

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1976

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The House met at 11 a.m.

ABSENCE OF MR. SPEAKER

The Clerk informed the House that Mr. Speaker was unavoidably absent on account of illness.

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Chatsworth) read prayers and took the chair as Acting Speaker.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

Assent reported by Mr. Acting Speaker.

PAPERS

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

Report of the Land Administration Commission, including Reports of the Superintendent of Stock Routes and the Rural Fires Board for the year 1975-76.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Forestry Act 1959-1976 and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975.

Land Act 1962-1975.

Fauna Conservation Act 1974.

GRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION BILL

THIRD READING

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

**SUGAR EXPERIMENT STATIONS ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

THIRD READING

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

GOVERNMENT LOAN BILL

THIRD READING

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

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. STATE SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR LOAN WORKS PROGRAMME

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

(1) Has any investigation in the last three years been made of the State subsidy scheme for the loan works programme? If so, what were the results?

(2) If there is any continuing investigation into the subsidy scheme, which departments are involved?

(3) What involvement have the 131 local authorities throughout the State had in the investigation?

Answers:—

(1) No over-all examination of the scheme has been made in the last three years.

(2) From time to time the conditions applicable to particular subsidies included in the scheme have been reviewed and modified and maximum subsidies payable for certain types of projects have been lifted to take account of rising costs. However, although it was proposed to review the whole scheme in 1975, as other more urgent work was given precedence, this did not take place. There still exists a need to review the capital works subsidy scheme under which subsidies totalling \$34,716,355 were paid to local authorities and other local bodies during 1975-76. Such a review must now necessarily take account of recent changes to the basis of Commonwealth financial assistance to local authorities and the creation of the proposed State Grants Commission to allocate grant funds. In view of these pending changes to local government financing, I have deferred any examination of the capital works subsidy scheme until the State Grants Commission is established and effectively operational.

(3) See answer to (1).

2. RECOVERABLE RESERVES OF COKING COAL IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Does the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 59 of 9 November refer to the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968 and make provision for an extension of the amount of coal to be mined by 1 per cent of the recoverable reserves of coking coal for every 1 per cent increase in Australian equity over 20 per cent?

(2) What is the total recoverable reserves of coking coal on this field?

(3) Will a transfer of shares from Utah Development Company to Utah Mining Australia be classed as an increase in Australian equity under this new proposal?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The recoverable reserves of coking coal in mining leases subject to this Act are at least 1 092 million tonnes.

(3) Yes; subject to the resultant increase exceeding 20 per cent.

3. BUILDING SOCIETIES INTEREST RATES

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

(1) Which building societies propose to increase their borrowing interest rate from 1 December and what interest rates for borrowers of up to \$50,000 are proposed by these societies?

(2) How many borrowers are involved with each individual society which proposes to increase its borrowing rate?

(3) Have any discussions been held between him as Minister and the societies which propose to increase rates and, if so, has he given any guide-lines to societies on what are regarded as unreasonable increases?

(4) Have any borrowers from societies who have announced interest rate increases advised him that in their view the proposed interest-rate increases are unreasonable?

(5) Have any societies advised him that they are contemplating an interest rate rise after 1 December?

(6) What attitude will the Government adopt to any further proposed increases in interest rates by other societies?

(7) Did the Queensland Permanent Building Society have its annual general meeting on 23 November and, if so, did any representative of his attend the meeting and what was the total number in attendance?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) Queensland Permanent Building Society is the only society which has advised of an increase in the borrowers' rate of interest as from 1 December 1976, as follows:—

Range	Owner Occupied	Number of Mortgagors
\$0—\$25,000	12½ per cent.	7,268
\$25,000—\$40,000	13 per cent.	1,089
\$40,000—\$50,000	13½ per cent.	131
Over \$50,000	By negotiation. Minimum 14 per cent.	67

The society has advised that adjustment of repayments on all existing loans is to be arranged from February and March next year. In the case of new loans, if in respect of a payout of an existing mortgage, an additional 0.5 per cent is to be charged.

The following societies have notified increases in borrowers' interest rates operative from 9 November 1976, as follows:—

First Provincial Permanent Building and Investment Society

Rate	Number of Mortgagors
12½ per cent.	1,000 (approx.)

Rockhampton Permanent Building and Investment Society

Rate	Number of Mortgagors
12½ per cent. (on existing loans)	900 (approx.)
13 per cent. (new loans over \$30,000)	
13½ per cent. (new loans on flats, vacant land and holiday homes)	

(3) No.

(4) No.

(5) Queensland Permanent Building Society has notified a further increase from 1 January 1977, as follows:—

Range	Non-owner Occupied
\$0—\$25,000	13½ per cent.
\$25,000—\$40,000	14 per cent.
\$40,000—\$50,000	14½ per cent.
Over \$50,000	By negotiation. Minimum 15 per cent.

The society has advised that adjustment of repayments on all existing loans is to be arranged for February and March next year.

(6) A close surveillance is being kept on proposed increases in interest rates by all societies.

(7) The annual general meeting of Queensland Permanent Building Society was held on 23 November 1976, at which 105 persons attended. An inspector from the Office of the Registrar of Building Societies was also in attendance. It was a quiet meeting.

4. NEW PORT FOR BRISBANE; MASTER PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

(1) When will the master plan prepared by Rendall and Partners for the new Brisbane port be made available to the public?

(2) Has a draft environmental impact statement been prepared under the State Government environmental impact guide-lines?

(3) Which private and public organisations and Government bodies have been appointed as advisory bodies for assessment of the draft environmental impact statement?

(4) Will the draft environmental impact statement receive the necessary public assessment and likely amendments before any work is begun on the port or causeway?

Answers:—

(1) The master plan of future development of the Port of Brisbane will be entrusted to the new port authority for implementation, and the extent to which it will be made public will be a matter for decision by the authority.

(2) Extensive environmental studies were carried out as part of the preparation of the Strategic Plan for the Port of Brisbane. This report was accepted by Cabinet in February 1974 as a reasonable plan for the future development of the Port of Brisbane. These investigations were carried out before the environmental impact statement guide-lines were set down in April 1975. However, copies of this report are available in several public libraries, including those at Wynnum, Lytton and Bulimba. The findings of this report were later confirmed by more in-depth studies in the master plan report.

(3) As the report was prepared before the environmental impact statement guide-lines were set down, advisory bodies as such were not required. However, more than 20 public organisations concerned with environmental protection issues, all relevant Government departments, the Brisbane City Council and numerous private citizens, were either contacted or put forward their views, which were assimilated into the findings of the report.

(4) The environmental studies indicate minimal disturbance to residents, the ecology and the recreational uses of Moreton Bay, and I am convinced that the port authority will ensure that the construction works are carried out in accordance with the findings of the report.

5. AID TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE ACCOMMODATION

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

As this Government has assisted several local authorities in building accommodation for State Emergency Service organisations, is this the only monetary assistance given to local authorities to assist with the raising and the maintenance of emergency services throughout Queensland?

Answer:—

This Government provides assistance in the form of grants/subsidies and equipment. Local authorities each receive a \$500 grant to assist with the cost of State Emergency Service activities. In addition, equipment such as radios, emergency rescue trailers, flood boats, rescue, first-aid and welfare equipment to the total value of \$275,000 will be distributed this financial year. Local controllers within each local authority also receive \$50 per annum as an out-of-pocket allowance to defray telephone costs, etc.

6. CONVERSION OF LEASEHOLD LAND TO FREEHOLD

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

In view of the confusion existing among all holders of leasehold land, particularly miners' homestead leases, at Mt. Isa and similar towns and of the activities of some real estate agents, will he give the House, as completely as possible, any information on the conversion of leasehold land to freehold land, to allay the confusion and allow the public to be completely au fait with the matter?

Answer:—

There is no provision in the Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913-1976 to allow conversion of a miners' homestead lease or a miners' homestead perpetual lease to freehold.

However, my department has no objection to the conversion of any Crown tenure on a mining field (whether it be issued under the Miners' Homestead Leases Act or the Land Act) to freehold, provided that the matter is firstly referred to the department for examination of the mineral potential and approval given pursuant to section 97 of the Mining Act, which reads—

“Restriction on alienation, etc., of land in mining field. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Land Act 1962-1968 Crown land situated in a Mining Field shall not be alienated by way of grant

or lease under those Acts or occupied by any person under those Acts without the approval of the Minister first had and obtained.”

The holder of a miners' homestead lease or a miners' homestead perpetual lease who desires to convert his lease to freehold could approach the Land Administration Commission with a view to the issue of a freeholding tenure.

Depending on the commission's attitude and my department's requirements under section 97, the holder of the homestead could surrender his title and make the necessary application to the commission.

7. AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY AND BOWKETT

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

Is he aware that depositors in the Australian Permanent Building Society and Bowkett, now in liquidation, have not participated in any distribution of funds by the liquidator, despite assurances given to them that the distribution would take place shortly after 29 October and, if so, what are the reasons for the delay and when can it be expected that it will be resolved?

Answer:—

The liquidator has advised that a distribution of approximately \$2,000,000 has already been made to depositors of Australian Permanent Building Society and Bowkett (in liquidation) and that some payments were made on 29 October 1976.

Arrangements for the sale of further mortgages have been completed and as soon as moneys have been received, they will be distributed to depositors.

The liquidator has contacted all depositors and requested them to forward their passbooks and a statement of claim. It is essential that the liquidator ensures that claimants are entitled to receive moneys and, in some instances, this has led to some delay.

8. CHANGE OF VENUE OR JUDGE FOR NORTH QUEENSLAND RAPE TRIAL

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

When the foul perpetrator of the rape of an old woman at Townsville after breaking into her home has been arrested and, in due course, brought before the Supreme Court for trial, will he, in view of the grave disquiet among North Queenslanders on this question, arrange for either a change of venue of the trial or the provision of a trial judge from another Supreme Court district?

Answer:—

As the honourable member is aware, no-one has been arrested for this offence and no action can be taken for the place of trial to be changed until a person is committed for trial. Section 559 of the Criminal Code provides for a change of venue by the court on the application of the Crown or of the accused person. No doubt any such application would be decided in the light of all the circumstances.

9. REZONED LAND, KOORINGAL, MORETON ISLAND

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

(1) Further to questions asked by the member for Redlands concerning the rezoning by the Brisbane City Council of residential land to open space non-urban in the town of Kooringal at the southern end of Moreton Island, is he aware that all of this land was originally sold to landholders under auction purchase freehold by his department and that the sales implied that the land was being sold for residential purposes?

(2) Is some of this land, purchased on terms, still in the process of being paid for by the purchasers to his department?

(3) In view of these points and the hardship being caused to the landholders, will he use his influence to see that the land is zoned for the purpose for which it was purchased, that is, residential use?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) In view of the assurances already conveyed to the member for Redlands, I have every confidence that the Honourable the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads will give full consideration to all objections lodged against the proposed open-space zoning of unimproved allotments in the town of Kooringal being purchased on terms from the Crown for residential purposes.

10. DIFFERING ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

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

(1) Do Brisbane consumers pay differing rates for their electricity?

(2) Are rates charged for domestic power use far lower than those for commercial use?

(3) Have increases in electricity tariffs in recent years been made on a percentage basis and, if so, would this contribute to inflation and unemployment?

(4) Will the equalisation of charges eliminate inflation and unemployment?

(5) Will he investigate and inform the House why electricity tariffs are set in a way that favours the domestic user and discriminates against the commercial sphere, particularly those in small businesses?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. The council offers a number of tariffs to cover various electricity applications and consumer classes.

