

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 9 DECEMBER 1976

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

REPORT OF TREATIES COMMISSION

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the first report of the Treaties Commission.

Ordered to be printed.

PAPERS

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

Report of the Department of Forestry for the year 1975-76.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Mining Act 1968-1976.

City of Brisbane Act 1924-1974.

Regulations under—

Mining Act 1968-1976.

Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913-1976.

Ordinance under the City of Brisbane Act 1924-1974.

Resolutions adopted at the Australian Constitutional Convention held in Hobart in October, 1976.

PETITION

BUDGET ALLOCATION TO BOARD OF ADULT EDUCATION

Mr. POWELL (Isis) presented a petition from 226 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will provide an increased budget allocation to the Board of Adult Education to allow it to fully meet the growing public demand for its services.

Petition read and received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. POLLUTION CONTROL, LYTTON ELECTORATE

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

(1) What is the reason for the continuing problems with the pollution-control equipment at the Metropolitan Abattoir premises at Cannon Hill?

(2) What was the cost of this plant?

(3) Is it of sufficient size to handle the effluent discharged to it?

(4) Has it operated without breakdown since its installation and, if not, on what dates and times was it out of order?

(5) When will the equipment be capable of handling the polluted waste of the works?

(6) When can local residents expect relief from the foul odours that have polluted the area since the new works were opened?

(7) Have any orders been placed on this works or any other industry or factory in the Cannon Hill/Murarie/Tingalpa area? If so, what were the orders and when were they to be completed?

(8) What are the names of the companies which have been licensed to discharge under the Clean Air and Clean Waters Acts in the Lytton area, what permit fees do they pay and what limits are placed on their discharges?

Answer:—

(1 to 8) The honourable gentleman will appreciate that the matters raised by him require a good deal of research. The matters are being researched, and when this is completed I will advise him by letter of the outcome.

2. REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO DAIRY INDUSTRY

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

Because of the wide public interest of dairymen throughout the State in the findings and recommendations of the inquiry into the dairy industry, which was to be handed to him on 26 November, will he table the report in this Parliament, make it available for public discussion to interested dairy organisations and advise the House of any decision or recommendation that has been adopted by the Government?

Answer:—

The report of the committee of inquiry into the Queensland dairy industry has been presented to Cabinet. After discussing the report with dairy industry organisations I propose to recommend to Cabinet what action should be taken to implement the recommendations made in the report.

The matter of the release of the report and its tabling in Parliament will be decided by Cabinet.

3. ENLARGING OF CAIRCROSS DOCK

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

With reference to his answer to my question on 19 October seeking the widening and lengthening of Cairncross Dock, in which he said the estimated cost was in excess of \$5,000,000 and that it could not be justified economically—

(1) In the light of the Premier's promise to widen and lengthen the dock, rejecting economic considerations in return for certain union assurances, will he reconsider his refusal to widen and lengthen Cairncross Dock and remove the threatened \$5 per man-day levy on contractors using the dock?

(2) Has his department considered following the lead set by the Victorian Government and providing dry-dock facilities free of the cost of interest charges to contractors and, if so, with what result?

(3) What was the total number of (a) painters and dockers, (b) shipwrights, (c) engine drivers, (d) metal workers, (e) carpenters, (f) foremen, supervisors, managers and (g) office staff employed at this dock in each of the last two years?

Answers:—

(1) I should remind the honourable member that at no stage have I refused to widen and lengthen Cairncross Dock. However, I must repeat my comment of 19 October last that expenditure of an estimated \$5,000,000 for this purpose by the port authority cannot be justified economically.

(2) No.

(3) The average number of persons employed by the Harbours Corporation for Brisbane over the last two years was—

(a) Painters and dockers—	
Minimum	30
Maximum	100
(b) Shipwrights	12
(c) Engine drivers	8
(d) Metal workers	64
(e) Carpenters	Nil
(f) Foremen, supervisors, managers	13
(g) Office staff	14

4. MANUAL ARTS AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE BLOCKS, CLERMONT STATE SCHOOL

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

As the manual arts block and domestic science block for the Clermont State School were promised before the last State election, what can he do to have them constructed?

Answer:—

Tenders have been invited, closing 14 December 1976, for the erection of a modular building for home economics and manual arts at the Clermont State School. Another winner for the honourable member!

5. ALPHA STATE SCHOOL

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

What works are planned for the Alpha State School?

Answer:—

Additions and alterations are listed for consideration in the framing of the 1977-78 works programme.

6. NEW LIBRARY BLOCK, EMERALD

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

Will a new library block be provided in Emerald and will a local contractor be given preference?

Answer:—

As indicated to the honourable member in my letter dated 2 December 1976 following his personal representations to me, Executive Council approval was given on that date for an expenditure of \$73,060 to enable the acceptance of a tender for \$61,490 from Morobe Constructions (Qld) Pty. Ltd., Emerald, for the erection of a library block at the Emerald State School.

7. CLAIM ON MR. P. WHIPPLE, LESSEE
LANGLANDS PARK SWIMMING-POOL

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

(1) Is he aware of the discrimination being exercised against Mr. Peter Whipple, proprietor of the Langlands Park swimming-pool, whereby the Brisbane City Council is insisting on the payment of \$1,300, being the cost of lease on the pool for a period of several weeks following the Australia Day floods of 1974 when that pool was out of operation as a result of the floods?

(2) Is the council in the unfair position of being able to hold Mr. Whipple to ransom in that the pool's return to operation depended upon the promptness of council maintenance?

(3) Is it immoral for the council to be insisting upon payment of this lease cost during a period when the proprietor could not operate as the council had not restored damaged plant?

(4) Will he use his influence to persuade the council to waive the collection of the money for the period that the pool was not able to operate in 1974?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) It is astounding that the council should have imposed these charges after one of the worst floods experienced in Brisbane. I am prepared to refer the matter to the council for its advice on the reasons for these charges, and after considering its representations in its discussions with me I will convey the decision to the honourable member by letter.

8. MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR STATE
ARCHIVES

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

As the function of the State Archives is only very remotely connected with education and as this institution houses the records of the history of the development and progress of the people and Governments of Queensland, will he consider the possibility of placing the responsibility for State Archives under the more appropriate Department of the Premier?

Answer:—

The point made by the honourable member is acknowledged and he may rest assured that his suggestion will be borne in mind when a change of ministerial responsibilities is next under consideration.

9. TEACHER-TRAINING AT COLLEGES OF
ADVANCED EDUCATION

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

(1) In so far as certain colleges of advanced education have stated and adopted the point of view that it is not their function to train teachers in the practical skills of teaching but rather to place the emphasis in such courses upon the theory of education and upon related academic courses, is this view of the role of the colleges in teacher-training acceptable to his department?

(2) If not, will he consider adopting a policy of advising colleges that graduates will not be eligible for employment in Government schools unless a stated minimum amount of practical teacher-training in approved and designated State primary schools is included in courses offered?

(3) Will he cause an immediate investigation into other criteria which would be adopted as essential for inclusion in teacher-training courses at the autonomous colleges, with a view to forcing the colleges to provide courses relevant to future employment of teacher-trainees?

