the issue of the use of radar traps being raised and the Premier coming into the Chamber—I think he was Minister for Police at the time—and saying that notices would be put up on the road telling motorists to beware, there was a radar trap further on. That, of course, was just before a State election. Recently, because no election is pending, motorists have been fined for having their headlights on to try to warn people coming in the opposite direction that there is a radar trap further down the road. The Government is of the same political colour; the difference is that no election is imminent.

I do not think there is any doubt that the Government wanted a tough, knock-'em-over Police Force. On many occasions people in marches have been threatened by the police. Recently an incident occurred—and I think this is particularly relevant at present—while university students were marching from the University of Queensland to the city. I again ask the question that I then asked the Minister: Why were these people allowed to proceed so far if the police wanted to stop them marching? If it was an illegal march, surely it was illegal from the moment they set off? The police decided, in their wisdom, that they would allow them to march until, finally, there was a clash between the police and the marchers. As I said earlier, the Government has been using the catchcry of law and order for some time, and this was an instance in which it tried to show the people of Brisbane that it was a law-and-order decision. Of course, from the Government's point of view, the fact that they were university students made them an acceptable target.

**Mr. Gygar:** You just said that they should have stopped them at the university.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I said that university students marched. They were marching, of course, as part of their campaign to obtain better student allowances. A few weeks later, similar marches were held throughout Australia. Finally, the Fraser Government agreed to increase the allowances being paid to students, which proved that those who took part in the marches had a good case. They believed that it was the only way in which they could present it.

As I said earlier, the Government's attitude to the use of the Police Force was to get tough with university students, unionists or anyone else who had a case to present. The real purpose of the Police Force, of course, should be crime prevention and detection. When a crime is committed, it should be solved. No fair-minded person would argue that the present commissioner (Mr. Whitrod) is not a dedicated and proven top administrator and crime investigator. No-one has ever suggested to the contrary. Certainly he came up with ideas; certainly he wanted change. But what progressive person does not come with ideas and want change? I am sure his sole aim was to make the Queensland Police Force a top crime-prevention and detection force. I believe that he wanted to solve crime. Those who have read his report know that that is true.

How often were his efforts frustrated by political pressure? I know that the unions objected to many of his administrative decisions, but I wonder how many of the decisions that the commissioner made in his own name were in fact made because of political pressure from Cabinet. I wonder how many of the decisions he made were really his own or those of his police advisers. I am now of the opinion that many of the decisions were made by Cabinet and forced on him.

There is no doubt that the commissioner had a very loyal ally in the former Police Minister (Mr. Hodges). Of course we know that he was removed from his portfolio. I believe they were a working team. I did not agree with everything the department did or with all the policies of the Government—I am not suggesting that at all—but I believe that no-one could question the integrity of the commissioner or the former Minister in the performance of their duties. They were under constant pressure from the Government, mainly from the National Party. The Liberal Party at that time showed how weak it was. I just wonder what part Sir Gordon Chalk played while he was in Cabinet in holding back the National Party from taking the steps it finally took which brought about the resignation of the commissioner. Naturally a man only resigns when he has had enough. I will be very interested to hear later what the commissioner has to say.