(2) Rates charged for domestic power use are lower than those for commercial use, and this applies throughout the State.

(3 and 4) Generally, tariff increases have been made in recent years on a percentage basis to recover the rate of general inflation in capital charges, material, labour and fuel costs. These increases would not contribute much to inflation and unemployment, because generally electricity charges are only a relatively small percentage of overall operating costs.

(5) Tariffs for various consumer classes are based on the cost of giving supply. The average prices per unit paid by individual consumers depend on their electricity consumptions.

11. TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL CROSSINGS; MANLY WEST AND WONDALL HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOLS

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

(1) Does he recall details of a Press release issued on 22 October by his office concerning the joint financing of traffic lights at six school crossings by his department and the Brisbane City Council?

(2) Were the school crossings at Manly West and Wondall Heights State Schools included in this provision?

(3) As there is no apparent evidence of this work being carried out at these two schools and because of the great need and concern of the people associated with the schools, will he advise when is it anticipated that this work will be commenced and/or completed?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) Yes.

(3) These are two of six crossings in Brisbane city area on which I have agreed to share the cost with the Brisbane City Council. It is now entirely a matter for Brisbane City Council to implement the work as soon as possible.

12. HEN QUOTA TRANSFERS

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

With reference to his answer to a question in the House that the industry would be making submissions regarding the transferability of hen quotas, have these submissions been received and are hen quotas transferable without the property involved also being transferred?

Answer:—

No. I have not yet received submissions on the transferability of hen quotas. Quotas are not transferable when transfer of the particular property is not involved.

13. COASTAL LOWLANDS STUDY REPORT

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

Have the recommendations of the Coastal Lowlands Study report been adopted?

Answer:—

I anticipate giving final consideration to the report of the Coastal Lowlands Study within a few days.

14. MARYBOROUGH ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE PROPAGANDA ABOUT FRASER ISLAND

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

(1) How many series of coloured slides, films, lectures, brochures and other educational projects concerning Fraser Island have been prepared by the Adult Education Office at Maryborough over the last two years?

(2) How many of these projects were sent interstate and where did the project kits go?

(3) How many talks and lectures have been given by the Maryborough Adult Education officers to school-children over the last two years?

(4) What supervision or standard is used, and by whom, to ensure that the talks, films, brochures, etc., are presented with a balanced and unbiased viewpoint?

Answers:—

(1) None. In February of this year the honourable member was given a list and copies of material produced in 1975.

(2) None, as these were not distributed by Adult Education.

(3) Three to local high schools at the express invitation of the principals, whose responsibility it would be to ensure that both sides of the matter were presented.

(4) If it were an official activity, the district organiser would have this responsibility. If not, the onus would be on the organisation to whom the talk was given or to whom the material was made available to ensure that the talk and/or material was acceptable to it.

15. NITROGENOUS FERTILISERS FOR SUGAR-CANE

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

As the Commonwealth Government's proposed reduction in the nitrogenous fertiliser subsidy will add to the cost of growing cane in South Queensland alone by \$224,000 in 1977, \$463,500 in 1978, \$703,000 in 1979 and \$942,000 in 1980 when the subsidy is completely phased out, has his Government taken up this matter with the Commonwealth Government on the points that 70 per cent of our sugar earns export income, that the industry must suffer from world market fluctuations and that nitrogenous fertilisers are essential to sugar-cane production?

Answer:—

Representations have been made on several occasions by the Premier to the Prime Minister and by me to the Minister for Primary Industry, the Honourable Ian Sinclair, on the future of the subsidy on nitrogenous fertilisers. My colleague the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries also has made representations to Mr. Sinclair about this matter. I can assure the honourable member that the points raised in his question were emphasised at length in these representations.

16. FOOD FOR PRISONERS

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

(1) Is a prisoner in custody entitled to a specified food ration by weight and not by price?

(2) Does the cook at the security patients hospital at Wacol serve sauerkraut, which nobody eats?

(3) Does he give the patients raw carrots when they are entitled to have their vegetables cooked, even though some are short of teeth to chew raw carrot?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. The monetary value of rations is not taken into consideration when allocations are made to kitchens.

(2) No. Sauerkraut is not served to patients at the security patients hospital.

(3) It is the firm policy of the department to provide adequate and satisfying meals to prisoners. However, in accordance with the requirements of the regulations under the Prisons Act, rations provided for prisoners conform generally to the basic food requirements of an average man having due regard for the vitamin, mineral and caloric content. With this in mind, carrots, a source of vitamin A, are provided for patients at the security patients hospital, but I am assured that when they are served raw with salads as part of a well-balanced diet, they are grated for ease of eating.

For the information of the honourable member and as he has raised the question of shortage of teeth, I would advise him that the dentist visits the security patients hospital every second Tuesday and, from information available, it would appear that only two patients are short of full dentures. One refuses the issue of dentures, whilst the other is in the habit of breaking his under certain conditions.

17. COSTS OF HOUSING COMMISSION
PURCHASE HOMES; BUNDABERG

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

In view of his answer on 28 October to a question from the member for Salisbury in which he stated that purchasers of commission houses thus receive the benefit of lower commission construction costs, a generous allowance for age and whatever they have paid off in principal, how does he reconcile these statements with the commission's price of \$20,500 for house No. 65 in Bundaberg, which was built over 20 years ago for probably less than \$5,000, with a rebate of only \$640 for rental over a period of 14 years from the present tenant?

Answer:—

The price quoted for a 10-square house on freehold land in Bundaberg on current prices is quite reasonable.

With rent, which was a mere \$6.40 a week in 1963 and is still only \$21.05 a week, simple arithmetic will show the honourable member that the greatest portion of rent income has gone to cover operating costs and interest. The correct calculation shows the principal repaid by this tenant is \$637, which was rounded to \$640.

Most people are aware—and I assure him it is a fact—that in a 53-year repayment period, the amount which goes to redemption in the first part of this time is a very small fraction of the total.

18. CONTROL OF SWIMMING-POOL
CONSTRUCTION

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

(1) With reference to the many recent cases where ordinary people have lost their hard-earned money in rip-offs by unscrupulous swimming-pool builders, does the construction of swimming-pools come under the jurisdiction of the Builders' Registration Board and, if so, what action has been taken by the board?

(2) If not, will he take steps immediately to introduce amending legislation to provide control over both the business methods of pool builders and the structural sufficiency of the pools?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) I consider that control of the business methods of swimming-pool builders would be a matter for an authority other than the Builders' Registration Board of Queensland. The controlling function in respect of the structural sufficiency of swimming-pools seems to me to fall within the ambit of local government.

I appreciate the honourable member's concern, which has caused him to raise the matters with me in Parliament, but these matters, in my opinion, are outside the ambit of my portfolio.

19. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICEMAN; BRACKEN
RIDGE/BALD HILLS/ALBANY CREEK

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

(1) What has been the result of the experiment with the neighbourhood policeman scheme?

(2) Will he give consideration to a similar scheme being initiated at Bracken Ridge, Bald Hills and Albany Creek, as these areas are ideally suited to the scheme because of their isolation and the high proportion of young people?

Answers:—

(1) Whilst the neighbourhood constable concept, as implemented at Jindalee, has attracted much favourable publicity, it is still difficult to determine whether the implementation of such a scheme at other localities would be in the best interests of the Police Department as a whole.

(2) No. Dependent upon availability of finance at some time in the future, manpower requirements throughout the whole of the State and the benefits which could accrue therefrom, consideration could be given to the extension of the neighbourhood constable concept at other selected localities in the future.

20. EUROPEAN CARP

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

(1) Is he aware of the continuing increase and spread of fish known as European carp in many of our inland streams?

(2) As the present native species of fish could disappear unless something is done very quickly, what measures of control and eradication are being investigated and/or carried out?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) As I understand it, the increase and spread of European carp is quite extensive throughout the river systems of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and South-west Queensland and it can be quite damaging. This infestation is exercising the resources of the Fisheries Service of those States as well as the C.S.I.R.O. and measures of control and/or eradication are being investigated, but to date without positive and effective result.

There appears to be a growing conviction that eradication will be impossible. Consequently, this exemplifies the need for the utmost caution to be exercised at all times in relation to the introduction of fish species from outside the country.

I mention that in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia in 1974-75 more than 650 000 kilograms of European carp were harvested, mainly for bait and pet food. This in itself is some measure of control.

The matter is being kept under close continual review and, whatever control measures become apparent, the honourable member can be assured they will be implemented at the earliest possible date.

21. CONTROL OF KANGAROOS

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

(1) What is the present situation with respect to the supply of tags for the taking of kangaroos?

(2) In view of the tremendous increase in the kangaroo population, what steps are being taken to increase the annual quota for Queensland?

(3) Is he aware that, because of the tremendous increase in numbers and as insufficient numbers are being taken to keep the kangaroo population under adequate control, landholders may be forced

to revert to control measures such as poisoning and kangaroo drives, methods which are both undesirable and wasteful?

Answers:—

(1) Earlier this year I took action to increase the maximum number of tags which could be used during 1976 from 600,000 to 800,000. The director of my National Parks and Wildlife Service advises me that present indications are that this number will prove more than adequate to meet the demands of the kangaroo industry.

(2) A case has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for an export quota of 800,000 kangaroo skins for Queensland. The quota will be reviewed during the year, and if necessary further adjustments will be sought.

(3) I am aware of the build-up in kangaroo numbers and I am sympathetic to the problems of landholders. I have instructed my wildlife officers to facilitate the issuing of crop damage permits.

With respect to measures such as poisoning and kangaroo drives, while I am aware of these possibilities, I must counsel against them. The existing kangaroo industry is to a large extent subject to public opinion. It is even now still recovering from the set-back which occurred when the Commonwealth Government introduced its ban on the export of kangaroo products. To adopt methods such as poisoning would be to risk again stirring up public disapproval of the whole industry.

22. OWNER-BUILT HOUSES

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) What restrictions are placed on the sale of owner-built houses under the existing Act?

(2) May a house be sold before two years have passed from date of occupation?

(3) If an owner sells a house in breach of an agreement between himself and the Builders' Registration Board, what action can be taken against the owner by the State and by the new purchaser of the house?

(4) Does the Builders' Registration Board require regular inspection of owner-built houses during construction and, if so, by whom?

(5) Does the board require an inspection before sales can be completed within or after the two-year period?

(6) Under the existing law, what protection has the new owner against defective construction?

Answers:—

(1) Under the provisions of the Builders' Registration Act, 1971-1973, owner-builders are not permitted to sell the dwelling within a period of two (2) years after completion unless:—

(a) The owner-builder firstly lodges with the Builders' Registration Board a certificate of a competent authority that the building construction was soundly and satisfactorily carried out according to good building practice; or

(b) The owner-builder has firstly obtained permission in writing from the Builders' Registration Board, to sell, or offer for sale, the dwelling and has complied with any conditions determined by the board.

For the purpose of (a), a competent authority means a person or body nominated by or acceptable to the board.

To date, board policy has been to accept certificates from architects, engineers, local authority inspectors and registered builders.

(2) Yes, provided that the owner-builder has satisfied the conditions imposed by the Act, as detailed in 1 (a) and 1 (b) above.

(3) Section 31 subsection (2) (a) of the Builders' Registration Act, 1971-1973, provides exemption for owner-builders in relation to the construction of a dwelling-house for their own occupation or use. If the owner-builder sells the dwelling within the two-year period after completion, without firstly complying with the other requirements of the Act, the dwelling is then deemed to have been constructed other than for his own occupation or use. In those circumstances, the Builders' Registration Board may prosecute that person as an unregistered builder.

(4) No.