Answers:—

(1) I know of no college of advanced education engaged in teacher education that adopts the view that it is not its function to train teachers in the practical skills of teaching. I am conscious, however, of the error of expecting too much of pre-service teacher education courses.

I remind the House of this statement in the recently released report of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Specific Learning Difficulties—

“The teaching skills of new teachers gained from their pre-service training have to be further developed in the classroom. It is only in the classroom that new teachers can blend their basic teaching skills, behaviour management and curricula. New teachers need support, particularly in their first year out, in developing approaches to classroom organisation.”

As the honourable member knows from being present when possible improvements to pre-service courses of teacher education have been discussed, advanced education authorities in this State, working in co-operation with employing authorities and other relevant agencies, are constantly reviewing and seeking ways to improve present practices.

(2) It is not necessary for me to consider such a course of action since all colleges include a minimum level of practice teaching in their courses. Indeed all college courses are assessed by competent persons, as meeting acceptable standards before their graduates are eligible for registration and consequently for employment in this State.

(3) There is adequate machinery at present available for the continuous review of courses of teacher education in Queensland. I am confident, moreover, that all of the relevant agencies including the major employing authorities, such as the Department of Education, the Board of Teacher Education and the Board of Advanced Education and the individual colleges of advanced education, are actively and effectively pursuing this objective.

10. BROADCAST PROGRAMME, A.B.C.
RADIO STATION 2JJ, MAITLAND

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

Has his attention been drawn to a letter written by the Rev. Father John B. Gahan, on the authority and with the approval

of the Most Rev. L. Clarke, Bishop of Maitland, to Mr. K. Macriell, Assistant General Manager of the A.B.C., Sydney, in which His Lordship bitterly objected to an incredible and erotically filthy programme relayed over A.B.C. station 2JJ in Maitland on 10 November and, if so, as this A.B.C. station's broadcasts are regularly picked up in Queensland homes as far north as the coastal areas and the Central West, will he let the Prime Minister know, in no uncertain terms, that the great majority of decent Queenslanders consider that the A.B.C. reached an all-time low in this broadcast, and investigate any possible means of preventing Queenslanders from being befouled again by this or any other A.B.C. station?

Answer:—

I have been made aware of the letter referred to and, like the honourable member, I am alarmed and sickened by some of the degrading programmes shown on television or broadcast on radio. It would appear that the broadcast to which Reverend Father Gahan objected and to which he referred in his letter was particularly filthy and degenerate and should be strongly condemned.

I have noted that a parliamentary question in connection with this matter has been asked of the Commonwealth Minister for Post and Telecommunications and I am awaiting the Minister's reply with a great deal of interest. I will, at that time, decide whether I should approach the Prime Minister.

11. GREENVALE NICKEL FINANCES

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

(1) What is the present financial position concerning Greenvale Nickel as far as its commitments to the State Government are concerned?

(2) Following the devaluation of the Australian currency, will the company be able to meet financial commitments that fall due in 1977?

Answers:—

(1) Whilst Greenvale Nickel still has immediate financial obstacles to negotiate, the present position in so far as the State Government guarantee is concerned is that all commitments have been met.

(2) The devaluation will enhance the financial position of the company.

12 and 13. APPOINTMENT OF
POLICE COMMISSIONER LEWIS

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

(1) Prior to appointing Mr. Lewis as Commissioner of the Queensland Police, how many of the 16 officers who were senior to Mr. Lewis on 1 November did the Minister know personally?

(2) Has the Minister studied the individual records and achievements of the 16 officers?

(3) What was the outstanding characteristic of Commissioner Lewis over and above those officers who received their senior appointments by this same Government prior to the appointment of Commissioner Lewis?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The appointment of Mr. Lewis as Commissioner of Police was made by Executive Council after due consideration. In the circumstances I do not propose answering questions having a bearing on the appointment.

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

How many of the 106 officers who were considered to be of equal rank to Commissioner Lewis on 1 November did the Minister know personally and did he study the record and achievement of each of the 106 officers prior to appointing Commissioner Lewis above them?

Answer:—

See answer to question 12.

14. SPEECH THERAPISTS

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

(1) Is he aware that speech therapy graduates have been informed that few vacancies in speech therapy exist in Queensland, that most graduates have applied for jobs in southern States because of the information given to them, that 80 per cent of the speech therapists currently employed by his department are employed in the Brisbane regions and that graduates from the Wide Bay region have been advised to accept positions in the south of the State and in southern States, as no therapist will be appointed to either Bundaberg or Maryborough for 1977?

(2) As I am informed that applicants with suitable qualifications are available, will he see that his department's priorities are changed so that therapists are appointed to Bundaberg and Maryborough for 1977?

Answers:—

(1) No advice has been given to speech therapists by officers of this department that few vacancies exist in this State. I am not aware that most graduates are seeking positions in other States, but I understand that it is normal practice for

a number of them to do so. In fact, the present shortage of speech therapists in country centres has resulted from their unwillingness in past years to apply for positions outside capital cities. The reported advice to speech therapists that no appointments are to be made in Bundaberg and Maryborough is contrary to the true position. Vacancies in both centres are to be advertised shortly.

(2) The vacant positions at the two centres will be filled within existing staffing priorities, provided suitable applications are received for these positions.

15. ALLEGATIONS BY SENATOR COLSTON ABOUT QUEENSLAND AND COMMONWEALTH FUNDS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement by the A.L.P. Senator Mal Colston in the last edition of "The Sunday Mail" alleging that Queensland has missed out on millions of dollars of Commonwealth funds as a result of the Treasurer's allegedly not properly claiming or applying for Commonwealth funds on various projects?

(2) Did Queensland miss out on millions of dollars because of these reasons or is Senator Colston up to his usual standard of untruths and distortions?

Answers:—

(1) I did not see the statement to which the honourable member refers. Apparently it did not appear in the issue of "The Sunday Mail" that was distributed in the metropolitan area. Even the paper must have thought the item wasn't really worth repeating.

(2) Queensland had been negotiating with the previous Federal Labor Government for funds for urban growth centres, and much detail of programmes and principles had been discussed between the two Governments. Details of the proposals were known to the Federal Government from these negotiations. As a matter of fact, the Townsville and Moreton proposals were formulated from joint Commonwealth/State studies, and the proposals for the Gladstone City had been in the hands of the Federal Government for a number of years.

The position was that Queensland would not succumb to the Federal Labor Government's requirement that the land that would be made available to property owners would have to be leasehold. It was the Queensland Government's policy that the people must have an entitlement of outright ownership of their land. Following the defeat of the Federal Labor

Government, Queensland made a formal application to the new Federal Liberal Government for funds for urban development similar to those being made to other States, but in line with its principles of freeholding. The Queensland Government has not as yet received a reply to its renewed request.

16. EGG MARKETING BOARD ADVERTISING
LEVY FUND

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

(1) With reference to the Auditor-General's report upon the accounts of the Egg Marketing Board, what was the reason for advertising expenditure for the year exceeding income from the levy by \$93,464?

