

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1976

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

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

Orders in Council under—

Racing and Betting Act 1954–1975.

City of Brisbane Act 1924–1974.

Regulations under—

Companies Act 1961–1975.

Public Curator Act 1915–1974.

PETITION

MOORING CHARGES IN BOAT HARBOURS

Mr. POWELL (Isis) presented a petition from 18 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will reduce immediately the exorbitant charges which are levied against mooring holders in boat harbours.

Petition read and received.

PAY-ROLL TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Pay-roll Tax Act 1971–1975 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act 1915–1974 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT LOAN BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to authorize the making of arrangements by the State of Queensland pursuant to the provisions of the Commonwealth and States Financial Agreement Act 1927–1976 for the raising of certain sums of money by way of loan by the State, and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. CAMPBELL REPORT ON ACADEMICS SALARIES

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

(1) Is he aware that implementation of the Campbell report in relation to academics' salaries will break the parity between universities and colleges of advanced education and that it will have the effect of lowering salary scales to the disadvantage of colleges?

(2) Could some staff members of colleges suffer a reduction of salary or status if the report was adopted?

(3) In view of his opinion expressed in a letter to the Darling Downs Association of Advanced Education in September 1975 to the effect that Queensland had been the first to adopt recommendations equating salaries in universities and colleges and that he saw no reason to vary this, is his attitude unchanged?

(4) What discussions have taken place or will take place between the Board of Advanced Education and the Queensland Division of the Federation of Staff Associations of Colleges?

Answers:—

(1) My understanding is that application of the determinations and reports of the Academic Salaries Tribunal would have the effect of maintaining parity between the maximum salaries for various categories of academic staff in colleges of advanced education and universities. At the same time it would increase the number of incremental steps for some categories of staff in colleges.

(2) No staff member would receive less than his existing salary. Application of the restructured salary scales would nevertheless mean that, in accordance with the translation tables provided by the tribunal, existing relativities could not be carried over precisely.

(3) Many developments have occurred since September 1975. One of particular relevance is the work-value study undertaken by the Academic Salaries Tribunal. This body, established by an Act of the Commonwealth Parliament, has a status akin to that of an industrial commission and is required to determine salaries for academic staff in colleges of advanced education and universities in Commonwealth territories and to determine salaries on which Commonwealth grants for institutions of tertiary education in the States are based. The tribunal's determinations and reports have been tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament. I await advice from the Commonwealth Government and, in accordance with the Education Act, a recommendation by the Board of Advanced Education in the matter.

(4) During its work-value study, the Academic Salaries Tribunal visited all States and a large number of individual colleges. Staff associations and other interested bodies had extensive opportunities to submit evidence and enter appearances. They did so. Moreover, a plenary session was held in February 1976 to permit responses by staff associations and others to all the evidence submitted by all parties. Two days ago, in company with the Chairman of the Board of Advanced Education, I also met with three senior officers of the Queensland Division of the Federation of Staff Associations of Australian Colleges of Advanced Education to hear their views.

2. EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH

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

(1) Has he studied the report of the Australian Education Council Working Party, which stated "the skills and morale of young people will be permanently affected unless they are able to find employment" and "unless the employment situation improved, increasingly large numbers of young people would be exposed to the negative effects of unemployment in forming constructive work habits and attitudes"?

(2) What steps has the Government taken to provide additional employment for young people in (a) Brisbane, (b) provincial cities and (c) rural areas?

(3) How many additional young people have been employed in each of those areas as a result of State Government initiatives in youth employment?

Answers:—

(1) I have not had the opportunity of reading the report referred to by the honourable member. However, if his

quotation is correct, I agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed. I feel that one of the great tragedies of the current unemployment situation, which is a product of the disastrous policies of the former Whitlam Government, is the number of young people who are being alienated from the work-place at an age when impressions are so easily formed.

(2) The area of employment is primarily a responsibility of my Commonwealth counterpart. However, I have worked in close liaison with him and on more than a few occasions made approaches for special additional assistance for Queensland. In respect of work attitudes, the Commonwealth Government has recently introduced a scheme to involve unemployed young people in community work schemes, and this will provide an opportunity for them to absorb some of the values of the work-place. The Queensland Government will be represented on the committee organising this programme.

The three geographical areas may have structural unemployment problems from time to time. However, the Commonwealth Government has recently acted to provide incentives for employers to take school-leavers who have never held a job.

(3) The Queensland Government can be particularly proud of its record in the apprenticeship field in recent times since unemployment became such a serious problem.

There has been an active promotion of the apprentice as a valuable asset to an employer, and this has been combined with payments by the Commonwealth of subsidies to those employers who have first-year apprentices.

My Department of Labour Relations has also been very successful in finding alternative employers for apprentices when their jobs are in jeopardy with the original employer. Approximately 1,500 apprentices have been assisted in this way and so given the opportunity to complete indentures.

The Queensland Government as an employer has also worked in liaison with the Commonwealth Government to take on 121 apprentices additional to normal requirements. While the bulk of the cost is met by the Commonwealth, these young people have been assisted to learn a trade and have been given a sense of direction and purpose including orientation to skilled work.

3. MORETON ISLAND MINING LEASES

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

(1) With reference to reports on Moreton Island mining leases, what fees, charges or levies are paid to the Government by holders of authorities to prospect or mining leases?

(2) What action is taken or what laws and regulations apply to holders of these authorities and leases who fail to pay these charges within the required time?

(3) Are all fees and charges applicable to authorities to prospect or mining leases paid in respect of authorities and leases on Moreton Island?

(4) If not, what are the names of the companies or firms concerned and what areas do their authorities or leases cover on Moreton Island?

(5) What action has been taken in each case?

Answers:—

(1) In respect of—

(a) an authority to prospect—Annual rent and deposit as security against compliance with the terms of the authority; and

(b) a mining lease—Annual rent, survey fee and, where applicable, royalty.

(2) An authority to prospect is liable to cancellation and a mining lease liable to forfeiture.

(3) Yes.

(4 and 5) See answer to (3).

4. DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ON CID ISLAND

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

(1) When and upon whose advice was the decision made to invite applications from persons who desired 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?

Answers:—

(1) Cabinet approved the proposal on 29 September 1975 on my advice. Before taking the matter to Cabinet, I obtained advice from the Land Administration Commission.

(2) It was decided to first invite prospective developers to submit sufficient basic information to enable likely environmental effects to be assessed and an appropriate study procedure selected from

the alternatives available under the Government's procedural manual for environmental impact studies.

(3 and 4) The Director of National Parks and Wildlife was consulted before applications were invited. At the closing time for receipt of applications (2 March 1976), two applications had been received. One of these, being an application by Broadwater Marina Estate Pty. Ltd. of 23 Elkhorn Avenue, Surfers Paradise, did not sufficiently comply with departmental requirements and was not accepted for further consideration.

The other application, being one on behalf of Whitsunday Reef World Pty. Ltd. of 482 Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton, was provisionally accepted for further consideration. The Land Administration Commission requested the Co-ordinator-General to prepare an advisory report on the proposal. As a result, an advisory committee has been formed of which the Director of National Parks and Wildlife is a member.

5. PAST PARKING OFFENCES BY PARAPLEGICS

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(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 having 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) I am not specifically aware of the particular matter or what the council instructions are in this regard. The amount prescribed in any notice, if paid, would be paid to the local authority, in this case the Brisbane City Council. If a prosecution is launched, the fines are in fact paid to the city council.

If it is within the Government's power and the circumstances warrant, appropriate action will be taken to remit the amount of any fine paid. Repayment of any penalty, as distinct from a fine, would be a matter for the city council. In the case of refunding the amount of a fine or of a penalty, the co-operation of the council would be sought in appropriate cases.

6. LOGGING INDUSTRY ON FRASER ISLAND

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

(1) With reference to the Commonwealth Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry recommendation that the whole of Fraser Island be recorded as part of the National Estate as soon as possible, what threat to the logging industry on Fraser Island could be imposed by the Commonwealth Government under the Australian Heritage Commission Act if Fraser Island is recorded as part of the National Estate?

(2) Would permission have to be obtained from the Commonwealth Government to continue with the logging operations on the island?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I have already gone on record as stating that there is no threat to the Forestry Department's controlled logging operations out of Fraser Island. Indeed, the Federal Government would have to completely reject the findings of its own commission of inquiry in relation to forestry operations if it were to impose any ban on logging. The report clearly stated that the visual integrity of Fraser Island had not been adversely affected by the carefully controlled logging operations.

In regard to the Australian Heritage Commission Act, this in no way diminishes the sole authority of the Queensland Government to direct and control the management of State-owned land. In view of the unwarranted, unnecessary act perpetrated by the Federal Government in banning sand-mining, I would say with confidence that if the Commonwealth offered funds for use on Fraser Island, this Government would have to look at the proposal long and hard before making a decision.

This Government has a proud record in its handling of Fraser Island forestry operations and sand-mining ventures. I have no hesitation in saying that, despite the Federal Government's infamous action in killing off a flourishing industry and adding to unemployment, this Government will continue to look after Fraser Island as efficiently as ever.

7. PRE-SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME

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

(1) How many pre-schools will be established within present State primary schools during this financial year?

(2) What is the minimum number of children necessary to establish such a school?

Answers:—

(1) The State Loan Fund Programme for 1976-77 contains funds for commencement or completion of work on 76 pre-school centres comprising 125 units.

(2) Standard pre-school centres are generally constructed in association with Class 1, 2 and 3 primary schools in which enrolments are in excess of 100 students. Each standard unit provided caters for up to 50 children daily.

8. TEACHER AIDES

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

(1) Who is responsible for the engagement of teacher aides?

(2) How many teachers' wives have been appointed?

(3) Do the wives of teachers have special privileges of appointment?

(4) What qualifications are necessary?

Answers:—

(1) The Regional Director of Education, on the recommendation of the principal. School principals were advised in April 1976 of the procedures to be followed in the selection of teacher aides. The instruction reads as follows:—

"1. The vacancy or vacancies should be advertised locally. In most places, this may be done effectively without cost to the Department through the students attending the school and through the Parents and Citizens' Association. At the Principal's discretion, an advertisement in a local newspaper may be inserted and paid for from the general purpose fund.

"2. A selection panel should be set up consisting of the Principal, another member of staff (except in one teacher schools) and a nominee of the Parents and Citizens' Association. In selecting a pre-school aide, the panel should consist of the Principal of the school, the Teacher-in-Charge of the Pre-School Centre and a nominee of the Pre-School Sub-Committee of the Parents and Citizens' Association.

"3. All applications should receive consideration. A short list of applicants should be interviewed.

"4. Where two or more applicants are considered to be equally suitable, preference should be given to a person most in need of the job e.g. a widow, a single parent, a school leaver.

"5. When the recommendation for appointment is made to the Regional Director, a brief summary of the procedure followed should be provided. If

a Departmental Officer's wife is recommended, the reason for her selection should be made clear. The recommendation should be signed by all members of the selection panel."

(2) It is not possible to say how many teachers' wives have been appointed as aides. Instruction 5 of the Education Office Gazette notice ensures that teachers' wives will be appointed only when clear and acceptable reasons for their appointments are given.

(3) Wives of teachers and other departmental officers receive no special privileges of appointment. As can be seen from the Education Office Gazette notice, preference is given to the applicant in most need when all other things are equal.

(4) No special qualifications are necessary. General suitability is an important consideration. Applicants must be aged between 15 and 65 years. Training is given "on-the-job".

9. USE OF TOOWOOMBA COURT HOUSE AS MUSEUM

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) Is he aware that the present Toowoomba Court House, once vacated, is destined to become Government office accommodation?

(2) Is he aware that Toowoomba has no public museum where acquisitions of the many and varied cultural activities can be displayed to the public?

(3) Does he know that the court-house celebrates its centenary next year?

(4) Will he consider acquiring all or part of the court-house for the people of Toowoomba for a public museum in honour of that centenary?

(5) Is alternative office accommodation available for the Education Department other than in the court-house?

(6) Is there any conflict of interest between Cultural Activities and Education in this regard and, if so, how will it be settled?

Answer:—

(1 to 6) The matter of acquisition and allocation of administrative accommodation for officers of the Public Service is one for consideration by the Department of the Public Service Board, which does not come under my authority.

It is not the policy of my department to acquire buildings for cultural purposes but we do try to assist any organisation which presents a reasonable and well-founded case for acquisition of premises for such purposes.

Should a Toowoomba organisation wish to acquire the old court-house or part of it for cultural use, I suggest that an approach should be made, in the first instance, to the Department of Works, which has the responsibility for State Government buildings.

10. SURPLUS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) Will the Education Department have a surplus of primary school teachers in the year 1977?

(2) How many surplus graduating primary teachers does the department expect for 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1980?

(3) Will this surplus affect current teacher-scholarship holders and the number of scholarships to be offered for first year studies in 1977?

Answers:—

(1) The Department of Education will not have a surplus of primary teachers in 1977. However, as in previous years, applicants for teaching positions who are not prepared to serve anywhere in the State may experience difficulty in obtaining employment.

(2) Graduating teacher scholarship-holders in the years to 1980 are not expected to be surplus to the department's requirements.

(3) I have already announced that slightly fewer than 500 primary teacher scholarships will be offered in 1977. It is anticipated that this number will meet the needs of the department in four years' time, and will not create a surplus. If necessary, additional scholarships will be awarded in the second and third years of courses if perceived teacher needs increase.

11. STATISTICS ON ALCOHOLISM

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

(1) Is he aware that statistics relating to the full cost of alcoholism to the community, as relating to ill health and accidents, are not available?

(2) Will he confer with his colleagues the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Police and the Commonwealth Minister whose portfolio includes the Bureau of Census and Statistics to make whatever changes are necessary to ensure that statistics relating to deaths due to road accidents where alcohol is involved and morbidity, including total disability and length of partial disability resulting from road accidents where alcohol is involved, are able to be gathered and analysed?

(3) Will he report back to this Parliament on the matter in due course?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am advised that previous examination of the subject has shown that the collection of reliable statistics which the honourable member suggests is an almost impossible task. Workers in the field are of the opinion that, owing to the complexity of factors involved, any relative statistics may not be of great value. However, I have arranged for the honourable member to meet with departmental officers to discuss this matter further.

12. SENTENCE IMPOSED ON
MR. W. J. BROWN

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in the "Telegraph" of 16 November wherein it was reported that William John Brown, former manager of the Gold Coast branch of the Tasman Permanent Building Society, has been placed on three years' probation for having embezzled \$12,000 from the society?

(2) If so, is the sentence considered to be manifestly inadequate, particularly in view of the alarming increase in white-collar crime in Queensland?

(3) Will he authorise an appeal by the Crown against this inadequate sentence?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2 and 3) The adequacy of the sentence will be reviewed and if it is considered in the light of all circumstances that it is inadequate, an appeal will be made.

13. GOVERNMENT TELEX MACHINES

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) How many telex machines are in use in Government departments or ministerial offices in Brisbane?

(2) How many are in use outside of Brisbane?

(3) In what department, ministerial office or other premises is each located?

(4) When was each installed?

(5) What is the cost to the Government of its current telex service?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) I see no useful purpose in the honourable member's question and am not prepared to have officers waste their time in collating the detailed information sought. As I reminded the Opposition during the

debate on my departmental Estimates, we are living in the 20th Century and the Government and its departments are entitled to the benefits of 20th Century technology. The use of telex and similar aids is supervised by responsible officers and the expenditure involved is subject to the scrutiny of the Auditor-General.

14. CONGO POOLS

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

(1) Has his department carried out investigations into the affairs of a firm named Congo Pools? If so, what investigations have been undertaken and what are the results?

(2) What is the registered address of Congo Pools, who are its principals, what are their residential addresses and what is the paid-up capital of the company?

(3) How many contracts which the company is financially incapable or doubtfully capable of completing have been entered into by the company?

(4) How many pools have been commenced and are unfinished?

(5) Is there any chance of the many people who have been duped by this crooked firm and its principals having their money returned?

(6) Will he warn the public of the actions of this firm?

Answers:—

(1) Inspectors from the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs are presently carrying out an inspection into the affairs of a firm known as Congo Pools. As the investigations have not been completed, I am unable to reveal at this stage the result of those investigations.

(2) Congo Pools is registered as a business name and the principal place of business in Queensland is shown in the records held at the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs as 561 Gympie Road, Kedron.

The principal of Congo Pools is a company by the name of North Coast Pools Pty. Ltd. whose registered address is care of Hopgood and Ganim, solicitors, 7th Floor, Perry House, Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. The principals of that company are Mark Alexander Beattie and Pauline Margaret Beattie, both of 34 Trevi Street, Jindalee. According to the records held at the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the paid-up capital of this company is \$2.

(3 to 5) See answer to (1)

(6) I most sincerely urge that members of the public be most cautious in dealing with Congo Pools and that, before any

monies are paid or any contract entered into, they should consult their own legal advisers.

15. QUEENSLAND SCENIC TOURS,
CAIRNS, BUS LICENCE

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

(1) Is he aware that Queensland Scenic Tours, Cairns, has been endeavouring to have the Edgehill bus service licence No. 26 transferred to S. M. Barnes of Cairns, since early September 1976?

(2) Is he aware that the commissioner is aware of this and that according to a letter dated 16 November 1976 no decision has been made?

(3) When will a decision be made?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that an application has been submitted to the Commissioner for Transport by Queensland Scenic Tours of Cairns for approval to transfer the licence in question.

(2) Yes.

(3) I am unable to advise the honourable member when a decision will be made in respect of this application. The Commissioner for Transport advises me that this application is being processed but, until he is satisfied on the matters to which he is required to have regard under section 30 of the State Transport Act, he is unable to make a decision.

16. FIRE BRIGADE RIGHTS ON BUILDING
PLANS

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

Has a fire brigade chief the authority under the Fire Safety Act to refuse certain plans and specifications not drawn by a qualified architect?

Answer:—

No, but if the honourable member or his constituents are experiencing any particular difficulties in applying for certificates of approval under the Fire Safety Act, then I would appreciate it if he could supply me with details and I will have investigations made.

17. ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES,
HERVEY BAY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in the "Hervey Bay Observer" of 12 November indicating that adult education services at Hervey Bay are to be severely curtailed?

(2) Will he investigate and, if necessary, review the position in the light of the information that Hervey Bay now has a permanent population in excess of 10,000?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The statement attributed to the Wide Bay district organiser of adult education was made without the authority of the Board of Adult Education or my department and is incorrect.

Funds allocated to adult education activities in Wide Bay were increased this year. It is the district organiser's responsibility to organise his programme so as to stay within such allocation of funds. If he decides to close activities in one part of his district in order to furnish activities in another, this is his decision.

It is normal for classes to close at the approach of the holiday season.

18. POLICE STRENGTH AT HERVEY BAY
AND OTHER AREAS

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

(1) What is the current strength of the Police Force at Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Gympie, Gladstone and Warwick?

(2) What changes in strength at the stations are contemplated this financial year?

Answers:—

(1) The present approved strength is: Hervey Bay 7, Bundaberg 53, Maryborough 39, Gympie 31, Gladstone 32 and Warwick 29.

(2) It is proposed to increase police strength at Maryborough and Gladstone by five constables for beat patrols when trained personnel become available. The work-loads at all centres are under regular review and adjustments are made to police strengths consistent with the availability of resources for that purpose at the relevant time.

19. MARINE SERVICES INSPECTORS AND
SPEEDBOATS AT HERVEY BAY AND
OTHER AREAS

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

(1) What is the current number of marine services inspectors stationed at Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Maryborough?

(2) How many speedboats are registered as having their normal place of housing at Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Maryborough?

Answers:—

(1) There are two boating and fisheries patrol officers stationed at Bundaberg and four in the Hervey Bay/Maryborough districts.

(2) As at 31 October 1976 2,635 private motor boats, including speedboats, were registered in the Bundaberg area and 3,056 in the Maryborough/Gympie/Hervey Bay area.

20. AGENT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, LONDON
AND ELSEWHERE

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

(1) How many officers in the Agent-General's Office, London, are British employees and how many are from Queensland?

(2) What is the classification and title of each position held by a British officer and what is the title and classification of each position held by officers from Queensland?

(3) How many officers are in the British consulate in Queensland and how many are from Queensland?

(4) What specific term do officers from Queensland serve in the Agent-General's Office?

(5) What consideration at present is being given to the opening of a similar office to that in London in (a) Tokyo, (b) Singapore, (c) Hong Kong, (d) Kuala Lumpur and (e) Brussels?

Answers:—

(1) Of the 33 staff presently serving in the Agent-General's Office 20 are British. The remainder consists of Australians appointed from the Queensland Public Service or recruited from Australians temporarily resident in the United Kingdom.

(2) I table a list setting out the information sought.

(3) This information is not available to me.

(4) See answer to (2).

(5) The question of Queensland representation in countries other than the United Kingdom is under constant consideration and review.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the document on the table.

21. OPERATIONS OF VESSEL FLYING
PANAMANIAN FLAG IN
PRAWNING WATERS

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

(1) Is he aware of reports from the Gulf of Carpentaria that on or about 20 October a vessel flying the Panamanian flag was

sighted unloading Australian prawning trawlers at a point seven miles north-west of Boyd Pt.?

(2) Is he also aware that this vessel has been in the area for some time and that the prawns are being purchased for cash using Australian \$50 notes, and are being delivered to Singapore?

(3) In view of the threat that this vessel poses to processing plants in Queensland and the blatant breaches of State and Commonwealth laws in this case and in recent incidents with Taiwanese fishermen in Barrier Reef waters, will he press the Commonwealth Government for additional naval surveillance in Queensland waters?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) My Government is aware of and concerned with the activities of foreign vessels fishing illegally in Queensland and Commonwealth waters and on numerous occasions has requested the assistance of Commonwealth departments to curb such activities. The honourable member would be aware that these requests have resulted in the recent arrest of seven Taiwanese fishing vessels for fishing illegally in Commonwealth waters off Mackay and in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The particular activity referred to involving a foreign vessel was the subject of representations by the Honourable the Minister for Fisheries and the Australian Fishing Industry Council earlier this month to the Commonwealth department concerned.

22. QUEENSLAND BUTTER MARKETING
BOARD AS AGENT FOR TAIWANESE
FISHING COMPANIES

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

(1) Is the Queensland Butter Marketing Board an organisation constituted under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act?

(2) Is he aware that a senior officer of the board recently acted as an agent for Taiwanese companies whose fishing vessels were captured in Australian waters?

(3) Were the actions of this officer carried out as a representative of the board with the approval of the board or in a private capacity?

(4) Does the board have direct contact with Taiwanese fishing companies and, if so, will he request that they concentrate their efforts on impressing the Taiwanese to keep their hands off the Great Barrier Reef and keep out of our fishing waters rather than assisting them in our courts?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) A senior officer of the Butter Marketing Board did make representations on behalf of the Taiwanese fishermen.

(3) These representations were made in a purely private capacity on a personal basis.

(4) No; the Butter Marketing Board has no contact with Taiwanese fishing companies.

23. MURRAY SPORTING COMPLEX,
TOWNSVILLE

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

(1) Which Government department controls the land of the Murray sporting complex in Townsville?