From the events of the last six months it is obvious that Cabinet became virtually a one-man band when Sir Gordon Chalk left. He was the person who stopped any shift in the ministerial portfolio. As soon as he left, the Premier took the opportunity to shift Mr. Hodges and appoint Mr. Newbery. Let us understand that the National Party members of Cabinet are hand-picked by the Premier. They are not selected by rank-and-file members of the party. If the Minister wants to remain in a portfolio he has to toe the line. We know that other steps were taken at the same time. The Government said it was going to have an inquiry into the Southport case. We know that the two officers it appointed were from Scotland Yard. Perhaps that was good propaganda. But what was the effect of their appointment? Have they given a report? Have they finalised anything at all? The Southport case has been through the courts, but we know no more about it. We know that the commissioner wanted an investigation into the march and the incident that was shown on TV. Apparently it was the Premier who said, "No inquiry." Why not? It would have cleared the air. If everyone was innocent, it would have shown that. If anyone had exceeded his responsibility, that would have been shown. Then we had the Cedar Bay incident. We were told in this House by Government spokesmen that there was nothing wrong in the Cedar Bay incident, yet we read in today's Press that people are going to be charged. It is a pity that members in this House have to read the daily newspaper to find out what is going on, particularly when not half an hour ago the Minister for Police, in reply to a question, said that he would tell us at a later stage. The whole story was in the "Telegraph" that was available to members of the public at the same time as the honourable member for Rockhampton was asking his question. This is where the priorities of the Government are completely wrong. Now we know that there were problems. I do not know whether anyone is guilty; the point is that the inquiry was held, and only because the Commissioner of Police demanded it.

I see the honourable member for Chatsworth in the Chamber. I do not want to embarrass him, but I recall the treatment meted out to him and the honourable member for South Brisbane when they asked that an inquiry be held into the Cedar Bay affair. What happened to them? The story appears in the "Sunday Sun" of 19 September under the heading "Joh's Gang Slugs Libs Over Cedar Bay." How do those two Government members feel now? They asked for an inquiry and, according to the newspaper report, were the target for criticism from their fellow Government members. I am not passing judgment on anyone involved in the Cedar Bay episode; that is not my province. I do contend, however, that in demanding an inquiry the Police Commissioner was right. It will be interesting to

learn what part his decision to call for an inquiry played in his ultimate decision to resign.

(Time expired.)

#### FRASER ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY

**Mr. ALISON** (Maryborough) (12.31 p.m.): Today I want to trace the history of the Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry, which is assuming a great deal of importance in the relations that are developing between the Federal Government and the State Government.

When the enormity of the injustice perpetrated on the people of my area and the personal hardship that will be inflicted on them get through eventually to all fair-minded people—people who believe in giving others a fair go—there will be a backlash against conservation and against the Federal Government. I believe that the Federal Government arrived at its hasty decision to adopt the recommendations set out in the report of the inquiry merely to engender electoral support in Victoria.

The Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry was set up by the Whitlam Government on 12 July 1975. A Mr. Hicks and a Dr. Hookey were appointed as the commissioners. Both of these gentlemen are public servants with an environmental background and discipline. I have no quarrel with them personally. They were appointed to do a job and they did it. They did it well.

The inquiry was conducted in Maryborough and Brisbane, and evidence was called from all interested parties. After the first week of sitting in Maryborough it became quite obvious that the inquiry would come forward with a biased report and biased recommendations. I make that statement with due consideration.

If the Whitlam Government had been fair dinkum and had wanted a balanced report it would have appointed to the commission an environmentalist; an economist, to consider the socio-economic aspects of sand-mining or the lack of sand-mining; an engineer well-versed in sand-mining and the rehabilitation of mined areas; and also a layman representing the community that would be most involved. The appointment of personnel such as that to the commission would have given its report and its recommendations some semblance of balance. Instead of that, the report is a document that is biased shockingly against sand-mining. It is the type of report that could be expected from a commission comprising two sand-mining engineers—except, in that instance, the recommendations would have gone the other way.

In February this year the Prime Minister told the two commissioners that he required the report and the recommendations to be in the appropriate Minister's hands by March of this year. Reference was made to other reports also, but I want

to talk about the Fraser Island report. It is quite significant that it was not published until a few weeks ago, at a time when the Ranger inquiry report was released. Quite obviously, the reason for this is that Maryborough and the nearby communities involved have been sold out to the preservationists. In an informal deal, we have been thrown to the wolves—the conservationists and the preservationists—to get them off the Federal Government's back to some extent. Those groups will now be able to say that they have had a victory, while the Federal Government's reasoning is that less noise will be made about the uranium inquiry. The Federal Government is in for a hell of a shock on that. It is quite obvious that Canberra politicians are rather naive and do not understand the radical conservationists.