(2) What is the purpose of the advertising levy fund and how is the levy struck?

(3) What action is planned to overcome the deficit in the fund?

Answers:—

(1) The Egg Marketing Board's advertising and sales promotion campaign is planned on a calendar year basis. However, the board's accounts are audited on a financial year basis. This can result in apparent deficits in any particular financial year. During the financial year 1975-76 expenditure exceeded levy collections by \$93,464. However, the year commenced with a credit balance of \$24,240 so that the net deficit was \$69,224. For 1976-77, levy collections are budgeted at \$319,000 whilst budgeted expenditure is \$249,150; thus the fund will be in surplus at the end of 1976-77.

(2) Moneys in the advertising levy fund are used for advertising and sales promotion. The advertising and sales promotion campaign has been highly successful and board sales in Queensland during 1975-76 increased by 5 per cent whilst sales in other States showed little change. The increase in sales by the board in Queensland has resulted in a substantial benefit to egg producers in this State. The board is authorised to raise an administration charge on eggs delivered to the board or sold direct by growers under permit from the board. The board then allocates these moneys to various purposes, including advertising.

(3) See answer to (1).

17. MEDIBANK

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

(1) For 1975-76 how much did the Queensland Government receive from the Commonwealth Government under the

Medibank agreement for the operating costs of public hospitals, and what period do the funds cover?

(2) How much will Queensland receive in 1976-77 for the operating costs of public hospitals?

(3) Will patients who do not pay the Medibank levy but who receive treatment in public wards be required to pay for treatment?

Answers:—

(1) In terms of the Hospital Medibank Agreement which operated from 1 September 1975, Queensland received from the Commonwealth during the year 1975-76 a total of \$103,343,750 towards the operating costs of public hospitals. This amount included a sum of \$23,095,000 paid in the 1975-76 financial year as an advance payment towards operating costs of public hospitals for the first three months of the 1976-77 financial year.

(2) Estimates based on current costs and current salary rates indicate that Queensland will receive \$105,438,883 in respect of the operating costs of public hospitals in 1976-77. This amount of course, will be reduced by the sum of \$23,095,000 referred to in answer (1), being an advance payment made during the financial year 1975-76.

The honourable member will appreciate, of course, that these amounts are not additional amounts received by the State, as previous payments made to Queensland by the Commonwealth towards public hospital costs have been subsumed by payments by the Commonwealth under the Medibank Hospital Agreement.

(3) Patients admitted to public wards in State public hospitals will continue to receive treatment free of charge and without means-testing.

18. EMPLOYMENT AND AID FOR
SCHOOL-LEAVERS

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

(1) Is he aware of the hardline guidelines issued to the regional office of the Commonwealth Employment Service designed to prevent eligible unemployed school-leavers from receiving their just entitlements in being able to find a job or, if not, in being able to receive benefits?

(2) How many people, according to advice to his department, have left school this year and are searching for jobs in Queensland?

(3) What advice has he received in providing school-leavers with a place in the work-force?

(4) Has his department any plans to give school-leavers a future in the Queensland work-force or are they doomed to live out their days on the unemployment scrapheap brought on this nation by the irresponsible and mismanaged policies of the Liberal-National Party Governments, both State and Federal?

(5) What advice has he received in relation to the probable rejection of unemployment assistance for the months of January, February, March, April, May and June of 1977, and what are the numbers of persons involved?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) Not only is the honourable member's question politically loaded but the direction in which he has aimed it is incorrect and the bullets which he wishes to fire are dummies. Nevertheless I will make some observations. Firstly he has his Commonwealth departments mixed up in that guide-lines for the payment of unemployment benefit are issued by the Department of Social Security, not the Commonwealth Employment Service. I understand that students on vacation are not entitled to unemployment benefits and generally any young person who has left school is regarded as being on vacation until the school year recommences. However I am informed any young person who has left school this year, has applied for unemployment benefit and has demonstrated that he or she is suffering hardship is entitled to a special benefit from the Department of Social Security. I also understand that the Department of Education makes an estimate of the number of school-leavers each year and if the honourable member wishes to have details of this estimate he should inquire of the appropriate Minister.

There is of course a continuous demand for school-leavers by employers but many employers are reluctant to engage school-leavers before the possibility of school-leavers obtaining tertiary places is established, because employers find that training spent on likely school-leavers is lost when these young persons ascertain they are eligible for tertiary education and opt for this in preference to full-time employment. Industry of course is now coming to its annual shut-down and many employers do not make an assessment of employment requirements for 1977 until industry resumes in late January. I am informed from Commonwealth sources that the majority of school-leavers who wish to enter the work-force are able to do so within a reasonable period. The last part of the honourable member's question is of course hypothetical and unanswerable.

In conclusion I might say that at meetings of Commonwealth and State Ministers for Labour I have been pressing for Commonwealth assistance in the matter

of pre-vocational training to bridge the educational gap of those school-leavers who wish to enter into a skilled occupation. I know that my colleague the Minister for Education has also been active in this area and I am hopeful that it will be possible to announce something regarding this in the near future.

19. REPORT BY P.A. MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS ON REORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCE

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

(1) With reference to a report which was commissioned by the Government and carried out by P.A. Management Consultants, relating to recommendations made some years ago by Brigadier McKenna for the reorganisation of the Police Force, when was the report received and what was its cost?

(2) Is it considered to be relevant to the terms of the police inquiry and, if so, will it be handed to the inquiry for consideration?

(3) Will it be made available to Commissioner Lewis for his examination and consideration?

Answers:—

(1) I received a copy of the report on Thursday, 7 October, whilst the secretary of the Police Department received his copy from the former Commissioner of Police on 25 November 1976. The cost of the examination and report was \$10,250.

(2) Until this document, which is over 100 pages in length, is thoroughly examined both by me and the newly appointed Commissioner of Police, it is unknown whether it will be relevant. All documents which may be relevant to the inquiry will be made available upon request.

(3) Yes.

20. UNIVERSITY REPORT ON FERRY SERVICES ON BRISBANE RIVER

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

When will the report be received from the University of Queensland regarding ferry services on the Brisbane River, and why has it taken so long for the report to be prepared?

Answer:—

An interim report on ferry services on the Brisbane River, which contains factual information on the results of surveys, has

been received from the University of Queensland by the chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Like the honourable member, I, too, am anxiously awaiting the report which is expected to contain recommendations for future river services.

Despite constant inquiries, it is now anticipated that the report will be received early in the new year. It is understood that unexpected difficulties were experienced with data analysis and with methods for predicting traffic flows with the computer and that more options have had to be considered than was originally assumed.

I have heard references to the effect that the private operator of the Golden Mile ferry services up and down the river is contemplating disposing of his fleet. This has given me some concern. I implore him to be patient pending receipt of the report by the Metropolitan Transit Authority and the result of the investigations that are now being made by the Brisbane City Council, in conjunction with the new tendering system.