(2) Under what type of tenure is the land held?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The Murray sporting complex at Townsville, comprising an area of about 60 hectares, is set apart under the Land Act as a reserve for recreation under the control of the Townsville City Council as trustee. Parts of the reserve have been granted to various sporting organisations as special leases under the Land Act.

24. RETICULATION OF WATER TO HORSESHOE
BAY, MAGNETIC ISLAND

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Is he aware that at a recent meeting of the Townsville City Council a decision was made to complete the reticulation of water to Horseshoe Bay, Magnetic Island, which project is scheduled to commence in March 1977 at an estimated cost of \$600,000?

(2) Will he assure this House that when the loan is considered, the money will not be allowed to be reallocated by the council to some other project, as was recently done with \$33,000 of the money previously allocated for the Magnetic Island water project?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am unaware of the council's decision referred to by the honourable member. The utilisation of funds for an approved project or reallocation of such funds to another proposal owing to a change in priorities or to meet financial requirements is a matter for initial decision by the council. Requests for approval of such reallocations are generally not refused where the other project is an approved project.

25. COMMONWEALTH BANK SPECIFICATIONS
FOR HOME CONSTRUCTION

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

Does the Builders' Registration Board recognise the Commonwealth Bank specifications for home construction when both the prospective home owner and the registered builder have signed a contract for this and, if so, will the board take action on behalf of the home owner to have any complaints as to the builder's work rectified and, if not, what are the reasons?

Answer:—

Yes, subject to all contractual requirements between the parties being satisfied.

26. WOODEN PARTITIONS IN VALUER-
GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mr. Yewdale, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Survey and Valuation—

(1) Is it a fact that \$93,000 is being spent to shift partitions in the Valuer-General's Department on the 5th floor of the Government Offices, Anzac Square, and that this is not the first time in recent years that this has occurred?

(2) In view of the continued call by the Government for economy, could not the existing partitions be removed without cost by the maintenance staff and the department operate, for the time at least, without the partitions?

(3) Is it a fact that the wooden partitions being erected constitute a fire hazard and would not be permitted in any non-Government building?

(4) Are there demountable metal partitions not in use stacked in the basement of the building, which could be installed without cost by the maintenance staff.

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The Department of the Valuer-General was allotted unit 3, 5th floor, State Government Building, Anzac Square, which was formerly occupied by a branch of the Queensland Railways. Certain repairs and renovations have already been performed and additional work is progressing. Furthermore, alterations and repairs are planned for units 1, 2 and 6 on the 5th floor, which have been occupied by the Department of the Valuer-General for some years. Certain of the alterations have been occasioned by the reorganisation of the department.

The honourable member should realise that the planning and performance of such work as outlined comes within the responsibility of my Cabinet colleague the Honourable Minister for Works and Housing.

27. LAND EXCISED FROM LYNDHURST STATION

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

(1) As some of the blocks excised from Lyndhurst Station some years ago were approximately 45 square miles in area and as these blocks are all carrying approximately 2,000 head of cattle, will he immediately review the proposals to create only two 90 square mile blocks as additional areas?

(2) Rather will he consider four or five blocks of 40 square miles each, bearing in mind the present escalating cost structure in the beef industry, particularly in isolated areas, which makes large numbers of cattle and large additional areas of land of negative value?

Answers:—

(1) The blocks referred to by the honourable member were six grazing selections made available in 1959 from Lyndhurst Holding with official carrying capacities between 1,350 and 1,550 adult cattle. Because of changing circumstances in the beef industry, these selections cannot be regarded now as living areas.

(2) I have received recommendations from the Committee of Review in relation to the Carpentaria Downs additional area inquiry and, in considering such recommendations, will have regard to the honourable member's request that the available area be subdivided into more than two blocks, bearing in mind that the total carrying capacity of the available area is 3,040 adult cattle.

28. HOUSING CONSTRUCTION MEASURES FOR NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Does he know that a railway strike is pending in North Queensland because of delays in house-building and that this is a direct result of the shortage of registered builders in North-west Queensland?

(2) In view of this and as some four builders in the Flinders area will take on four apprentices as soon as their registration numbers are available, will he immediately commence the passage of his new Builders' Registration Bill through the House?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) There are two applications from within the Flinders electorate for builders registration under the Builders' Registration Act 1971-1973 pending for consideration by the board.

It was my intention to proceed with the second reading of the House-builders' Registration and Home-owners' Protection Bill. However, since the Queensland Master Builders' Association has circulated statements to its members which are quite misleading, to say the least, I do not propose to proceed with the second reading of the Bill at this time, but I invite builders to read "Hansard" in the debate on the introduction of the Bill and to seek deputations with me or my Director of Works to have their queries satisfied.

29. SALES TAX ON FREIGHT

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

In view of the constantly escalating cost of rail freights and in the light of a 20 per cent higher cost of living in inland Queensland than in Brisbane, as revealed in the 1974 James Cook University study requested by me, will he consider the removal of sales tax on freight, as this is a discrimination against the people of Northern and Western Queensland?

Answer:—

I appreciate the point which the honourable member is making, but sales tax is a Commonwealth matter and I suggest that he direct his representations to that quarter through his very close relative.

30. CO-ORDINATED BUS AND RAIL SERVICE, REDCLIFFE-BRISBANE

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

(1) From what date were weekly tickets which are sold on the co-ordinated bus and rail service from Redcliffe to Brisbane restricted to five return trips on the bus?

(2) Did this occur when a new company purchased the Hornibrook Highway Bus Co.?

(3) What is the name of the company which purchased the bus line?

Answers:—

(1) 1 November 1976, which was the date of a general review of fares and freight rates throughout the State.

(2 and 3) The take-over of Hornibrook Highway Bus Services Limited by Carrick Investments (of Melbourne) was reported in the Brisbane Press ("The Sunday Mail") on 12 September 1976. A similar arrangement for weekly tickets has applied on another co-ordinated service (Inala) since 1974.

31. OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL FOR CABOOLTURE

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

What progress has been made towards the establishment of an opportunity school at Caboolture?

Answer:—

The Department of Works has been negotiating for the purchase of a suitable site for a new opportunity school in Caboolture and plans will be prepared as soon as the site is acquired.

32. OBJECTIONS TO LAND VALUATIONS, REDCLIFFE

Mr. Frawley, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Survey and Valuation—

How many objections have been received from Redcliffe ratepayers regarding the new valuations of the city of Redcliffe?

Answer:—

To 5 p.m. on 17 November 1976 (yesterday afternoon), the number of objections received was only 149. The closing date for receipt of objections is 29 December 1976.

33. LAND ZONED GENERAL INDUSTRY, BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware of the provisions in the City of Brisbane Modified Town Plan which effectively prohibit the development of land zoned general industry, if it is under 2 000 sq m in area, and land zoned light industry, if it is under 1 000 sq m?

(2) In view of the continuous need for industrial land in Greater Brisbane, will the modified town plan create hardship on people already holding lots under the limits and could this have undesirable effects on people attempting to set up small business enterprises in Brisbane?

(3) Will he or his department consider approaching the Local Government Minister on this matter?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The views of the honourable member will, I am sure, be given due consideration by my colleague the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads when he is examining the modified town plan.

I would certainly wish to encourage the development of small business enterprises on a viable basis. As the honourable member would appreciate, I have already made appropriate representations on the matter.

34. QUEENSLAND CEMENT AND LIME CO. LTD. CLINKER PLANT, GLADSTONE

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

(1) As the Queensland Cement and Lime Co. Ltd. is reported as saying that tenders for the first stage of its \$90,000,000 clinker plant at Fishermans Landing, Gladstone, will soon be called, when will the bridge and road-works giving direct access between Gladstone and the plant site be built?

(2) When will tenders be called for the bridge and the roadworks?

(3) Will this direct access work be completed before work on the construction of the plant is started?

(4) What studies have been made in relation to pollution, etc. which could be caused by this plant?

(5) Have the results of the studies been approved by the councils concerned?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) The Government is at present awaiting further submissions from the Queensland Cement and Lime Co. Ltd. and it is not possible to answer these questions at the moment.

(4) I am informed that the company has had some studies carried out, but so far as I am aware an environmental impact study report has not yet been produced in respect of the plant.

(5) The Calliope Shire Council is the administering authority and has asked the Environmental Control Council for an advisory report. The Calliope Shire Council, Water Quality Council and Air Pollution Council have not received an environmental impact study report from the company.

I am advised that approval of the establishment of the plant will not be forthcoming until such a report has been provided and examined by the relevant authorities.

35. PORT CURTIS BY-ELECTION; REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM STATE ROLL

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

As some electors failed to vote in the Port Curtis by-election, are some electors still residing on their farms in the Mt.

Larcom area to have their names removed from the State roll? If so, what is the reason for this action?

Answer:—

All electors in the electoral district of Port Curtis who have been forwarded a prescribed notice (Form 17) notifying that they failed to vote at the by-election held on 29 May 1976 are required to forward a reply to the Principal Electoral Officer by Monday, 22 November 1976.

The names of electors who fail to reply to the notice by 22 November will be removed from the electoral roll by the Principal Electoral Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Elections Act.

36. NEW STATE SCHOOL, GLADSTONE, AND PRE-SCHOOLS, PORT CURTIS AREA

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

(1) As the numbers of pupils attending the Gladstone South and Gladstone West State Schools have risen owing to the development of Sun Valley and Kin Kora as a residential area, has his department considered establishing a State school in that area and, if so, when will the school be built?

(2) What pre-schools will be built in 1976-77 within schools in the Port Curtis area?

(3) Will any of these schools be ready for the start of the 1977 school year?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. It is anticipated that a primary school will be built in this area in the next two years.

(2) Gladstone South pre-school has been given priority for construction in the Port Curtis area, but its commencement date will depend on availability of additional funds.

(3) No.

37. DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSVILLE

Mr. M. D. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) What State Government departments have decentralised to the extent of establishing branches in Townsville and how many persons are employed in those departments?

(2) As an indication of further State Government initiative in expanding the development of Townsville as a natural growth centre, have any plans been adopted for the location of additional departments in Townsville?

Answers:—

(1) Thirty-one State Government offices have branches established in Townsville. The total staff employed is approximately 750. I table a statement setting out the relevant details.

(2) Not at present. The honourable member has done pretty well up to date.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the statement on the table.

38. NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE ACROSS ROSS RIVER, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. M. D. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Has the final design been adopted for construction of the new railway bridge across the Ross River to give readier access to the port of Townsville and relieve the traffic congestion in the southern suburbs?

(2) When is it anticipated that construction will take place?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) A firm of consultants has been commissioned to investigate the question of alternative rail access to Townsville Harbour and a preliminary report recently submitted by the consultants is under examination.

39. TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR INTERSECTION OF WOOLCOCK STREET AND KINGS ROAD, TOWNSVILLE

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

With regard to an inspection he made with me earlier this year of the dangerous intersection of Woolcock Street and Kings Road, Townsville, when will funds be made available for the erection of traffic lights at this intersection?

Answer:—

Because of the honourable member's excellent representations at all times, I am very pleased to be able to say that funds are available this financial year, design is now under way and it is planned to erect the lights early in 1977.

40. HIGH SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL, SPRINGWOOD

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

(1) Will the new high school at Springwood Road, which is at present under construction, be ready for occupation at the commencement of the next school year?

(2) Will the new primary school under construction in Dennis Road, Springwood, also be completed for use in 1977?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) It is anticipated that both these new school buildings will be ready for occupation at the commencement of the 1977 school year, provided, of course, that militant union officials do not cause further disruptive and unwarranted industrial stoppages affecting the building industry, such as the recent plumbers' strike and the proposed stop-work of apprentices.

41. ADDITIONAL SLEEPING CARS FOR
"WESTLANDER"

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

As there is quite often a shortage of sleeping berths on the "Westlander" and an over-supply of sitting cars, is it possible to allocate additional sleeping cars?

Answer:—

Records disclose that it has been only during some holiday periods that the Railway Department has been unable to meet all requests for sleeping berths on the "Westlander". At these times all other air-conditioned services have been affected by similar demands for travel and all available sleeping cars have been in use. Wherever it is practicable to do so, steps are taken and will continue to be taken, particularly in view of the strenuous representations of the honourable member, to provide additional sleeping accommodation on the "Westlander".

42. WOOL-BALE DISPUTE

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

(1) Where does the State Government stand in relation to the wool-bale weight dispute which, through actions of the storemen and packers, has disrupted the wool industry for many months?

(2) Is he aware that this dispute is continuing even though the Arbitration Commission has ruled in favour of the wool industry and the union leaders have recommended that the men handle these so-called overweight bales?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am aware that there is a continuing dispute between the Storemen and Packers' Union and the Wool Selling Brokers' Association with respect to the maximum weight of bales of wool.

Although the union leaders have recommended acceptance of the court decision, rank-and-file union members have voted against the acceptance.

I understand that efforts are continuing to resolve the issue and I would not wish to make any statement which might exacerbate the problem.

I would assure the honourable member, however, that this Government, as always, is prepared to accept decisions made by the Arbitration Court.

I might add a personal opinion here. In answering a question the other day, I pointed out the problem that has been caused by waterfront strife, which resulted in meat for Japan not being loaded, which has in turn caused a Japanese request for a deferment of further supplies.

We remember, too, the crisis that arose earlier in the year when waterside workers would not load wool. Australia almost lost markets in Japan and other countries that were running short of wool and had almost decided to re-equip their woollen mills to spin synthetics. If that had happened, it would have meant a complete loss of markets for this country's wool industry.

Even if members of the Storemen and Packers' Union forget what the wool industry and the meat industry have meant to the economy of this country over the years, I ask them to remember that those who are involved in those industries are human beings like themselves, with wives and families to feed. As the leaders of the union have accepted the decision of the court, with all the humility I can show I plead with members of the trade unions to go back to work and get the wool rolling. I again ask them to remember that the people they are hurting most are human beings like themselves, people who have had a terrifically bad time economically over the years. If they are worried about the "greedy graziers", as they call them, I ask them to think about the wives and kids of the graziers and be decent to them.

43. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, CUNNAMULLA

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

(1) What are the reasons for the delay in completion of the construction of the new pre-school centre at Cunnamulla?

(2) When is it envisaged that this pre-school centre will become operative?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The contractor has not proceeded with the works at a rate of progress satisfactory to my department, and the firm has been called upon to show

cause why the completion of the remaining 20 per cent of the work should not be taken out of his hands. Liquidated damages for delay in completing the contract are being applied.

Endeavours are being made to have the pre-school ready for the opening of the new school year.

44. TOWN PLAN FOR TOOWOOMBA

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

As it was anticipated that the scheme for the proposed town plan for Toowoomba would be placed on public exhibition to permit the lodgement of objections thereto by the end of September, but it was not received, when will this very important plan be available?

Answer:—

It is easy to understand the honourable member's concern. An officer of the Town Planning Branch of the Department of Local Government recently visited Toowoomba for the purpose of looking into certain matters relating to the proposed new town-planning scheme for that city.

When this work has been completed, the department will discuss the scheme with the Toowoomba City Council, and I am making arrangements for this to be done as quickly as possible with a view to the scheme's being placed on public exhibition at the earliest possible date. I know that I have told the honourable member that previously, but I have asked my officers to expedite the matter.

The actual date of exhibition of the scheme is, of course, a matter for decision by the council.

45. SCOTLAND YARD INVESTIGATORS

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

With reference to the two Scotland Yard investigators from the A10 Division who were conducting interdepartmental inquiries in Queensland, is one reason why these investigators have not returned to Queensland that one officer has been under investigation himself for corruption and has now been charged?

Answer:—

No. The latest information from the Metropolitan Police is that both officers have been promoted and neither has been charged with any criminal offence. This obviously is another snide attempt by the irresponsible member for Rockhampton to

denigrate the standing of a highly reputable officer of the famous Scotland Yard who is unable to reply to his scurrilous accusation.

46. REPORT ON CEDAR BAY RAID

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

(1) Was a report made immediately following the Cedar Bay police raid by the officer in charge of the raid or by any other officer?

(2) If so, was a copy of this report made available to the Commissioner of Police and also to himself as Minister?

(3) In view of claims that this report was ordered to be destroyed and his subsequent denial in this House, will he now table a copy of the report?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) I have already stated in this House that the honourable member's allegation that this report was destroyed is utterly false and that the report was made available to the Crown Law Office for its study, together with all other statements relating to the investigation of Cedar Bay. The documents are still in the possession of the Crown Law Office.

I would add that a copy of the report referred to in the honourable member's question was made available to the two senior police officers assigned to investigate allegations concerning the Cedar Bay operation. I regret that the honourable member still feels it necessary to set himself up as the judge and jury in this matter. I would point out to the honourable member that the proper course of justice has been put in train, and I have no intention of interfering in the normal process of justice, or of assisting him in his attempts to interfere.

47. BLUFF RAILWAY UPGRADING

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

Will he supply me with a summary of works and the total cost to date for the Bluff Railway upgrading programme, and also a summary of the proposed future work?

Answer:—

I would refer the honourable member to the advice which I conveyed to him on 27 September, detailing expenditure for the financial years ended 30 June 1975 and 1976.

The following expenditure is proposed this financial year:—

	\$
Construction of Colamba Creek bridge on deviation	130,000
Quarters accommodation	700,000
Residences	236,000
Additional loops and rearrangements	275,000

48. EMERALD RAILWAY STATION

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

What proposals are in hand for improvements to the Emerald Railway Station?

Answer:—

A tender has been let for the air-conditioning of offices accommodated in the station building.

49. BLACKWATER POLICE STATION

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

As Blackwater now has a population of 7,000, when will a police station be built at Blackwater to replace the present demountable buildings?

Answer:—

The project was included in the 1976-77 Loan Works Building Programme but, owing to lack of funds, it will not proceed this financial year. It will be listed for consideration in 1977-78.

50. CONTROL OF HILLSIDE LAND DEVELOPMENT, CAIRNS AND MULGRAVE SHIRE

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

(1) What is the present situation relative to control for subdivisional works and of developmental earthworks on hillside properties around the city of Cairns and in the Mulgrave Shire?

(2) In view of recent controversial construction procedures, has any action been instituted to invest the local authorities with power to control such subdivisional works and impose conditions on these developments?

(3) Will provision be made thereby to protect contiguous property owners and, if so, will accountability be encompassed or designated liability be proposed for restoration works on damaged adjacent property?

(4) If not, has any consideration been given to monetary compensation to Crown or private property holders for any damage or loss of value which may occur owing to such activities?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) On 24 September 1976 the Department of Local Government advised the Cairns City Council that it had no objection to the council's undertaking the by-law-making procedure of the Local Government Act 1936-1976 in respect of a by-law prepared by the council to control the filling and excavation of land in the city of Cairns.

The proposed by-law, which was certified by the council's legal advisers as being intra vires, provides briefly that, before land is excavated or before filling is placed upon land so as to alter the contours or levels thereof, the consent of the council will be required.

Under the proposed by-law, the consent of the council will not be required in cases where—

The filling or excavation is for the purpose of any building or other work approved by the council, in which case appropriate conditions can be imposed by the council at the time of granting approval; or

The filling or excavation is carried out in accordance with any permission, consent or approval issued or given under any Act by the Crown or by any statutory authority; or

The filling or excavation is carried out for the purpose of gardening, landscaping, or other beautification in association with the use of an existing building on any land; or

The council is satisfied upon the report of the city engineer that the proposed filling or excavation will have no substantial effect on the contours or levels of the subject land.

Up to the present the council has not submitted the by-law for the approval of the Governor in Council and publication in the Government Gazette, which are necessary before it has force of law.

(3 and 4) The by-law is designed to afford protection to owners of land who could suffer damage from the types of action encompassed by the by-law. If a landowner in carrying out works on his land causes damage to the land of some other person, I consider he would have a right of civil action in the courts. Of course, this would be a matter upon which he would need to seek the opinion of his legal advisers.

51. ADDITIONAL "K" WAGONS FOR RAILWAYS

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

(1) Did the Hughenden Branch of the Graziers' Association of Central and Northern Queensland on 5 November last, after hearing a report from its chairman, Mr. John Barr, adopt a motion as a

matter of urgency "that the National-Liberal Party Government be asked to build sufficient wagons to adequately handle the movement of cattle in Queensland"?

(2) As there is widespread unemployment and threats of sackings in the metal trades involved in building railway wagons in Queensland, will he make urgent representations to his Cabinet colleagues to have contracts let to provide the "K" wagons so necessary to our hard-pressed beef and metal-trade industries?

(3) If he has already made these representations, what was the result?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) While this matter does not come within my jurisdiction, I mention that I have had discussions about it and brought the problem to the attention of the Minister for Transport. I suggest that the honourable member redirect his question to my colleague the Minister for Transport.

Mr. Jones: I do so accordingly.

52 and 53. OFFICERS IN POLICE STATIONS

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

(1) How many officers made up the (a) Drug Squad, (b) Fraud Squad, (c) Stock Inspector Co-ordination, (d) Crime Prevention, (e) Homicide Unit, (f) Community Relations and (g) Education Liaison Unit sections of the Queensland Police Force at January 1975, July 1975, January 1976, July 1976, and what are the figures at present?

(2) How many officers in each section are situated in areas outside Brisbane and in what localities are they located?

Answers:—

(1)—

	Jan. 1975	July 1975	Jan. 1976	July 1976	Nov. 1976
Drug Unit	16	16	16	16	16
Fraud Unit	19	19	19	19	19
Co-ordinator of Stock-Stealing Investigations	1	1	1	1	1
Crime Prevention Bureau	2	2	2	2	2
Homicide Unit	6	6	8	8	8
Community Relations Unit	2	3	3	3	3
Education Department Liaison Unit*	14	16	19	34	41

* Numbers quoted include members seconded to this unit.

(2) The Drug Unit, Fraud Unit and Homicide Unit are based in Brisbane but perform duties on a State-wide basis. Members of these units are sent to various locations throughout the State when required.

A total of 22 members of the Education Department Liaison Unit are stationed outside Brisbane at Cairns, Townsville, Mundingburra, Mackay, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Mt. Isa, Woodridge, Petrie and Bundaberg.

The Co-ordinator of Stock Stealing Investigations is based in Brisbane and co-ordinates the activities of the various stock squads throughout the State. These duties require him to travel throughout the State at regular intervals.

The Crime Prevention Bureau and the Community Relations Unit are based in Brisbane but have a State-wide function. At times, members are required to travel throughout the State to create a community awareness of crime and to foster community involvement in assisting members of the Police Force in containing crime.

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

(1) How many officers made up the (a) Special Branch, (b) Crime Intelligence Unit and (c) Planning and Research Branch sections of the Queensland Police Force, who are the officers in charge of these sections at the present time and for what periods have they held such positions?

(2) Are all members of the (a) Special Branch, (b) Crime Intelligence Unit and (c) Planning and Research Branch based in Brisbane and, if not, in what localities in the State are they based?

(3) How many officers were members of the (a) Special Branch, (b) Crime Intelligence Unit and (c) Planning and Research Branch in January 1975, July 1975, January 1976 and July 1976?

Answers:—

(1)—

	Police	Civilian
Special Branch	14	6
Crime Intelligence Unit	9	1
Planning and Research Branch	11	9

Officers in charge—

Special Branch: Inspector L. T. Hogan—since 18 August 1975.