**Mr. Frawley:** Dr. Mosley won't accept it.

**Mr. ALISON:** He certainly will not. There is no soft line; no compromise. It is conservation all the way—conservation first, second and last—and to hell with the other parts of the environment; that is, the people.

It is obvious that the Federal Government hopes to pick up conservation votes in Melbourne. I have no doubt that the decision to accept these recommendations—before they were made public—was made in what is known as the Melbourne Club.

**Mr. Marginson:** That is where Fraser comes from.

**Mr. ALISON:** I know that.

It is significant also that the recommendations were adopted within 10 days of the report's becoming public. That is remarkable, because the report is quite a lengthy document. There is a hell of a lot of it to read. Who had time to read it and make constructive criticism before the recommendations were adopted? Why the haste? We know why there was such haste: a decision had been made!

The decision to adopt the recommendations in the report that sand-mining on Fraser Island be banned is supposed to be based on environmental issues. That is absolute rubbish. The decision was political. Any political decision that hurts innocent people is completely unacceptable to me. In Maryborough we will continue not to accept the flow-on from this report.

I sent a telegram to Mr. Kev Newman, the Minister for the Environment, challenging him to a debate in the Maryborough Town Hall on this document.

**Dr. Lockwood:** Why didn't he make that statement in Launceston?

**Mr. ALISON:** That might be a clue. I might yet make that challenge.

He wired back that the Government's decision on Fraser Island was made only after all aspects were fully considered. He said that all parties had the opportunity to

put their views to the inquiry. Nobody disputes that. Certainly everybody was invited to make submissions to the inquiry. That is not the point. The point is that it is a biased document. Two environmentalists made this report; people from other disciplines and a layman should have been on the commission to give the damned thing some balance.

If the Federal Government is genuine in its concern for people—and the environment, for that matter—in the name of humanity and in the name of giving fellow Australians a fair go I ask the Federal Government to sit down in discussion with the State Government to find areas for negotiation on this report. By telegram, I asked Mr. Fraser to come to Maryborough with as many Federal Ministers as possible to look at Fraser Island and see the rehabilitation work that has been, and is being, carried out there. I ask him to sit down with the State Government and talk about cutting down the size of the mining leases. About 10 per cent of the island is taken up in mining leases, but only a little over 1 per cent is to be mined. Surely that is a basis for negotiation. If the Federal Government is unhappy with mining leases covering 10 per cent of the island, surely to goodness the area could be cut down, possibly to five per cent, without hindering mining activities to any great extent.

Surely another area for negotiation with the State Government would be the excision of sensitive areas that might worry the Federal Government—if it is concerned about the environment. Those areas could be excised from the mining leases. The Federal Government could therefore be seen to be interested in the environment and in the people (the other aspect of the environment) rather than in taking the easy way out and virtually saying, "To hell with all the negotiations; let's chuck Maryborough and the 500 or so sand-mining workers to the conservationists and adopt this report in full."

If the Federal Government does not retract and enter into discussions with the State Government on these areas of negotiation—and, for that matter, on others that it wishes to discuss—it will stand condemned as a heartless Government with cynical disregard for people—a Government with no real concern for the environment. It is using environmental matters only for political reasons.

It will be seen to be a Government prepared to do a deal with the radical conservationists and preservationists, and to hell with the jobs of the people in a time of unemployment. It will be seen to be a Government that cares more for dunes than it does for people and that cares more for spinifex grass than it does for people.

I hope that the Federal Government heeds my remarks and sits down to discussions. I hope that Mr. Fraser accepts my invitation to come to Maryborough, have a look at Fraser Island for himself and see what can

be done. After all, people are involved in this decision. I would say that the very least we can expect from the Federal Government is to have Mr. Fraser and other Ministers come up, see what is going on there and talk to the community leaders as well.