The honourable member will be well aware that the Brisbane City Council has done nothing to upgrade ferry services, although it has had this responsibility for years. The Metropolitan Transit Authority immediately took action to have a report prepared. Much credit is due to the honourable member, who has been pushing for improved ferry services for a very long time.

21. DALBY-ST. GEORGE SECTION OF MOONIE HIGHWAY

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

(1) Is he aware of the deteriorating condition of the Moonie Highway on the section west of Dalby to St. George?

(2) As this highway is of major importance to South-west Queensland and carries a large volume of heavy traffic, what are the future plans of his department for the upgrading and widening of this narrow and dangerous section?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) A programme has been drawn up for this important rural arterial highway. A \$300,000 widening and reconstruction scheme will commence this financial year. The rate at which the highway can be reconstructed will depend on the level of funds available. I hope my representations to the Federal Minister (Mr. Nixon) last Friday will get the Commonwealth to

lift the allocation for rural arterials—and indeed, other categories as well—since there are many highways that need reconstruction.

Mr. KATTER: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I gave notice of two questions yesterday, neither of which appears on the Business Paper today. They were questions that were very important to my area.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! They were so important that the honourable member never even handed them in. That is why they do not appear on the Business Paper.

Mr. KATTER: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect—

Mr. SPEAKER: For the information of the honourable member, I may say that one was found in the rubbish basket.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I rise to a point of order. I handed the questions in for the honourable member. He left the Chamber and I handed them in.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There will be no argument from the honourable member for Murrumba. The matter was brought to my notice yesterday by the Clerk in accordance with the requirements of the House, and subsequently, after a search was made, one of the questions was found in the rubbish basket. That was why I automatically said, "Forget about it".

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GREAT AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Mr. BURNS: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Is he aware of the problems being experienced by investors in the Great Australian Permanent Building Society who were asked in October to forward their passbooks to the people paying the money out of the contingency fund, and who have heard nothing at all since that date? They have received no receipt for their passbooks. Because people have waited a long time since that society went out of business through mismanagement, will the Minister investigate the matter with a view to speeding up the paying out of this money?

Mr. LEE: I will certainly have the matter investigated and endeavour to speed up the payments.

LONG-SERVING EMPLOYEES OF QUEENSLAND PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. BURNS: In asking a question of the Premier, I draw his attention to matters I raised during the debate on the Superannuation Acts Amendment Bill and the retirement

problems of a relatively small number of long-serving employees of the Queensland Public Service. I now ask: Is he aware that these employees, because of age and the high contributions that would have been involved, are not covered by superannuation? Will he consider, in cases where an employee reaches the 65 years retirement level after serving for 45 or more years, but is not in the superannuation scheme, the payment of a special gratuity of not less than six months' salary? I suggest that this amount would be less than the Government would have paid if the employee had joined the superannuation fund, and I believe that after service of that length of time such an employee would be entitled to some financial recognition by the Government.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am not aware of the technical details that would be involved, but I assure the Leader of the Opposition that I will have them checked out immediately. If something can be done, it will be, although I would think that the officers concerned would have been aware that they were not entitled to any benefits.

QUEENSLAND SOCCER POOLS

Mr. BURNS: In asking a question of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, I refer to the fact that a large number of soccer matches in Britain last week-end were washed out. Is he aware that a committee of 12 then sat down and decided who would be the winners of the matches that had been washed out? Is this practice normal in relation to matches upon which the pools operate? Has he received many complaints about this dubious practice and is it his intention to allow an unknown, faceless committee of 12, thousands of miles away in Britain, to decide the outcome of huge amounts of money invested in the pools by Queenslanders?

Mr. KNOX: I am aware of the practice, although I became aware of it only last week-end. Apparently it has not been necessary to adopt this practice for some time.

Mr. Marginson: It has been going on for years.

Mr. KNOX: I will just explain to the honourable member how it works. Apparently in the winter months in the United Kingdom a great many matches are washed out. This committee meets on the Friday before the matches are played and, like a lot of tipsters, they forecast the result of these matches. These results are apparently sealed and, if indeed a great number of matches are washed out, the sealed envelope is opened and these tips, for want of a better word because I cannot think of any other way of describing them, become the official

results for the purpose of drawing the pool. If this is not done there is the problem of no result. It appears that all the companies operating pools have agreed on this system, which has operated during the winter months for many, many years. It appears that last week-end 25 matches were washed out and this system was drawn on for the first time for quite some time. Apparently a lot of people had forgotten how it worked.

I must confess that from the Australian point of view it is a rather strange way of determining a result. I am quite sure that many Australians would think that all their hard work in trying to select winners was of no avail when the result is to be determined in this manner.

I am assured that it is all done properly and under proper supervision and that there is no room for collusion or malpractice. I should hate to think what would happen in Australia if a race meeting were cancelled and T.A.B. dividends were paid on the basis of the tips of newspaper reporters on the previous Friday. However, that is the way it works in this instance, and it appears that the people in the United Kingdom have been satisfied with the system for some time. I understand that everything is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Because of what happened to the two questions of which the honourable member for Flinders gave notice yesterday, I am going to allow him to ask them at this stage.

Mr. Katter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF TORRENS CREEK TORNADO

Mr. KATTER: I ask the Premier: Will he assure the House that all Government homes which are no longer habitable as a result of the flash tornado at Torrens Creek will be restored to a habitable condition immediately? Will he also advise the House whether a small amount of money could be paid to the railway fletcher and his family who lost all their possessions when their cottage was totally destroyed by the tornado?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I appreciate the honourable member's concern and the concern of the people who find themselves in this position. I have already had some discussions with my colleague the Treasurer, and he is looking at the whole question. In the circumstances, I hope there may be some avenue through which assistance can be given. The Treasurer will make an immediate check on that.

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

Mr. KATTER: I ask the Minister for Health: In the light of the Health Department's difficulty in procuring doctors for

northern and, in particular, north-western hospitals, will he advise whether the case requesting immediate commencement of a medical school at Townsville has been prepared for submission to the Federal Government? What action will now occur in this Government's fight to have this medical school set up as soon as possible?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I understand that the honourable member's first question was submitted yesterday and answered, so I suggest to him that he should pay more attention to the questions he asks. I now call on the Minister for Health to answer the honourable member's second question.

Dr. EDWARDS: I should like to say first how much I appreciate the support that the honourable member has given to the development of a medical school at the James Cook University of North Queensland. Although he has been criticised in the Chamber this morning, I do not think that anybody could criticise him for his efforts in that direction.

As to the question that he has raised—of course, the Queensland Government is very concerned about the decision of the Australian Universities Commission that funding will not be available and that the establishment of this medical school should be deferred for a further three years from the date on which the construction of clinical facilities over three years was expected to begin at James Cook University. I recently took a submission to Cabinet, which it approved, expressing the Queensland Government's concern to the Federal Government. In fact, the Premier has signed a letter advising the Prime Minister that he and the Government are very concerned that there will be a further delay because of the decision of the Australian Universities Commission.