Crime Intelligence Unit: Inspector B. J. Hicks—since 28 January 1974 (promoted to Inspector 24 May 1976).

Planning and Research Branch: Mr. E. I. Carter, B.Econ., Dip.Infm. Processing, Dip. Ag. Ext.—since 2 February 1976.

(2) Yes.

(3)—

	January 1975		July 1975		January 1976		July 1976	
	Police	Civilian	Police	Civilian	Police	Civilian	Police	Civilian
Special Branch	15	6	14	6	16	6	14	6
Crime Intelligence Unit	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	1
Planning and Research Branch	11	9	11	9	11	9	11	9

54. COMMONWEALTH MONEYS FOR ROAD-WORKS

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

How much money was approved for each State by the Commonwealth for this year for (a) minor traffic engineering road safety improvements and (b) urban local road programmes?

Answer:—

	\$ Million					
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.
Miters ..	3.3	2.6	2.6	1.5	1.6	0.6
Urban Local	4.6	4.6	2.2	1.1	1.2	0.3

These are the schedules for 1976-77 in the Commonwealth Roads Grants Act 1974, which is current to 30 June, 1977.

55. WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS REJECTED OR TERMINATED

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

Concerning the S.G.I.O. workers' compensation claims from (a) 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976 and (b) from 1 July 1976 to last available date, how many were (i) rejected, (ii) terminated by medical boards decisions and (iii) terminated as a result of inspectorial investigations?

Answer:—

Statistics of workers' compensation claims are compiled on an annual basis and the information sought as to the number of claims rejected during 1975-76 will be available in about one month's time. I will be happy to forward this information to the honourable member when it is available.

To provide a figure for rejections for the current year to date would require a considerable clerical effort which I consider is not warranted.

Medical boards terminated 72 cases in 1975-76 and a further 340 cases were terminated by the granting of lump-sum payments for permanent partial disabilities. Comparable figures for the current year to 31 October are 34 and 116 respectively.

No record is maintained of cases terminated as a result of inspectorial investigations and I am unable to provide the information sought.

56. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND SUBDEPARTMENTS OCCUPYING LEASED OR RENTED PREMISES

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

(1) What departments and/or sub-departments under his ministerial control are located in premises not owned by the State Government, where are they situated and what is the anticipated rent or leasing costs for the current financial year?

(2) How many officers of the Public Service are working in these departments and/or subdepartments?

(3) How long have the departments and/or subdepartments been situated in these locations, how long is it anticipated that they will continue to operate in rented or leased accommodation, and on what dates do the rent or leasing agreements for the buildings come up for review?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The Department of the Public Service Board is generally responsible for the leasing of premises not owned by the State Government and for the allocation of such accommodation to Government departments including the Department of Primary Industries.

The only premises directly leased by my department are those used by 18 members and officers of the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board, in the T. & G. Building, Queen Street, Brisbane, which are leased for \$1,644.12 per month; a shop in Maleny rented for the dairy adviser at \$8 per week; and a room in the R.S.L. Hall at Taroom rented for the stock inspector at \$208 per annum.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST RATES

Mr. BURNS: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: As he answered my question without notice in Parliament last Tuesday about the 0.75 per cent increase in Queensland Permanent Building Society interest rates by saying that this was a result of Australian bond rate changes by the Federal Government, I draw his attention to this morning's announcement by the Metropolitan Permanent Building Society that there is no need for it to increase interest rates, and remind him of his statement in September on the Building Society Act Amendment Bill (No. 2) that, to give protection to the ordinary householder, he would investigate any building societies that were increasing their interest rates or their margins. Will he now agree to investigate this increase and will he admit that the statement he made on Tuesday might not necessarily have been correct?

Mr. LEE: Firstly, I say that I was absolutely correct in my statement. I have not said that I will make an investigation the moment a building society moves its interest rates one way or another. I said that if building societies were charging unreasonable interest rates, I would make some investigations. I believe that this 0.5 or 0.75 per cent is not unreasonable in the light of what has happened. If the Metropolitan Permanent Building Society holds its rates, that is free enterprise at its best, and the Government should not interfere. There is definitely no reason or cause for an investigation. Market pressures will force Queensland Permanent's rates back—if necessary.

ACTIVITIES OF MR. JOHN SINCLAIR

Mr. ALISON: I preface a question to the Premier by referring him to a Press statement in "The Courier-Mail" of 11 November in which Mr. John Sinclair, the Adult Education officer at Maryborough, announced that he had flown the previous day to Canberra to discuss with Federal Ministers alternative work proposals for the estimated 300 men who will be unemployed in Maryborough when sand-mining ceases on Fraser Island, and that he had a shopping list of projects including certain Government and city council projects.

Is the Premier aware that this Adult Education officer took time off from work to represent the State Government in this cynical exercise to obtain work for the men whose jobs are in jeopardy as a direct result of his lies, distortions and gross untruths in his activities with the Fraser Island Defence Organisation? Was Mr. Sinclair authorised to represent the State Government on his visit to Canberra and, if so, who authorised him? Would the Premier agree that this action by Mr. Sinclair is a gross piece of impertinence and the action of a person not

fit to hold the position that he does? Has the Premier's attention been drawn to the Press statement in "Sunday Sun" of 31 October wherein Mr. Sinclair claimed that he has worked an average of 40 hours a week on activities of the Fraser Island Defence Organisation?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr. Sinclair certainly does not represent the State Government. He would be the last man we would ever want to represent the Government. He acted in an entirely irresponsible manner in working as he did to undermine the men in their jobs and put them out of work. After all that, it is hypocritical of him to think that he could go around and get them jobs. He certainly could not exercise any influence or achieve anything. I am very amazed at how he can give all this time to outside work. I believe that the Minister for Education ought to have a very good look into whether he is a responsible man—a man who should hold or keep his present position—because he seems more often than not to be engaged on outside work rather than the work that he is paid to do—and paid very handsomely to do. I did speak to the Prime Minister this morning on this whole issue. I hope that we will be able to come up with some concrete suggestions about work for these men. The Government and the Government alone will deal direct with Canberra in getting work for these men and in deciding what should or should not be done. We are watching the situation very closely on behalf of the men concerned.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House proceeded with Government business.

SUPPLY

THIRTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY—RECEPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions reported from Committee of Supply on 16 November were presented and, on motion of Mr. Knox, received.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions being taken as read—

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

"That the Resolutions be now agreed to."

Motion agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

OPENING OF COMMITTEE

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

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

“(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1976-1977, a further sum not exceeding \$878,213,304 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1976-1977, a further sum not exceeding \$1,191,433,848 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

“(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1976-1977, a further sum not exceeding \$129,666,826 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(d) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1975-1976, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$79,747,450.02 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(e) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1975-1976, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$42,554,069.02 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

“(f) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1975-1976, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$20,920,905.40 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(g) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1977-1978, a sum not exceeding \$250,000,000 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(h) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1977-1978, a sum not exceeding \$300,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

“(i) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1977-1978, a sum not exceeding \$26,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.”

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, received, and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

FIRST READING

A Bill, founded on the Resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, was introduced and read a first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (12.5 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

This Bill is the second and final Appropriation Bill for the current financial year. It covers expenditure included in the Budget Estimates for this year, unforeseen expenditure incurred during the last financial year and expenditure for the first two months of next financial year to carry the Government over until further supply can be granted in that year.

An amount of \$3,484,313,978 is provided for 1976-77 to cover anticipated expenditures from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Trust and Special Funds and the Loan Fund. This amount represents the appropriation for the full financial year, apart from \$143,842,025 appropriated under special Acts as set out in the Estimates. It incorporates amounts appropriated in the second Appropriation Act last year, and the further amounts appropriated in the first Appropriation Act, which was assented to on 1 September, to enable us to carry on until the passing of this Bill. Unforeseen expenditure for 1975-76 totalling \$143,222,424.44 is also incorporated in the Bill. This amount has had executive authority but now requires the approval of this Parliament. Full details of this amount under the relevant funds are set out in Parts VI, VII and VIII of the Schedule to this Bill.

The Bill provides for an amount of \$576,000,000 to provide supply for the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Trust and Special Funds and the Loan Fund for the first two months of the financial year 1977-78. Adequate allowance has been made for cost escalations in the interim period.

At the present time there is no issue which concerns the Government of this State more than does the present level of unemployment in Queensland, and, indeed, throughout Australia. Our concern is genuine. It is based upon our commitment to full employment and a strong and confident private sector base in our economy.

While the level of unemployment has remained unacceptably high during the last year, we must never lose sight of the fact that the present unemployment problems are the direct consequence of the extravagance and economic and financial incompetence of the socialist Government which ruled Australia between 1972 and 1975. In three

short years, the Whitlam Government, dominated as it was by the ultrasocialistic economic theories of men such as Cairns, Connor and Uren, virtually wrecked the Australian economy, which previously had been strongly based and prosperous.

Australia's present record level of unemployment stands side by side with the other monuments to Labor's three disastrous years—record inflation, and a depressed mining and industrial base. As a result, many men and women in Australia—a nation rich in resources and with manpower and industrial and commercial potential second to no other country—are now unable to find employment, unable to provide for their families and unable to utilise the skills and talents in which they are trained. A long period of sound economic growth and relative prosperity was converted into a nightmare for many Australians by Labor's comparatively short, but all too long, period of misguided and incompetent government in Canberra. The resulting financial loss to individual men and women, the economic loss to the community in general, the humiliation and loss of self-respect which people have suffered, are totally foreign to the Australian tradition—a tradition built upon two decades of sound economic management by Liberal-Country Party Government in Canberra.

Every Government in Australia is concerned about this problem, and the Government of this State defers to no other in its commitment to the restoration of full employment and a return to sound economic progress. That is why I am concerned about the short-term consequences of some of the economic policies which are being pursued at the present time by the Federal Government.

The determination of the Federal Government to ensure long-term economic prosperity, particularly in the private sector, deserves universal support. Unfortunately, this long-term recovery plan has done little to resolve the present unemployment problem. I believe the Commonwealth could achieve its objectives with equal efficiency and soundness, and probably even equal haste, by adopting policies that are more sensitive to the need for a delicate control of the transfer of resources from the public sector back to the private sector. In saying that, I do not dispute the broad principles on which the Commonwealth's economic recovery plan is based.

Few Australians—Mr. Whitlam still excluded—doubt that the reduction in the rate of inflation and the restoration of the confidence of the private sector are vital; indeed, I believe they are the main ingredients for the healthy and productive economy which is an essential prerequisite for the restoration of full employment.

We must reverse the imbalance which resulted from the socialistic obsession to spend regardless of revenue or economic consequence. But the task of bringing a run-

away economy under control is much more difficult than simply guiding a healthy economy, as was the experience of previous Federal Liberal-Country Party Governments. I find no fault with the principle, but I seriously question the application of that principle in a number of important respects.

The sudden, and significant, reduction in the flow of funds into Government expenditure channels that has occurred in the last few months can only worsen the unemployment position unless and until the alternative channel—the private sector—is ready to expand and utilise the resources that will become available from reduced public-sector activity.

The private sector, at all levels, cannot be expected to enter into long-term commitments for expansion that involve substantial risk capital and extra staff and new equipment while it feels exposed to federal policies which it sees as insensitive to its problems and needs. That is what the restoration of confidence in the economy is really all about.

Once there is general confidence that the Federal Government will take the right course, then industry can get down to meeting the great challenges that lie ahead—capital investment, increased production and providing new job opportunities. However, it takes time for the private sector to respond, because it needs to be reasonably certain of the future demand for its products, the prospects of reduced inflation and industrial unrest, and the reliability of Government policies.

Recent actions such as the capricious decision to ban the export of mineral sand from Fraser Island do little to provide the private sector with confidence in the ability of the Federal Government to make the right decisions for Australia when the chips are really down.

Furthermore—and this brings me back to the basic proposition I want the House to consider—the Federal Government must ensure that in the period until private-sector recovery can take effect, expenditure of Government works and services is maintained.

The continuation of Government works programmes will provide not only essential community facilities such as schools, hospitals and roads; it helps keep people in employment in the private sector construction and associated areas. It also helps to preserve the level of demand for commodities and services provided by the private sector for Government projects. This is just not happening to the extent that is necessary in the current economic circumstances.

The State's capital funds have suffered crippling reductions in terms of real work and money value. The Commonwealth has also restricted very severely funds for special projects and programmes. Up to the present time, the Commonwealth has been totally unresponsive to appeals from this State, and the other States, for a review of its policies in this regard. As a result, the construction

of schools, irrigation schemes, railway capital works and other Government capital projects is slowing down. Some have been brought to an abrupt conclusion. Yet unemployment remains high, and consumer spending is below the level it ought to be. Many contractors in the private sector who depend on Government works for a major part of their activity have been placed in a difficult and uncertain position. The consequences on employment are all too obvious.

The shortage of funds for Government-financed but private-sector-contracted programmes in the areas I have mentioned, and others, is having a grave effect on the viability of Queensland contracting firms and on the job security of their employees. Even if the Commonwealth is aware of the position, it has so far failed to assist in rectifying the very real problems to which I have made reference. The fact that it could take positive action without adverse effect on its long-term strategy only makes the lack of action even more disappointing.

Because of the Commonwealth's failure to respond, it falls on the State Government, within its limited financial resources, to do everything in its power to assist the private sector at this time.

Apart from the positive initiatives to assist the private sector which I announced in the Budget speech—such as pay-roll tax concessions and reduced workers' compensation premiums—we have framed our budgetary programme in a manner that will assist the private sector to the greatest practicable degree. We have been able to do this by requiring that all departments function within very tight and strictly controlled appropriations. Apart from the efficiency which this is designed to achieve, it also has the desirable and beneficial effect of freeing some additional funds for capital works programmes.

At the same time I acknowledge that our financial position is benefiting significantly from the success of the fight against inflation. As the cost of living is reduced and the rate of wage escalation controlled, State Government cost increases are reduced below expected levels. This enables State funds to be released for employment-creating programmes. For this reason, I was heartened by the last cost-of-living increase, which was below previous increases and certainly below the level predicted by many observers. It also continued the trend that has been evident this year of a downward turn in the rate of inflation.

There are still problems to be overcome before we can safely say that the rate of inflation has been permanently and significantly reduced, and therefore budget on the rate staying at levels well below those experienced in recent years. These problems include the attitude towards wage indexation which will be announced in Melbourne tomorrow and the December and March consumer-price-index figures. As for the

State Budget, even a single point movement in the index can add millions of dollars to the costs we have to bear.

The prediction of what the inflation rate will be over the Budget period and the effect of variations on a \$3,500 million State Budget is a difficult task indeed. My Under Treasurer and his officers are currently undertaking this exercise, and I am confident I will shortly be able to announce some release of additional funds for housing, roads, irrigation, railways and sewerage, to assist the private sector to maintain employment opportunities as well as provide the standard of Government services expected by the people of Queensland.

The fact that we are undertaking this exercise is positive proof of the genuine concern of the coalition Government to ensure that unemployment is reduced and our preparedness to play our part in making that a reality. With the assurance that we are giving this vital matter the attention it deserves, I commend this Appropriation Bill to the House.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (12.18 p.m.): We are well used to the Treasurer, the Premier and other Ministers rising in this Chamber and blaming someone else for their problems. I remind the Treasurer that National-Liberal Party Governments have occupied the Treasury benches in this State for over 19 years, and for the whole of those 19 years honourable members opposite have whinged and complained that someone else was at fault. At no time have I heard a Treasurer speak about the problems in this State that the Government should be tackling. Although admitting that there are problems—and there certainly are—they immediately attempt to put the blame for them on former Governments.

Let us see, Mr. Speaker, what the situation was before the 1972 Federal election. There had been 23 years of Liberal-Country Party Governments in Canberra, and the Government of this State had continually criticised the monetary policies of those Governments. For example, if any Minister in this House was asked about John Gorton's administration, he would quickly get up and condemn it. Then we had Snedden and McMahon, and it should not be forgotten that they thought their Budget before the 1972 election would save the Government. Of course, it was the Snedden-McMahon Budget that really began the present inflationary trend and created the problems that we are now experiencing. The people of Australia saw that and changed the Federal Government.

The Labor Government at no time had complete control of the Parliament of Australia. It certainly had the numbers in the Lower House, but it did not have the numbers in the Senate. Let it be recalled for the record that the Labor Government in the Lower House had to go to the people after 18 months. When

Governments have to go to the people, there is a period of stagnation during which new policies cannot be brought into effect and old policies have to be allowed to ride along. Before the Labor Government actually had a chance to overcome the problems of the Snedden-McMahon Budget, it was forced to go to the people. It won again. The Liberals and Nationals in Queensland and other parts of the Commonwealth have still not got over the shock of losing the 1972 election. Again they mounted this attack. They attacked wherever they could.

How often have we heard Ministers in this State complaining of not getting enough money from the Federal Government? When they were given money, they argued, "We don't want any strings attached to it." On many occasions the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads said, "We don't want money with strings attached." The State Government did not take up much of the money available to it in 1973-74.

Then we had a change of Government. Let it be clearly understood that it was the solid campaigning of the Premier, the Treasurer and other Ministers and Government members in this State that played a big part in the election of the Fraser Government. They said, "We want Fraser. We want Fraser's federalism. We want the economic policies of a Fraser Government." They assured the people of Queensland that the economic policies of a Fraser Government would be the saviour of Australia. We have found out differently. We have found that Queensland is worse off than it ever was under a Labor Government. We have found that Medibank has upset the whole of the State's hospital financing. We have found that unemployment has increased and that the rate of inflation is still in double figures. Regrettably we find that the future opportunities for many of our young people are not very bright at all.

We heard so much about the Labor Government borrowing money overseas. We were told that it was wrong that Labor should try to borrow so much money, but by the end of this year the Fraser Government will have borrowed nearly \$1,000 million from overseas. Surely this Government should have something to say about that.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: It was not the borrowing part of it, but the way they went about it.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Labor Government didn't get any. What about the Premier's adviser? How much did the Premier get out of sending fellows overseas on trips? How much did the State get out of the Premier's expenditure and investigation? Why is the State Treasurer crying now about lack of money? He is crying because the Federal Government has not done the right thing by the State. I agree that the Federal Government has not done the right thing by Queensland. But the State Government has

not done the right thing by Queensland, either. It is one thing to complain but another thing to do something about it. What did the Premier and the Treasurer do at the Premiers' Conference to get money for Queensland? What pressure did they really put on the Federal Government? What pressure are they putting on Queensland Liberal and National members in Canberra? What are they doing for this State? This Government has been here for 19 years, and we are still one of the backward States of the nation.

Mr. Hinze: We are not a backward State. I reckon we are the most prosperous State in Australia.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is what the Minister says. Who is going to believe him? He condemned the Whitlam Government because it would not give him enough money for roads. He was right in saying that he wanted more money for roads, but he is getting less now than ever. He is crying about that, of course. Why doesn't he do something positive to relieve the situation?

Mr. Hinze: Good housekeeping.

Mr. HOUSTON: Good housekeeping! The Minister should travel round the State and look at its roads. He himself has described them as shocking. It's not good housekeeping. Far from it. The Government is not spending money on roads and so on.

Mr. Hinze: You are rubbishing Queensland.

Mr. HOUSTON: No I'm not. The Labor Party in Queensland is all for this State. We will be asking the people to give us another opportunity to show that we are all for Queensland. In contrast, the National Party, of which the Minister is a representative, and the Liberal Party, led by the Treasurer, have sold out Queensland. They are the parties that put Fraser into power in Canberra. No matter how much they cry and complain, they cannot escape the fact that Fraser's federalism is causing our present problems.

The Treasurer said that his Government is committed to a policy of full employment. Have you ever heard such a thing? What has the Government done about creating full employment? The level of unemployment today is higher than ever before. Nothing has been done about it at all. All the Government does is cry about unemployment; it takes no action whatever to reduce it.

The Budget will do nothing at all to help those persons who are out of work, nor will it do anything to ensure continuity of employment in many of the State's major industries. What has the Government done to provide employment for the school-leavers who will come onto the labour market at the end of this year? What has it done to create jobs for the university students who will receive their degrees this year? Absolutely nothing!

Mr. Brown: What would you do about it?

Mr. HOUSTON: The Labor Party would give them work. As I have said on many occasions, this is not the time for tight Budgets, nor is it the time for boasting, "I have balanced my Budget." This is the time when the State should be spending money, even if it means indulging in deficit budgeting. The deficits can be picked up in the years to come.

Whenever the State's finances demanded it, the previous Treasurer, Sir Gordon Chalk, went into deficit budgeting. In earlier credit squeezes, when the rate of unemployment was high, the State Government, both under Labor and when Sir Gordon Chalk was Treasurer, went into deficit budgeting, without any apologies at all. Later, when the economy improved, the deficits were picked up and the State got back onto an even keel. Instead of merely saying what his policy is, the Treasurer should do something. After all, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

What does Fraser's federalism mean in terms of the money that the State will receive by way of taxation reimbursements? Don't forget that in the Federal election campaign the cry of the Liberal and National Parties was, "Give us Fraser, give us this new federalism, so that we can have a new financial deal for Queensland and local authorities." What have we got? We have a taxation reimbursement formula that is based purely and simply on personal income tax.

The Fraser Federal Government has already shown the people how it handles personal income tax. It has shown that personal income tax can be broken up into various components. Already the taxpayers are meeting the Medibank levy. What comes next? All that Mr. Fraser has to say is, "Let us have a social security levy", or, "Let us have a levy for some other purpose, such as for age pensions." He could alter the pension scheme and, instead of paying for it from Consolidated Revenue, impose on taxpayers a levy to meet the cost. In other words, he could impose on us a type of national insurance.

Mr. Frawley: He might put a levy on public servants.

Mr. HOUSTON: I shall deal later with his attitude to public servants. The point is that all the Fraser Government, or, for that matter any other Federal Government, has to do, is alter the present income tax formula by providing for special-purpose levies. Honourable members who have read the history of taxation in this nation know full well that in one of Menzies' earlier eras he combined what was then a separate social service tax with general taxation.

Mr. Moore: If you had read it you would know that there is no such thing as State deficit financing. From what funds? Where do you get it from? Tell us that.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member has only to look at the taxation tables to see that, year after year, we finish with a deficit. It is as simple as that. A Budget relates only to suggested income and expenditure. We are discussing a Bill founded on the resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means including those to cover amounts that were spent over and above the amount provided by the Budget last year. Every year we spend more money than is provided for in the Budget. As we get in more money than the estimate, we can spend more money.

I return to the financial formula. The calculations for the Commonwealth Financial Assistance grants for 1975-76 were based on population, wage and betterment factors. Basically, I wish to refer to the population and wage factors. As the Queensland average wage structure rose, our reimbursement rose in relation to those of the other States. If we were the highest wage State, we got an increase in proportion. While we were down, we didn't. The same principles applied to population. If our population increase was better than that of the other States, that, again, assisted us. The two factors that helped the proportion of the total that Queensland was to receive were the wage and population factors.