(5) A certificate of a competent authority is required if the owner-builder wishes to sell within the two year period.

Under existing legislation, there are no requirements on owner-builders who wish to sell after the two-year period.

(6) The existing legislation does not provide any protection for the purchaser of an owner-built dwelling.

23. BUILDING CONTROLS, JONDARYAN SHIRE

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

(1) What local government control on building exists in the Jondaryan Shire adjacent to Toowoomba city along Boundary Street?

(2) Is there a town plan for this area?

(3) May factories, machine sheds, workshops or intensive piggeries be located next to existing houses or even food barns?

(4) How is the use of existing and proposed buildings regulated in this area?

Answers:—

(1) That part of the Shire of Jondaryan which is adjacent to the city of Toowoomba at Boundary Street is subject to the provisions of a town-planning scheme approved by the Governor in Council on 17 May 1973, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1936-1976.

Under this scheme, lands adjacent to Boundary Street are included in the general industry zone, the future urban zone or the rural zone. The control of building in this part of the shire is subject to the provisions of the town-planning scheme and the standard building by-laws made under the Building Act 1975.

(2) See answer to (1).

(3) Under the scheme, factories, machine sheds and workshops may be established on lands in the general industry zone but these uses are prohibited in the rural zone and the future urban zone. Piggeries are prohibited in the general industry zone and the future urban zone but, with the prior consent of the council after advertising for objections, may be established in the rural zone.

The construction of dwelling-houses, other than those required for use in association with a permitted use under the scheme, is prohibited in all three zones. The establishment of food barns is considered to be prohibited in the future urban and rural zones.

(4) There are two town-planning schemes in force in the Shire of Jondaryan. These can be identified as the scheme for Oakey and its environs and the Torrington town-planning scheme.

The use of existing and proposed buildings within the planning scheme areas is regulated by the provisions of the relevant scheme. In the balance of the shire where no town-planning scheme exists, no control is imposed over the use of existing or proposed buildings.

24. RESEARCH INTO WHEAT VARIETIES

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

(1) Are new, heavy-yielding varieties of wheat such as the rust-resistant Oxley, Gatcher and Tingalen varieties, with upright heads, more prone to weather damage than varieties planted between 1950 and 1965, which bent over when the heads were ripe?

(2) What are the present aims of wheat-breeding research in Queensland?

(3) Is any research directed towards developing varieties which bend over when ripe obviating storm and rain damage to grain?

Answers:—

(1) The current varieties are no more susceptible to weather damage than the varieties of the 1950-1965 era.

(2) The aims of the wheat-breeding programme are to develop varieties of high yielding ability, with the capacity to produce prime hard grain, which are resistant to disease, particularly rust, and which are otherwise suited to the Queensland environment.

(3) Resistance to weather damages is one of the objectives of both the Queensland and New South Wales wheat-breeding programmes. Breeding lines are assessed for this characteristic. However, this is an extremely difficult problem and rapid or spectacular success is not anticipated.

Answer:—

I refer the honourable member to the reply given to a similar question in this House on 14 October 1976. This listed insoluble fallout in milligrams per square metre per day for the months July to September at selected stations in the Darra-Oxley area.

Insoluble fall-out, in milligrams per square metre per day, recorded in the area since then was—

—	September	October
Bradford Street, Darra	97	140
Killarney Avenue, Darra	240	153
Irwin Terrace, Oxley	56	52
Englefield Road, Oxley	138	72
Fire Station, Oxley ..	72	74

25. DELAY WITH NEW RIVERVIEW STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Has the contracting firm that was constructing the new State school at River-view ceased building operations even though the work has not been completed?

(2) Has this action occurred because the firm is experiencing certain financial problems?

(3) What will be the delay as a result of this unfortunate happening and is there any likelihood that the school will be ready to enrol pupils for the beginning of the 1977 school year?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) To the best of my knowledge, yes.

(3) As little as possible, and my department will take appropriate action in an endeavour to provide for the opening of the school for the 1977 school year.

26. AIR POLLUTION AT DARRA AND OXLEY

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

With regard to air pollution in the suburbs of Darra and Oxley, which has been the subject of many complaints for a considerable period of time, what were the results of the most recent tests of fall-out at the various points within those suburbs?

27. GOLD COAST SEWAGE WASTE DISPOSAL STUDY

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

(1) When will the Gold Coast Sewage Waste Disposal Study be released?

(2) What was the cost of the study?

(3) Will the study be the basis of Government policy?

(4) Is the Government considering the disposal of sewage waste into the ocean in the Gold Coast area?

Answers:—

(1) I propose to hold a meeting with representatives of the Gold Coast City Council and the Albert Shire Council on 16 December 1976 to discuss the matter. I hope to be in a position to make a submission to Cabinet after that meeting and the release of the report will then be considered.

(2) Costs of the study have not been finalised but the final cost will be approximately \$280,000, of which \$260,000 will be provided by the Commonwealth.

(3) Government policy is essentially the adoption of a scheme that will satisfy water-quality and environmental requirements and result in least cost to the rate-payers of the Gold Coast City and Albert Shire Councils.

(4) Disposal by ocean outfall is one of the alternative methods of sewage disposal canvassed by the report.

28. PARKING FACILITIES AT RAILWAY STATIONS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND BICYCLES

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

(1) At how many suburban railway stations has the Metropolitan Transit Project Board established parking facilities for motor vehicles and what is the total number of parking bays made available?

(2) In view of the increasing popularity of the bicycle, has any consideration been given by the board to the construction of bicycle shelters at suburban railway stations and, if not, could the board undertake a study of this matter?

Answers:—

(1) The Metropolitan Transit Project Board was replaced by the Metropolitan Transit Authority on 1 October 1976, and, of course, is within the ministerial ambit of the Honourable the Minister for Transport. I can inform the honourable member that the authority has completed car parks at the following sites and provided the following number of bays:—

Ferny Grove	164
Grovely	88
Mitchelton (Stage 1)	78
Gaythorne	130
Enoggera	179
Petrie	307
Strathpine	227
Bald Hills	71
Shorncliffe	81
Zillmere	116
Geebung	80
Nundah (Stage 1)	99
Total	1,620

In addition, work is in progress at:—

Salisbury	21
Woodridge	102
Oxley	41
Darra	40
Lawnton	111
Total	315

I am advised these will be completed this financial year.

(2) Bicycle rack facilities have been provided at Enoggera, Ferny Grove, Mitchelton, Nundah, Zillmere and Darra and will be provided at Gaythorne, Woodridge and Lawnton.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority recognises the need for bike racks at locations where demands are evident or growing. It has adopted, as a standard, a bike rack similar to that deployed by our State Works Department.

The authority does not see an immediate need for any further studies as the design and location of bike facilities will be carried out as a regular design activity under the interchange programme.

29. FEDERAL AID TO TOURIST INDUSTRY

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

(1) Has the present Commonwealth Government halted its financial assistance to the tourist industry, which commenced during the term of the Whitlam Government and which consisted of grants for developmental purposes to local authorities and other authorised organisations?

(2) What Queensland projects have been affected by this action and what effect will this have on our tourist industry, which is already suffering because of the encouragement being given by travel agents and others to tourists in the southern States to spend their holidays overseas?

Answers:—

(1) The Commonwealth Government's grants scheme for the development of tourist attractions was discontinued in February 1976. However, financial commitments for tourist projects approved by the Commonwealth prior to that date are being honoured.

(2) Discontinuation of the scheme has meant a considerable curtailment in the amount of funds that might have assisted some or all of the 30 Queensland projects which were submitted to the Commonwealth in November 1975 for consideration.

30. SURVEY OF PIONEER VALLEY GROUND-WATER RESOURCES

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

Has an assessment yet been made of the results of the survey of ground-water resources of the Pioneer Valley, which was to be carried out earlier this year and, if so, what are its findings and when will the report be released?

Answer:—

The information obtained from the land and water use survey conducted by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission early this year is currently being utilised to finalise the assessment of ground-water resources of the Pioneer Valley. It is anticipated that the report on the assessment will be finalised early in the new year.

31. URANIUM-MINING COMPANIES

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

(1) Has he seen a report that Peko Wallsend, an Australian company, has won a contract from the Iranian Government to prospect for uranium in Iran?

(2) Are Australian companies associated with uranium-mining now perturbed about the prospects of mining uranium in Australia and moving to overseas countries in an effort to find payable and economic deposits?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) This is possible; it can be appreciated that many Australian companies are now perturbed about the attitudes of the Trades and Labor Council and several trade unions about uranium-mining and the prospect of obtaining or renewing export licences from the Commonwealth Government for various minerals, not only uranium.

32. TRAFFIC OFFENCES, ONE-WAY STREET, BALMORAL TERRACE, EAST BRISBANE

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

(1) With reference to the article in the "Telegraph" of 22 November concerning the new one-way arrangement at Balmoral Terrace, East Brisbane, is he aware that this street was made one-way after a petition of residents had requested it because of the danger presented by two-way traffic using this exceedingly narrow street?

(2) Did police officers on 22 November book a number of motorists who followed their entrenched habit of using Balmoral Terrace as a short cut from Vulture Street to Mowbray Terrace, thereby unwittingly going against the new signs?

(3) Did police wait for motorists at the top end of Balmoral Terrace when in fact, since it was clearly anticipated that several motorists would unwittingly make an error under the new arrangements on the first day of operation, one police officer could have been stationed at the bottom end of Balmoral Terrace at its junction with Vulture Street to draw attention to the new arrangement and so prevent motorists from making an error?

(4) Would this alternative tactic have been better than booking people, more in keeping with stated Government policy, better for police/public relations, more economical of police time as it would have involved one officer only, and more in keeping with stated Government policy of preventing offences as a first principle?

(5) Will he give 15 minutes of his time to drive with me from Parliament House to Balmoral Terrace so that he can see that motorists travelling along Vulture Street could easily not see the new signs prohibiting entry into Balmoral Terrace as there is no "No Left Turn" sign, that the no-entry signs are obscured from the vision of Vulture Street motorists and that the new one-way sign could easily be mistaken to refer to Vulture Street, which is also one-way at that point?

(6) Will he investigate whether it is possible, even at this stage, to waive charges for offences committed at this site on 22 November and ensure that no one loses points for the mistake?

Answers:—

(1) I am informed that this street was made one-way on the representations of the Department of Local Government.

(2) Police did issue traffic offence notices to motorists who disobeyed the "No entry" signs in Balmoral Terrace.

(3) No. The circumstances which gave rise to the issue of the traffic offence notices were that a police motor-cyclist entered Balmoral Terrace on the morning of 22 November 1976 and whilst riding along that street found he was in danger of collision by reason of motorists illegally travelling against the flow of traffic. To avoid further dangerous hazards, action was immediately commenced by issuing traffic offence notices.

(4) Yes. However, as no prior notification was given to the Police Department by the Brisbane City Council in relation to the conversion of this street to one-way, the action taken by police in all the circumstances could be excused.

(5) Yes, I would be happy to do so. However, as the signs were erected by the local authority and as the local authority is the sole authority for the erection of such signs, the honourable member may feel that it would be more worth while if an officer from that local authority were to accompany him and hear the benefit of his representations on the siting of the signs. I understand that a police officer has already commented to an officer of the Brisbane City Council on the siting of the signs.

(6) Yes. Any person who feels aggrieved by the receipt of traffic offence notices should make application to the District Superintendent of Traffic, Herschel Street, Brisbane, for cancellation of the notice.

I have discussed this matter with the Commissioner of Police and I have requested that all necessary action be taken to ensure that the motorists concerned suffer no penalty.