The Premier has repeatedly placed on record the fact that the Queensland Government totally supports the development of a medical school at the James Cook University in Townsville and would be prepared to support any efforts to establish it as quickly as possible. In fact, the Government has decided as a matter of policy that it will proceed with the clinical facilities in the redevelopment of the Townsville Hospital, and a project team and a development-planning programme has already been set up. It is hoped that the extensions needed to the Townsville General Hospital to cope with a medical school will be completed well before the period that has been laid down by the Australian Universities Commission.

In essence, the Government has made its position quite clear to the Commonwealth Government and to the Australian Universities Commission, that is, that it fully supports the establishment of a medical school

at the James Cook University, and it is already arranging for facilities to be completed as quickly as possible.

I thank the honourable member for his interest in this important matter.

COUNSELLING SERVICE, JUVENILE AID BUREAU

Mr. ROW: I ask the Minister for Police: Will he consider extending the role of the Police Juvenile Aid Bureau so as to provide counselling services in all police districts throughout the State, thus making the service available in all provincial centres and country towns?

Mr. NEWBERRY: One of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Nature and Extent of the Problems confronting Youth in Queensland is "that in each police district there be established a section consisting of officers who are selected and trained to deal with juvenile offenders and with juvenile crime prevention". I have already discussed this concept with the new commissioner, and I am confident that action will be taken in the not too distant future to achieve this most desirable goal.

ABORIGINAL RESERVES AND SIGNS, PALM ISLAND GROUP

Mr. ROW: I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries: What areas of which islands in the Palm Island group are set aside as Aboriginal reserves, and what notices of restricted entry have been officially erected upon these islands? Who would have authority to erect signs restricting entry or camping upon these islands?

Mr. WHARTON: The islands in the Palm Island group reserved for the benefit of Aborigines are Great Palm, Brisk, Curacoa, Eclipse, Esk, Falcon and Havannah. Fantome Island is also reserved for official purposes.

The signs are authorised under the Aborigines Act 1971-1975. They restrict access to the reserves on the islands. The signs are erected on each one of those islands. The authority for the erection comes under the control of the Palm Island Aboriginal Council and the director, whose delegate is the manager. The signs may be erected by either party. The reason, of course, is that there is a distinct shortage of water on the island at the present time. This will be overcome by the summer rains and the now completed dam.

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL ATTITUDE TO ELECTRICITY BILL

Mr. LANE: I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: Since he appeared on television yesterday in what was described as a debate with Lord Mayor Sleeman, in which he

succeeded once and for all in demolishing the Lord Mayor's argument and demonstrated the complete lack of understanding of and capacity of the Labor city council to comprehend the electricity legislation, has he seen any indication that the Australian Labor Party will now change its policy on these matters and cease being anti-Queensland?

Mr. CAMM: Following the debate I certainly have not seen any further indication, but I do feel that the Bill will be readily accepted by the people of Queensland when they realise just what it will mean for the whole of the State. It is the intention of the State Electricity Commission to distribute pamphlets in the Brisbane area so that Brisbane people will be able to work out just what benefits will be forthcoming as the result of the introduction of that legislation.

PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

Mr. LANE: I ask the Minister for Health: Is he aware of the statement by the New South Wales Minister yesterday advising that the New South Wales Government would phase out psychiatric hospitals and treat such patients in general hospitals? Is this programme under consideration in Queensland?

Dr. EDWARDS: I thank the honourable member for his question. It has been splashed throughout the Queensland newspapers that the New South Wales Minister for Health is announcing a new policy regarding the implementation of the phasing-out programme of psychiatric hospitals. It is incredible that our newspapers would not make any reference at all to the Queensland Government's policy which has been in existence for over five years.

Queensland has led the field in Australia. The Queensland Government determined a policy five years ago on the recommendation of my predecessor, Sir Douglas Tooth, that psychiatric hospitals in this State would be phased out as best we could, and that in fact wherever possible we would attach psychiatric wards to general hospitals. This has already occurred at Prince Charles, the Royal Brisbane Hospital, and Princess Alexandra Hospital, where we have a 90-bed psychiatric unit well under construction. We have psychiatric wards at Townsville General Hospital, and there are plans for the re-establishment and redevelopment of a psychiatric ward at Rockhampton Hospital. It has been the policy of this Government for some years that psychiatric wards should be attached to all general hospitals, and we have implemented most of that policy. As well as this, over a lengthy period the Government has made strenuous efforts to implement community health programmes to care for these people.

I am amazed that Mrs. Gorring is reported in this morning's Press as congratulating the New South Wales Health Minister on his introduction of this so-called new policy. It has been the policy of the Queensland Government for five years, but obviously Mrs. Gorring is not aware of that, so I would ask the Queensland Press to publish in tomorrow's newspapers the fact that Queensland has had this policy for many years and that it is regarded by other States as such an enlightened policy that, as is quite often the case, they are following suit. Queensland was the first in the provision of free hospitals and in the abolition of succession duties as well as in many other fields. These firsts have made Queensland the best State in the nation.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STATE SCHOOL SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport: Has he read the letter of 17 November from the Queensland State Schools Sports Council concerning sporting activities at schools, and the allocation of funds to the council? If so, does he intend to allocate funds from his department to that body?

Mr. HERBERT: Schools do not come within the responsibilities of my department. The department pays one-third of costs involved to qualifying amateur groups within the community and the Education Department pays 50 per cent of the costs to qualifying school sporting projects. So obviously it is more advantageous for a school to apply for assistance from the Education Department than from my department.

ALLOWANCE TO POLICEMEN FOR SOCKS

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister for Police: Is it a fact that policewomen, who are on equal pay with policemen, receive a special allowance for stockings or panty-hose and, if so, why do not policemen receive an allowance for socks?

Mr. NEWBERY: I can assure the honourable member that I will look into this matter.

DOMESTIC STAFF AT STATE HOSPITALS

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister for Health: Is he aware of the serious problems arising in State hospitals, particularly the Redcliffe Hospital, as the result of understaffing in the domestic area? Is he aware that the work-load imposed on some women has reduced them to tears and that some hospitals are placing more and more work upon the women, thereby creating a desperate situation? Will he as a matter of urgency

order an investigation into this problem and, where necessary, instruct the hospitals to employ additional staff so that the present staff will not continue to be overloaded and so that patients can be given proper medical care and attention? The member for Murrumba asked me to get this matter fixed up.

Dr. EDWARDS: I am unaware of this situation to which the honourable member refers, but I can assure him that you, Mr. Speaker, and the honourable member for Murrumba have at all times represented the Redcliffe area in a most capable manner. I assure the honourable member for Bundaberg that I will have this matter investigated and shall convey the outcome of those investigations to you, Mr. Speaker, as the representative of the electorate in which the Redcliffe Hospital is located.

ESTABLISHMENT OF HOSPITAL IN WYNNUM DISTRICT

Mr. LAMOND: I ask the Minister for Health: In view of my continued and strenuous representations to the Minister since my election to Parliament in 1974 to have a hospital established in the Wynnum district—representations commencing on 22 March 1975, when I put forward a submission to the Minister including statistics, continuing in May 1975—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member should ask his question.