Under the new Fraser federalism formula, supported, of course, by the Liberal Party, the situation has been altered. The wage factor has been removed, and we now rely entirely on the population factor. According to the table supplied by the Treasurer, it is estimated that in this financial year we will get \$646,500,000 under the new formula.

The part that worries me—and I suggest that honourable members should look at this—concerns the estimated increase in population. The estimated increase in population in the 12 months is only 19,600. If for various reasons the increase in population is lower on a percentage basis in Queensland than in the other States, the percentage of the total cake that we receive will decrease. No regard is paid to how much money the State spends on development. The vast differences in area between Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia are not taken into account. No allowance is made for the extra coastline that we have to worry about. No factor includes consideration for our vast differences or our decentralisation. When the formula is based purely and simply on population, it goes against States such as Queensland. Because this is the formula that the State Government's representatives at the various Loan Council meetings and Premiers' Conferences agreed to, we have heard nothing from the Treasurer about that. That is the formula the Premier and the Deputy Premier agreed to on behalf of our State.

If the State is not getting enough money from the Commonwealth, the State Government, and no-one else is to blame. As

I say, we can be affected not only by the formula relationship but also by the total take—the total amount to be distributed between the States—because that, in turn, is affected according to the basis used by the Commonwealth for collecting personal income tax. Through Medibank it has already removed the amount going to hospitals and it could do exactly the same in other fields.

There are some other matters I wish to raise now because this is the last debate on finances in the Parliament this financial year and also the last one for the second year of the Government's three-year term. I think it is important that all honourable members have an opportunity to debate all Government departments.

Mr. Moore: Why don't you tell us it is 18 November? You have told us the rest.

Mr. HOUSTON: I gave the honourable member credit for knowing that, so I did not bother pointing it out. However, there are other things that he probably does not know and I am hoping to explain them to him. It is obvious that he believes all that he has been told without bothering to look into the matter himself.

I want to refer to the debates on the Financial Statement and the Estimates. It is a function of the Government to keep Parliament informed on all aspects of Government activity. I believe also that it is the responsibility of the Government to give Parliament the opportunity to debate all facets of Government activity as often as possible.

Under the Government's time-table this year, we have been given the opportunity to discuss only six of the 18 portfolios. They are: Community and Welfare Services and Sport; Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries; Water Resources; Police; Survey, Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs; and The Premier. We discussed the Estimates of those six Ministers and, of course, the Treasurer's Financial Statement. Last year we discussed the Estimates for Railways and Transport; Primary Industries; Local Government and Main Roads; Works and Housing; Mines and Energy; Tourism and Marine Services; Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service; and Education and Cultural Activities. So that last year we discussed the Estimates of eight Ministers and, again, the Treasurer's Financial Statement. All told, during the past two years we have discussed the activities of 14 ministries and the Treasury, but the Government has not allowed time to debate the other three ministries. I believe that the Government is wrong in programming the sittings of this Parliament so that a ministry is not debated at least once every two years.

Mr. Moore: Why didn't you call "not formal" on the Resolutions? You had the opportunity.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am debating the matter now and if the honourable member keeps quiet, he will learn something about it. What about all of the other members? There is a great difference between allowing two days to discuss a ministry and giving the 64 members other than Ministers a few hours at this stage to discuss a portfolio. If the honourable member believes that that practice is right, he can get up and say so when I have finished. I am speaking on his behalf. I am speaking as a member of this House. I believe that we should each be given substantial time for debate instead of being allowed only a few minutes.

The three ministries that have not been debated during the past two years are most important. I should say that even the honourable member for Windsor would agree on that. We have not debated the portfolios of Health; Justice and Attorney-General; and Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs. The last-mentioned ministry covers, among other matters, apprenticeship, private-sector employment, general employment and industrial awards. The Treasurer said that he supported the private sector and was concerned about unemployment, yet the Government did not give members a chance to debate the portfolio that deals with such matters.

Mr. Moore: Let's see how many of your members speak on it now.

Mr. HOUSTON: We will have as many speakers as time allows. Let the honourable member for Windsor have no worry about that.

I refer now, Mr. Speaker, to a decision that you made yesterday. I am not questioning your right to rule that the honourable member for Rockhampton North could not speak on a matter of public interest that concerned an issue that was to go before the Industrial Court. You made a ruling, and I have no doubt whatever that you made it in good faith and on your interpretation of the position as you saw it. But I am sure you will also agree that I have the right to believe that that interpretation could lead to very great problems. I do not believe that the matter should be allowed to rest and become a precedent for other issues that may follow.

The Industrial Court is, of course, a very responsible tribunal. It is presided over by a judge who is a very honourable gentleman, well experienced and versed in law, who would not, in my judgment, be persuaded one way or the other by any debate that took place in this House. I have on occasions over a period of time spoken with judges and asked why it is that at times legislation passed by this House is not interpreted by the judiciary as having the meaning that the relevant Minister had led us to believe it had. Judges say, I believe quite rightly, that they can act only on

their interpretation of the legislation, which may not necessarily be what the Government intended.

This is why from time to time legislation is brought before the House for amendment. I think the Treasurer will agree that that is in fact what happens. I think it shows also that judges are not likely to be persuaded by anything said in this Chamber. If they were, their interpretation of legislation would be what the Minister in charge of it said about it in this place. In fact, more than one piece of legislation has had to be referred to the High Court of Australia and even to the Privy Council for a final decision. In other words, some laws passed by Parliament have, by legal processes, been rejected as not being in accord with the Constitution. I think it is quite reasonable to assume that a judge of the Industrial Court would not be influenced by anything said in this House.

It is possible, however, that a Minister and the Government could be persuaded on some matter by a speech made here. After all, this is the place in which members have the right to debate matters that they believe are of general public importance or importance to sections of the community. I suggest therefore that this matter be further reviewed.

My interpretation of the principal underlying the rulings that have been given from time to time on sub judice matters is that jurors, who may well have had no legal training, could be influenced by statements made in this House, particularly if they were reported in the Press. I can see a lot of wisdom in that approach. But, as I say, there is no jury here and I would not like it to be thought that we believed that a judge could be persuaded by what was said in this House, because I think time has shown that this is not so.

I believe also that we have to look at some of the other matters associated with Government decisions in recent times. I refer now to the decision of the Federal Government not to proceed with the issue of export licences for mineral sands from Fraser Island. I do not intend to get involved in the rights or wrongs of that decision; merely to put forward a few facts. I am sick and tired of hearing the Liberal and National Parties blaming the Labor Government for this. Let it be clearly understood that the export licences were issued by Mr. Connor, and the decision to refuse further export licences was purely and simply a decision of the Liberal-National Federal Government.

Mr. Moore: We have to accept responsibility for our own decisions, and I say you are right there, too.

Mr. HOUSTON: I thank the honourable member very much. As I said to him the other day, he has yet to find me wrong in anything I have said to him.

Anyway, let us go further and look at the Fraser Island inquiry. Did this State Government give evidence to that inquiry? Did it present its views to the inquiry to help it make a decision?

Mr. Knox: They had all the information from the Government departments. They requested it and they got it.

Mr. HOUSTON: Did Government officials appear before the tribunal for cross-examination? Did anyone appear before the tribunal?

Mr. Knox: They didn't need to; all the information was there.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Treasurer is blaming the tribunal for its decision. Surely the Government should have produced officers for cross-examination to further explain its case.

Mr. Knox: Our inquiry was finished and published, and they had all the information.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is the Treasurer's statement, and I am not going to fight with him about it. But I still say that, if the Government wished to make submissions, it was not good enough for it just to put information in the hands of the commission of inquiry—

Mr. Knox: They used it.

Mr. HOUSTON: At least the Government should have produced human beings to argue the case. Others did. Either the Government's case was rejected by the Commission or it favoured the commission's final findings. The Treasurer cannot have it both ways. If the Government's submissions were not sufficiently forceful, then someone else must have persuaded the inquiry to make the decision it finally made.

At any rate, as the Leader of the Opposition has said on so many occasions, we support the workers on Fraser Island in their demands for work. Of course we support them! But it made me smile when this Government demanded \$62,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government in order to undertake certain work that would provide employment for the 300 or 400 people who will be forced out of work by the Fraser Island decision. It is quite strange that the Government did not ask for that type of money for the hundreds who are out of work in the Rockhampton area, the Townsville area and the western areas of Queensland. What did it do for those who were out of work before this issue? As far as this Government was concerned, they could paddle their own canoe; but, once the Fraser Island issue arose and people's employment prospects there were jeopardised, the Government cried out for money.

In reality, what has the Government done to help ease the situation? This Government did not come into the fight at all until decisions had been made, whereas the Labor Party has always been concerned about the

employment position. As I said, when Mr. Connor granted the export licences everyone was happy to carry on mining, because that assured continued employment.

I also wish to refer briefly to some matters coming under the Estimates for Justice and Attorney-General, which have not been debated in this Chamber for over two years, and I am prompted to make some reference to a little story that appeared in the Press this morning. It related to a gentleman—I do not intend to mention his name; there is no reflection on him—who after two years was finally acquitted of a charge that was preferred against him. I believe that he was a member of the Police Force, but that is immaterial. The point is that for two years he and his family have been subject to the worry associated with having a charge over his head. I think it is completely wrong for any normal case to be brought before a court two years after a decision has been made to proceed with a prosecution. There are three Ministers in the House at the moment, and I hope they will agree with me that some positive action should be taken before two years have passed.

I have not—thank goodness!—experienced the problems associated with having a charge over my head or the head of anyone associated with me; but I know people who have, and I know what a tremendous worry it has been to them. It is not enough for a person to know in his own heart that he is innocent of whatever charge he may be facing. He knows he is innocent, and in many cases he is finally proved to be innocent. However, in the intervening period, he experiences months and months of worry in his private life, as do those who are closely associated with him. I say to the Ministers on the benches opposite: find ways and means of having cases brought quickly before the judiciary or the magistrates, as the case may be, so that people will not be subjected to the worry to which I have referred.

I have not, of course, mentioned loss of income. If the person charged is a public servant, he is stood down and is unable to do the work for which he has been trained or that he is accustomed to doing. At worst, he would be unemployed; at best, he would be on a lower income and would lose opportunities for promotion, and so on. Therefore, I again appeal to the Government to make sure that the legal processes in this State are such that justice will not only be done but also appear to be done in a short space of time.

Problems arise because of people's memory of events. I suggest that honourable members try to recall an incident that happened two years or more ago and see how accurate their recollection is. It is all very well to say that statements are made at the time. However, they are made under varying circumstances and cross-examination may show that they do not cover the whole situation. The Government should take action to overcome the problems that I have mentioned.

I wish now to say a word or two about the Department of Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs. When I checked, I was surprised to find that industrial relations, which is an important facet of government, has not been debated since the present Government came to office after the 1974 election. There have, of course, been many occasions during that period when the Government has seen fit to blast unions and to criticise union leaders, union membership and union decisions. Yet for two years the members of this Assembly have not had an opportunity of discussing the Estimates for the Department of Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs or closely questioning the Minister on his administration of the department.

It is all very well to suggest that a member can talk about it during the Budget debate, but at that time the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs would not necessarily be in the Chamber. Most of the time the Treasurer would be the Minister listening to the debate.

It is all very well to suggest that the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs can be asked questions. But how far does the asking of questions go? We have seen example after example of answers to questions being so many words of little meaning.

The Government of the day should make sure that all portfolios are debated at least once every two years. It would only mean nine each year, or nine one year and eight the next because there is already opportunity to debate the Treasurer's portfolio. Naturally the Treasurer's portfolio is an important one but still it does not cover as many ramifications as the other portfolios do.

I should like to refer to the industrial legislation that is now being talked about. I know that Cabinet is going to make certain decisions. It has been reported that the Government is going to restrict the president of a union to a limited term.

Mr. Moore: Who said that?

Mr. HOUSTON: I am only going on what is in the Press this morning.

Mr. Katter: You are wrong.

Mr. Moore: There is no truth in it.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am certainly going to forestall the Government in case it comes up with that weird and wonderful idea.

Mr. Moore: You are putting up your own Aunt Sallies and knocking them down.

Mr. HOUSTON: No; it is in the Press. I have heard the honourable member quote the newspaper and condemn people because of what appeared there. All I am saying now is that it was reported in the Press. He can deny it, if he likes. We will wait and see.

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not suggesting that the honourable member gave the story. All he is proving to me is that he did not give the story to the Press—or he did not give that part of the story to the Press. If that is in the Government's mind I say, "Forget it." It would be one of the most ridiculous suggestions I have ever heard. If the Government is going to start restricting presidents, what about secretaries? In most unions the secretary is the paid official.

Mr. Moore: That would be ridiculous. We won't be doing it; don't worry about it.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member can speak for himself.

Mr. Moore: All we are going to do is give the unionists a say in their own affairs—nothing more than that.

Mr. HOUSTON: I have been in this House for 19 years. I go back to the days of Ken Morris. I think he was the leader of the Liberal Party and Deputy Premier at one stage. I remember when he introduced the first industrial Bill this Government brought in after a long run of Labor Governments. According to the Government at that time it was going to rectify all the faults. It was going to overcome everything and fix everything up. The Government was suggesting that by 1958 we would be living in a workers' paradise, a place where every union member controlled his own union. There were to be no more strikes and no more problems. Every year since then I have heard the same story.

The Government brings down Bills that are unworkable. It talks about the control of unions. In the past I have heard the Government say that there must be responsible people at the head of unions. It has brought down legislation to try to bring that about. A few months later it brings in another Bill. Later it says that there must be rank-and-file control of unions, so it amends the legislation and says, "We have fixed it now." The Government has neither rank-and-file control nor top-official control. Today the legislation is so chaotic that union membership and union leadership do not know exactly what the Government wants. If the Government goes ahead with the idea of limiting the term of a president of a union, it will bring further confusion into the whole set-up.

Mr. Moore: You know it is not going to happen, so don't keep saying it.

Mr. HOUSTON: I don't know that it is not going to happen. The honourable member can deny it but his leader is not denying it.

Mr. Moore: Of course he is.

Mr. HOUSTON: No, he is not. He is nodding his head. I don't know whether he is going to sleep. I am sure he is not going to sleep with me at this end.

Mr. Knox: I am just shaking my head with disappointment. I am disappointed with you.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Treasurer is disappointed with me?

Mr. Knox: Yes.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Treasurer is disappointed with me because I believe what I read in the Press.

Mr. Knox: I thought you would bring a new image to this Parliament, but you are the same old Jack Houston.

Mr. HOUSTON: That will do me. I don't want to change. I don't want to become a silver-tail as soon as I am made a deputy leader.

[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.]

Mr. HOUSTON: Prior to the luncheon recess I was speaking about industrial relations. It is true to say that the Government, through the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs, is not playing its part in promoting industrial peace and harmony. Industrial peace is a three-way deal between the unions, management and the Government. The Government is involved through its policies and its laws.

Unfortunately, too many Government members take a delight in blasting the trade unions and those associated with them. This does nothing for industrial peace. No-one who listens to Government members could be blamed for thinking that the only people who are wrong are the unions.

Mr. Tenni: Not the unions, the union officials.

Mr. HOUSTON: A trade union official is also a union member. Some Government members seem to forget that. They also seem to forget that union officials are elected by ballots conducted under rules that are registered with the Industrial Court. Anyone who feels that a ballot is not properly conducted has a remedy; he can notify the Industrial Court accordingly.

Instead of taking positive action, many Government members are content to yell and squeal and to blame someone else for industrial trouble. The unions alone are not to blame. Management and the Government are also at fault.

Mr. Frawley: What about the painters and dockers?

Mr. HOUSTON: That is the type of nonsense that we hear from the honourable member. When did the painters and dockers last have a strike? He does not keep up with the times.

Trade unions do not want strikes. They are forced to take strike action, however, as the result of pressures put on them sometimes by bad government, through industrial

laws, and sometimes by bad management. Admittedly the unions try to get the best conditions for their members. But it is also true that most strikes and industrial problems arise from complaints on the job. The rank-and-file members agitate for higher wages or better conditions, hold meetings and direct their union executive to take certain action. The history of most strikes will show that they arose from something that happened on the job.

The Government should play a bigger part in promoting industrial peace. The Ministers and the Government back-benchers should get to know the union officials better. Some time ago a photograph in the Press depicted the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs, together with other Government members on a visit to the Trades Hall. I am told that, because they did not even know where the Trades Hall was, they needed a compass and a road map to get there. Nevertheless, they arrived and were taken on a tour of the Trades Hall. My information is that not one Government member who was present had any criticism to offer of the union officials with whom they spoke. I pay due credit to those Government members who went on the visit. I commend also those who get to know union officials. The officials are not the bad men that some Government members claim them to be.

The Minister for Labour Relations claims that he is close to the unions. I wonder how many union leaders are known to him on a friendly basis. I am sure that if he knew union leaders better he would not be as prone as he is now to attack them.

Most industrial trouble arises from disputes between unions and management of businesses. Rarely does it arise in businesses that are, shall I say, owner-managed. In them there is a common bond.

Mr. Moore: You've been reading all my speeches.

Mr. HOUSTON: No I haven't, but I do agree with the honourable member. Many of the things that he says are quite sensible. Unfortunately, however, other comments of his make no sense at all. I wish that some of his knowledge of industrial matters could be imparted to other Government members.

Mr. Frawley: He's a financial member of the E.T.U.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know that he is a financial member of the E.T.U. He pays his whack. When the union went to court to try to get improved conditions, he paid his share. He was not one of those who wanted all the benefits and was not prepared to pay. I pay him credit for that. It is a pity that some of his political colleagues and supporters do not believe in the same principle. Anyone who is going to gain from something should be prepared to spend money to help obtain it.

Mr. Frawley: I, too, pay my fees.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know that, the only difference is that the honourable member had to be summonsed many times to pay them. I will admit that he paid them.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I rise to a point of order. I object to that remark. I was not summonsed once by the E.T.U. I paid my fees every year. I ask that the honourable member withdraw that remark.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will withdraw that remark.

Mr. HOUSTON: I withdraw it. I am sorry; I made a mistake. I know that the honourable member paid his fees. I know that he is still an ardent unionist. The only trouble is that he does not support his union as he should.

As I said, there is very little industrial trouble in family businesses. The main problem is that management has become very remote from the unions. One could almost swear that some people holding managerial positions own the businesses and that it is their dollars that are at stake. I have spoken to business owners who are friendly with their staffs. Any staff member or unionist who wants to communicate with the owner of a family business can do so very readily. But judging by the way that some of the managerial staff (who themselves are workers on salaries) talk about trade unionists, one would swear that they were a completely different breed.

Mr. Lowes: The modern slave class.

Mr. HOUSTON: I do not know what they are; but their attitude does not create industrial peace.

I plead with the Minister to take a more personal interest in those who are elected as trade union leaders. I urge him to get to know them as I do. I refer not only to the Trades Hall unions but to those in other places. If he gets to know union leaders, he will be able to meet them and talk to them personally. That can lead only to greater harmony in industrial relations.

Mr. Prest: That would improve the knowledge of Government members.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is so, and it would be a great thing. From the State's point of view it would help to create industrial peace.

The next matter I raise may be a Federal matter, but I think it concerns us because we are interested in providing employment. I hope that the Treasurer passes it on to his Federal colleagues. Only the other day a case concerning a widow came to my notice. I should be obliged if the Minister for Lands would keep quiet for a moment so that the Treasurer can hear and understand what I am talking about.

Mr. Knox: You are supposed to be talking through the Speaker.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am talking through Mr. Speaker to the Treasurer.

Mr. Moore: You ought to be called to order.

Mr. HOUSTON: There is no need to call me to order.

This case concerns a widow with a son at high school. He will complete his Senior this year. He has written several letters trying to get a job, but at this stage he has not been engaged. The odds are that he will not be employed until well into the school holidays. I am led to believe—and the Minister may check this—that immediately school finishes this mother will lose the allowance she gets for her son, because she is entitled to it only while he is at school. When he completes his Senior, he will be on his own; he will not get any money in his own right until some time in February. If he cannot get a job he will be completely dependent over December and January on his mother, who, in turn, is completely dependent on the widow's pension. I suggest to the Minister that Senior students who leave school this year should be regarded as dependants until unemployment benefits are paid. I, like everyone else, hope that sons of widows—in fact all young people—will not have to go on unemployment benefits. But the realities of life lead me to believe that many young people will not get jobs as quickly as we might wish. I ask the Treasurer to take up this matter with his Federal colleagues. I believe that it is most important not only to the lady I refer to, but also to other members of the community.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Lockyer. I draw the attention of the House to the fact that this is the honourable member's maiden speech. I expect all honourable members to tender to him the usual courtesies and privileges extended to new members.

Mr. BOURKE (Lockyer) (2.25 p.m.): In rising to support the Bill introduced by the Honourable the Treasurer, I am very conscious of both the honour and the responsibility which the people of Lockyer accorded me when they elected me as their member on 16 October. I express to the people of Lockyer my personal feeling of humility, my appreciation of the trust they have shown in me and my pledge that I will keep faith with them.

I must express my debt and gratitude to my parliamentary leader (Hon. Bill Knox) and all my colleagues in the Liberal Party who actively supported me in the campaign. Thanks are due also to the Federal Liberal members and the Brisbane Liberal aldermen who also campaigned on my behalf. The results reflect the magnificent work done by Mr. John Leggoe and his staff and also the hard, dedicated work by the Liberal Party members of the Gatton and Too-woomba Branches of the Liberal Party. I come from an area where the ideals and

works of the Liberal cause are flourishing and vibrant. To all who worked to secure my election, I express my sincere appreciation.

Throughout our campaign we addressed the electorate as one people. My electorate has a historical unity. It contains country areas and city areas. The people are all one people who think the same. Proof of this is that the results of the election were uniform; we had the same percentages throughout the whole of the electorate. I had the co-operation of dedicated people in my party and I am grateful to them for their work. It was a privilege to see them in action.

I enter this House as the successor of the Honourable Sir Gordon Chalk, who served Lockyer for 26 years and who was a member here for 29 years in all. It has been an impressive experience to witness during the election campaign the wide respect and affection with which Sir Gordon is held throughout the whole area. He is a son of the district and the results of his labours for the benefit of the whole district are obvious and well appreciated by his people. While it is true that his tremendous contribution to the State as a Minister, particularly as Deputy Premier and Treasurer, has justly received wide acclaim, I want to place on record the particular appreciation of the electors of Lockyer for what he achieved as their member over a long period. It is an inspiration to me as a young new member to know the very real place he has won in the hearts of the people of my district and the very high respect he has earned in the area. I am very much aware of the great example he has set, which I must seek to equal. He has given me much support and assistance and I have a rare advantage in having his example as an inspiration. I intend to lean on his advice in the future.

During the campaign which led up to the by-election last month, the Liberal Party had one consistent theme—the maintenance of the coalition Government in Queensland. I was elected as a coalition candidate, and I am proud to be a member of the coalition Government in this Parliament. The public is aware and appreciative of the good government that the coalition has given Queensland over the past 19 years. The public is concerned that harmony and unity in the coalition parties should be continued in the interests of continued good stable government for this great State of ours. The people of Lockyer voted for the continuation of the coalition, for the continuation of stable, effective, positive government in Queensland, for the preservation of the free-enterprise system and for the values and principles on which this State has been built.