I have asked the Commissioner of Police to station a police officer at the entrance to Balmoral Terrace to direct and advise those motorists who are not yet aware of the new traffic arrangements.

33. TRAVEL CONCESSIONS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AND RELATIVES

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

(1) What free or concessional fares are available to railway employees or relatives each year within Queensland and interstate?

(2) What did these concessions cost in the last financial year?

Answers:—

(1) Permanent employees of the Railway Department are entitled to—

* a station-to-station free pass for self, wife and dependent children during any period of annual leave exceeding two days;

* a point-to-point free pass for self and wife only for travel in other States at not less than 12 monthly intervals;

* privilege tickets at quarter ordinary single and return fares for self and wife and dependent children at any time, subject to a minimum fare;

* privilege season ticket at half the ordinary season ticket rate for self only.

(2) The information sought is not recorded and cannot therefore be supplied.

34, 35 GREAT AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT and 36 BUILDING SOCIETY

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

(1) Did Great Australian Permanent Building Society receive a letter from its auditors, Hungerford, dated 25 June 1975 and addressed to the Chairman of G.A.P.B.S., referring to Hungerford's letter of 12 June 1975 and seeking explanations on establishment expenses, sundry debtors and advances to members?

(2) If this letter is not on file, will he request the Registrar of Building Societies to ascertain from Hungerford if such a letter was directed to G.A.P.B.S.?

(3) If the letter can be located, did Hungerford query advances made to Coonoona P/L, Fay Fisher P/L, Nursingtown (Mt. Gravatt, Jindalee and Fanny Street), Coachwood P/L, Gotha P/L, Stratford Homes P/L, Cadiz P/L, Amco Enterprises P/L and Sunshine Investments P/L as being contrary to section 23 of the Building Societies Act?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Inquiries have been made with the administrator of Great Australian Permanent Building Society as to whether the letters referred to by the honourable member exist. The administrator is making a search of his records and if such letters are, in fact, available, I will arrange to advise the honourable member of the answers to his questions by letter.

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

(1) Has any inquiry been instituted to ascertain if cheques drawn on Great Australian Permanent Building Society have been signed by persons other than registered signatories but using registered signatories' names and thus committing forgery?

(2) Did any director have knowledge prior to December 1975 that this happening had taken place?

(3) Has the director whose name is claimed to have been misused in these forgeries been contacted to confirm that forgeries had been apparently going on within the society?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Each of these questions relates to a matter that is presently before the courts and it would be improper in the circumstances to make any comment which could prejudice any person with respect to that hearing.

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

(1) Was a list of computer balances, prepared from Great Australian and United Savings Building Societies records, used by persons canvassing for members for Finance and Co-operative Society? If so, will action be taken or instigated to lay charges under the Building Societies Act?

(2) When did Great Australian acquire the companies Madlo, Mara, Lyra, Narranx, and Nina?

(3) What amount was paid to the previous owners for the companies and who were the previous owners of the companies?

(4) In what manner were the companies used within the society's structure and were they used to split up the pay-roll and avoid pay-roll tax?

(5) Were all the directors aware of the use of the companies and the avoidance of pay-roll tax?

(6) What action will be taken to recover the amount of pay-roll tax so wilfully avoided and what action will be taken against the directors?

Answers:—

(1) No evidence of this is available at the present time. Appropriate action will be taken regarding any breaches of the Building Societies Act 1886–1976.

(2 to 6) Each of these matters is the subject of an investigation by the special auditors appointed by the Government and will be commented upon by them in their report.

37. RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL TO PROSECUTE COMPANIES DAMAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the intention of the New South Wales Government to introduce legislation that will enable individuals to prosecute companies damaging the environment?

(2) When does his Government propose to introduce similar progressive legislation?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am aware of reports in the Press of some action proposed by the New South Wales Government in relation to the matter in question, but have no detailed knowledge thereof.

As legislation in relation to the Environmental Control Council is administered by the Honourable the Premier, I would suggest that the honourable member direct his question to the Honourable the Premier.

38. FORESTRY DEPARTMENT STAFF

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

(1) Within the last twelve months, how many members of the work-force of the Forestry Department have been sacked or have left and not been replaced?

(2) Within the past twelve months, how many new executive positions have been created in the Lands Department, the Forestry Department or any other sections of his ministry?

(3) What are the positions and what is the wage paid in each case?

Answers:—

(1) A net decrease of 481 occurred in the number of wages employees of the Department of Forestry in the 12-month period from 1 October 1975 to 30 September 1976. Of this number, 242 were men temporarily employed at the beginning of the period under the Commonwealth Regional Employment Development Scheme, which subsequently was terminated.

(2 and 3) Certain restructuring within the administrative organisation of the Department of Forestry was implemented within the past 12 months in conformity with its current organisational development programme. Whilst this restructuring did not represent any increase in staff establishment, it did involve the creation of two additional positions which might be termed "executive positions" attracting salary classification of \$21,895 per annum under the Public Service Award—State. These two positions were, however, in the over-all restructuring offset by the dis-establishment of two positions attracting salary classification of \$18,470 per annum.

No new what may be termed "executive positions" have been created in the Department of Lands during the past 12 months. However, two what may be termed "executive positions" were created in the National Parks and Wildlife Service during that period, namely, Director, Management and Operations Branch and Director, Research and Planning Branch, each presently attracting a salary classification of \$19,038 per annum.

39. SUPPORT FOR QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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

(1) With reference to Budget cuts for the Australian Broadcasting Commission and recent reports that the State symphony orchestras are to be disbanded, will the Queensland Government consider giving additional financial aid to the Queensland Symphony Orchestra so as to avoid any possible disbandment and loss of work for 44 members?

(2) Will he consider approaching the large mining concerns in the State with a view to asking them to come to the aid of the arts and to support the Queensland Symphony Orchestra?

Answers:—

(1) My department has always supported the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and has this year increased support in order to service Queensland more effectively. The commitments of the Cultural Activities budget will not allow for any compensation of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra for loss of funds from other sources. Since other Australian Broadcasting Commission orchestras are in a similar position, it is felt that a solution should be sought on a nation-wide basis.

(2) Since, to date, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra is still officially an agency of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, it is felt that it would be inappropriate for me to make representations on behalf of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra to non-government sources.

40. BAN ON FLAMMABLE MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN'S NIGHTWEAR

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

(1) What Australian States have banned the sale of flammable material, namely, chenille, cotton molleton, brushed cotton, flannelette and winceyette, used in the making of children's clothing, and when were the bans introduced?

(2) Did the Labor Government in New South Wales ban these materials in November 1976?

(3) How many children have suffered serious burns as a result of night-dresses or pyjamas made of these materials catching fire?

(4) What State Government body is responsible for the testing of products thought to be dangerous?

(5) What advice has he received regarding children's flammable nightwear?

(6) Has the Government received any advice from the Standards Association of Australia in relation to possible regulations in this area?

(7) When can further severe burns and injuries be avoided by a State Government ban on the sale and manufacture of these materials in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) Victoria only. Such ban invoked the existing Australian Standard 1176 which in part relates to the Determination of Surface Burning Properties. Such standard has only recently been revised by Standards Association of Australia Committee TX/13 and it is expected to be published in the next few weeks. The ban in Victoria was introduced late in 1975. It is considered that such ban was premature. The existing standard is considered defective and all States except Victoria have been waiting for the revised standard shortly to be published.

(2) No. It is understood that New South Wales intends to bring down legislation invoking the revised standard as soon as it is available.

(3) The most recent Queensland figures available involving accidental death caused by ignition to clothing are for the year 1975, when there were no deaths in Queensland. Figures for serious burns as a result of night-dresses or pyjamas containing the materials about which the question is concerned are not available. It has always been considered that the problem is greater in the southern States owing to the colder winters and the more frequent use of heaters.

The Queensland Factories and Shops Act presently requires that children's night-clothes be clearly labelled to specify the

type of fibre or fibres contained in the garments and this label must also include a statement specifying particulars relating to the flammability of garments and warnings and instructions in accordance with Australian Standard 1249 for the Safe Design Rules for Children's Night Clothes.

(4) The C.S.I.R.O. has been the body responsible for the conducting of tests on which the Australian standards relating to the flammability of material have been based.

(5) The Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops is a member of the Standards Association of Australia Committee TX/13, which is responsible for the revising of standards relating to flammability and keeps me fully informed.

(6) This question has already been answered in my reply to (1).

(7) The matter will receive further consideration when the revised Australian standard is published.

41. PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME AND APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

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

(1) Did he attend a special meeting of State and Commonwealth Labour Ministers held in Melbourne on 12 November, which considered a report on the feasibility and cost of a full-time pre-employment programme and who accompanied him?

(2) What was the decision of the meeting, what possible schemes for training and selected trades according to manpower needs were considered and what funding was decided upon?

(3) What were the lengths of training periods decided upon and what other practicable and associated aspects were taken into account?

(4) Will decisions of this meeting affect the proposed investigation of the apprenticeship scheme and, if so, what are the effects?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I attended this meeting accompanied by the permanent head of my Department of Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs and my Press officer. The meeting discussed a report of a working party on apprenticeship arrangements and the question of Commonwealth/State co-operation in industrial relations matters. With regard to apprenticeship arrangements, it will be necessary for Ministers to have discussions with their respective Governments and to confer again before any policy pronouncements can be made. As no firm decisions have been taken at this stage by Ministers and as Queensland's Commission of Inquiry into

Apprenticeship has not yet submitted a report, the last part of the honourable member's question is hypothetical.

42. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OCCUPYING LEASED OR RENTED PREMISES

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

(1) What departments and/or sub-departments under his 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 will they 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 leasing and rental payments for premises occupied by Government departments and the staff complements for Government departments are matters for which other Ministers are responsible.

43. COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND WOMEN

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

(1) When was the women's advisory council, which was promised in his 1974 policy speech, created and who are its members?

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

(3) For how long is each member appointed to the council?

(4) What guide-lines were set for appointment to the council?

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

Answers:—

(1 and 2) The Council of Queensland Women was established in April 1975 following the recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry into the Status of Women in Queensland, and its main function was to advise the Government on those recommendations. The council, having fulfilled the purpose for which it

was established, was dissolved on 7 May 1976. I table a list of the members of the council as constituted together with a list of subjects on which it made recommendations to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. It met on nine occasions.

(3) Each member was not appointed for a specific time.

(4) Broadly, the council was representative of Queensland women. It included representation from women engaged in employment, the professions, the arts, politics, local government, community organisations, women's groups and associations, and women representing full-time mothers.

(5) See answer to (1 and 2).

Whereupon the honourable gentleman tabled the list referred to.

44. INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION REPORT ON DAIRY INDUSTRY

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

Has his Government made representations to the Liberal/National Country Party Government in Canberra in relation to the I.A.C. report on the dairy industry released on 9 September and, if so, what was the submission and what was the Commonwealth Government's response?

Answer:—

Representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government on several aspects of the I.A.C. report on the dairy industry. The report has also been discussed at length at the Australian Agricultural Council. Discussions are currently taking place between the States and the Commonwealth Government on future arrangements within the industry.

45. PERMISSION FOR BOOKMAKERS TO OPERATE OFF COURSE

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

In order to give a service to the public and to help eliminate S.P. betting where the T.A.B. refuses to operate on a Queensland race meeting, will the Government allow off-course betting for that meeting up to some period before the first race by bookmakers who are registered to operate at that meeting?

Answer:—

No.