#### MISUSE OF POWER BY CONSERVATIONISTS AND PRESERVATIONISTS

**Mr. FRAWLEY** (Murrumba) (12.41 p.m.): The matter of great public interest I wish to speak on today is the misuse of power—the power of the Press among other things—by protesters, conservationists and preservationists. Many people have made many attempts to prevent the State Government from redeveloping the site of the Bellevue building. For the interest of honourable members, the Bellevue Hotel was built in the 1870s.

I believe that many of the protesters are absolute hypocrites and are not genuinely concerned with the preservation of historic buildings. It is true that many genuine and sincere people do wish to preserve many of our historic buildings, but they are in the minority. Until the State Government purchased the Bellevue Hotel in 1973 for \$660,000, very little interest had been shown in the preservation of that building. As soon as the State Government became the owner and produced some plans for the demolition of the building, in came the knockers. I would go so far as to say that the majority of the people who have jumped on the preservation band wagon are rat-bags and hypocrites.

Jack Munday, a well-known Communist and traitor to this country, set the pattern by imposing green bans on many building projects in Sydney.

**Mr. Katter:** He sold out the working man.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** He did this in the interests of the A.L.P.

Ostensibly in the interests of culture and preservation, he pretended that he was trying to preserve many places of historic value. But in reality he and his union were merely blackmailing the builders in Sydney. When the builders kicked into the union funds, the ban was lifted.

In Victoria, blackmail was also prevalent in the building industry. The Victorian Branch of the Building Labourers' Federation led by Norm Gallagher, who is a well-known Communist, placed a ban on the Newport Power Station. When the sum of \$40,000 was kicked into the union funds, the ban was lifted. It is now on again. The Australian Government should certainly deport people like Gallagher and his mates.

It is interesting to note that when the ban on the Newport Power Station was lifted after the payment of \$40,000 to the Building Labourers' Federation, the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union imposed another ban



on the station. This union is led by Halfpenny and Carmichael—another pair of Communists. The same has happened here in Queensland, but the builders have not been game to buck the unions.

Many conflicting opinions are held about the Bellevue building. In 1970, the president of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Queensland Chapter (Mr. H. J. Parkinson), said that the Bellevue was not of sufficient architectural value to be preserved. Another Brisbane architect, Mr. G. E. Pie, said that the Bellevue should be preserved.

Then the Building Workers' Industrial Union got into the act. They put a demolition ban on the Bellevue. At that time the president of the union was Hughie Hamilton, who is also president of the Queensland Branch of the Communist Party. He is now the secretary of the union. A public meeting attended by about 80 people was held on the site on 7 November 1973. A petition was circulated calling on the Government to reconsider its decision to demolish the Bellevue.

A number of people have been genuinely concerned at the proposal to demolish the Bellevue, but others have seized the opportunity to cause disruption. One wonders where all of these people were when the Royal Exchange Hotel, at the corner of Elizabeth and Albert Streets, was demolished to make way for a picture theatre. It was built in 1886, before the Bellevue, and was one of the oldest hotels in Brisbane. Originally it was known as the White Horse Inn. Surely it had some historic value—but did the Building Workers' Union, Mr. Pie or the Trades and Labor Council come forward to save it? Did the National Trust do anything? Not on your life; they let it be demolished.

The Gresham Hotel was built in 1893. It was certainly one of the best-known hotels in Brisbane. It had an association with racing and grazing interests. Did anyone protest when it was demolished? No!

Then Lennons Hotel was bought by the Brisbane City Council and demolished. It was bought with money that was supposed to be put aside to pay compensation to the people of Dayboro, Samsonvale and Petrie for the land resumed by the Brisbane City Council for the North Pine Dam. It gained some historic value during the last war, but did anyone protest when Lennons was pulled down?

The same comments apply to the Hotel Daniell, which stood on the corner of Adelaide and George Streets. Did anyone complain when it was demolished? It is strange that the only hotel building that has been the subject of any protests from conservationists is one owned by the State Government. When the Bellevue Hotel was under private ownership, no attempt was ever made by anyone to plan for its future preservation. The Building Workers' Industrial Union and the Trades and Labor Council both expressed concern for the Bellevue yet they have neglected the Trades Hall; it has been allowed to fall into disrepair. They have even approached the State Government to allow its demolition and the erection of a new Trades Hall on the site.