The people of Lockyer had as an example the magnificent representation which Dr. John Lockwood has given the people of

Toowoomba North, the neighbouring electorate. The fact that the Liberal Party presented a man of his calibre and humanity to the electorate as a representative was a great local endorsement for my party. I look forward to working in co-operation with him and John Warner, the member for Toowoomba South, in the best interests of the people of our area. It was very obvious throughout the campaign that they were both held in high respect and regard throughout the whole district.

I represent an electorate that is a perfect balance of the elements of this State. It comprises the Gatton Shire and part of the city of Toowoomba. As such it is much of the Lockyer Valley—that magnificent productive area of Queensland that grows much of our vegetable diet. It is an intensively farmed district which also contributes heavily to the tables of Sydney. Here we have a minor aspect, no doubt, of the problems of federation. Tasmanian produce receives a freight subsidy. Tasmanian farmers have their problems but it is unfair and undemocratic for our taxpayers' money to go to subsidise our competition. The end result might be cheap food for Sydney but it is at the expense of the farmers of my district.

When one considers the farmers of this nation, one fact that is obvious is the unfairness with which they have been treated by the community. That is an historical fact. They seek no subsidies—only justice, and a fair price for their products and labour. Thanks to the recent national economic madness, they have had fantastic increases in costs. There have been no such increases in the prices that they receive. It is time that our community acknowledged and wrestled with the problem of doing justice to the most productive and hard-working section of the people. This is an historical aspect of society with which we have never come to grips.

It is also patently obvious to anyone in business that reform of the Federal tax system to restore the incentive to work is essential for the future of our nation. Business cannot expand if its total profits are confiscated by Governments in taxes. Already there is no incentive for people even to work, let alone expand. I can speak from personal experience in my own business. It is impossible to retain sufficient capital to allow any business expansion.

Because of the nature of my electorate, I am concerned about soil conservation and water resources. We have a valuable resource in the Lockyer Valley and the Darling Downs and we must work for its improvement.

I am an alderman of the Toowoomba City Council and I am concerned about the problems of local government. They are mainly a shortage of finance and problems of liaison with the State and Federal Governments. We in Toowoomba are faced with the urgent need for a new dam. This will be a heavy expense, partly as a result of Government

policy. It is a subject with which the local members are concerned. The fact is that the city is faced with a heavy expense, which it can barely afford, in financing the new dam, which is essential for its future expansion. We have been in touch with the Government seeking further aid for it. Basically, as I have said, the problems of local government lie in financial shortages and dealing with State Government departments.

I believe that decentralisation is a natural force that will work for the benefit of this State and its people if only the proven success stories, such as the growth of Toowoomba, are given recognition. It is farcical for the Federal Government to be pouring money into so-called growth centres if it is not prepared to give cities such as Toowoomba a fairer deal. Mine is a city of 65,000 people, the largest inland city in Australia, and it has already grown under its own power. It is a success story, and surely any future decentralisation policy should give more weight to areas in which there is already success. Such areas should be helped to grow and expand and provide an alternative to life in the big cities.

I am concerned for the future of the State's rural society. My party's policy is concern for rural communities as a unit. They should have facilities equal to those enjoyed by city dwellers in areas such as health and education.

I am particularly concerned with the situation in Western Queensland, from which people seem to have been withdrawing for some decades. I think we must look to the settlement in Western Queensland of people who are happy to live there and want to stay there. We cannot allow a situation in which the population of the West decreases year after year without any definite turning of the tide.

My work background is small business and it is most appropriate that I share the concern of my party for the problems confronting this sector today. I am particularly affronted by the effects of pay-roll tax and road tax on small businessmen, particularly those in my area. We have had some relief, thanks to the good efforts of Sir Gordon Chalk and the present Treasurer; but we must look for more. The effects of such taxes are particularly invidious in country areas. I am concerned about their effect on all people of the area—farmers, business people and their employees. It is obvious that bad effects on small business are soon reflected in lack of employment opportunities. Government action that restricts the opportunities of people in business on their own behalf is soon translated into lack of job opportunities.

This presents a particular problem for young people and I am particularly concerned about employment opportunities for them. Young people leaving school must be smoothly fitted into the work-force. They

are entitled to a good start to their lifelong careers. They are too valuable a national resource to be squandered. It is particularly hard on a person leaving school if he cannot find work. The psychological effects are most harmful and long lasting. Once a person's confidence is destroyed it is not easily restored. I think it is essential as a matter of justice that young people be given every opportunity to find worth-while work. It is encouraging to see the efforts of the State and Federal Governments to solve this particular problem, which is another legacy of the Federal lunacy of 1972-75.

As a pharmacist I am concerned about people. My training and work have been in helping all sections of the community with their problems; I am used to coming in contact with people of all ages and all types throughout the community and helping them with their problems.

I am concerned about education, but I stress that what I have to say does not reflect any criticism of the present education system. I think basically it does what we are concerned to see it should do; but we should be more flexible and make minor concessions which reflect circumstances and trends in the society we represent. We should always be optimistic about our young people. They are very good representatives of our society, and we have much cause to be proud of them and should encourage them at every opportunity. I repeat that our basic attitude should be one of optimism, and with them we have much to be optimistic about. I have 26 schools in my electorate and a tertiary institution, the Gatton college. There is also the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education in the neighbouring electorate of Toowoomba South. Many of those 26 schools are one-teacher schools, and I am concerned about the uses to which they are put. They have some drawbacks and disabilities, but they also have much to offer their pupils. They constitute the social centre of rural areas and are the places at which the people make much of their social contact. I am concerned to see that these schools are maintained, and if possible improved in every way. I also feel that the Education Department bureaucracy as a whole must be more flexible and attuned to the needs of particular schools instead of just sticking to the routine formula.

I am concerned about the problems of families today. I have two young children, and I am concerned about the needs of young parents in housing and in the education of their children. All parents are concerned about their children's education, and as their representatives we must share their concern.

Finally, I believe in the politics of unity. I believe that the people of Queensland and the people of Australia are one people, and I reject any divisive politics and any cheap efforts to exploit potential divisions in our community. Our Government must present

a human face to the people and seek to govern through co-operation by involving the people in its actions and decisions. As a member, I seek contact with the people of my electorate so that I may better reflect their thinking and their attitudes. I am the fourth generation of my family in the Lockyer district. There are five generations of my family's involvement in Western Queensland and the Darling Downs. My concern for the area, its people, our State and our nation is real and very vital. My family is part of the area's history and nature, and in my thoughts and nature so am I.

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (2.38 p.m.): In a debate on the Appropriation Bill, economic matters come to the fore, and at the present moment all in my electorate are certainly concerned about economic matters, in particular the economic life of Maryborough and district. I am referring, of course, to the continuing saga of the Fraser Island sand-mining sham and to the decision which has been made by the Federal Government to ban sand-mining on Fraser Island. We in Maryborough and district are hoping that the Federal Government will rescind this decision. We are hoping that the Federal Government will take a serious look at the ramifications of its decision, and even perhaps consider whether such a decision is necessary.

Mr. Porter: It is certainly not moral.

Mr. ALISON: It certainly is not moral. It is a political atrocity. The Federal Government does not realise the enormity of the consequences of its decision. As I say, we are hoping that sanity will prevail and that sufficient Government members in Federal Parliament will start to realise just what they are threatening to do to the economy of the Maryborough district.

For the five or seven years up to 1974 the city of Maryborough's population remained virtually static, and for various reasons—there is no point going into them at the moment—we had very little growth. In 1974 we received a savage kick in the teeth, again from the Federal Government, when we lost our shipyards. Walkers Ltd. went out of shipbuilding for various reasons. The Federal Government of the day—the Whitlam Government—dishonoured a promise to ensure that we retained our shipyards, and so we lost 250 jobs. As I say, that set us back and brought an air of gloom and despair to the area.

However, in 1975, along came the sand-mining industry and rejuvenated the city—gave it an economic shot in the arm—and since mid-1975 it has had a steady growth rate. The recent census gave evidence of that, because it indicated that the population of the Maryborough local government area is now 21,500, whereas the previous census—I presume it was taken seven years ago—showed that the population was only a little

over 19,000. Admittedly, the local government area is slightly bigger now; but the population in the area that has been added to the original local government area certainly does not account for the difference. Figures from the Queensland Housing Commission showing the number of people on the waiting list for commission homes over the last 18 months indicate that there has been a steady increase in population. This has been due not only to sand-mining directly but also the resultant optimism injected into the community. People think that Maryborough is on the move.

It is not difficult to understand why there has been steady growth over the last 18 months if one analyses the figures showing what the sand-mining industry means to the people of my electorate. Let me take first the subcontractors. There is an airways company with a staff of nine, most of whom are directly involved with the sand-mining industry. There is Riverside Transport. There are mineral hauliers on the island with a work-force of eight, all of whom are dependent solely on the sand-mining operations. There are also many types of contractors—bulldozing contractors, general building contractors, trucking contractors, general carriers, and even caterers.

Figures given to me by Dillingham Murphores for the quarter ended 31 October indicate that the wages and salary bill for one week of D.M.'s operations—and this does not include the subcontractors, of course; it is just the people on D.M.'s pay-roll—is \$48,200. The company's railway freight bill for a month is \$43,000. That is a lot from one customer of the railways. And so it goes on.

At the moment, based on present values, there is an annual injection of \$6,240,000 into the local economy. That gives a considerable impetus to the economy of the area. It may not mean so much to a city the size of Brisbane; but to Maryborough and district, with a population of 20,000-odd, it means a great deal. We will continue to fight to retain this industry, in which 208 people are engaged in productive employment. I am speaking now only of D.M. I understand that the other sand-mining company, Queensland Titanium Mines, has about 130 employees. These people are based mainly at Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach, and I think there are some at Gympie. Their continued employment is important to the economy of those areas, too.

As I mentioned, the total benefit to the community is \$6,240,000 annually, and it was planned to carry on the industry for 15 to 20 years. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, the total injection of funds into the economy over that period would be about \$100,000,000 on present-day values. Now, towards the end of 1976, we have this sword hanging over our head: are we going to lose our sand-mining industries? This is a matter of

tremendous concern to the people of Maryborough and district, and I hope that the penny is beginning to drop all over Australia as to the enormity of this political decision—this political crime—allegedly based on environmental considerations. It is a load of hog-wash. The Fraser Island Environmental Inquiry is simply being used as an excuse to appease the preservationists. The Federal Government just washes its hands, as Pontius Pilate did, and says, "Well, we have had our inquiry, and it has come up with a certain decision. They are very competent men. We will accept their recommendation." But it will not get away with it as easily as that. If the Federal Government does not rescind this ridiculous and quite unnecessary decision, the non-employment of 208 people, plus others, will be on its head.

I understand that a rumour is circulating in the halls of power in Canberra, so I shall give the facts of the matter. Today I had lunch with some colleagues of mine from Maryborough who had returned from Canberra. They endeavoured to demonstrate down there in their own way and to meet the people in the halls of power to try to get their message across. Those Maryborough people told me that in Canberra the rumour is that D.M. wanted to close its operations, anyhow. That is just not correct. I know it is not correct. I sincerely hope that D.M. comes out loud and clear in the immediate future to explain that this is just not right. There is no need to guess where this lie came from. Certainly nobody would get a prize for guessing. No doubt some preservation lobby in Canberra started to spread this rumour, the inference being, "What is all the hoo-ha and fuss about? D.M. is going to close anyhow in a few months' time." That is a load of rubbish. I hope that D.M. comes out and confirms that that is not correct.

In my electorate and the area around it we have had nothing but strife with Federal Governments. Firstly, we lost the shipyards on a dishonoured promise made by the Whitlam Government. Now we have had this savage kick in the face by the Fraser Government. If any area feels like seceding from the Commonwealth, I reckon ours should. If the Federal Government would just leave us alone and allow the State Government to manage the area, we would be a lot better off. It should get to hell out of the area and not try to govern us from Canberra.

If the sand-mining industry is lost, the Maryborough and district community expects, and rightly expects, compensation from the Federal Government by way of projects which will create employment. I mean continuing employment, not just a series of R.E.D.-type schemes under which we would get a lot of new footpaths around the place and an odd bridge here and there. We need schemes and projects which will create continuing employment and facilities, and build an atmosphere and create incentive for private enterprise. My city has a lot to thank

private enterprise for, but not very many thanks are owing for Government activity. The emphasis must be on projects which will create continuing employment.

Over the last few weeks we have been having a series of community meetings attended by representatives from the Maryborough City Council, the Woocoo Shire Council, the Maryborough Chamber of Commerce, the Maryborough Development Board, Fraser Island-Maryborough Citizens Action Group and other interested people. We have been planning tactics and endeavouring to get the facts across to Canberra. We have endeavoured to make submissions to Canberra, but frankly I don't think they were even read. It is my firm impression that they are all in the rubbish tin. The decision was made weeks ago, and the Federal Government doesn't give a damn what we think or what the facts are.

On Tuesday of this week I presented to the Premier and the Treasurer a list of projects drawn up by this community committee in case the Federal Government did not see the light and did not rescind its hasty decision to do away with sand-mining. The project on the top of the list is the Mary River-Tinana Creek barrage and irrigation scheme. That matter has been under investigation for some years. I understand that the report will very shortly be in the hands of the Minister for Water Resources. I realise that the construction of such a project could not get under way for something like six months; nevertheless it is a project for which I demand finances from the Federal Government. I do not mean loans; I mean compensation by way of a straight-out grant to the State Government for this project.

The second project on the list is the Maryborough-Tin Can Bay tourist road. The route of this proposed road to Tin Can Bay has been satisfactorily resolved, with most of its length being forestry road. All that seems to be required is upgrading it to tourist standard and sealing it. This would help the economic growth of the tourist industry in Maryborough and surrounding areas.

Another project concerns the area set aside for softwood forestry plantations north of Maryborough. Recently the report on the Coastal Lowlands Study was released. It recommended that 37 600 ha of vacant Crown land, all within 20 miles of Maryborough, and basically just to the north of Maryborough, be set aside for softwood forestry plantations. This is an excellent project. Maryborough already is one of the key forestry centres in Queensland. This project is a must. The State Government must endorse this recommendation and obtain Federal funds for the development of these softwood plantations to the north of Maryborough.

Another project is the relocation of the Maryborough showgrounds sporting and racing complex. The city council has taken

the plunge and has had preliminary plans drawn up for the resiting of the showgrounds. The new site will encompass both sporting and racing facilities. This a tremendous project. It is estimated to cost approximately \$2,360,000. When completed it will bring lasting benefit to the citizens of Maryborough and the surrounding district. I will certainly be pushing that one.

Another large project is the establishment of a college of advanced education. I realise that this will have to take its place on the list of priorities because there is a need for such colleges in other districts, too. Nevertheless, a very strong case in support of the immediate establishment of a college of advanced education in the Wide Bay-Burnett area has been put to the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities. A site for a college has been set aside by the State Government in Maryborough. This project must be looked at.

The last of the major projects is the construction of a tourist road from Tin Can Bay to Noosa. This would connect with the Maryborough-Tin Can Bay road. I have not travelled from Tin Can Bay to Noosa, but I understand that in good weather the road is trafficable. If it were upgraded and sealed, there would be a tourist road from Maryborough down to Tin Can Bay and then on to Caloundra. Maryborough as well as all the areas in between would derive tremendous benefit from the construction of this road. Tourists would be encouraged not to stop at Noosa but to come on to the areas further north.

The Maryborough City Council has drawn up two lists of projects, one covering 15 projects that would provide immediate employment, and the other jobs requiring initial planning that would provide employment of a mid-term nature. One of the jobs is the construction of facilities such as footpaths.

I have submitted to the Premier the city council submission together with the other list of projects that I mentioned. I have been invited to a meeting to be held on Monday afternoon at which officials from the Treasury and the Premier's Department will be present. I have no doubt that, if the Federal Government does not see the light and does not take steps to prevent this heinous crime from being committed against the people of Maryborough, we will be going all out on these other projects as well as on those that the State Government comes up with. The economic benefits to be gained from all those projects, however, are nowhere near as great as those that the area will lose if sand-mining is taken from it.

Earlier I said that some of my colleagues had returned from a visit to Canberra, where they had kicked up a bit of a fuss in trying to get across to certain people the enormity of this political crime that is being perpetrated. At lunch-time I was told by my

colleagues that they met five Federal Ministers, who revealed quite clearly that no thought at all had been given to the consequences of the decision to stop sand-mining. It was quite obvious to my colleagues that the Federal Government had not thought beyond making the decision. Of course, that was obvious before, when the Premier told us what Mr. Nixon and Mr. Newman said last Wednesday. He fired at them the question, "If you stop sand-mining, what are you going to have lined up for the people of Maryborough and district?" They said, "We will retrain them and we will relocate them." What a shocking socialist philosophy that is; and it came from a private-enterprise Government! I am shocked by its attitude. Either members of the Federal Government are in the wrong political party or I am.

That statement shows the type of thinking that goes on in Canberra. I realise that people in Cairns and other areas in the North complain that they are badly done by at times by the Queensland Government, located in Brisbane. This type of rot coming from Canberra indicates that the people down there just haven't a clue. But what is worse, they do not even have the decency to look for clues. My colleagues also told me that people in Canberra still do not understand the problems they have created. They have not grasped that 400 to 500 men will be out of jobs, that 400 to 500 families are wondering where the hell their next feed is to come from.

If the Federal Government cannot see the light or cannot grasp the situation, I demand the utmost compensation. I know that the Treasurer and Premier will support me fully on this. We will go all out to rectify this situation for my community.

Mr. MOORE (Windsor) (2.56 p.m.): The debate on this Bill is one of the few occasions when honourable members can cover a broad field. However, because other speakers wish to take part in the debate and as we have other legislation to deal with, I do not intend to take my full 40 minutes.

Like myself, many other honourable members are worried about what is happening in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Considering that Canada closed Hudson Bay (which contains a somewhat similar area to the Gulf) and excluded foreign vessels, any good Queensland or, for that matter any good Australian would naturally like to treat the Gulf in the same way. The Gulf is not a shipping lane to anywhere. Any boat or ship that enters the Gulf of Carpentaria can only go to a port or shipping centre there. As vessels now patrol this area, the State Government should encourage the Federal Government to take the necessary initiative to make it Australian or Queensland waters and thereby preserve it as a natural fish habitat. Because of the number of prawns, the streams, the low-lying country, the mangrove flats, the fish habitat, the breeding

grounds and the abundance of fish, not only mackerel and mullet, (which no-one has attempted to fish out, because boats are concentrating on prawns), we should treat these waters as a good fattening paddock. I hope that the Commonwealth Government, acting in conjunction with the State, closes this area off so that Australia may keep this natural resource for its own use, not to be harvested by foreign vessels.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition criticised what the Treasurer is doing in this time of unemployment. I am sure that all honourable members feel for families whose bread-winners are out of work. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that a solution could be found in deficit budgeting. In reply to an interjection I made he said, "If the honourable member would only refer to past Budgets he would see that the Treasurer has budgeted for a deficit." I agree that his statement is right, but the deficits have been only minimal amounts.

Mr. Houston: A deficit of \$4,000,000?

Mr. MOORE: That is nothing.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not understand how State finances work. He does not seem to know that we have no means of issuing fiduciary notes or Treasury bills, or engaging in any other means of finance that are available to the Federal Government. The State Government cannot budget for a deficit. The only type of budgeting available to it is to make a rather informed guess at the growth rate and, whilst budgeting for a deficit, it hopes to end up with its accounts balanced, or perhaps even showing a surplus. It hopes also that, if the result is a deficit, it will be so infinitesimal that it can be covered by the credit in a fund such as the superannuation fund. If the Government does use that fund for deficit budgeting, it certainly has put an I.O.U. in the safe. Having done it once, it cannot do it again. In any case, it would be running the risk that the amount would not be called upon. If anybody fancies that we can solve our problems of unemployment in this State, it is certainly not to be done in that way.

One very pressing need in this State is housing. Considering all of the industries that are involved in supplying materials for house construction, the building industry employs many people in the work-force. But today young people are reluctant to take on the responsibility of buying a home—of putting a millstone round their necks—because of lending rates running at about 12 or 15 per cent, the size of the deposit required to purchase a home and the repayments required to service the debt incurred. So that, while the State cannot provide the money, it must do everything in its power to sell Housing Commission homes to the people who desire them and then build more homes with the funds that then become available. It is necessary to make further approaches to the Federal Government for funds.

The States receive only 33 or 34 per cent of taxation by way of reimbursement, and a little bit more of the 66 per cent that is left should go to the States. I am not suggesting any increase in taxation in any shape or form. One of our problems today is the disincentive brought about by people paying half or more than half of their salaries in income tax. No-one will work harder if he is simply working for the Government. When people are working for the Government in that sense, all they are doing is paying money for the benefit of some other taxpayer. They will not do that. They must be given some greater encouragement to get the country out of the doldrums.

As I said before—and it is worth saying again—I cannot see the inflation rate being reduced when the bond rate is about 10 per cent. Costs will not be lowered when industry faces an added cost of 10 per cent. Of course, industry does not feel it quite so badly, since it can write the interest rate off as a charge against profits or as a capital cost. Firms which borrow money at a high interest rate simply pass on the interest or write it off against any profit that is made. They are not affected as badly as the ordinary householder or the man in the street—the person who cannot pass this charge on, who pays it cold. As I said, interest rates are a very great disincentive. I should like to think the interest rate could be reduced to about 5 per cent, even if the borrowings at that rate were restricted to areas that are not inflationary.

The amount of money Queensland has spent on roads is enormous, but it is not nearly as much as is paid in petrol tax or fuel tax. These days it is considered that the user should pay. If that system is applied to postage and other postal services, it should be applied to the construction of roads. Funds received in petrol taxes should be used for the improvement of roads. It is all very well to say, "We will have a bitumen road from Darwin through Mt. Isa to the coast, down the Bruce Highway and then round the coast to Western Australia." But that is of little use if the feeder roads do not allow people to reach the main road. There is not much sense in having a man sitting under a mulga tree with his wife and kids for a week or a fortnight waiting to get through to the highway. A real need exists for the expenditure of far more money on roads. Road work provides a lot of employment and I hope that funds will be found for more road construction.

I should now like to make some comments on the railways. As a former railwayman, I feel it necessary to say a few words on behalf of railway employees, especially those who are transferred all over the State and find their housing and other conditions are not all that could be desired. In days gone by, line gangs, signal maintainers, carpenters, bridge carpenters and other workers would go out in old ALG wagons with

louvres on the side. They had a stove in the middle beside the door and no floor covering. The situation has greatly improved and men are now reasonably accommodated in old passenger coaches that have been converted to living quarters.

One problem is that there are not enough of these coaches. Their suitability depends very much on the locality in which they are situated. A person living under the conditions existing in the North-west, the South-west or the Central-west, where there is no shade and the temperature at the water-bag is 110°, certainly knows where he is. There is no air-conditioning. It would be very difficult to provide air-conditioning unless there was some sort of diesel motor to generate electricity to drive a fan in an evaporative or absorption-type air-conditioning unit. In such systems the liquid, water in this case, is evaporated or turned into a gas that absorbs heat, thus producing some form of air-conditioning. It is quite a good system in dry conditions.