46. STATEMENT BY MR. K. WILTSHIRE
ON PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH FACILITIES

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

(1) With reference to a statement by Mr. K. Wiltshire, a Queensland University Lecturer in Government, at a Labor College Seminar held recently that back-bench members of Parliament should have research facilities, has Mr. Wiltshire, by his irresponsible statement, cast a slur on the staff of the Parliamentary Library, who carry out a great deal of research for all members?

(2) Does the Parliamentary Library have a staff of competent graduate librarians to carry out much detailed research on behalf of all back-bench members of this Parliament?

Answers:—

(1) Naturally, I am not familiar with the text of addresses to Labor College seminars, but I would deprecate any slurs or aspersions cast on the efficiency of the Parliamentary Library staff.

(2) Yes. We all hold our Parliamentary Library staff in high regard.

47. REPORT ON CEDAR BAY RAID

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

(1) In view of his admission that a report was made on the Cedar Bay raid by the officer in charge immediately after the raid and that a copy of this report was forwarded to him, did he receive this report prior to 8 September when he claimed in this Assembly that the raid was made for the reason of apprehending an escaped prisoner or before he publicly stated that he completely supported the police actions in this instance?

(2) As the officer in charge obviously made the report in good faith, believing he had carried out this raid within the terms of the directions given to him and, as it is being claimed that this report was used as a basis for charges being laid against him and other police officers, who initially ordered the raid, who acted in a liaison capacity with the Commonwealth authorities and to whom was the report sent?

(3) Was the inspector ordered to carry out what he believed to be a search-and-destroy operation on Crown land?

(4) As it is apparent that the four police officers charged have now become political pawns, will he review his previous decision and table the report?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) As four police officers have been charged on summonses with a number of offences arising from the raid on

Cedar Bay, I do not propose answering this question or any other question on this subject pending finalisation of those court proceedings.

48. TWO POLICE OFFICERS IN ALLEGED
SARINA BASHING

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

(1) Have the two police officers alleged to have been involved in a recent incident in Sarina, when a young man had his hands handcuffed behind his back and was brutally bashed, now been transferred?

(2) If so, what was the reason for the transfers and does this administrative action relate in any way to the allegations which have been made against the officers?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) No member of the Police Force stationed at Sarina has been transferred from that centre in recent months.

49. OVERSEAS TRIP BY MINISTER FOR
JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

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

(1) With regard to his recent overseas trip, will he explain why the trip was necessary when Australia can boast of having highly respected constitutional lawyers?

(2) What are the details of the total cost of this trip?

Answers:—

(1) As the honourable member should well know, the Government is entitled to obtain its legal advice from the source of its choice.

(2) As the honourable member should also well know, ministerial expenses as verified by the Auditor-General are tabled at the appropriate time each year in this House.

50. FLEXTIME IN STATE PUBLIC SERVICE

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

(1) Following the recent introduction of flexitime by the State Public Service, what results have been achieved to date?

(2) Which departments are now included in the flexitime arrangements and what approximate proportion do these represent of the State Public Service work-force?

(3) If the results of flexitime are proving to be favourable, is it planned to expand its coverage to include the remainder of the service?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) Seven departments or sub-departments—Forestry Department, Brisbane; Department of the Public Service Board including the Office of the State Service Superannuation Board; Titles Office; Public Curator Office; Queensland Government Tourist Bureau, Brisbane; Chief Office, Department of Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs (including the Division of Occupational Safety); and the Department of Primary Industries, Indooroopilly—are working flexible working hours. These were chosen to give a wide cross-section of the Public Service. Approximately 2,100 staff are involved in these departments. It is too early since the introduction of flexible working hours to make a meaningful evaluation of the scheme but it is reasonable to state that no major problems have arisen to date. It is intended to examine the situation in depth early in 1977 and consideration will then be given to whether it should be extended to other segments of the State Public Service.

51. BEAUTIFICATION OF HIGHWAYS AND FREEWAYS

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

In view of the commendable highway landscaping being undertaken by the Main Roads Department, will he provide detailed information on freeways and other roads under his administration concerning (a) the numbers and species of trees and shrubs planted, (b) the area of grass planted and maintained and (c) the extent of funds expended on this most desirable method of upgrading the highway environment of this State?

Answer:—

It is difficult to determine such information for the whole of the State so I will refer to South-east Queensland as an example.

(a) 76 different species and about 14,500 shrubs and trees in South-east Queensland alone.

(b) The exact area is very difficult to determine since there are many natural areas maintained as landscaping. Approximate area is about 1 000 hectares in South-east Queensland along freeways and main highways alone.

(c) This work is part of normal maintenance operations and not separately costed but it would cost about \$600,000 to \$800,000 annually for upkeep and maintenance throughout the State, including mowing operations.

52. RESULTS OF TESTING OF SUN-SCREEN AGENTS

Mr. Doumany, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Is he aware of an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 9 November detailing the findings of a Commonwealth investigation of the relative effectiveness of 201 commercial preparations purported by their manufacturers to act as sun-screen agents?

(2) In view of the disturbingly high proportion of ineffective products revealed by objective testing and the inordinately high pricing structure for these preparations relative to the cost of their active ingredients, will he examine the findings of the study and take all steps necessary to protect the interests of Queenslanders, for whom these products are of particular medical importance?

(3) Will he consider introducing obligatory display of the Commonwealth test rating in plain language on every product label and issue educational information that will assist Queenslanders to know the true value of their purchase?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2 and 3) It is an offence against existing health legislation for such products to be labelled or advertised in a manner that would be false or misleading. The Anti-Cancer Council of Queensland already has grouped sun-screen preparations in accordance with their protection in a pamphlet which is freely available.

If the honourable member is concerned about a particular product and is prepared to refer details to me, I shall be only too pleased to have the matter investigated.

53. LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANTS COMMISSION

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

(1) With reference to a Government election promise from the last State election that a local authority grants commission would be appointed within a few weeks after the election, has such a commission been established?

(2) If not, does the Government still plan a grants commission along similar lines for the implementation of Fraser federalism?

(3) If so, what persons or bodies would have representation on the commission?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) A Local Government Grants Commission Bill will be introduced during the current session by the Honourable the

Deputy Premier and Treasurer, and the honourable member will then be fully informed as to the proposed constitution of the commission.

54. PRE-SCHOOL FUNDING

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

(1) Did representatives of the Queensland Government meet in Canberra on 17 November to discuss pre-school funding for the next and subsequent years?

(2) Does he anticipate a decline in future spending by the Commonwealth in this area?

(3) In view of the removal of other sources of revenue such as death duties from where and how will the State raise revenue to supplement this loss of Commonwealth funding?

(4) By what amount was the 1976-77 allocation from the Commonwealth for pre-school education reduced and what are the future expectations of the Government in this regard?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Final decisions about the level of funding in future years have not yet been made by the Commonwealth.

(3) The Government's attitude to a reduction in Commonwealth funding for pre-schools will be considered when and if a reduction in funding by the Commonwealth occurs. However, regardless of the level of Commonwealth funds in this area, I confirm that qualifying community kindergartens will continue to receive State Government assistance to a level which is at least equal in real terms to what was being provided by the State prior to the Commonwealth's entry into this field. In addition the State is committed to the continued expansion of its own pre-school system.

(4) The Commonwealth's basis of funding for pre-schools for the second half of 1976 is unchanged from that which applied in the first half. As indicated earlier, no final decisions have yet been taken on the level of funding beyond that date.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

PERANGA POLICE STATION

Mr. ELLIOTT: I ask the Minister for Police: In view of the considerable concern being expressed by residents of the Peranga district following rumours that the police station was about to be closed, will he inform me whether the Government is in fact considering such a course of action?

Mr. NEWBERY: Closure of the Peranga Police Station is not under consideration.

Mr. ACTING SPEAKER: Order! By agreement of the House, the time allotted for questions has now expired.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

CESSATION OF SAND-MINING ON FRASER ISLAND

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (12 noon): There may be some in this House who believe that, as a result of local authority boundary changes that were made earlier this year in the southern part of my electorate, Fraser Island is no longer part of the Isis electorate. However, I assure all honourable members that the electorate boundaries have not changed in any way and that Fraser Island lies wholly within my electorate.

Like other people in this place, I am getting a little sick and tired of people who talk about Fraser Island without having any knowledge of it. In fact, there are those who jump up and down and speak at length about the subject although they have been to the island only once or twice.

I believe that little can be achieved by continual emotional outbursts against the Federal Government's unwise decision a couple of weeks ago to stop sand-mining on Fraser Island. No Government, Federal or State, should automatically accept any report that is given to it, but rather it should take the report and use it as a basis for discussion. The fact that the Federal Government chose to overstep its authority on this issue and stop sand-mining without considering the future is something that we have to wear. We should accept that fact and look at positive measures to adopt for the future to overcome the adverse effects of the decision. To me it is both morally wrong and plain bad planning to allow an industry to commence and then to arbitrarily cut it off without making adequate provision for the future.

Many positive plans have been suggested. Quite rightly, the Premier has formed a Wide Bay planning committee, which has met once so far and made suggestions for future plans to employ the people who will be displaced by the decision of the Federal Government. When looking at the list of men who have been or will be displaced on 31 December by this decision, I find it extremely difficult to think of other jobs in the area which will suit their expertise. However, the fact remains that positive measures must be taken and so through this Government we have to put forward suggestions to the Federal Government which will benefit the southern end of my electorate in the long term—provided, of course, that the Federal Government accepts the suggestions.

One project which I think will be accepted is for softwood plantations to be established in the area. A number of departmental representatives recently discussed a land

use scheme for the area between the Elliott River and Gympie commonly known as the Wallum lands. A large proportion of the land is to be opened, we hope, for forestry. An area of 37 500 ha is available, and here is a golden opportunity for the Federal Government to pour money into the area in order to create employment opportunities for the people who have been forced out of work by their Fraser Island decision. The Maryborough district would thus gain a continuing and desirable industry.

Mr. Jensen: The Minister for Lands supports this, I hope.

Mr. POWELL: Yes, the Minister for Lands definitely supports it. In fact, on Friday and Saturday of last week the Minister accompanied me on a detailed inspection tour of the area, and he could speak with some knowledge of the subject.

Of course, the question of compensation to the sand-mining companies concerned arises. They have obviously spent a tremendous amount of money in setting up their operations, and had just got into top gear when they were stopped. Through the State Government I would like to make a plea to the Federal Government with regard to the accommodation units that D.M. Minerals have built on land near Second Creek. The company has a fairly large complex of buildings there which is used to house workers if they are caught on the island overnight and cannot be flown back to their homes at Hervey Bay or Maryborough. These accommodation units could be used as a National Fitness camp. For some time, National Fitness has been looking for land for a camp site on Fraser Island. The annual report of that organisation shows that it has residential camps in North Queensland, Central Queensland and the far south-eastern part of the State, but none in our area, which is commonly known as the Wide Bay area. To me, this seems to be a golden opportunity for National Fitness to obtain a camp site at a reasonable cost. The accommodation units are accessible by road using four-wheel-drive vehicles—such vehicles are needed everywhere on Fraser Island, of course—and they are also accessible by air because there is a very good airstrip fairly close to them. The site is close to the beach, and the camp could be used to enable people to study the ecology of the area. As it is close to the sand-mining operations on the island, it would give future generations of young people a chance to see where sand-mining took place and what rehabilitation had been carried out after the miners left the area. Perhaps it would provide an opportunity for training young people in the future.

While talking about Fraser Island, I cannot let the opportunity pass without making further pleas to the Government for management plans for the island. Management planning has been made even more difficult because the Government has seen fit to put

the island under two local authorities. The old Burrum Shire Council did what it could with its fairly limited resources to manage Fraser Island in a reasonable way. The fact that the island now comes under the control of two local authorities means that they have to vie with each other for its control.