Mr. LAMOND: Can't I give these details?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not in a question without notice.

Mr. LAMOND: Can I table these details?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that if the honourable member gives a broad outline of his question to the Minister he will be given a satisfactory reply.

Mr. LAMOND: I have made some 14 submissions to the Minister as well as representations to him and to the Premier. In view of these submissions and representations, will the Minister advise me of the present position in regard to the establishment of a hospital in the Wynnum district?

Dr. EDWARDS: I am well aware, of course, of the continual representations made by the honourable member for Wynnum. The file is about a foot and a half thick as a result of his submissions to me and to the Premier about this matter, which is of such importance to his electorate. I am also aware of the similar representations made by the honourable member for Redlands, who, with the honourable member for Wynnum, has had a number of deputations to me and to the

Premier. In fact, time has been set aside for discussions among the two honourable members, the Premier and me this afternoon. The representations on these matters have been very well documented.

For some time the Government has been looking at the possibility of the development of hospitals in peripheral areas. This is a major decision for any Government to make, bearing in mind the financial arrangements we are already committed to for the hospital rebuilding programme throughout the State. I can assure the honourable member that, while hospitals are a very important part of medical services, it is necessary for us to have back-up services for these facilities.

Following representations by the honourable member over a long period, we established a community health centre in his electorate. We are establishing many other facilities also which I believe will aid the people of that area. At the present time we are conducting an outpatients service in that area as a department of the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Following representations by the honourable members on this important matter, the Government's decision will be made in the very near future.

TOWNSVILLE HOSPITAL PROPOSALS

Mr. AIKENS: Not so much because of the transparent honesty of the Minister for Health and the member for Flinders but because of their remarkable political naivety, I ask a question of a very avuncular nature of the Minister for Health: Can he inform the House of the present position about the proposed extensions to the Townsville General Hospital and the preparation for the establishment of a medical centre attached to the James Cook University, as well as the present attitude of the Townsville City Council, which originally damned the proposal with faint praise but appears now to be white-anting the proposal through A.L.P. Federal members, particularly Senators Keefe and Colston? Does he know that is going on?

Dr. EDWARDS: I thank the honourable member for this question, following the question by the honourable member for Flinders. It is true that the Townsville City Council has had very grave difficulties in accepting that there is need for the development of a hospital in that area. The previous mayor and his health department gave us every co-operation. As the honourable member for Townsville West, he has also made representations about the redevelopment.

The present council has not accepted that there is need for redevelopment of the Townsville Hospital, and on a number of

occasions it has opposed any efforts that we have made. An environmental impact study has been conducted, and the report of that study has just reached my office this week. It is being studied by my department.

I got the impression that the Townsville City Council was committed to the development of a second hospital in that area rather than the redevelopment of a central hospital, which all authorities have indicated is the wise plan in the development of a medical school, where all specialised facilities can be situated. That has been supported by the senate of the James Cook University and by medical authorities in North Queensland.

I regret that people such as Senator Keeffe and Senator Colston, who seem to say a lot of things about everything and yet say nothing whatsoever, could make statements on subjects about which they have so little information. Like the honourable member for Townsville South, I deplore their attitude. What we want to do is get on with the job of developing a medical school in that area, and I know that we have the support of the honourable member for Townsville South.

HOUSING FOR MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES

Mr. LINDSAY: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: With regard to my previous question about loans of \$18,000 at 7½ per cent to eligible middle-income families resulting from this Government's recent allocation of \$10,000,000—

(a) How many general inquiries have now been received?

(b) What other progress can he report regarding this commendable attempt to assist Queenslanders to achieve the Australian dream of their own home on their own block of dirt?

Mr. LEE: I thought that the honourable member for Everton would ask this question this morning for the simple reason that, unlike members of the Opposition, he has at heart the interests of people who want to own their own homes. Labor policy is certainly not for people to own their own homes. The honourable member for Everton is different. He has been showing great concern for these people. He has been one of the people who have been anxious to discover how the \$10,000,000 has been lent. He has been in constant consultation with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and me concerning this \$10,000,000.

It is impossible to say how successful the scheme has been. It was launched less than a week ago. At the moment, 1,177 inquiries have been made for loans of \$18,000 at 7½ per cent. Already, approval has been given for loans to purchase 13 existing homes and for the construction of one home. Of the applications received, 80 per cent have

been for loans to purchase existing homes and the other 20 per cent for the construction of homes.

I can assure the honourable member that, as he anticipated, the scheme is working. I am sure that again the building industry will give great credit to the Government for what it has done.

CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS BY IRELAND CONSTRUCTIONS PTY. LTD.

Mr. TURNER: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: In view of the collapse of Ireland Constructions Pty. Ltd. and of the many buildings under contract to this firm that are nearing completion, such as the Tambo and Blackall pre-school centres, will the Minister indicate what steps are being taken to complete these buildings so that they will be operative for the start of the 1977 school year?

Mr. LEE: We have certainly taken some steps regarding the Kingston High School and the Riverview school. Two tenders have been received and today's Executive Council will confirm the one for the Riverview school. I hope to obtain a decision at next week's Executive Council or Cabinet meeting to approve a contract for the Kingston High School. Admittedly, the Kingston school will not be ready for the beginning of the 1977 school year.

We are considering whether it would be quicker and better to complete those in Blackall under the day-labour scheme, as men become available. If we do not have the men available we will certainly let the contracts to another firm.

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mr. LEE: We certainly will give local contractors consideration. We always have done and always will do so. It is our policy to provide as much local work as possible. Of course, the contractors must lodge possibly the lowest tender.

We will endeavour to have all of these jobs that are being done by Ireland Constructions ready for the 1977 school year. That might not be possible. It must be remembered that the Building Workers' Industrial Union has placed a ban on these projects. That is making it difficult to complete them on time.

POLICE UNIFORMS

Mr. TURNER: I ask the Minister for Police: Will he indicate whether his department has any policy to change police uniforms and to allow the use of tropical uniforms or more modern and up-to-date uniforms that are suitable for the different climatic conditions in Queensland?

Mr. NEWBERRY: Already moves have been made to improve the lot of the policemen and women police in this State. A committee has been formed recently within the Police Department to review uniforms for both male and female members of the force. Questionnaires have been circulated State-wide so that the committee may have the benefit of the views of members performing all types of police duty.

The new commissioner and I have had discussions on uniforms. We are in favour of a separate uniform which is more suitable to the tropics; for example shorts, long socks and slouch hat. Already it has been decided to supply slouch hats to members outside the Brisbane area, on application.

The prescribed amount of uniform has been supplied each year and consideration is being given to providing members with the uniform sought by them and then allowing the members to choose an article, say a pullover—which has been sought by the Police Union for a long time—of the approximate value of an article forfeited. Consideration will be given to the supply of men's socks in this manner. This would not involve any additional expenditure as the items would be supplied with money saved.