Housing and office accommodation provided for railway employees leaves much to be desired. In this respect, no other workers in this State are so badly treated. At a new railway station at Julia Creek, in the electorate of Flinders, fans were provided. The police station there has air-conditioning. Why not provide air-conditioning for railwaymen? Fans are simply not good enough in that area. All that they do is blow hot air over staff members, who attempt to work under most difficult conditions.

Some homes that have recently been provided are of a better standard, but many old Railway Department homes are substandard. In its parsimony and its failure to keep up with the times, the Railway Department even restricts the number of power points allowed in a house. That is surely asking for trouble. Railwaymen bellyache and put up with it. Eventually, the last straw breaks the camel's back and they go on strike over some other issue which has nothing to do with the original issue. One of our problems is that there is a build-up of complaints. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, we do not find this problem in small industry—the boss is too close to his staff—but we do find it in big industries such as the railways. These problems occur when some smart clerk reads the book of rules to an employee in the hot seat and tells him that he will be charged if he gets into trouble and fined \$10, or something like that. The employees do not like it. I know the railway fellows pretty well, and generally speaking, although there is the odd lead-slinger—he is in Parliament or anywhere else—

Mr. Houston: Basically, they're good workers and good people.

Mr. MOORE: Yes. I have the utmost admiration for them. I have seen the blokes who work in the flying gangs trying to take out a section of line between trains. They

work like poetry in motion. The ganger says "Go" and they swing the line out and lay it; just like a bunch of ants working in unison. As a matter of fact, in days gone by I have seen railway workers unloading wagons of ashes who took a pride in seeing who could unload it first. Do not tell me that that type of person does not deserve better conditions—indeed, the best the department can provide. But that does not happen. We have no qualms about paying high salaries to commissioners, deputy commissioners, general managers and chiefs of operations—but we give damned little to the people who matter. It grieves me when I see these men missing out, and I hope that somewhere along the line the Minister will change his priorities and provide them with decent conditions. I have said this often enough, but it needs to be said repeatedly. As I said, the Minister will have to change his priorities—

Dr. Scott-Young: And maybe develop a heart.

Mr. MOORE: The members of the railways administration do not have a heart when it comes to the workers.

One other point I want to make about the railways is that one day we will have to make a start on the standard gauge—the 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge—throughout Queensland. We should have done this when we first came into office. When we upgraded the line from Townsville to Mt. Isa, there was no reason in the wide world why a third rail could not have been laid so that the standard gauge could have been used as well as 3 ft. 6 in. I believe it is necessary to change to the standard gauge. We all know that the most economic way of hauling goods is with a steel wheel on a steel track. Especially as a fuel crisis is looming just around the corner, it is obvious that the most economic method of hauling goods is by rail.

I cannot predict what is in the future; nor can I predict what will be the fuel of the future. Perhaps it might be water. We might be extracting hydrogen from water. I know the atoms in water are bound together fairly well, but in simple experiments hydrogen can be extracted from water by the electrolytic method. Perhaps in the future it could be extracted more cheaply and efficiently by using a catalyst. We hope there is some other fuel around the corner; but, if there is not, we might have to start growing various products from which we can produce alcohol or methane gas; this can then be compressed into a liquid and used for fuel. We will have to make a start to find the most economic method of using that type of fuel, and I suggest that the railways would be ideal for that type of thing.

The Leader of the Opposition made some mention of the proposed amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration

Act. I do not want to go into it too deeply, but I believe his remarks about the Government's bashing unions should not go unchallenged. That is not its intention. The intention is to give unionists a say in their own affairs.

It does not mean that the Government is opposed to unionists going on strike. However, when they do go on strike, we would like to think that they are going on strike for an industrial cause, not a political cause. If they went on strike, we would like to think that they did so realising that there was a real need; that they had said, "This is the last resort. We have tried everything else." We would like to think that they would act responsibly and that they would not be pushed into strike action by inflammatory speeches of union leaders; that they would have the right to a postal vote and could sit down in their own home, with their wife and say, "Listen, dear, if we go on strike it might last for some time. Have you got enough put away in the teapot on the mantelpiece to keep us going for that length of time? Do you think we should put up with it, or do you think we should find another way?"

If unionists had a ballot under those circumstances, the decision reached would have been thought out carefully, not reached on the spur of the moment at a mass meeting. I have been at many mass meetings and I know what goes on.

Mr. Prest: If the vote is carried, how do we get them back to work?

Mr. MOORE: That is very simple. When they are sent the ballot-paper in the first instance, they are given two ballot-papers—one on which they indicate whether or not they wish to go on strike and another that they can put in at any time indicating that they wish to call the strike off. When the Industrial Court receives 51 per cent of the latter, it can then say, "As unionists, you made up your minds to go on strike. We concede you that right. Now you have changed your mind and you wish to return to work. We also concede you that right." There is nothing wrong with that. The Industrial Court and the Industrial Commission are honest and have no particular axe to grind, so that would be all right.

I am not suggesting that this is a panacea for all industrial problems, because no two industrial problems are alike. There are, of course, demarcation disputes. But when somebody says that the union should go out on strike on a safety issue, it is not necessary for all unionists to go on strike. Perhaps two or three members of the union might have to strike and say, "I am not going to work under those circumstances." They would then go to the commission and a commissioner would arbitrate a question of industrial safety. As I said, the idea is to give unionists a

say in their own affairs, and I hope there will not be an attempt to make great political capital out of that.

As I have taken longer than I expected, I shall conclude after making my next point. I wish to speak briefly about Aboriginal reserves. When one reads articles in the Press and hears speeches made by our Federal colleagues and by members of the former Federal Labor Government, one sees that the attitude towards Aborigines has changed. In my opinion, that is fair enough. Aborigines should receive a better deal than they have received in the past. However, all the Aborigines alive today are Australians. Some were born before I was and some were born later, but they are no more Australians than I am. The fact that the Aborigines were in Australia first does not mean anything, because there was some race in Great Britain first and some race in Greece first, too. One could not argue that those countries are theirs because they were there first. To whom does Great Britain belong? Does it belong to the Picts and the Scots, or to whom does it belong?

The same question could be asked about any country in Europe. The fact that someone's ancestors were born there does not make it his country. The fact that someone was born there makes it his country. This is my country; it is also the country of the Aborigines who are here now. They should have no prior rights or extra privileges. Like any underprivileged section of the community, white or black, they should be looked after and elevated to a state when they can look after themselves.

The Federal Government talks about Aboriginal land rights. Most of the Aborigines on the various reserves come from somewhere else and are not now living on the lands of their ancestors. In my opinion, there should not be Aboriginal land rights as such unless every other citizen of Australia also has land rights. I should not like to think that we would start to draw lines around Aboriginal reserves, which are only Crown land. They are referred to as Aboriginal reserves but they are really Crown land. There is sufficient territory in Northern Australia to make one vast black State, if we wanted to. But that is not my desire.

There is a great deal of talk about apartheid in South Africa. Here the Federal Government is bringing about apartheid, because that is what giving Aboriginal land rights amounts to. I believe that we should have no Aboriginal reserves at all, and no Aboriginal land rights at all, but citizens' land rights and citizens' rights. I would like to see a start made in this State by the Government's abolishing the Aborigines Act and the Torres Strait Islanders Act, and bringing down some other Act to cover persons in need of assistance. Such an Act would apply not only to Aborigines but to the community at large.

I will refer briefly to employment for school-leavers. Unfortunately one has to say that present conditions are not very desirable. If a reasonable sort of job is offered to a school-leaver, he should take it rather than go on the dole. Eventually the job of his choice will come along. The recession that we are going through will not last for ever. The Education Department and the parents of school-children should think about appropriate courses so that youngsters can fit themselves for the present and the future.

Mr. GLASSON (Gregory) (3.23 p.m.): I congratulate the honourable member for Lockyer on his maiden speech, in which he paid tribute to his predecessor, Sir Gordon Chalk. I am sure everyone in the Chamber hopes that the new honourable member for Lockyer can make the same contribution to this Government and Queensland as his predecessor did.

Dealing with money matters, first of all I wish to refer to the railways. Although the railways provide an essential service for the community, we have an obligation to the taxpayers to endeavour to make them pay. We have to take that into account when considering the decision of the Treasurer to increase rail freights by 15 per cent. Probably the increase will be felt more in isolated areas like the Gregory electorate than in more favourable areas of the State. On the one hand we ask that every assistance be given to the railways but on the other hand we ask for improvements in conditions for those who work in that service in the isolated and deprived parts of the State.

On Wednesday last I asked a question about the new type of camp wagons that are being built, I hope, to replace the bondwood huts. Those huts are no more than dog-boxes, particularly in the extremes of temperature that prevail in my part of the State.

The Minister made an extensive tour of the western parts of the State. He saw at first hand the conditions prevailing at Chorregon camp, located 7 miles from a permanent railway centre. The camp contains a bondwood dwelling that is not fitted with electric light and power. The honourable member for Windsor has spoken about light switches. The closest the men in the camp will get to electrical current will be a passing thunderstorm. It would be unrealistic to imagine connecting electric light to a place like that. As the men are deprived of the ordinary amenities of life, they should be compensated.

Because the permanent accommodation provided at Chorregon is designated as accommodation for married couples, single men in the flying gang are not allowed to camp there. What negative thinking! It is so utterly stupid that it is unbelievable. The single men have to camp in bondwood huts 7 miles away. The Minister asked the department if that was the practice,

and when he found out that it was he told the department that it was about time it was altered.

Further along the line are a flying gang and a bridge gang. Day after day they are asking for improvements in their conditions. The gangers in charge have the responsibility of ensuring that the men do a fair day's work, so it is in the department's interests to provide facilities that will attract employees and retain them there more or less permanently.

Although a power line passes over the camp, the C.W.R.E.B. has refused to allow a 240V line to be connected to the camp. I have suggested that a converter be installed to reduce the power to 32V, but as yet that suggestion has not been adopted. The refrigerators that are installed are so bad that they would not keep butter solid in the middle of winter, let alone in the middle of summer. No-one could imagine the extreme heat that is experienced there unless he visited the place.

Yesterday morning, I asked the Minister for Transport the following question—

“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?”

In answer the Minister said that over the past six years 138 camp wagons had been put into service throughout the State, of which 30 were in the Central Division, that is, from Rockhampton west to the hospital at the back of Winton.

The Minister also said that permanent camping sites have been established in the Central Division at Bajool and, in the Northern Division, at Kuranda. That would be one of the most pleasant places to live in Queensland. Other sites have been established at Mt. Larcom and Strathpine. All these sites are located in the coastal area. They should be established at Cloncurry, Mt. Isa, Duchess, Winton, Emerald, Quilpie and Cunnamulla. They should work in from the West towards the coast instead of being established first along the coast.

I pay a tribute to the Minister for Health for implementing a scheme of providing air-conditioning for doctors' residences, commencing in the western areas and working towards the east. Let that type of consideration be shown to railway workers, too. It would help encourage them to remain in the western areas.

The annual report of the Commissioner for Railways shows that the Southern Division made a loss of \$63,000,000, the Northern Division a loss of \$7,000,000 and, in contrast, the Central Division a profit of \$35,000,000. In other words, the total loss incurred over the State amounted to approximately \$35,000,000.

I would be the last to be parochial and say, “We made a profit in the Central Division.” I am not trying to push that down anybody's neck. The whole of Queensland made a loss of \$35,000,000. The Treasurer had a responsibility to increase freight rates by 15 per cent in an effort to make up some of the loss, which is growing year by year. However, I must emphasise that the further west people live the dearer is the cost of goods at the railhead. But just imagine the cost of services for the truckie and mail contractor, for fuel, tyres and everything else 700 miles from the railhead! When the 15 per cent increase is imposed, what does the poor fellow at the end of the line pay? The cost of living, the cost of transport and all other costs are unbelievable at Birdsville, Bedourie, Boulia and all the western area. Yet that area turns off some of the best cattle produced in Australia. The best naturally fattened cattle in the world come from the river system comprising the Cooper, the Diamantina and the Georgina Rivers.

It would not be feasible or economic to expect the Government to extend the railway line further into the Channel Country. I request that more money be spent on the roads feeding stock to the railheads to compensate for the lack of rail transport. About three and a half weeks ago today, 72 “K” wagons were booked for the Quilpie cattle sale. Because 40 to 70 points of rain had fallen there were only enough cattle to fill 30 wagons. The roads were untrafficable for the double-decker transports. The agents were charged demurrage on the trucks and, in turn, that cost was reflected on the producers.

The other day I heard a rumour from Emerald that the 15 per cent was to be charged on cattle that were being trucked away. I said that I had no knowledge that this was being done and that I doubted it because the increased price of so much per kilo was a flash in the pan. In fact, in the last fortnight, at Quilpie, there has been a drop of \$60 a head for cows, which represents almost a 50 per cent reduction. This is relevant to a question I directed to the Minister for Primary Industries early this week about the 2,000 tonnes of beef which was due to go to Japan in November-December. I asked whether that was locked out of the Japanese market and what were the quotas for the 1977 calendar year, from March to March. In reply, the Minister said, “As yet, we do not know.”

With the oversupply position in Australia the meat companies and meat buyers react over-sensitively to any reported rumour of meat being cut off.

Mr. Katter: They do that deliberately.

Mr. GLASSON: It could be said that they do it deliberately, but they certainly use it as a good lever.

The effect is reflected in the Cannon Hill sales on the Thursday, and the following week it is reflected in country sale yards, yet

it has no bearing on the over-all operation. If 7,500 or 8,000 cattle are yarded at Cannon Hill, the price can be brought down by 20 per cent and every yard in Queensland is affected similarly in following sales. The price depends on the supply at Cannon Hill and, inevitably, the producer is the loser.

The market has always reacted oversensitively to such rumours. The men in control of the Meat Industry Board have a responsibility to provide a buffer against this. Earlier this year when there was a reported rumour about the United States market and meat leaving the country, exactly the same thing happened. The meat company said that it was because of a mistake in a Telex. That is not much compensation to the people who we estimated lost \$45,000 to \$50,000 in a yarding of 1,200 cattle at Quilpie on one particular day. We just cannot afford to have rumours such as that taken up by companies to fluctuate a market in such a short period.

I shall get back to the programming of building and the positioning of this accommodation. The Minister is in the Chamber and I appeal to him to consider whether it would not be more logical and realistic for those who do the planning to give first preference to the people in isolation. I pay a tribute to the Minister, who is well aware of the problems in the area.

The honourable member for Bulimba claimed that we do not know union leaders and that we do not want to know them. That is an absolutely false statement. I have discussed with every union leader in my area the different problems that face unionists and what we can do together to overcome those problems without having industrial action and putting people out of work. I confirm my statement by saying that the A.W.U. representative said that certain action was going to be taken in regard to a problem. I said, "Let's be realistic. In the short term the local authority can't do anything about it. It is financially strangled. If you take what you call appropriate action, you are only forcing men out of work." I have always endeavoured to co-operate with the union leaders and have brought their problems to the powers that be to get some action taken. It is quite inappropriate and false for the honourable member for Bulimba to say that we do not know and do not want to know union leaders.

I appeal very sincerely to the Minister to give more consideration to providing camp wagons for employees in the West.

Mr. LAMONT (South Brisbane) (3.38 p.m.):—

"Quod enim munus reipublicae afferre majus, meliusve possumus, quam si docemus, atque erudimus juventutem?"

That is Cicero, the great Latin writer and statesman. It means: "What greater gift or better can we offer to the State than if we

teach and train up youth?" The pursuit of study of classics is no longer undertaken in our schools. It is not valued today as it was when I was at school. This is unfortunate.

Nevertheless Governments throughout Australia have indeed taken the advice of Cicero. We have indeed invested in education. Expenditure has increased between three and fourfold in the last couple of years; pupil teacher ratios have fallen; school-leaving ages have risen and more people go on to higher education. As high as 6.2 per cent of the population in the age group in Queensland is involved in tertiary education. But where is there any indication of an advance in real terms? I challenged the Education Department in these very terms some 12 months ago. My conclusion then is supported now by the report brought in by the Australian Schools Commission only last week. The increased expenditure is not paying off.

The Australian College of Educational Research earlier this year brought in a report on literacy and numeracy. It gave no cause for celebration, either. The Education Departments in this and other States said that the report indicated that our standards are as good as those in the United States and the United Kingdom. But it is equally true to look at this conclusion on the other side of the coin and say that we are as bad as the United States and the United Kingdom.

Dr. Radford's abysmal findings in that report showed us inter alia that 14-year-olds in Australia were performing at about the same level as 13-year-olds in America and that half of the 14-year-olds could not write a competent application for a job. When one educationist in the South heard that, he said, "So what? These days you don't write an application for a job; you attend an interview." With that kind of attitude amongst some educationists, should we perhaps not look at Cicero's advice but turn to the Scottish proverb that reads, "Better untaught than ill taught"?

There are remedial reading courses in five universities in Australia at the moment. Thea Astley of Macquarie University writes, "When I left high-school teaching eight years ago I thought with relief, 'Thank God; no more 2F essays to mark.' I was wrong. 2F has now arrived at university." Some state that standards are not falling but that standards are simply changing. What they are saying and what they really mean is that values are changing. More precisely, what many educationists value today in education is different from what has been valued in the past. I think it is about time we restored some of the values of the past.

Decision-making in education falls into two parts—social decision-making and education decision-making. The social decisions are politically made and they determine

what society expects of schools. They determine what value should be put on education and what values should underlie education. The education decisions are left to educationists; but they are charged with deciding how best to implement society's decisions only after we determine the broad policy and principles.

I have been told by bureaucrats in the Education Department of this State that nothing that we in Parliament do will stop them from running the education system the way they want to run it. That is a dangerous attitude. Luckily we have men such as Professor Bassett, who has said, for example—

“Outsiders have a different view on educational standards from that held by teachers, as indeed they should have, because teachers have different aims from outsiders.”

In that context, the director of the South Region of the Education Department said—

“We must not assume that we as teachers lay down the standards and have the answers. We must find the standards that society needs and demands and see that society gets those standards.”

I am grateful that there are some people in the Education Department who hold that philosophy.

In spite of the fact that it is denied by the Education Department in Queensland, there are within the department and the profession two camps holding differing sets of values. There are those who value structure in education rather than spontaneity. There are those who emphasise the importance of reading as opposed to doing “projects”. There are those who would rather have the teacher act as the source of information than leave the pupil himself to search for his own resources. There are those who value learning tables rather than playing with rods. There are those who value learning facts as well as concepts. There are those who value examinations as well as internal assessments. There are those who would rather see strict subject disciplines than the ill-defined integrated cross-disciplinary courses that we see cropping up everywhere.

Mr. Moore: Where do you stand?

Mr. LAMONT: I believe that we should restore a respect for the value of basic subjects. We should go back to schooling in our schools and recognise that only when children are tested thoroughly will they in fact meet standards. Only when children are given firm and intelligent guidance by teachers and their parents will they in fact work. Children are not themselves sufficiently motivated to work academically.

There are three strands undermining these policies. In the first place, there are some teachers who value method at the expense

of the material they are teaching. Secondly, there is the social philosophy which emanated from the British socialist party, namely, equality at all costs. And, thirdly, there is the manifestation of that philosophy in the form of the policy that social engineering and “learning for life” are more important than acquiring basic skills in basic subjects.

In spite of the fact that it was denied in this House the other day by the Education Minister, the Australian Schools Commission has indeed been following a philosophy of equality of output rather than equality of opportunity. That is pure socialistic nonsense. It seems all right to have an elite in every other field except education. Sportsmen can chase sporting premierships and gold medals. We put the best violinists in the philharmonic orchestras, and the works of the best artists are hung in the national gallery. We have Nobel prizes for excellence and the Elizabethan Theatre Trust has been set up for those who achieve excellence in the arts. But if we talk about this kind of principle in education, we are told by the egalitarians that we are creating a social and educational elite. Yet those same bureaucrats in the Education Department would doubtless seek out the best surgeons and the best barristers when they themselves have the need of professional advice. They know the value of excellence then.

Examinations have been slowly eliminated. Romantic egalitarians throughout the years have sought to eliminate the concept of failure. The concept of failure, they say, ruins the psyche of a young student. So they do away with exams so that no-one will fail. Of course, the other side of the coin is that, if the concept of failure is taken away, the concept of success is taken away also, thus destroying the incentive for students to work harder. I have been told by the Director of Primary Education that pupils do not fail but schools fail pupils. What a load of nonsense that is!

Certainly some schools will fail some pupils but equally there are some students who will fail to meet necessary standards. We must have pupils competing against each other because that is the sort of rat race that unfortunately society is. If we lead pupils to believe in school that they can get anywhere without competition, we will have them pouring out of schools believing that the world owes them a living and that they do not have to compete. This leads only to pupil frustration. When Professor Jack Campbell recently submitted his investigation of the provisions of the Radford scheme, one of his major findings was that there was a great degree of pupil frustration.

Today we have substituted a points scale for a percentage mark, so that if a child works hard and goes from say, a low 5 to a high 5, he cannot go home to his mother

and father and say, "I improved from 65 per cent to 73 per cent". We may have eliminated the concept of failure, but we have equally eliminated the concept of achievement and success and this is what has led to pupil frustration. The pursuit of absolute fairness must not be pursued at the surrender of all other values. In the words of Professor Leonie Kramer, "Fairness is an impersonal ideal, but unfortunately education is essentially a personal activity".

You see, we cannot have equality and equality of opportunity as well. They are eventually exclusive goals. If we aim for equality of output, then we are denying those who show initiative, work hard and are industrious and bright, in favour of those who do not have these qualities. If we have equality, it will mean the holding back or the new deprivation of the brighter and more industrious children. If education is not to be fitted to abilities, then we eliminate the chance of individuals realising their potential and we may discourage them from ever doing so. And that is an odd policy in a country with an ailing industry such as we have. But perhaps our socialist educationists are the people who are the main source of the ailment.

Today we have up to 70 per cent of students in some areas staying at school to the age of 17 and beyond. Obviously the secondary school system we have at the moment was never intended to cater for 70 per cent of the school population. It was originally designed to cater for 15 to 20 per cent, and now possibly even up to 30 per cent at the very most of that age group, and so I say that if we are going to have 70 per cent going on to the age of 17, we must have different sorts of schools. We must have selective education. We must have schools for the academically bright and we must go back to the idea of industrial high schools for those who want to go into a trade, domestic high schools and so forth. We require different categories because there are so many people going on with different abilities and different educational needs. A comprehensive school is a class that will hold back the gifted child, which will put everybody into the melting pot and, indeed, will result in equality of output, and that is what has ruined education in the United Kingdom.

If we doubt for one moment that egalitarianism is at the root of this philosophy and if we doubt for one moment that it is a socialist philosophy, then we should look at the March issue of the Teachers' Union Journal in which Mr. Costello made a detailed statement to the effect that we must not examine and rate our students, for to do so simply assists the privileged classes to identify an elite and raise that elite into the establishment to perpetuate their privilege. If that is not old-fashioned Marxist dogma, I would like to know what is.