I suspect that the Maryborough City Council does not realise that Fraser Island is in the Isis electorate; it does not consult me or write to me about it but if it wants support for a case for the Lands Department to do something on the island, it would be well advised to do so.

In my opinion, Fraser Island should not be in any local authority area. In saying that, I have the support of the Hervey Bay branch of the National Party, which believes that Fraser Island should be administered by a Government authority. The obvious authority, of course, is the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service. His department, having lands, forestry, national parks and wildlife under its control, in fact controls every form of land usage that could possibly be thought sensible for Fraser Island. Tourism is the industry most suitable for the eastern side of Fraser Island, but with forestry in the middle and the national park areas as well, the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service would be best able to administer the whole island.

I am aware that my suggestion is contrary to latter-day Government policy, which is that all coastal islands should come under the control of local authorities. It is obvious that the Federal Government believes that Fraser Island is a special case and I think that the island should come under the control of one Government department. Rangers could then be put onto the island. Last week-end the Minister saw the urgent need for rangers on the island to manage the camping areas. It is no good having a camping area on vacant Crown land and having a forestry ranger say, "That has nothing to do with me. That is a matter for the Lands Department", then having the Lands Department say, "We can't do anything about it. We are not there often enough." The National Parks rangers would also duck-shove. Therefore, the most sensible thing to do would be to take the island away from local authority control and put it under the control of the Minister. Then a sensible management plan for the island could be drawn up. I am concerned that, with the cessation of mining on the island, there will be those who wipe their hands of Fraser Island and try to ignore its very existence. It is a most important part of the geography of my electorate, and I should be very sad indeed if the Government did not heed the questions that are being asked and the problems that are being highlighted by people living there.

(Time expired.)

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.10 p.m.): Today I want to speak to the annual report of the Air Pollution Council of Queensland, which was tabled in this House yesterday, and of the Government's failure to control air pollution in the riverside suburbs of Brisbane as well as in some other areas of the State.

From Table 2 on page 13 of the report I extract the following figures concerning certain areas in my own electorate:—

Fallout Deposit Gauge, July 1975-June 1976
(Water Insoluble Materials)

Station	Milligrams/Metre ³ /Day	
	1975-76	1974-75
Bulimba, Lytton Road ..	Mean 59 (an increase of 8)	Mean 51
Colmslie, Lytton Road ..	103 (an increase of 9)	94
Hemmant, Lytton Road ..	87 (an increase of 6)	81
Lytton, Quarantine Station	54	..

In 1963 a Bill was introduced allowing industries the period from 1965 to 1972 to comply with its provisions. Every year since then, the council's reports indicate that the rate of fall-out in many areas of the city is increasing.

Table 3 of the annual report reveals the following information:—

Daily Sulphur Dioxide Concentrations, July 1975-June 1976

Sulphur Dioxide (Micrograms per Cubic Metre)

Site	Year			
	1975-76		1974-75	
Hemmant, Lytton Road ..	Mean 42	Max. 160	Mean 36	Max. 148
Lytton, Quarantine Station	36	178	31	101

The Canadian Minister for the Environment proposed the formulation of national sulphur dioxide air quality objectives and set down some maximum desirable levels. He set the annual arithmetic mean at 30. The mean in Hemmant was 42 and at Lytton it was 36. The Canadian maximum 24-hour concentration was 150 micrograms per cubic metre and our maximum for the year was 160. At the quarantine station the maximum was 178. Both of those figures are above the maximum desirable levels. The maximum desirable level defines the long-term goal for air quality.

Sulphur dioxide constitutes a problem. The Bulimba Power House, by polluting the area on most winter afternoons during peak hours, constitutes a problem. The annual report

says that the type of fuel that is now being burned at the Ampol Oil Refinery also poses a problem. All the report says is that this situation might have to be looked at in future.

The report states—

"Increasing sulphur dioxide levels in the metropolitan area were forecast as early as 1969-70, when the increasing use of imported high sulphur feedstock in Australian oil refineries was noted. As the use of this imported feedstock continues to increase, with a corresponding increase in the sulphur level of local fuel oil, it may be found necessary to pay even closer attention to ambient sulphur dioxide levels."

It "may be found necessary"! This was predicted in 1969-70, and since then nothing much has been done about it. The report certainly gives no reason for hoping that anything will be done about it.

I can remember reading the 1959 report on air pollution in Brisbane, which stated that the smog potential of the city of Brisbane was worse than that of the city of Los Angeles.

Under the heading "Photochemical Oxidants", the annual report says—

"The frequency of occurrence of ozone concentrations which exceed the World Health Organisation long-term goals emphasises the fact that photochemical reactions in Brisbane's air occur whenever meteorological conditions are suitable—the reactive precursors are already present in sufficient concentration to react relatively rapidly."

In other words, Brisbane has a smog potential and smog problem. On a clear morning, when the winds are not very strong, the smog potential is very great. During extremely strong sunlight, photochemical-oxidant problems can build up.

On the one hand we have growing fall-out figures and heavier sulphur dioxide concentrations and, on the other, a failure by the Government to implement the provisions in the Act. I know that the other night the Minister introduced an amendment to the air-pollution control legislation. I wonder what help that amendment will be.

I think it would be helpful to refer to a couple of reports from the Air Pollution Council of Queensland. First, I refer to the 1974-75 report dealing with "Implementation of Clean Air Legislation", where it says—

"In November 1973 two Companies which had persistently ignored requests to comply with Clean Air Regulations were served notices under section 32 of the Clean Air Act.

In June 1975 a brickworks which had also ignored requests to comply with the Clean Air Regulations was served notice under section 28 of the Clean Air Act."

We have two reports. In one section we had two complaints and in the other section we had one complaint. In 1975-76, we are presented with the same story. The report reads—

“During the year three Companies which had been reluctant to comply with the Clean Air Regulations were served with notices under section 28 of the Clean Air Act.”

It is time that we started to prosecute some of these people. If we don't start soon we will face major problems in the future. A major problem is already developing in these areas. With the new port coming to the area, additional major industrial areas are being zoned. My own area got a special mention in the report. This passage is found under the heading “Odours”—

“Nearly 30 per cent of the total number of complaints received by the Division were about odour. As in previous years these objectionable odours were usually from industries situated near residential areas and associated with animal products, and included the treatment and disposal of liquid wastes.”

In my area there are two abattoirs, two bacon factories, a poultry-processing works, a rendering-down works, two hide-drying yards, a hide treatment plant, a tannery and stockyards. All of these industries create odours. The report says—

“The Lytton-Hemmant-Murarie-Tingalpa area is notorious for odours largely because meatworks and associated industries have been concentrated in the area. . .”

The point is made that the problem has been aggravated in the past few years by the growth of a housing estate between Wynnum Road and Greenslades Street, Tingalpa which is near the tannery. The point is that people are already there. It is useless to say, as was said in last year's report and again in this year's report, that we intend to talk to the city council or other people to ensure that in the future houses do not encroach on the factories or that factories do not encroach on the houses. What is intended for the people who are there now? Any local resident who has to sit down in his house at night or anyone who drives through the area at a time of the day when the rendering plants and other places are discharging polluted matter into the air will not accept the excuse that the Government intends to do something about some other area later on and will not let it happen again. People who spend \$30,000 or \$40,000—all of their life's savings—on homes want to know what the Government intends to do now under the Clean Air Act.

It is useless having these Acts if they are not enforced. It is no good saying that people did not comply or that people have been “reluctant to comply” with the Clean Air regulations. We all have to comply with

regulations. The average working man has to obey the rules of the road; he is not allowed to drive while drunk; and he is not allowed to exceed the speed limit. In other words, he has to comply with the rules. We passed Acts in this Parliament and gave industry years and years to comply with them. We have not been difficult; we started to discuss this problem in 1959 and introduced the Act in 1963, but did not start taking action till 1965 and then we gave industry until 1972, some seven years later, to comply with the Act. It is now November 1976.

If we go through the reports, we see the same complaints about the same areas time after time. It is not good enough. The latest report shows very clearly that the Government has failed to implement the Act; that it has failed to protect the environment; and that it has failed to provide clean air for the people in this and many other areas.

Smog does not affect only the people in Lytton or down near the oil refineries. All of us will be affected. Pollution caused by cars must be faced up to. We are still having trouble setting up the monitoring equipment to make sure that we can determine the levels of carbon monoxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere. The Federal Government itself—the Liberal-National Country Party Government—gave us no money at all this year towards monitoring equipment. So all we can see is a failure to comply with the regulations and a failure to stand up for the people who count—the men and women who are being polluted out of their homes.

ELECTIONS ACT LOOP-HOLES

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (12.20 p.m.): I rise to speak in this debate today because I am particularly concerned about loop-holes in the Elections Act. I think that this piece of advice is timely and that the Government should act by holding a full-scale inquiry into legal voting and looking very carefully at the Elections Act itself.

The opportunities for malpractice in registration on the electoral roll are extremely wide and I personally feel some trepidation about the way in which our democracy functions—not according to procedures in this House only but according to enrolments on the electoral roll. The form for registration on the electoral roll does not provide for proof of identity. It would be quite feasible for a person to enrol 10 times or more, as long as he gets a J.P. to witness his signature. We all know that some people are clever enough to enrol up to 12 or 14 times. We are leaving the field open for organised political chicanery with electoral rolls, and organised misuse of them on a scale that I do not dare to imagine.

I am particularly concerned that this is in fact happening. In a random check of the roll for my own electoral district, I found three instances of the same person at the same address having entries one under the other. One person enrolled just prior to the Federal election and again just prior to the council election. He had his name on the roll twice. That is particularly frightening, and I stress that I was not making a detailed check of the electoral roll; I just happened to find them. At the beginning of the year I met people who were enrolled but who were visiting Queensland for only three weeks. I would like to know how they got onto the roll and why they were not questioned, particularly as they had not met the residential qualifications.

The Electoral Office recently made a check of the electoral roll. In excess of 80,000 letters were sent out. I believe that that in fact has been a foolhardy waste of public money, because the methods used were most inadequate. A constituent of mine supplied me with a letter received from the Electoral Office. He thinks that the Electoral Registrar's methods of determining the information are highly suspect. In fact, he received a letter implying that he had moved from his own residence. He has been a resident of the area for 14 years, and has been on the electoral roll all that time. The letter said that, because the Electoral Registrar had not heard from him for 21 days, it was assumed that he was not now living at that abode. The constituent wrote to the registrar and said that his letter was a whole lot of twaddle; that he had been there all the time; that no-one had been to check; that no-one had spoken to him personally; and that he in fact was not given time to make a written reply. I have here the reply that came from the State Electoral Office. I will not read all of it, but in part it says—

"Following an investigation conducted, as a result of your letter, it was found that due to a clerical error which occurred within this office, the Form M1 was inadvertently forwarded to you.

"I wish to advise that your name will be retained on the State Electoral Roll for the Electoral District of Salisbury".

That is not good enough. The names of the man, his wife, and any other person living in that house who was entitled to vote could have been scrubbed off the electoral roll without the person's knowledge, had that person been overseas, ill or unable to reply to that letter. I believe that there are many such instances. It is quite frightening that it is occurring.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Why don't we emulate the other States and have the one roll—the Commonwealth roll? We have two rolls in Queensland.

Mrs. KYBURZ: That is a very good idea. Obviously if a person is entitled to be on an electoral roll, he should be entitled to be on the State and Federal rolls.

Mr. Tenni: That's the first sensible thing he's said.