I believe that this Queensland's Kremlin, as I call it, should be preserved for posterity if only to remind people of some of the plots hatched in its back rooms. If only the walls of the Trades Hall could talk, what would be revealed! We would hear how Senator Georges obtained his endorsement and how much money it cost him. The Leader of the Opposition has played a starring role in numerous dramas enacted at the Trades Hall and, of course, the honourable member for Archerfield has masterminded many political assassinations from the back rooms of the Trades Hall.

I challenge all the protesters who shed crocodile tears over the Bellevue to show how genuine they are by helping to preserve the Regent Theatre in the interests of culture.

Speaking about conservationists generally—if there is any award for the conservationist who did the most damage to his fellow men it should go to Mr. John Sinclair, the man whose efforts will put hundreds of Maryborough people on the unemployed list. Now that he has completed his task in Maryborough by creating a great deal of unemployment, I suggest that the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities should promote him and transfer him to another area where his talents as an Adult Education officer could be used to better advantage. He has caused more misery than any other person for the people of Maryborough.

The Federal Labor Government initiated the inquiry into Fraser Island, supported by the State Labor Party and every rat-bag and radical in Australia. The Labor Opposition in this House cannot deny that it supported John Sinclair in every way. Opposition members were laughing to themselves

and egging him on in the hope that he would cause this Government a great deal of trouble. Well, he has caused a great deal of trouble for the good people of Maryborough. I might mention, by the way, that there are many Labor supporters in Maryborough and they have been given a great Christmas present by Mr. Sinclair!

The Leader of the Opposition in this House is nothing more than a hypocrite. He professed great concern for the people of Maryborough. He flew up there the other night, at Government expense. He is always whingeing about the Premier's use of the Government aircraft, yet he can make unlimited use of commercial air services at the expense of the Government.

**Mr. Alison:** Where was he when the fight was on?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** He was up at Maryborough. He is one who openly supported the ban on sand-mining on Fraser Island, knowing full well that it would cause a great deal of unemployment in the area but hoping that he could use it to gain some political advantage. The A.L.P. will sink to any depth to gain cheap political advantage from the sufferings of people. Its professed concern over sand-mining on Fraser Island and unemployment among Maryborough people is a typical example of A.L.P. hypocrisy and cheap politicking.

The present Federal Government cannot hope to escape unscathed, either. It is interesting to note that, so far as I know, only seven of Queensland's 18 members spoke against the banning of sand-mining on Fraser Island. Others may have, but if they did I do not know of it. Southern members of the Federal Government put the pressure on the Prime Minister because they were afraid of the big stick wielded by the conservationists in the South. Sometimes I think that the present Federal Government is little better than the previous Government, which was nothing but a group of centralists. Now that they have had their hollow victory, Mr. Sinclair and his cohorts will probably embark upon a plan to stop timber-getting on Fraser Island. Although they have denied it, I still believe that at the back of their minds they have a plan to make Fraser Island a complete sanctuary preserved from everything.

Another dangerous organisation is the Australian Conservation Foundation, which was formed in 1965. Its executive comprised genuine environmentalists, one of the most

notable being Sir Garfield Barwick. But by October 1973 a group of radical conservationists had taken control. They got the numbers to stage a take-over. They were funded at that time by the Federal Government to the extent of \$150,000 a year. Immediately this take-over occurred, many prominent members and genuine conservationists resigned.

**Mr. Alison:** Do you know who this Australian Conservation Foundation sent to Canada to a conference?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** Jack Munday, a well-known Communist.

**Mr. Alison:** That is right.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** Since the Australian Conservation Foundation was taken over by radical conservationists, it has sought political rather than technological solutions to conservation problems.