With 70 per cent more children going on to higher education, we have three choices. We can fail more children to ensure that the

standard remains the same and the quality of graduates remains the same or we can lower the pass mark, or we can dilute courses and open the way to what I call Mickey Mouse subjects—the social engineering subjects that are replacing maths, science, the classics, and, most of all, written English. These social subjects are replacing the basic subjects at secondary school, and this is now spreading to primary levels as well.

In 1968 when the professors at the university who marked the physics paper were not prepared to pass more than a small minority of the students, there was a public uproar. What did they do? They lowered the pass mark. They did not ask the students to do the exam again; on that same exam they lowered the pass mark so that more people would pass. And the pass mark was lowered to 28 per cent to allow more pupils through! I hope none of those physicists ever put together any device that I have to buy as a consumer. And when we found that this is what we had to do with so many students going on, unsuited to the syllabus, we had to change the syllabus. We diluted the courses and we made way for another group of egalitarian planners, who wanted to change society through the schools, and these were the social engineers.

We hear it today from the Education Department and we even hear the Minister saying, "Today we are learning for life and not just for jobs." Social engineering, that is all it is, a concern for personality-developing taking precedence over intellectual discipline in class! Again, it is the radical educationists who are doing this, and the Minister does not recognise it. I can show to honourable members, from the writings of the revolutionary Jean Jacques Rousseau right through to the school of Ivan Illich, the dangerous philosophy that espouses remaking society through the schools. It is not the job of teachers to remake society in the image of some inspired concept of their own or of some philosopher. It is their job to teach and to see that students leave the schools with a body of knowledge that will equip them to be able to cope with their needs in the wider community.

We can value encouraging creativity, sociability, compassion, and so forth; but not at the expense of reading competence, the ability to communicate, to calculate, and to master at least one if not two or more languages. Competence in these utilitarian virtues is not anti-social, as I think some people believe it is. Students can opt for socialising subjects when they reach later school life. Those who go on to secondary education to the age of 17 and who are not suited to academic subjects can opt for those socialising subjects then, when they are old enough to know what they are opting for. But we must not introduce such concepts in the primary schools. Infants have a right to learn to read and write and comprehend what they learn to read and write

and to be numerate. It is too late for them, if they miss out on that right from the age of 5 till the age of 14, to opt then for the basic subjects at the age of 15.

On another level we are substituting nothing more than child-minding activities for education, and it is at a considerable cost to the taxpayer. It costs each taxpayer of this country approximately \$12 a week just for primary and secondary education. If you throw in tertiary and other forms of education, it costs each taxpayer in the vicinity of \$20 a week. And what are we getting back for it?

Here is another one of the evils in education—that word “relevance”. We are told by teachers and educators everywhere that education must be relevant. Instead of children studying the works of Milton or Shakespeare or reading “Tom Brown’s School Days” or studying the Lake Poets, what do they do? Children of five, instead of reading stories by A. A. Milne about pixies at the bottom of the garden in some lovely fairytale written for children, are given stories of latchkey children, and the problems of social adjustment, and about mummy not being there to put the band-aid on. That is supposed to be relevant. When they get to the age of 14, boys do not read “Treasure Island”. Oh, no! They are reading things about bikie gangs and trouble in the streets. But they can get all that on the way home.

Surely the purpose of education is to transport children beyond the mundane horizon of their daily lives. What does this word “relevance” really mean? When students arrive at the Senior level, we find that instead of students, having finished a Senior course in English, being able to quote Wordsworth and Coleridge and so on and understanding Shakespeare and having some knowledge of the arts, they have studied some Hector Crawford script because it is said to be more relevant. Relevance, indeed! Who says we must have relevance? It is these social engineers who say that children must be prepared for life. Teaching for life indeed, Mr. Speaker! “Teaching for life”, we are told by the Minister for Education! Let us teach for knowledge!

We must abandon this paste-board imitation of life given in the sociological courses in the schools which replace the basic subjects. If a majority of teachers recognised their own inherent inability and lack of qualifications to teach for life and accepted the lesser but highly respectable pedagogic aim of transmitting a body of knowledge, we would have better teachers and we would have fewer frustrated social engineers in the schools.

“Professionalism” is another word that is brought into the debate on education. Many teachers are so caught up in this new professional freedom that they are more

fascinated with the methods of their teaching than with the material that they are supposed to be getting across to the pupils. And this is the third great evil. Thus is born the emphasis on teaching aids.

We get audio-visual equipment so that you cannot swing a cat in a classroom for fear of hitting a mobile or a television set or a cassette player. These are really teacher substitutes not teaching aids. Children in such circumstances lack a source that they can identify with in the classroom, a source that can stop, go over and explain something again and lead them from one path to the next.

The Bennett report has recently been released in England. That report was, of course, put together by a group of people who were at first imbued with the Plowden committee’s ideas of progressive education. They began by believing generally in progressive education and experiments in the school in social engineering, but their findings shocked them. They found that some 17 per cent of teachers teach in the manner prescribed by Plowden, whilst approximately 1 in 4 teaches formally. A comparison of results found that the effect of teaching styles is statistically and educationally significant in all attainment areas tested. In reading, pupils of formal teachers progressed more than those of informal teachers. In mathematics, formal pupils were superior to pupils subjected to mixed methods or informal methods. In English, formal pupils again outperformed both “mixed” and informal pupils. Marked differences according to sex rarely appeared, but pupils who had entered formal classrooms with a high level of achievement showed much greater progress than similar pupils in informal classrooms. Formal pupils were also superior to their counterparts in “mixed” classes and informal classes in mathematics.

That is the Bennett report and the Education Department has published its findings, and still the bureaucrats in that department refuse to admit that the progressive system is wrong-headed. I use the conventional term “progressive”, but I do not really believe this system brings progress. It is a system which places classroom emphasis on group work, freedom to talk, freedom to move around, the integration of subjects, the belief that the child’s attempts to learn by discovery are superior to instruction by a teacher and most of all favours the open classroom method in a comprehensive school system. I am totally opposed to this emphasis. I believe that any alleged benefit is illusory.

We must beware when we ask teachers what they think of these new methods. Firstly, good teachers will make any system work well but, secondly, when we have such a situation as an open classroom, with television, cassette recorders and two or three teachers mixed with 40 pupils, instead

of one teacher away on his or her own in a classroom with 20 children to teach, then of course most teachers would prefer it. It is a better work situation for the teacher. It is a better social situation for the teacher. What teacher would not rather be in the same room as a fellow adult? Then one teacher can say to the other, "I had a late night last night. You teach this period and I will sit up the back and have a bit of a rest and keep my eye on the stragglers." It is convenient to have that work-sharing. Teachers then have someone to talk to and have adult company throughout the day.

We have to beware of the development of an educational priesthood introducing new methods to serve its own interests. It may be more fun in an informal classroom but it is more difficult to teach effectively under such conditions. I am told that these days many have done away with rote learning. We used to sit there and chant the tables to learn them off by heart, but today most children are not required to do that. Those drills were tedious and repetitive for all, not least of all for the teacher. I wonder whether the abolition of those methods has been brought on as much by the teachers' enthusiasm to get away from the drudgery as for any other reason. Does that drudgery of the old method in fact colour the teachers' judgment of the effectiveness of the new methods?

I turn now to the question of self-discovery by the children. Now we know that all education is discovery; and we know very well that what we discover for ourselves we learn better than something taught to us by another. But every generation cannot afford to go back to rediscovering the wheel. It has to start off somewhere. The self-discovery methods eat up time and yet, there are no more hours in a school day than there ever were. That is one of the reasons why self-discovery does not necessarily lead the students on with such great progress. Sure, it would be nice to turn the child into a discoverer. But when we try to put this into practice with all children, we find it is great for the competent pupil and it is great for the competent teacher, but it does not in fact work for the average child, who soon falls well behind.

The Bennett report boils down to this—that the pupils who can benefit most from the so-called progressive methods outlined in the Plowden report are only the highly intelligent extroverts. Now we can define as highly intelligent only the top 10 per cent of pupils, and extroverts number about one-third of the people, if that. So we are talking about benefiting 3 to 3½ per cent of the population. If that is what we are spending all this extra money for, I don't believe we are getting value for the outlay.

A young teacher at one of the schools in my area told me that she is teaching for understanding not just to impart facts. She

believes she can give children an understanding of concepts without their having to learn off by rote such things as tables and spelling. I don't believe that. Her belief apparently is based on the philosophy that understanding should precede technical know-how. So we get the accidental events of everyday life being encountered by a mind that is already prepared to assess such accidents by reference to some sort of philosophical principle and contextual significance. That would be absolutely wonderful if only it would work; but one cannot have the concept without first coming face to face with the practical mechanics. I asked that same teacher, "How did you teach your class growth without showing them a plant, for example, in various stages of growth? How do you teach the concept of growth without actually observing the fact of it?" One cannot study physics and higher mathematics without mastering the multiplication table. The multiplication table which we all learned at school is a completely authoritarian document. The reason for its authority can be grasped by most students only when they learn it off by heart, take it on faith, and then apply it. Then they see that it falls into place, and the meaning of it is there. If the child takes its authority on faith and applies it, then, and only then, can we be sure that the concept will become clear.

Let us look at grammar and logic. I mentioned earlier the remedial reading classes at university. How does somebody get to a university if he requires remedial reading courses? The answer to that is very simple. The history teacher says, "I will mark this essay, not for the English mistakes, that is, grammatical errors or spelling mistakes, but for the historical concept involved." If the student has that, he is a high-distinction student. The economics teacher then follows suit, as do the teachers of geography, physics, chemistry and so on. All the teachers are marking students on the concepts in their essays. No-one is looking at what the student is writing in terms of actual English. That is left to the English teacher, and half the time he is looking at what sort of concept the student has about a novel or a poem or whatever.

What happens to grammar? What happens to reading ability? What happens to basic communications? They go out the door. Students fly through with distinctions and high distinctions in economics, history, science and mathematics, and when they get to university, because no-one has insisted that they express themselves grammatically correctly, they require remedial reading.

If one cannot communicate a thought with grammatical precision, if one cannot express oneself fluently and grammatically correctly, if one is fuzzy in one's manner of expression of a concept, then is it not likely that in fact one has a pretty fuzzy concept to begin with? One can only express oneself clearly if the concept one is trying to express is

clear in one's mind. And the converse may well apply. If one is not expressing a thought properly or if one is not expressing a thought clearly, it may well be that one does not have the thought clear in one's head in the first place.

My wife was for 17 years a teacher in the Education Department. For 15 years of those 17 years she taught infants. She was in charge of her own school for three years and headmistress of an infant section for another three years. I respect her opinion on these matters and she believes from her experience that any normal child who is not suffering from brain damage and who is properly taught should be able to read by the age of 7 years. This can be achieved by teachers who use hard work and a structured approach.

These days there is a proliferation of so-called remedial reading teachers. They are everywhere. We never saw them in my days at school. I would define a remedial reading teacher as one who teaches reading to students who did not learn reading from the teachers who were paid to teach them reading in the first place. It is easy to discern what is wrong in our schools. Remedial reading teachers indeed!

I am told that these days dyslexia is a most fashionable disease. In fact dyslexia is about as fashionable today as was dying from consumption in the Regency period in England. I was once told that in a certain class 13 of the 30 students had dyslexia. What utter nonsense! That statement defies all statistics. To get that proportion, the school would have to go out and round up every dyslexic within a 60-mile radius.

I now turn to this dreadful waste of departmental funds on open areas. As I have said before, two or more teachers, if properly matched, will prefer open areas to a closed, single-teacher classroom. Obviously an open area is more socially gratifying to the teacher; he has someone to lean on on a hard day, or, if he has a headache or a hangover, he has someone to talk to during the day. Many new methods are more pleasant for the teacher. There is companionship and all the rest of it. But for a bad and lazy teacher the open area classroom is "the way out". If the headmaster says that there is too much noise coming from the classroom, he is told that the children are being expressive. Too often that really means that the teacher can't be bothered disciplining them and making them attend to what they are supposed to be doing. For the good teacher the open area is very good; for the bad teacher it is very bad. As the old nursery rhyme ran, "When she's good, she's very, very good; but when she's bad, she's rotten."

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Don't some teachers these days even resent the fact that the headmaster goes into their classroom?

Mr. LAMONT: Some do indeed! Some look on that as infringement upon their academic freedom. Ye gods and little fishes!

Whom do we hurt most with these open-area classrooms? We hurt the child that the socialist educationists are supposedly trying to help—the child from the less fortunate socio-economic background. We are hurting the latchkey child, the child who hasn't got Mum when he wants a Bandaid put on a cut on his finger, the child who is left to his own devices. We are hurting the child who, when he wants to do his homework, finds that one of his sisters is watching television, another is listening to an Abba record, and his brother is trying to play football in the house. It is that type of child who needs the single-teacher classroom. He goes to school looking for the one place in his daily life where he can have "my teacher, my peg to hang my coat on, my desk, my work, my classroom." That is what we undo with the open-area idea. With that the student says, "I have three teachers, I don't know which one is mine."

A senior student who attended a State high school on the north side (a student who got straight 7's, who will go on to medicine, engineering or law at the university) said to me, "We have 50 in our class and three teachers." "Six of us sit at my table, another six at another table" and so on "I never know which teacher to listen to. The other five students always want to ask me questions because I am the dux of the school. It is inconvenient too to have to turn around every time I want to look at the blackboard." He listed all the classic reasons why we should not be spending money on open-area classrooms.

Very early last year I asked the Minister for Works about open classrooms. He advised me that in every open classroom they provided partitions because many teachers preferred to break the classes up and go back to the single-teacher situation. Good teachers know that they can control a class and teach better without the distraction of another teacher.

I do not blame the teachers; most of this is forced upon the Education Department by our bureaucrats. I have talked to some of them. I do not by any means include the Director-General (Mr. Gilmour). I have nothing but the greatest respect for him. But there are one or two just below him whom, out of decency, I shall not name in this House. There are two or three who are so imbued with this socialist, egalitarian social-engineering nonsense that they are utterly destroying standards of education in our schools.

The teachers are often as much the victims as the students. Unsound techniques are being forced on teachers by bureaucrats. One in particular jet-setted overseas at the time the Plowden report was first

introduced in England. He was probably shown the very best experiment undertaken under the Plowden report; he grasped what was in vogue at the time (which has since been virtually entirely discredited) and came back to impose here, without any real attempt at in-service communication or training, what he saw overseas. Having jet-setted around the world, he rocketed to stardom and is now sitting upon the third floor in a nice big office telling teachers how they must accept these new, so-called progressive innovations.

Academic freedom is to be cherished, and teachers maximising their own talents are also to be cherished. The idea of a teacher being told, "You have freedom in the classroom to do what you think is best for pupils," is fine, too, but there has to be a limit to this trend or it will be counter-productive.

A mother from Ashgrove came to me and told me that her son, who is a very bright child and is now in grade 7, cannot do a simple subtraction. In grade 3, his teacher had shown him one system of subtraction whilst the other grade 3 class had been taught a totally different method. When the students got into grade 4, they had a teacher who wanted everyone to have academic freedom. Instead of making them forget one method and having all of them do it by the same method, he said, "You use the method you like best. I will put both of them on the board."—(to the total confusion of the whole class). These students are now in grade 7 and cannot do simple subtractions. They are totally confused by a well-meaning teacher using "academic freedom".

We must have structure in the syllabus. There are too many bureaucrats and theorists trusting in the dubious watchwords, "Head-teachers and teachers, as professionals, will ensure that the system works."

Instance the new language arts syllabus in primary schools—that is the new term for English for those of us who were brought up under the old system. A new syllabus was put out, but there was nothing in it which said how much of it was to be covered in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on. Teachers got it holus bolus and had to decide how much they wanted to get through in any given year. That was fine for the experienced teacher. But what about the new, energetic teacher who was really enthusiastic and conscientious? There was a temptation to try to do too much and swamp the children with too much work. And of course it was a boon to the lazy teacher; he could do none of it or as little as he could get away with. Then, as the honourable member for Chatsworth said, when the head-teacher wants to have a look at what is happening, the teachers could say, "I am sorry, but you are infringing upon my academic freedom in my classroom."

Standards will fall if we do not have basic minimum requirements in the curriculum. The debate about standards is empty

and totally meaningless until we determine those standards in the curriculum. We must define the minimum, necessary content in any curriculum and once we have done that, the only way we can ensure that it will be covered in a classroom is to have an external examination at the end of the year. I do not want to go back to the Senior public, and Junior public and Scholarship examinations of the past. Certainly a teacher who is in the classroom with children all day long will have a fairer idea of the ability of the children than somebody who is marking an anonymous paper at the end of a five-year period at secondary school. We have got to integrate that system of internal assessment with something that will ensure that the children will in fact cover the syllabus and indeed that the teacher will cover the syllabus.

I was shown an example in a State school in Ipswich where students had in fact logged the time-table for a two-week period. They had done 3½ hours of written English, 3½ hours of mathematics, 9 hours of play production and, would you believe it, 15 hours of ground beautification which came under environmental studies. It must have been an interesting fortnight.

Then there is this belief that children left to their own immature decision-making and devices will in fact be motivated to learn. I was told by one of the directors in the department in this State that, provided we ensure that children are told by the teacher that mathematics is fun, then they will enjoy it as fun, but if the teacher has an attitude that it is work and that football and swimming are fun, the children will not want to do mathematics. I have told that good gentleman that I believe he is a cock-eyed optimist. I respect his view and I have had many interesting chats with him but in spite of all his good intentions I believe he is on the wrong track.

There is a false assurance that any child, no matter whether brainy, mediocre or downright stupid, left to his own devices and immature choice-making, will be more thoroughly equipped than a guided and disciplined child to face the world. We are not teaching for life only; we are definitely teaching for jobs because without jobs there is not much fun in life at all.

Children are not naturally good. They need firm, tactful discipline from parents and teachers with clear standards and a clearly structured programme. Too much freedom for children breeds selfishness, vandalism and, what is more, personal unhappiness, because if a teacher leaves a child much to his own devices the teacher is abandoning that child. A child needs guidance and a child needs a programme to follow. I do believe that a lot of the blackboard jungles that we have seen in America and indeed in England are indeed peasant revolts; that's right, peasant revolts by children reacting against being neglected by their teachers.

We cannot have education without stress; we cannot have children progressing without competition and if we did we would be falsifying what society is all about. Competition is indeed what society is all about.

All of these progressive ideas mean two things to the parent. They mean first of all that the parent cannot help the child at home if and when a child gets homework. Indeed, I know one principal at a school in Brisbane who will not permit his staff to set homework; he believes that it is disadvantageous and discriminatory against the child from the poor socio-economic area. This particular principal believes that if homework is set, the child with a good library at home and parents who care will be helped with his homework and get extra tuition but that the latch-key or neglected child will not get this help; so to avoid strengthening social inequalities homework is not set. What nonsense that is!

The more we do away with textbooks—and we are doing away with them in secondary education—the more we have unstructured syllabuses, and the more we have progressive methods of teaching the less likely it is that parents are going to be able to help their children (because everything has changed since they were at school).

When an interested parent goes to a teacher and says, "I don't know what's going on," he is told, "Have it on faith. Things are better. We cannot explain it to you, because things have changed." I have heard that story before. It was written by Hans Christian Andersen and called "The Emperor's New Clothes". The emperor was walking down the street with not a stitch on and everyone was led to believe that he was wearing fine new clothes, just as people are being told today that it is a fine new education system, but unfortunately none of us can see it.

As my time is running out, I wish to conclude by saying something about teacher training, which is where we must attack the problem at its roots. Teachers themselves have called for more training time to be spent in schools, with greater continuity of contact with particular schools, and more independence in taking classes; more teaching experience before learning educational theory; the use of experienced practising teachers to guide training; the study of school structures and day-to-day operations; and more attention to location and uses of teaching resources. That is precisely what we need.

We have to take in as teachers people who are vocationally motivated to be teachers and not merely those who have the highest tertiary entrance score and have failed to get into dentistry, engineering or law. We get a lot of would-be frustrated dentists opting for teaching and in the final analysis finding themselves in front of a group of children and not at all being suited to it. We have to realise that, once we get them into the teachers colleges, theory is of little use unless they have some practical training

and experience. "Plato's Republic" will be of little help to a trainee about to confront 30 8-year-olds of varying ability and greater variance of achievement in an inner-Brisbane disadvantaged school.

Until we get that message through to the Education Minister and his department, I ask that we look very carefully at the sort of funding that is going on in education today. We have to ensure that we go back to schooling in the schools. We have to get back to the right sort of values. Let us stop talking about declining standards. Instead, let us talk about changing values. Let us talk about retaining and conserving those values that were worth while in the education system from the beginning. We do not have to go back to the Draconian structure and regulations and regimen that confronted teachers 20, 30 and 40 years ago in the Education Department, but we do need to get back to valuing basic education for what it is. Teachers are not employed in the classroom to change the structure of society. They are employed to impart to children a certain body of knowledge which will equip them for the rest of their lives.

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (4.16 p.m.): I commend the honourable member for South Brisbane on his speech and on his sincerity and energy. I should say that he tried to make a speech that would perhaps be of benefit to the community. However, I am afraid it was all wasted, and he might as well have been in his room reading his speech to himself. His colleagues took no notice of him; five were asleep for most of the time. The Press gallery was empty, and there was only one Minister on the front bench. As a speech to Parliament, it was a complete waste of time. That, of course, is the case with many speeches made in this House.

Mr. Moore: Why don't you tell the the truth and say how many are in the House?

Mr. MELLOY: The position is that so many speeches are made in this House only for the benefit of the member's local newspaper; they are not made for the purpose of administering this State. That is not the fault of back-bench members. The Government is run by Cabinet and all Government back-benchers have to toe the line. Unfortunately, Cabinet is not in touch with the community. This is realised by many back-bench Government members, who, I am quite sure, are most restive in the conditions under which they serve in this House. Perhaps I should not confine those remarks to the present Government, but it is the Government with which we are dealing now.

I am afraid there is great danger in a lopsided House such as the present Queensland Parliament. There is great truth in the statement that a numerically strong Opposition is desirable. When there is a preponderance of back-bench members on

the Government side, they tend to be ignored. A more even House would also produce better debates. Government back-benchers at present do not have a say in the joint-parties room. On many occasions they have to express in the House opinions that they have not been able to express in the party room, particularly when they are under a dominating Premier who will use his weight to pull members into line. But it is difficult to control 69 in the party room, and it is refreshing to see that some Government members are prepared to get up and say their piece in the House even if they are subsequently reprimanded and even threatened in the party room. If there is to be effective government, it is up to such members to get up in the House and speak their minds on matters of importance to the public.

I have noticed that many National Party members have quoted figures in support of their arguments concerning conditions in the country. I do not think that that approach is worth a cracker, either. What is done in the country and what is done in the cities will be decided by the Cabinet and by the influences that are imposed on the Cabinet. What is done in any part of this State will depend on the prejudices of the controlling members of the Government. As I say, it is a pity we have such a lopsided Parliament, but I am quite sure that this will be largely corrected at the next State election. I do not think the Government has shown enough boldness in its approach to public administration. It has certainly shown too much timidity in its budgeting. I believe that there should be more deficit budgeting—

Mr. Moore: How can you do it?

Mr. MELLOY: The Government can do it.