ACCURACY OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO HOUSE BY MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Is it his responsibility as a Minister of the Crown to ensure the accuracy of information presented by him to Parliament? Is he aware of a statement made yesterday by the Minister for Survey and Valuation that certain Crown payments attributed to him in a document tabled by the Minister for Justice last week were in fact paid to his brother? Is this statement by the Minister for Survey and Valuation correct and, if so, is the Minister for Justice in fact guilty of having misled the House through the presentation of false information?

Mr. LICKISS: All Ministers of the Crown have an obligation to ensure that information that they give to the House is accurate. It is also equally incumbent on all honourable members to give truthful information to the House. I made a check this morning and I have been advised that the information that I tabled the other day was correct. However, there could have been an error in one previous year's statement tabled. I am having this checked by my officers and, as soon as that has been done, an amendment will be made in the House in the appropriate way.

EFFECT ON BUILDING SOCIETIES OF BOND RATE INCREASE

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Has he read the statement by Mr. Lloyd Price, of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, that a

substantial increase in the bond rate will force building societies to look at an increase in their rates? Has he made any investigation of the effects of the new Australian Government bond rate on Queensland building society finances, and what will they be?

Mr. LEE: I have not read the statements referred to. If the honourable member would be kind enough to supply me with copies of them, I shall be very happy to have them investigated.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Why don't you put me on your staff?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY INSURANCE COVER

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Is he aware that borrowers from Queensland Permanent Building Society have discovered that the society no longer handles insurance, although it has not yet advised them of this fact? As this failure of this society to advise its borrowers could create hardship in the case of a fire in a home no longer insured, will he ensure that the society takes the necessary steps to protect its borrowers? And don't scratch your head or you'll get splinters.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have not this session had to order any member to leave the Chamber and I do not want to break that record. I therefore warn the honourable member.

Mr. LEE: I will investigate what the honourable member has said.

EFFECT OF BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL'S ELECTRICITY POLICY ON WEST MORETON COAL-FIELDS

Mr. GUNN: I preface a question to the Minister for Mines and Energy by saying that on last night's television programme referred to as "The Great Electricity Debate" the Lord Mayor of Brisbane stated that, had electricity distribution remained with the city council, the council would have been prepared to bring cheaper electricity from Tenterfield in New South Wales. I therefore ask: What effect would this have had on the West Moreton coal-field? Are we now to believe that the A.L.P.'s past support for the West Moreton fields has been false and that the A.L.P.-dominated council would have been prepared to sell out the West Moreton fields in order to secure cheaper power from another State?

Mr. CAMM: It would appear that everyone gained the impression, quite correctly, that the Lord Mayor would like to bring electricity to Brisbane from generating

stations in northern New South Wales. Honourable members opposite can get transcripts of the debate if they wish. The Lord Mayor seems to be obsessed with the idea that he must make profit from the distribution of electricity, which he does, although all he is entitled to do is distribute electricity at a charge to the people which will cover the expenditure involved. This action would have a disastrous effect on the people employed on the West Moreton field. Over the past 10 years, we as a Government have been endeavouring to keep the West Moreton coal-field alive by using its coal for the generation of electricity. Everyone has been informed that under this practice the higher-price coal from the West Moreton field has resulted in a higher bulk supply price being charged for electricity in this part of Queensland.

It ill behoves the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to start comparing underground coal from the West Moreton field with cheap open-cut coal from the northern New South Wales belt. We will generate electricity using the cheap open-cut coal in Central Queensland, and I challenge any member of the A.L.P. to rise in this Chamber and advocate the opening up of all the open-cut coal-mines in the West Moreton field and use of that open-cut coal in the generating stations of Swanbank, Bulimba and Tennyson. It has been our policy to abide by the decisions of the coalminers' union by endeavouring to keep the underground mines in the West Moreton field open to supply these power stations. That is why the bulk supply price has been higher in this part of Queensland than it is in Central Queensland and North Queensland. The effect on the coal-fields of West Moreton would have been disastrous if the Lord Mayor had had his way and brought into the city of Brisbane power generated from cheap New South Wales coal.

AMENDMENTS TO BUILDING ACT

Mr. GOLEBY: I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: Regarding the Building Act 1975, which allows for the construction of a 60 sq m home including a veranda, roofed terrace, or carport, and in view of the fact that the Housing Commission proposes raising its standards above this minimum requirement of the Act, is he prepared to consider amendments to the Building Act or standard building by-laws to allow for the amenity and environment of an area to be considered as factors by local authorities in granting permits for construction? This would protect the community from ruthless speculators, who are now taking advantage of these lower standards by building houses which are substandard in their localities, thus denigrating the amenity of the area and exploiting the public, to the detriment of existing home owners.

Mr. HINZE: I indicated during the debate that it would be necessary from time to time to accept amendments. The matter brought

forward by the honourable member for Redlands indicates that there are already snide builders who are trying to take advantage of the Act. Of course, those things will be reported to my committee and any amendments that are considered to be necessary will certainly be looked at.

TRANSMISSION OF PATIENTS' DOCUMENTS THROUGHOUT ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITAL

Mr. AKERS: In asking a question of the Minister for Health, I refer to two instances brought to my attention in the past two weeks of the papers of patients at the Royal Brisbane Hospital apparently being lost in the system. One was an 86-year-old woman, and the other was a pregnant woman. In both cases doctors were unaware of the details concerning these patients for several days after their admission. I now ask: Will the Minister investigate the system of transmission of admission papers through the hospital so that a repetition of such happenings will not occur?

Dr. EDWARDS: I am not aware of the cases to which the honourable member refers, but the handling of records is always a problem in large institutions such as the Royal Brisbane Hospital where there are many hundreds of thousands of files. At present we are conducting a review of our records systems in all metropolitan hospitals. I am hopeful that the new system, which we hope to introduce at some not-too-distant date, will eliminate the loss of records. If the honourable member is prepared to give me the names of the people to whom he referred, I assure him I will have the matter investigated and I will make every effort to implement the new system as quickly as possible to avoid a repetition of these delays.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

CROWN APPOINTMENTS DECLARATORY BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.5 p.m.): I move—

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

When speaking to the motion for the introduction of the Bill, I made it clear that because this matter has been questioned in the House by an honourable member and as doubts had been raised in relation to the definition of “office of profit under the Crown” as it affects members of Parliament on both sides of the House, the Bill was being introduced to put the matter beyond all doubt in respect of all presently serving members.

Of course, as we know, there is some confusion about what is an "office of profit under the Crown". I reiterate that so long as the office held can give a member some form of remuneration, it is one of profit, even if the remuneration is not accepted. The remuneration may be minimal and completely disproportionate to the time and effort expended.

The purposes of the Bill are plain. There is no intention of causing embarrassment. Indeed, the contrary is the case. It is essentially holding legislation and, as I have indicated, the matter will be fully reviewed by the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and clear guide-lines for the future will be embodied in legislation in conformity with contemporary circumstances. Members should then be in absolutely no doubt. It is the intention of the Government that the proposed legislation will clearly define what positions will be available or not available to serving members of Parliament and what, in fact, will constitute an office of profit under the Crown. That will certainly be set out in new legislation in the new year.