On a variety of issues including uranium-mining, green bans and the Newport Power Station, it has used the Communist trade unions in Victoria to back up its arguments. It uses the Electrical Trades Union, the Building Workers' Industrial Union, John Halfpenny's Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union, the Seamen's Union, the Builders' Labourers' Federation, the Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees' Union and the Waterside Workers' Federation. All these unions in Victoria are dominated by Communists. The rank-and-file members are not Communists, but they are dominated by their Communist leaders. The Australian Conservation Foundation bears a heavy responsibility for some of the things they have done, especially holding up the Newport Power Station. They have caused a lot of strife in Victoria by holding up its construction, and they are going to cause a lot more.

The attitude of the Australian Conservation Foundation towards uranium-mining is one of complete opposition. They have published a booklet titled "The Metal of Menace", which adopts an apparently scientific approach to the question, but which on the whole ignores experience which has shown that it is quite acceptable to mine and export uranium. Following a decision by the executive council of the Australian Conservation Foundation to ban the export of uranium in February last year, Jack Munday was reported in the Brisbane "Courier-Mail" as saying that he was quite confident the unions would listen to and act on such a call. On 25 February 1975

the Communist Party newspaper "Tribune" reported approvingly that the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Communist-led Congress of International Co-operation and Disarmament and the Australia Party were launching a joint campaign against the export of uranium. In October 1974 the Australian Conservation Foundation Council unanimously carried a resolution supporting the New South Wales Builders' Labourers' Federation's green bans policy.

(Time expired.)

#### INCONSISTENCY IN BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS ON RATEPAYERS

Mr. LAMONT (South Brisbane) (12.52 p.m.): I would like to draw the attention of the House and the public in general to some of the sins of omission and commission of the Brisbane City Council with respect to some constituents of mine. I do not believe it is the role of a State member to play "the opposition" to the local council, but when constituents cannot receive justice at the hands of the council, then I believe it is proper for members of Parliament to join in the fray.

I would like to contrast two issues where the City Council seems to be victimising two of my constituents. In one case the City Council is obliged to undertake certain work on a footpath and it has brought forward every prevarication and every evasion in the world in arguments as to why it should not proceed with the work. In the other case exactly the same work is to be carried out but the council maintains that it must be done by the householder—the ratepayer—and so, of course, it has to be done within 60 days.

The first case I refer to relates to a residence at 224 Cornwall Street, Greenslopes, which is one of the main roads running from the freeway. The area was once in a flood plain and so the city council built up the street. With the jackhammers and various other machines the workers used to build it up, by cracking the bricks, they managed to completely destroy the brick stumps under the house and they even managed to create splits in the walls, ceilings and floors. And so litigation proceeded and apparently my constituent will eventually get some justice in this regard. The second aspect of this build-up of Cornwall Street, however, is that when my constituent drives into his yard, which used to be above the

street level but which is now below it, he finds that his car scrapes on the footpath. So he asked the City Council to rectify the position.

The council admitted its fault in writing and said it would do something about it. A rather detailed sketch was even submitted. The council came along and carried out a shoddy piece of ineffectual work which was not at all like the sketch they handed in. Now, consequently they returned to my constituent on another matter and said they had need to come into his property to facilitate some work they were doing in the area. He said, "Well, you don't come into my property until such time as you carry out the work you promised according to your sketch." So he was duped into an agreement. He was induced to give in writing an undertaking that he would allow the city council to come in and do their work (which had to do with drainage, not for his property but for nearby land) provided they would give him an undertaking, which they did (not in writing, of course, but verbally) that they would return to rectify his problem. Of course, they still have not done it in spite of the fact that the City Council have admitted that it is their fault and their responsibility. And he still scrapes his car when he goes over the footpath.