Mr. Moore: How?

Mr. MELLOY: The Government can do it through the judicious use of the financial resources available to it. Businesses are not afraid to take a gamble on the future, and this is how it should be with Governments. Governments should be prepared to take a chance on the years ahead, and to legislate accordingly. All our legislation is behind the ball. It either corrects what has been a failure in the past or is directed towards maintaining the status quo in the administration of the State. The Government is trying all the time to catch up on the administration of the State, and this is not good enough in such a young State as Queensland. As I said before, the quoting of figures in speeches by Liberal and National Party members in support of their arguments will not have much effect on what the Government does. The Premier is more interested in consulting Sir Charles Court about a railway across the northern part of Australia—

Mr. Moore: What's wrong with that?

Mr. MELLOY: It is not his business. He is also more concerned with who will win elections in Western Australia and in the other States, and with going to Western Australia electioneering, than he is in staying here and pursuing his duties as Premier. He should not be gallivanting all round the country trying to control the finances not only of Australia but of overseas countries. He should not be trying to influence financiers on the other side of the world or telling them how to distribute their funds amongst people in Australia. That is not the business of the State Premier.

The honourable member for South Brisbane might just as well have been telling his colleagues here the story of the Seven Dwarfs or Little Jack Horner. They would have been with him on that, but they were not listening to him when he made an excellent speech. They were going to sleep. If he had indulged in their usual practice of union-bashing, he would have had the ministerial benches filled with all the Ministers echoing "Hear, hear!" to everything he said.

Mr. Ahern: You're drawing the long bow today.

Mr. MELLOY: It's a bloody good arrow! The way things are going in this State and in this country I can see that we will have a dictatorship either from the Right or the Left within the next 10 years. The people are losing faith in government as they see it carried out in Australia today, and they are not going to tolerate it. One of these days pressures, either from the Left or the Right, will set up a dictatorship in this country. Whether it will be a good thing or not I do not know, but I think the constitutional lawyers of this country have got to get their heads together and come up with a Constitution and a Bill of Rights which will ensure that the people are in control of what is happening and have confidence in Parliament; otherwise they will destroy Parliament.

I wish to mention the importance of primary industries to this country. If the situation is handled properly, Australia will eventually be virtually the food bowl of the world. And I do not think we can afford to neglect the primary industries and allow country people to continue converging on the cities looking for employment. Something must be done, not only at State level but also at national level, to establish Australia's primary industries on a firm base. In Queensland, and perhaps also in Western Australia, the only concern seems to be about the mining of minerals of various kinds, as if that were the be-all and end-all of this country's needs.

Mr. Moore: That is primary.

Mr. MELLOY: It is not. All that will be left eventually will be holes in the ground. The country's mineral resources are not unlimited; they will run out. In the meantime.

primary industries will be neglected to such an extent that it will be almost impossible for them to be rehabilitated.

Action must be taken to keep the primary producer on the land until such time as we are able to take advantage of the industry in which he is engaged. At present, we are paying dole-bludgers in the cities, down on the Gold Coast and up round Cairns. If we were to pay a reasonable sum to keep men on their farms we would be doing something worth while. It would be much better to do that than to pay a bloke who is just roaming around the country on the dole. Perhaps a scheme could be devised to keep farmers on their land, even if only to keep their properties in order, because people are leaving the land and they will not go back. The State Government and the National Government should be prepared to make provision now to keep people on the land at any cost, because they will be needed later.

A local matter about which I wish to speak is the situation at Cribb Island, a small area on the outskirts of Brisbane. Over the years, people living there have been sold a pup about the extension of the airport. They panicked into surrendering their properties when pressure was put on them to sell to the Federal Government. It now appears that the scheme to extend the airport has been shelved and that no construction will take place in the area. It might eventuate in 20 years' time; but I think that Brisbane will then have developed to such an extent that people will not want an airport in the metropolitan area. I tip that it will be built either at Caboolture or in Beenleigh.

The point I am making is that the community at Cribb Island has virtually been destroyed, and from the end of the year the people who live there are going to lose their only means of public transport—the local bus service. About 700 people still live in the area, and not all of them own motor-cars. In my opinion, the Minister for Transport should give careful consideration to providing the people of Cribb Island with some means of transport.

I have always had definite views about sand-mining on Fraser Island. Controlled mining should be allowed on that island. I don't think we can protect every bit of land in the State just because the ecologists think that something will be destroyed that nature has provided for the benefit of the people. Nature also provided the mineral

content of the sand. That mineral content can be used for the benefit of the people. As to prohibiting mining but throwing the land open to the public—we have seen what has happened when areas have been thrown open to the public. One cannot move for beer cans, drink cans, cardboard cartons and the like. The Government does not have adequate litter legislation to control an area like Fraser Island. If facilities are provided there, it will become another source of worry for the local authority to try to keep it clean. I believe that controlled sand-mining should be allowed on Fraser Island. It would provide employment for some 400 persons. It is up to the Commonwealth Government to have another look at the matter. The Labor Government gave the O.K. for the export of those minerals. It is a matter of great importance to Queensland.

Of course many other areas—apart from Fraser Island—will be the subject of fights between ecologists and developers. All I do not like about it is the amount of foreign money that comes into the country. I have reservations about that, too, because I realise that insufficient cash is available in Australia to finance the development of many of our mineral deposits. However, every effort should be made to ensure that we have more than an equity in the development of those areas.

Before concluding, I wish to comment on the Premier's remarks when he introduced his departmental Estimates. It was a shocking display. After not having presented his Estimates for three years he held the Parliament and the people of Queensland in contempt by his few words in introducing his Estimates. He should have taken the opportunity to present to Queensland more or less a White Paper on the development of the State, instead of leaving it to daily Press releases. He should have had a plan for the development of the State to present when he introduced his Estimates. He is the Premier of the State. The other day he said, "I am the Premier of this State. I will say what I like." He had the opportunity to say it the other day, but he did not take it.

I do not know what the future of the State is under this Premier. Perhaps there are men in the Government who have better ideas and are more conscientious than the Premier. I hope they will reveal themselves and that they will have the guts to speak up and tell the Premier what he is doing to Queensland.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (4.34 p.m.), in reply: Anyone in the gallery listening to this debate might come to the conclusion that this was grievance day. I intend to allow most of the speeches to go unanswered as I presume the members concerned wished to bring to public notice the matters which worried them most at this time.

Dealing with the substance of the Bill, I should like to refer specifically to the matters raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He said that no pressure had been placed on the Federal Government or on the Federal members in relation to the needs of the States. I assure him that by way of conferences and letters, considerable pressure has been brought to bear on Federal members. The need for greater sensitivity in the application of the Budget strategy of the Commonwealth Government has been impressed upon them.

My criticism and that of many other people in the community is not that the Federal Government is approaching this in a capricious way or that it is being too harsh, but that it is lacking some degree of sensitivity in certain areas. I mentioned those areas in my speech. A great deal of pressure is being put on the Federal authorities, and it is producing results. Federal members of Parliament are showing more and more their awareness of the need for understanding of the needs of the various areas of Australia and of the fact that the whole of Australia cannot be treated in a black-and-white fashion.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that his party was on the side of Queensland. If it had been on Queensland's side during the last State election, it would not have suffered as it did at the hands of the people. It was the Labor Party's failure to stand up for Queensland when we were being run over by the Whitlam Labor Government in Canberra that brought about its decimation in this State. "Hansard" will reveal that time and time again Opposition members in this Chamber supported Whitlam's policies. The people of Queensland treated them accordingly. Let me make it quite clear that the A.L.P. in Queensland let the State down, and Queenslanders took the rug from under it.

Mr. Houston: And now they regret it.

Mr. KNOX: No, they don't. The Labor Party could not do any better in the Lockyer by-election. It could not even increase its vote by more than 2 per cent. In fact it received 17 per cent fewer votes than in the election before last. That shows how poorly the Labor Party did.

Mr. Marginson: You'll remember the next one.

Mr. KNOX: We certainly will. We will do extremely well in the next State election. The A.L.P. let the people of Queensland down and it suffered as a result.

The financial policy espoused by the honourable member for Bulimba is that Queensland should keep on going into deficits. He does not care about good management or whether the State wrecks its finances. He would have the State go into deficit budgeting as far as it can. That is his philosophy. Aren't the people of Queensland lucky that he is not the Treasurer of the State? If he were, it would indeed be in a very parlous state.

I will deal now with Fraser Island. The Labor Party came out today and said it was all on the side of the continuation of mining on Fraser Island.

Mr. Houston: You can't deny that Connor allowed export licences.

Mr. KNOX: I am not denying it. In fact I am pleased to hear the honourable member say that. He allowed the export permits to be given while the inquiry was on. But among the witnesses who appeared before the inquiry was the A.L.P.

Mr. Marginson: Who appeared?

Mr. KNOX: Who appeared?

Mr. Marginson: Yes.

Mr. KNOX: Mr. Thomas Burns, on behalf of the A.L.P. What did he say when he appeared before the inquiry? Do members opposite want to hear it all?

Mr. Marginson: Yes.

Mr. KNOX: He said his party was firmly opposed to any mining on Fraser Island. That was his submission to the inquiry.

Mr. Marginson: Produce it. I say you are lying.

Mr. KNOX: I shall obtain a copy of the transcript so that the honourable member can read his leader's submission. Mr. Burns appeared on behalf of the A.L.P. before the inquiry.

Mr. Lowes: They know it's true.

Mr. KNOX: Indeed they do. Mr. Burns stated what was then, and still is, the official policy of the A.L.P. Members opposite cannot have it both ways. It is about time that someone revealed where the A.L.P. stands on this issue.

Mr. Houston: I know where I stand on it.

Mr. KNOX: I know where the Deputy Leader of the Opposition stands, and it is a pity that he cannot convince his party.

Mr. Marginson: Fraser could wipe all that out now. Answer that one.

Mr. KNOX: I have a great respect for the honourable member for Wolston personally. There was a time in this House when if he wanted to make a speech he got up and made it. I have noticed lately that whenever he wants to make a speech, he does it by interjection. The sum total of his interjections

in the last two weeks has been nearly half an hour. He is doing very well, but he has now run out of time.

I congratulate the honourable member for Lockyer on his maiden speech in this House. I know the very extreme difficulty experienced in speaking in this place because of its unusual atmosphere, with people coming and going and others not always listening intently. Every honourable member here has experienced the difficulties of making a maiden speech. Once an honourable member breaks the ice, he feels a little more comfortable here.

Mr. Houston: I noted that, unlike you, he did not start off with a little notebook with all the so-called Communist names in it.

Mr. KNOX: I don't think I did that.

Mr. Houston: My word you did. That's how you got your promotion.

Mr. KNOX: The only way I found out about all the Communists associated with the Labor Party was through its own publications. Mr. Egerton has said that all the Communists are disappearing from the Communist ranks because they have joined the Labor Party.

Mr. Houston: You would say anything.

Mr. KNOX: He was reported in "The Bulletin" as saying that. That was in his articles about the present condition of the Labor Party in this country. The Communists do not need to push their Communist Party philosophy any longer, because they can join the Labor Party. Apparently the Labor Party welcomes everybody and anybody into the party at the moment because it is short of candidates. There is to be a great new run in the Labor Party, with all new candidates—a great new field.

The honourable member may recall what I said the other day about yesterday's men. Another three of them are to be seen on the front bench—yesterday's men. At Ipswich the Labor Party is running some of yesterday's women as candidates.

Mr. Houston: That is a nice thing to say. At least speak well of those who—

Mr. KNOX: I am speaking well of a very fine woman, but nevertheless, the Labor Party could not find a candidate. She had already announced her complete retirement from politics but the Labor Party decided to bring this lady out of retirement to run as a candidate.

Mr. Houston: There was another candidate.

Mr. KNOX: There was a plebiscite. She was pretty smart, too, she got a lot of votes. She did it very smartly. She is no mug at getting votes. Apparently yesterday's women in the Labor Party can beat today's men by a long way.

Mr. Marginson interjected.

Mr. KNOX: I have a very high regard for her but she will not be back here after the next election.

Mr. Marginson: Your worry is that you will not get back.

Mr. KNOX: I think I am pretty right.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You most certainly will not remain as leader.

Mr. KNOX: We have no worries there.

The honourable member for Archerfield has been plotting and planning, but he found it very difficult to manage 11 people the other day. One thing is certain: at last he can count! When the voting was 4, 4 and 1, he knew which way the 1 had to jump. He used his influence to make sure that the 1 jumped the right way. I hope that he is rewarded in due course for all his efforts.

Mr. Marginson: I think those figures are wrong.

Mr. KNOX: Are they? What are the right figures? It was the honourable member's information that was used.

Motion (Mr. Knox) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 8, both inclusive, schedule and preamble, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

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

GOVERNMENT LOAN BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (4.45 p.m.): I move—

"That a Bill be introduced to authorize the making of arrangements by the State of Queensland pursuant to the provisions of the Commonwealth and States Financial Agreement Act 1927–1976 for the raising of certain sums of money by way of loan by the State, and for other purposes."

This Bill provides for the loan requirements of the State for the ensuing two-year period and provides the necessary legislative approval for the raising of \$300,000,000 through the Loan Council, in accordance with the Loan Council rules, conditions and approvals, and the expenditure of the funds so raised

as approved from time to time through the normal processes of the Budget and the various Appropriation Bills.

This is a machinery Bill for the raising of the necessary loan moneys until 30 June 1979, and I commend it to the Committee.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (4.48 p.m.): As the Minister said, this Bill is a formality. It is a Bill that has to be passed every so often, and naturally the Opposition supports it.

Motion (Mr. Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Knox, read a first time.

LIQUOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Acting Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (4.50 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

As indicated during the debate on this Bill at the introductory stage, the Bill arises from the Budget which has been approved by the House. The effect of the Bill will be that annual fees payable in respect of licensed victuallers licences, limited hotel licences, club licences of all types, restaurant licences, cabaret licences, function room licences, railway refreshment room licences, airport licences, theatre licences, resort licences, packet licences, bistro licences and caterer's licences will increase from 7 per cent to 8 per cent in respect of two-thirds of this financial year.

The fee payable in respect of tavern licences and spirit merchants (retail) licences will be decreased from 9 per cent to 8 per cent. The fee payable in respect of every spirit merchants licence on sales to unlicensed persons will decrease from 15 per cent to 12 per cent as from 1 November 1977.

The hotel-keeper has a lot of problems and should not be subject to a licence fee which is too high. The 8 per cent licence fee is payable under the legislation in most other States of Australia. The matter has received thorough consideration and it is felt that the increase of the fee from 7 per cent to 8 per cent is not too harsh. In most hotels, bottle sales constitute the major proportion of their sales and, during the past twelve months, the business of drive-in bottle departments has boomed. The overhead in a drive-in bottle department is much less than in other parts of hotel premises.

Provision presently exists in the Liquor Act for the conversion of a licensed victualler's licence to a tavern licence. Although

the liquor regulations require a tavern to have luxury facilities, the Licensing Court has power under these regulations to use its discretion where such an application is lodged. The Licensing Commission is an experienced and expert body and recognises that lesser standards meet the needs of certain localities.

It is recognised that in recent years the role of certain hotels, both in the city and the country, has altered to such an extent that very little, if any, demand for accommodation is now being made. Where there is no call for accommodation it is competent for the licensee and owner of such an hotel to make an application for conversion of the licence to a tavern licence.

The primary function of a holder of a spirit merchants licence is to supply the retail trade—hotels, clubs, restaurants, etc. Legislators have never intended that the requirements of private persons be met by licensed spirit merchants and, moreover, in recent times have strengthened legislation so as to ensure that spirit merchants trade as bona fide wholesalers. During the year ended 30 June 1976, sales by licensed spirit merchants in Queensland to licensed persons were over \$313,000,000 and, to the unlicensed trade, over \$29,000,000. Spirit merchants pay a very reasonable licence fee of \$400 for the right to sell liquor to the retail trade—hotels, clubs, restaurants, etc.

Like the whole process of legislating in Parliament, licensing involves the striking of balances and the compromise of various interests; but, unfortunately, the task of legislators is not made any easier by the degree of controversy which attaches to a subject of such wide public interest. Individual financial self-interest is, of course, another complicating factor. It is felt that the proposed reduction in respect of spirit merchants licence fees on sales to the private trade from 15 per cent to 12 per cent is the right answer.

In regard to licence fees being payable on freight charges for liquor, I raise the following points:—

- (A) Geographically, Queensland is a large State with population centres situated long distances from its capital city.
- (B) Freight charges on manufactured goods needed to service these population centres form a substantial part of the cost structure of such goods landed at these centres.
- (C) The gross amount referred to in section 18 of the Liquor Act is the gross amount paid or payable in respect of all liquor. This is interpreted by the Licensing Commission as the price to the purchaser of liquor ex merchants, or, as the case may be, brewery's store (wherever situated).
- (D) Freight and handling charges arising in the course of delivery ex merchants or brewery's store are not included in the cost of liquor purchases upon which a licence fee is calculated.

- (E) The price of liquor purchased for a hotel and any licensed person is obviously the sum paid by the licensee to the various wholesale merchants and breweries and, where such merchants are in the country and purchase their liquor stocks in Brisbane, the merchant's selling price to the licensee must of necessity include freight from the point of purchase in Brisbane and his own mark-up of profit. Thus, the licence fee is calculated on the merchant's selling price to the extent that the selling price includes freight into the merchant's store and the merchant's profit mark-up.
- (F) It is a well-known fact that freight and handling charges increase the cost of liquor to licensees in areas remote from regional breweries. This cost factor, no doubt, would apply to all types of goods supplied to such areas and is recognised through certain cost-of-living adjustments, tax concessions, etc. being allowed in certain areas.
- (G) When considering a matter such as this in relation to liquor, consideration must also be given to liquor imported from overseas or manufactured in other States. The cost price of any such liquor sold in Queensland would include a freight charge into store in Queensland and a profit mark-up. Any licence fee paid on the purchase of such liquor would be based on the cost to the purchaser, which would include these charges, and would not be based on, say, in regard to Scotch whisky (bottled in Scotland), the cost ex distillery in Scotland or, in the case of wine, the cost ex winery in South Australia. A similar position pertains to interstate beer.
- (H) It would not appear to be practicable or workable to calculate licence fees in any other way than the present manner, which is in conformity with section 18 of the Liquor Act.
- (I) I am of the opinion that flexibility, and adaptability, rather than change, should be the criterion of our legislative policy.
- (J) Our legislation enables the court and the Licensing Commission to preserve a workable balance which benefits both the public and the existing liquor interests.

This Bill does not propose to make any changes to the principles contained in the Liquor Act but actually gives effect to the proposed increase and decreases in the percentage licence fees as provided in the Budget.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (4.58 p.m.): As was to be expected, the Acting Minister has gone to some pains to explain why the fees are levied on the selling price when it comes to the spirit merchant. I do not think he has convinced many people. He certainly will not have convinced the spirit

merchants in country areas who pay the 12 per cent, even though it is a reduction from the 15 per cent previously charged.

But I believe one other point that needs to be made here is that this tax (and that is what it really is, a tax) will bring to the Government's coffers \$1,200,000. This is a substantial amount of money, and I only hope it will be put to good use in the State. We accept the fact that there has to be State Government revenue, and no-one is going to argue about whether this fee should be levied; but there is room for argument about how the money is finally used.

We have a very serious alcohol problem in this State and very many people in the community would agree that the time has come to wage war against it. I read recently where the Minister for Health spoke about a seven-storey complex—a sort of detoxication unit—to be used to overcome some of the difficulties we have in the community from the abuse of alcohol. This is at least one step forward.

We also have to realise that we now have a serious student alcohol problem. Recently in answer to the honourable member for Sandgate the Minister for Education said that the use of alcohol by school-age children ranged from a declared use of 31.2 per cent of grade 6 students to 83.3 per cent of grade 12 students. This problem has also been mentioned in an article written in "The Sunday Mail" by John Bragg; and he exposed the fact that some students drank on the way to school.

I am sure you would agree with me, Mr. Speaker, as all other honourable members would, that this has become a serious problem and we need to do something about it. So I hope that the Minister—indeed, the Government—will give consideration to using the money derived from these fees to combat the problem in some way.

I also bring to the attention of the House that it was the Minister for Health himself who said that alcohol was linked to 14 per cent of all hospital admissions in Queensland.

Mr. Moore: This is a good second-reading speech!

Mr. WRIGHT: Yes, but it is a valid point to make. If the honourable member for Windsor is not interested in the problem of alcoholism, he is a very lonesome person, because I believe that all other honourable members would be interested. They are well aware that money will be derived from these fees, and I am suggesting—and I feel sure they will agree with me—that that money should be used properly because of the impact that alcohol is having on our community.

I suggest, firstly, that we use it to combat the student alcohol problem and, secondly, that we use it to combat the problem of

alcohol generally. If the honourable member wishes to refute what the Minister for Health said, again he is on his own. I accept the Minister's statistics in this instance, and I believe that the problem is of concern to every member of this Assembly. If we take into account the fact that numerous industrial accidents arise from the drinking of alcohol, we must accept that it is a serious community and social problem.

I ask the Minister through you, Mr. Speaker, to use his position as Treasurer of Queensland to ensure that the \$1,200,000 is used to wage war upon the problem of alcohol in the community.

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (5.2 p.m.): After perusing the principles of this Bill, which is to amend the Liquor Act 1912-1975 in certain particulars, I felt very sad and very distressed, because I found that it is similar to many other Bills that have been introduced over the years to amend the Liquor Act in that it does not give the alcoholic—that very unfortunate individual in the community—the slightest assistance to overcome his problem.

It was stated in Brisbane recently by an authority on alcoholism in industry that the Australian work-force contains 216,000 alcoholics aged between 15 and 65. But, as I said, nowhere in the Bill could I find any provision for assistance to these unfortunate people. The Government is concerned only about revenue. As my colleague from Rockhampton remarked a short while ago, we could get some solace from knowing that at least some of the revenue would be used to combat the scourge of alcoholism in the community, especially among the young people. As he dealt with that problem specifically, I do not intend to go into detail on it.

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mr. DEAN: I know that alcohol is a very sore point with the honourable member for Windsor. It is something that is very close to his heart—and to his intestines, I might say. Nevertheless, I do not intend to be distracted by his inane interjections.

Industry is paying \$2,500 million a year to employ alcoholics, and, in terms of absenteeism, inefficiency, accidents at work and compensation claims, they are costing the country \$550,000,000 a year. But nowhere in the principles of the Bill could I find any provision relating to that very sad situation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that he is committing hara-kiri. He has mentioned that what he is saying does not come within the principles of the Bill, and he knows that a second-reading speech must be confined to the principles of the Bill.

Mr. DEAN: I abide by your ruling, Mr. Speaker. However, I felt impelled to rise to my feet and point out the weaknesses in the principles of the Bill.

Again I say to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that it is about time he brought down some amendments to the Liquor Act that would give some relief to the unfortunate individuals in the community who have been caught up in the great problem of alcoholism.

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mr. DEAN: Perhaps we could start by giving some relief to the alcoholics in Parliament House.

Motion (Mr. Knox) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 4, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

The House adjourned at 5.6 p.m.