Mrs. KYBURZ: No, it isn't. He has made a very good suggestion about the registration of swimming-pool contractors, but that is another matter.

We need identification cards and we need them now. It is time that people stopped being frightened of being numbered. After all, we have the iniquitous Medibank card. I think that people are quite used to them now. What we need is an identification card with a photograph on it to prove not only who a person is but also where he lives. If identification cards were issued, a lot of petty fraud would be cut out. I noticed in a Press article last week that Bankcard frauds were on the increase. A lot of thieving is going on; people are stealing wallets containing credit cards and, of course, credit cards can be used so easily. I myself know that because I am very rarely questioned in stores—and I could be using anyone's credit card. We need to have proof of identity not only for police purposes but also for cashing cheques and so on.

I am particularly concerned at the need for proof of identity in stipulations under the Elections Act. It is a fairly tight Act; there is no doubt about that. But the provisions covering residency are not being met. Obviously the Electoral Office does not have enough staff. We are considering legislation to involve the Electoral Office in industrial ballots and that sort of thing. If it is incapable of keeping adequate rolls within the State, I do not see that the Electoral Office would be capable of performing that task. What we need is a complete revision of the Elections Act section by section.

Under section 31 of the Elections Act, if a person objects to another person's name being on the roll, he is entitled to have that name struck off. The provisions regarding the Electoral Registrar sending out a letter are so loose and wide that it is not funny. In this regard a great deal of chicanery is going on, with some corrupt little people seeing if and how they can undermine various rolls. Under section 26A it is quite easy to determine whether a person shall be given a vote when he turns up at a polling booth. The discrimination against certain people that occurred during the last election caused many upsets.

I think it is time that we as a Government made a decision to close the loop-holes in the Elections Act. We should push the Federal Government into a scheme of identification cards and even go so far as to suggest one roll. We should have a system under which a person is on one roll and one roll only, and then only once on the roll. There would then be none of this business of a name appearing once, twice or three times. People should be required to provide proof of identity and residency before their names

are put on the roll. We would then know that names would appear once and once only.

CRISIS IN WOOL AND BEEF INDUSTRIES

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (12.29 p.m.): In rising to speak in this debate on *Matters of Public Interest*, I wish to draw to the attention of this Parliament what I term the desperate plight of rural industries in western areas and in particular the plight of beef producers throughout the whole of the nation. I think that most people in the beef industry are appreciative of the measures that have been undertaken in the recent State Budget, such as the reduction in cattle land rentals, the reduction in stock returns from 15c per head to 10c per head, the rural reconstruction money that has been made available, the reduction in road permit fees and the fact that there was no increase in the cattle rail freight rates.

A desperate situation exists in western areas. It is not affecting only the rural industries; it is also affecting the towns, the businesses, the job opportunities and the employment of people in western areas. A tremendous number of station hands and station workers have been laid off in recent years as a result of the crisis in the wool and beef industries.

Unfortunately the concept that most city-based people have of graziers is completely wrong. In most cases it is a figment of their vivid imagination. It is a pity that more people do not acquaint themselves with the true position of people in western areas.

Let us therefore look at the real circumstances of rural producers. For this purpose, I should like to quote figures produced by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics and contained in its quarterly review of January 1976. Real farm income is shown as having decreased from \$1,930 million in 1973-74 to less than half that figure—\$854,000,000—in 1975-76, and the estimated rural debt in 1975 was \$2,445 million. Average weekly earnings for the March quarter of 1976 in Queensland are shown as \$165.80, which compares with an average of \$97 in 1972-73. Those figures give an indication of the way in which things are going for primary producers.

I propose now to quote from "The Australian" of 29 October 1976—

"Farm incomes this financial year are expected to fall by 36 per cent, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

"The bureau's latest estimate of incomes is 9 per cent lower than the level calculated only three months ago.

"Income per farm for 1976-77 is expected to be \$6545, which, when indexed to take account of inflation, puts the average farm 36 per cent worse off than last year. . . .

"In the June quarter, the bureau gave forecasts for the 1976-77 year showing an expected drop in farm income of 27 per cent."

I should like to stress that rural industries do not have the same protection as that afforded other industries.

One point I make very strongly is that the greatest burden imposed on producers is the interest rates charged on loan money, irrespective of whether it is obtained from banks, brokers, the Rural Reconstruction Board or any other source. One of the greatest sufferers in this respect is the cattle producer. I believe that the Premier has approached the Federal Government in an attempt to secure a reduction in interest rates for cattle producers. I understand that as late as this morning he spoke to Mr. Sinclair on this matter, but to no avail.

It is not my desire to become involved in Federal Government bashing. However, I understand that the Cattlemen's Union estimated that it would cost the Federal Government \$10,000,000 to decrease all interest rates for one year for cattle producers who derive 80 per cent of their income from cattle for that specific year. That may seem a high figure, but it is not so high when compared with the figure of \$29,000,000 quoted in the Press recently as the extra amount needed to build two ships at Newcastle so that some militant unionists in the shipbuilding industry can continue in employment. I believe they have refused that offer.

Mrs. Kyburz: They're mad.

Mr. TURNER: I do not know if they are mad; however, I am trying to compare the amount needed to help the major industry in the area that I represent with the amount that the Federal Government was prepared to make available to the shipbuilding industry. I think that somehow and somewhere we have our priorities wrong. I am appealing for funds to help an industry that does not go on strike. It is an industry that has been burdened with crippling rate and rental payments.

I appreciate that local authorities have received more money this year under the present tax-sharing scheme, but I still think that the amount made available is inadequate. Until more funds are allocated to local authorities, particularly those in western areas, to allow them to relieve the iniquitous burden that has been loaded onto rural producers who have not the capacity to meet it, we will continue to go the wrong way. Rural industries are in desperate need of financial assistance or devaluation. This is a matter that the Federal Government should consider in the near future.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: They exist on sympathy and subsidy.

Mr. TURNER: I am pleased to hear the honourable member for Archerfield express his thoughts on rural industries.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. TURNER: The honourable member for Bundaberg must have been injured in the Bundaberg storm. We usually hear an outburst from him when anyone makes any mention of rural industries. His thoughts about rural industries are on record.

Mr. JENSEN: I rise to a point of order. I have often said that the cattle industry produces export income. It is the bludgers—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! That is not a valid point of order. The honourable member will resume his seat.

Mr. TURNER: I thank the honourable member for Bundaberg for supporting me. It is really remarkable that he should support the industry.

Many of the people who have been caught up in the rural depression in western areas are what I would term victims of circumstance. Most of these producers are good managers and good workers who some years ago were caught up in the cycle of droughts and poor prices in the wool industry and virtually forced to go into cattle as cattle were bringing a reasonable return at that time. When I say that they were forced into it, I think in many ways their financiers—their brokers and bankers—recommended that funds were available if they wished to move into beef production. No-one could foresee the level to which prices would drop when the beef industry slumped. I think a lot of people ended up in the same position. I would say that the biggest problems they have at present are high interest rates and an inability to meet their commitments. Fortunately for these people, the seasons have been fairly good, otherwise the majority of them would have walked off their properties before now.

While I am discussing rural products I think I should mention the wool-bale dispute which has been going on for some months now. One might say that the storemen and packers have been holding the industry to ransom. The Arbitration Commission has recommended that the storemen and packers handle bales of a certain weight. The union leaders have okayed it and recommended that the men handle the bales, but the storemen and packers themselves have refused to handle the bales and are defying the Arbitration Commission and the instructions of their own union leaders.

Mr. Houston: Your Government has told the men not to take notice of their union leaders. You have abused union leaders many times in this House.

Mr. TURNER: I have never abused any union leader in this House. I have always tried to make a sensible contribution. I was pointing out the effect that this dispute is having on the wool industry. If the honourable member wants to talk about unions, we could mention the problems confronting

industries right throughout the nation, such as strikes over the Newport Power Station and bans on the mining and export of uranium. Even former union leaders such as Sir John Egerton have now changed their tune and are coming out on side and speaking against the bans on the export of uranium.

I appeal to both this Government and the Federal Government to give serious consideration to doing something about interest rates for beef producers in western areas, because if something is not done in the immediate future to help these people meet their commitments a tremendous number of producers and their families will be forced off the land. This is occurring at the moment in Western Queensland. This affects not only the grazier and his wife and children but the industry in general and, as one of the major food-producing nations of the world, Australia cannot afford to let this happen in a world in which people are starving. I appeal to everyone to do what they can to alleviate the plight of the cattle producer.

Mr. Houston: Get your Federal and State Governments to do something.

Mr. TURNER: Even the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would concede that some of our problems were brought about by the Federal Labor Government when it was in power.

Mr. Houston: You were in trouble prior to 1972, and you know it.

Mr. TURNER: We got into more trouble in Labour's term.

Mr. Houston: No, you didn't.

Mr. TURNER: My jolly word we did, and when the people went to the polls they showed what sort of trouble we had been driven into by the Federal Labor Government. They showed it in 1975.

(Time expired.)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BAN ON SAND-MINING ON FRASER ISLAND

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (12.40 p.m.): I rise this morning to offer some further comments on the continuing scandalous saga of the Federal Government ban on sand-mining on Fraser Island. As I have said before in this House, it was a dreadfully immoral decision by the Federal Government. It was a political decision made on supposedly environmental grounds, and I will have some more to say about that later.

One of the things that have emerged from this and incensed some people in my electorate—and more will be incensed when the facts are made known—is the absolute hypocrisy of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tom Burns), the Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and the so-called friend of the workers. I do not think it was generally known until the Deputy Premier and Treasurer let it be known in the House

last Thursday that in the Maryborough Warden's Court in May 1971 Mr. Tom Burns gave evidence against sand-mining on Fraser Island. On that occasion, he gave evidence on behalf of the A.L.P. and spoke very strongly against the application for a mining lease.

Mr. Houston: Why don't you tell all the facts?

Mr. ALISON: All the facts will come out, if the honourable member will only shut up for a moment.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! Persistent interjections from the honourable member for Bulimba will not be tolerated.

Mr. ALISON: I can well understand the honourable member's getting a little bit upset. This is the first time I have broached the matter, but now he is going to cop the lot. I ask him to sit quietly in his place.

So we have Mr. Tom Burns, on behalf of the A.L.P., opposing the granting of a mining lease in the first place. Fair enough; that is his right. But it is the events that have followed which have sickened the people of Maryborough, and many more of them will be sickened when I give them the full facts.

During the battle in the last six or 12 months, the Leader of the Opposition did nothing to keep the industry there. He kept quiet and, to the best of my knowledge, was busily engaged in the background, hand in hand with the preservationists. He kept very quiet about that because he was trying to have five bob each way. By his quietness, he was allowing it to be thought that he was in favour of having the industry there. He had to do that, of course, because hundreds and hundreds of workers were involved. But, at the same time, he was working in the background with the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Fraser Island Defence Organisation. This is the alternative Premier of this State, Mr. Deputy Speaker! He is a hypocrite and a humbug, and the people of this State should know that. Not only did he not do anything to keep the industry there; he busily worked against it through the preservation organisations.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. ALISON: When the battle was over, he had the hide to come to Maryborough unannounced. Of course, he did not even have the courtesy to tell me, the local member, that he was coming, but I am used to such treatment from members of the Opposition.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ALISON: He came up there, making soothing noises and shedding crocodile tears all over the footpath, showing sorrow for the Maryborough workers. What a hypocrite!

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I draw the attention of the honourable member for Bulimba to Standing Order 123A. I have already warned him about persistent interjections.