By way of contrast, I turn now to the case of people who live at 61 Lockerbie Street, Kangaroo Point. They have been told that the footpath must be built up—but not by the council! Because they own flats, they have been told that the crossing is an industrial crossing. An industrial crossing for four flats, would you believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker—one of which the owners live in themselves! They have been told that, because this is an industry, they have to put in an industrial crossing over the footpath. In this instance it is not the council which has to build it—oh, no!—it is the ratepayer, and it has to be built within 60 days. Contrast that with the other crossing at Cornwall Street, where the council admits it is at fault yet puts forward every reason in the world why it does not intend to build up a crossing.

It would appear that my constituents at both these addresses are going to have to undertake rather expensive litigation to prove their point. That is why I am raising the matter in this debate—so that it might, perhaps, be given some publicity and the council might be shamed into doing what ought

to be its immediate duty, instead of putting people to the time, trouble and expense of litigation.

The people who run the flats are told that they run a business. Do you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that three cars use that crossing to get into the yard? Because those three cars are not all owned by the ratepayer, they are said to constitute industrial traffic across the footpath.

The owners of the property have been told that they must cement the footpath (which does not belong to them) to a depth of 2 ft. The Brisbane City Council quoted them \$550, to carry out the job and gave them 60 days to agree to it. No doubt the council will be prepared to carry out the job forthwith. It will be very good and very prompt in doing that—and will charge these people \$550, in spite of the fact that quotes of \$200, or even less, have been obtained from private contractors. These people will then have to contact the water supply, the electricity supply, the gas supply and Telecom to have the pipes, the wiring, and so forth, checked.

What further do we find, Mr. Deputy Speaker? The plan on which the city council wants the crossing to be built is in fact for the same type of dipped crossing—and I deny that an industrial crossing is required—as my other constituent in Cornwall Street is having difficulty with. It is very probable—in fact, it is 100 per cent certain—that these people would then find that their car would scrape as it passed across the footpath, because that is precisely what happens everywhere else down Lockerbie Street where there are crossings of a similar type. It has happened to such an extent that householders have found it necessary to build up the normal type of crossing with a bit of cement or put a piece of iron across the footpath to allow the car to pass without scraping. But of course, if they do that, they will be breaching some ordinance or regulation of the Brisbane City Council and will be taken to task for doing so.

The city council has the time to run round persecuting people who run a couple of flats, who in fact are not carrying on an industry, and telling them that they have to do certain work costing \$550 within 60 days; but it has not the time, in the same area, to upgrade drainage that now causes flooding because it cannot cope with the run-off of storm water. It has not the time to do the type of work that ratepayers are

paying for, but it has time to persecute and victimise individuals. Behaviour of that type by the Brisbane City Council is simply not acceptable.

While dealing with the subject of drainage, let me add that yesterday I had the Treasurer and Deputy Premier of this State investigate Norman Creek. He visited people who have problems with storm-water drainage when flooding occurs in the creek, and he has promised them that he will take a personal interest in the matter.

The ball is now in the court of the local alderman. I challenge Alderman Dutton to get Alderman Sleeman, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane—somebody in his own organisation of comparable importance with the State Treasurer—to come along and have a look at the need for flood mitigation and then sit down with the State Treasurer, politics aside, and discuss the needs of the people in the area. The service that the people of South Brisbane are getting from the Brisbane City Council is simply not good enough.

I regret that I have taken up so much time. I was hoping to sit down early and allow the honourable member for Toowoomba North to get in his two cents' worth, but this matter has been dragging on for two or three weeks and I have been looking for an opportunity to bring it to the notice of the House. The 60 days is running out for my constituents at Lockerbie Street and they are desperately trying to avoid becoming involved in litigation. Unfortunately, with the Brisbane City Council operating as it is, they just do not seem to be able to get justice. I do not believe that people should have to go to litigation on issues of this type, and I believe that it is proper for members of Parliament to buy into them when every other avenue has been explored and constituents cannot receive justice.

It is time that the local alderman started doing his job. We tried to toss him out by having a Liberal alderman elected but we were not successful. As we were not successful, I now call on him to take the same interest in his constituents as I am taking.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The time allotted for the Matters of Public Interest debate has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.