Mr. ALISON: However, I should like to give credit where it is due, and I congratulate the honourable member for Nudgee and the honourable member for Bundaberg, both of whom made reasoned statements on this controversial issue. As I recall it, they were both in favour of controlled sand-mining, and that is a rational approach.

Of course, the A.L.P. is in a cleft stick. It knows what it should be saying politically, but because of its policy it cannot do so.

Mr. Frawley: The honourable member for Nudgee has been told not to make any more statements.

Mr. ALISON: I understand that is correct.

The honourable member for Isis mentioned earlier in the debate that Fraser Island is in the Isis electorate. I acknowledge that here and now and nobody has ever contended that he is not the member for Isis. By the same token, Fraser Island affects my electorate more than any other electorate in Queensland, and although I respect Mr. Powell as the member for Isis and also respect his views, neither he nor anyone else can expect me to remain silent on matters of vital importance to the workers in my electorate; I shall continue to represent them on this issue.

The people of Maryborough are not stupid and they are greatly concerned about the welfare of Fraser Island if for no other reason than the economic one that the jobs of many workers are dependent on it and they do not want to see it damaged. It is as simple as that. In addition, of course, the people of Maryborough understand the island better than any other community in Australia.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. ALISON: I will give some figures shortly showing the number of workers in my electorate who are dependent on the sand-mining industry. Probably 700 or 800 workers in my electorate and surrounding areas depend on the timber industry.

Mr. Frawley: It will be the next one.

Mr. ALISON: I know it will be the next one. The honourable member for Rockhampton is a strong supporter of Dr. Mosley. He is working in the background through the Fraser Island Defence Organisation and the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The two big sawmills in Maryborough obtain over 50 per cent of their supplies of timber from Fraser Island. The tourist industry, too, which is developing rapidly, will be affected. Perhaps the effect will be felt more in Hervey Bay than in my electorate; nevertheless there is a flow-on to my electorate.

I congratulate the Premier on the stand that he has taken in this whole fight. He is doing all he can on behalf of this State. At his behest, last Monday a meeting was held at the Co-ordinator-General's Department, attended by the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services and member for Gympie (Hon. Max Hodges), the member for Isis (Mr. Powell), the Federal member for Wide Bay (Mr. Millar) and officials from both the Co-ordinator-General's Department and the Treasury Department. Early in the piece it was decided that our main objective was to consider the welfare of the people who were hurt and the areas that were hurt by this rather stupid and immoral decision arrived at by the Federal Government. Therefore we decided to look for ways and means of providing employment in the immediate area, that is, the local government areas of Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Widgee. This made sense to me.

It is interesting to note that Dillingham Murphys has 213 employees, of whom 147 live in my electorate and 66 live in Hervey Bay. These are the people for whom the Leader of the Opposition is now shedding crocodile tears. He professes to have concern for them. The facts, of course, will come out eventually.

The immediate subcontractors engaged by Dillingham Murphys have 37 employees, of whom 25 come from my electorate and 12 from Hervey Bay. I understand that Q.D.M. has 132 employees, of whom 99 come from Tin Can Bay and 33 from Gympie. There are also the subcontractors. These figures show that something like 400 to 500 workers are directly involved in sand-mining and subcontracting. But that is not the whole story; there are all the back-up services and facilities.

Last Monday we agreed on certain projects that should be undertaken and we are to have a meeting in the next day or two, after which the State Government's submission will be put to the Federal Government. I ask that the Federal Government arrive at a favourable decision quickly. We do not want any more of this business of the Federal Government going through the list with a red pen and telling us how to run our affairs. We have enough of that now. I am quite confident that the State Government can look after its affairs and is capable of recommending to the Federal Government those projects that will produce employment immediately and follow-on projects that will create employment in both the mid and long term. I ask the Federal Government to accept this list and to engage in a little bit of this co-operative federalism about which we have heard so much—though not over the past few weeks.

The Federal Government's decision has caused unnecessary hardship to a large number of people. What sickens me is the Federal Government's claim that its decision is based on environmental considerations. What utter hog-wash. It's nothing of the sort. It is nothing more than a political

decision. So let us have the facts. Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Fraser Island have been sold out as a sop to the preservationists.

Earlier this year—I think it was at the beginning of March—Mr. Fraser demanded that the report on Fraser Island be handed down by the end of March together with other reports. What happened? The whole thing was forgotten quite conveniently and then the report was brought out in the same week as the Ranger inquiry report. As I say, the truth is out. It is absolute hog-wash to claim that the decision was based on environmental considerations. It is based on politics, and we are not going to wear it at all.

The honourable member for Isis referred to a plan of management. I go along with it, and in fact it is included in our community submission, which I tendered to the Premier and the Treasurer last week. Before any work of any consequence is undertaken on the island a plan of management should be drawn up.

(Time expired.)

F.N.C.B.—WALTONS

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.50 p.m.): The issue I raise today concerns a firm known as F.N.C.B.—Waltons. The selling techniques adopted by it, the interest rates charged by it and the policy that it has adopted towards many of its thousands of unfortunate customers indicate quite clearly that it would be one of the most despicable commercial enterprises operating in this nation. I am sure that, like me, many honourable members have received a number of complaints about its selling techniques, its exorbitant interest rates and its accounting system.

Some time ago an investigation was carried out through the nation by a group of interested people. Fortunately they were able to obtain certain documents—documents that had been used to train Waltons travellers or their sales representatives. These documents now substantiate all the accusations made against this firm over a long time. The investigators were so thorough they produced what is now known as the "Waltons Survival Kit". I recommend that all honourable members and customers of Waltons get a copy of this and digest it because they will learn something. Much to the embarrassment of this firm, the documents prove exactly what goes on. They are used to train the representatives; they are used in the actual sales process and they prove beyond doubt that there is a continuing rip-off of thousands of Australians.

One such document entitled "Loan Applications, Unsecured Advance", which is used in the Sydney area, clearly states that the interest rate is 48 per cent per annum, simple. In Queensland we have another system called the "Easy Payment Plan". The interest charged is 15 per cent on a reducing annual

balance. But that rate increases to 18 per cent if a customer uses what is called the "Add-on" plan. The 15 per cent and the 18 per cent do not seem so high, but when converted to the true annual rate the interest becomes 31 per cent over a one-year period or approximately 30 per cent over a three-year period.

But it does not stop there! On going through the documents presented to me, I found that further interest was payable on arrears. That is stated in the very fine print of the contract. If a person is a fair amount in arrears, interest is calculated at the rate of 1.75c in the dollar, which means additional interest of almost 21 per cent. The additional interest is usually added in the form of what is termed a "Request for Indulgence", which is really an extension of the time to pay under the contract.

I shall cite an example because examples are needed to explain things properly. One customer, whom I shall refer to as Mrs. L, owed \$1,481.02. She is an invalid pensioner and was unable to continue to pay her account off at \$12 a week. In the circumstances she signed a "Request for Indulgence" so that her payments could be lowered and the period extended. The additional interest added immediately was \$504.90. She will never get out of Waltons' clutches. She is one of thousands. She is stuck with Waltons until she enters the grave.

Another questionable practice used by Waltons is called "Add-on". This entails the rewriting of a contract each time a new item is purchased. The results are very simple. A higher interest rate is charged, with extended time to pay, but the new purchase hides the arrears. No-one knows exactly what he owed before. To take another example, when this person purchased a new item under the "Add-on" plan, the previous arrears were \$173. This sum disappeared automatically. No-one could find on any document where the amount in arrears was shown. The new debt was \$314, on which the interest was \$97.72. That is typical of what is going on. Thousands of people in every honourable member's electorate are being caught; they are being tied down. That is typical of Waltons' practices when extending credit.

Not only are people being forced to extend the payment periods but also Waltons pressure them into buying further goods. This leads me to the high-pressure tactics used. I intend to quote from a document that I am prepared to table, namely, the "Travellers Field Manual", at page 108. It is headed "Credit Sales Promotion", and reads, in part—

"The function of Credit Sales Promotion in a Unit is as the name implies—the promotion of Credit Sales, i.e.

(a) To prevent customers from settling out their accounts."

So the first part is designed to prevent customers from finalising their accounts.

Part (c) reads—

"To promote Add-On, incorporating 'Open to Buy' on household merchandise."

Part (f) is worded in these terms—

"To encourage customers to re-open settled accounts."

Mrs. Kyburz: Table them.

Mr. WRIGHT: I shall do so. People can have them.

I shall now refer to "Settled Accounts", which were dealt with at page 116 of the document in these terms—

"Obviously the sound approach to this problem" (that is, the settling of accounts) is to prevent accounts settling out by taking aggressive action when the danger signs appear balance under \$40.00 or less than 12 weeks instalment outstanding . . ."

So we are told that the moment a person's debt reduces to \$40, or to 12 outstanding instalments, the pressure is put on—screw them in so that they stay with Waltons and are still buried.

We go on to the "Request for Indulgence". I am reading from page 92—

"This request offers the Travellers a valuable weapon to eliminate arrears and consolidate potential delinquent accounts. It is essential at all times that the Request for Indulgence be correctly explained and sold to customers leaving the impression"—

note the terminology—

"that this is a privilege being granted by the Company and consequently creating goodwill between the Traveller, the Company and the customer."

It goes on—

"Should the customer refuse the Request for Indulgence it must be emphasised that additional charges will be added to the existing arrears thus jeopardising future credit rating on the account."

It is total blackmail. It is the type of tactics we expect in a dictatorship, but certainly not in a country such as Australia.

I wish to refer now to page 76, where the company starts talking about "Add-ons". Again I quote the document—

"It is the traveller's responsibility to evaluate each one of his customers and to decide what weekly commitment he considers the customer can handle. For example Mrs. Brown may be able to pay \$10 per week while Mrs. Smith may be able to only pay \$2 per week. Add-on should not be introduced to these customers until they are committed to us to this extent."

Again the story goes on of people being totally tied down—of people being screwed until they have no other way of getting out of their debt.

I mention another aspect of Waltons' technique—store currency. I read from page 67—

“When possible discourage customers from returning Store Currency. Sell the benefits of always having S.C. on hand so the customer has immediate purchasing power without using cash or without calling at the office for a S.C. issue.”

I know of one case in this city where a woman was given \$300 in store currency. She bought an article for about \$200 and was refused any money back on that store currency. She had to keep it and spend it. This is the type of thing that is going on all the time.

Let me turn to another aspect of Waltons' operations. Talk about bias when it comes to blatant racism! The company has a special migrant panel. A special form is to be completed when the migrant is non-British, when he has resided in Australia for less than two years and when he is not naturalised. These questions must be asked.

The final point I wish to make relates to a person who is in arrears. If we turn to the relevant pages in the document, we find that the travellers are expected to gather all sorts of information. I quote from page 94—

“Note on the back of the customer's additional information”—

“T/A”, as it calls it—

“any personal information that you learn from the customer in the course of your normal call.”

I ask honourable members to listen to this additional information—car make, model and number; son works at so-and-so; and children attend a certain school. It goes on and on. When, however, a customer is in arrears, the traveller is told to check out all these things. He is told to check garbage cans, told to inquire from local neighbours, and told to contact all sorts of people, such as the employers.

This is a total invasion of privacy. The part about this that is wrong is that Waltons works under the Money Lenders Act and so we have no control over it. It threatens people; it intimidates people; it threatens to repossess the goods (and most people should know it has no right to do that); and it sends all sorts of threatening letters. It sends summonses. It threatens to garnishee. It has thousands of people in this State by the neck, and I believe it is time this Government took a hand in the matter. The Waltons enterprises should be thoroughly investigated; there should be a public exposure of the scandal that is taking place.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.