I cannot see any reason for this matter to be discussed further, as the legislation is of general application, and the attacks and counter-attacks on honourable members of the Assembly, apart from being unworthy, are completely unnecessary and add nothing to the present situation.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (12.7 p.m.): I do not propose to take up a great deal of the time of the House; I realise that it is the last day of sitting. However, I think it would be remiss of me as a member of Her Majesty's Legislature if I did not make some remarks on this Bill.

As all honourable members know, the title of the Bill is the Crown Appointments Declaratory Bill. In my opinion, it should be the John Greenwood Enablement Bill. However, it is a Bill to legalise the past activities of a Minister who is commissioned to make laws. Why is such a Bill necessary? If, as the Minister for Survey and Valuation alleges, this exemption has existed for over 100 years, why was it necessary to pass special legislation on 8 September 1964 to protect the position of another barrister, the former member for Windsor, Mr. Percy Raymund Smith?

I have done some legal homework of my own with a few barristers whom I know. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that most of the barristers to whom I have spoken are more competent and more successful in their legal pursuits than the Minister for Survey and Valuation. The question that I would now like to pose to the Premier is: if barristers already enjoy exemption, as the Ministers for Justice and Survey and Valuation contend, how could the Minister for Survey and Valuation, with his supposed legal knowledge, say that he did not know the position? All

I can say is that prospective clients who may ponder the question of using the Minister's services in the future should shy clear of his innocence and incompetence, because I am told on good authority that the Minister for Survey and Valuation knows far more about the law of torts than he does about the law of torts.

I might also say that the Minister has selfishly breached this law and has been caught with his sticky fingers in the Crown till. Let him deny that!

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. I find that remark personally offensive and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Archerfield to withdraw that remark. It is objectionable to the Minister.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I do so accordingly.

That is the real reason for the introduction of the Bill. The House is asked to endorse the Minister's greed and deceit and, in view of his statement in the House recently that exemption has existed for more than 100 years, his outright and deliberate fibs.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw that remark. What is more, I noticed that in some of the remarks he made in the House yesterday he used the word "shyster". I will not tolerate language such as that, and I ask the honourable member to observe my ruling in that respect.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I will certainly not make any mention of it, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Minister for Survey and Valuation say here today that he did not know? If he does, then he, as a barrister-at-law, is more unintelligent than I ever imagined. How could anyone have any faith in a person who is prepared for greedy gain to break the laws that have existed—

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. I find that remark personally offensive, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. GREENWOOD: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has not withdrawn that remark.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw the remark. In fairness to the—

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I withdraw the remark.

We are being asked today to give retrospective sanction to a neat little fiddle by a Minister of this Government. I have not mentioned any specific Minister.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. Once again I ask the honourable member to withdraw the remark.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I didn't mention the Minister by name.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Even if the honourable member did not mention a name I would say that he is on delicate ground. If he is going to play it that way I will have to play hard and fast with the rules. I have been liberal with everybody in the debate so far, but I cannot allow that sort of thing to continue.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I think you would agree, Mr. Speaker, that we are in the final stages of this session, and this Bill has been presented with frantic haste. There is no doubt about that. We were given only 24 hours' notice that the Premier was going to introduce it. I was told on good authority and it was published in this morning's "Courier-Mail", that it caused considerable consternation yesterday at a meeting of the National Party. The story I got was that it was carried by only three votes. A motion was moved and seconded, but because of the intervention by the Premier, who made a plea to the members of the National Party, it was not proceeded with. It was quite obvious yesterday that the Premier did not have his heart in introducing the Bill. He had the heavies put on him by the Deputy Premier to introduce it.

The Bill was introduced with frantic haste because certain members of the Cabinet were frightened that some public-spirited citizen in Ashgrove who believes in the ethics of the system of parliamentary democracy might care to test the legality of the Minister's representation before the Court of Disputed Returns. That is the real reason for the Bill being before the Chamber today. It is designed to legalise a highly questionable perk of a Minister of the Government.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. I ask the honourable member to withdraw that. It is personally offensive to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Archerfield.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Why is it necessary to provide some special rights to barristers to profit while they are members of this House? Who would have imagined last year that the member for Ashgrove as he issued his virtuous, cowardly attack against Senator Mal Colston—surely he cannot take a point of order on that, because he said it—has engaged in villainy of his own.

Mr. LICKISS: I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the processes of the House and the purpose of the introduction of the Bill. We are now at the second-reading stage. There is nothing in the Bill that

names any honourable member. I would suggest that the honourable member for Archerfield is outside the scope of the second-reading debate.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: On that occasion he was a portrait of purity, cowering under the privilege of the very Parliament he now wants to protect him. Why is the special treatment embodied in this Bill restricted to barristers? The honourable member for Windsor is an electrician. Why doesn't the Premier introduce legislation so that he can be paid to repair the fuse for the lights of the House during his lunch-hour?

Mr. Houston: Did he get paid when he fixed up the lift?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I wouldn't know about that. I wouldn't think so.

Let me take it a step further. This is relevant to the Bill. The honourable member for Belyando is a baker. Perhaps he could work in the dining-room during the time he is not running backwards up the steps. Certainly his presence there would relieve the lunch-hour rush.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I take it that the honourable member will come back to the Bill. If not, I will have to ask him to resume his seat.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The Bill has been introduced because the honourable member for Ashgrove has laid himself open to challenge in the Court of Disputed Returns. The Bill is designed to protect his well-fed hide. Let him deny that. That is the real reason for the Bill. It is regrettable that the time of this Parliament has to be wasted to provide post-dated sanction for the dubious activities of members of this Government. The Bill is an exercise in parliamentary acrobatics and a threat to our constitutional system. It is a regrettable end to the parliamentary year when we are asked to debauch the laws of this State to save—

Mr. BYRNE: I rise to a point of order. I draw attention to the fact that the honourable member is obviously reading his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have given a ruling. I am quite sure that the submissions made by the honourable member for Archerfield have been written for him and that he is obviously reading them. I ask the honourable member to refrain from doing that. He is permitted to use notes. However, as I say, I have no doubt that the speech has been prepared for him.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: When I first rose to my feet I said I did not propose to take up much time of the House, and I won't. I am coming to the conclusion of my speech.

What I am saying is that it is a regrettable conclusion of this Parliament that we are asked to debase the laws of this State to save the selfish hide of a Minister who follows a profession normally associated with upholding them.

It is even more regrettable that we find every Government member joining with the Premier and the Minister for Survey and Valuation to break the very laws that they are elected to respect and preserve.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (12.16 p.m.): Some amazing facts have emerged from the Premier's desire to introduce this astonishing measure. No man in this State holds the Premier in higher regard than I do. I think that he is a political ornament in this State, a man who is respected and revered by all, even his enemies. However, unfortunately, he is not a man of the world and in this case, if I might use the vernacular, he has been suckered into introducing this Bill for one reason and one reason only—to protect the honourable member for Ashgrove. No other interpretation can be placed on it.

I do not sit in judgment on the Premier; I know that, while he knows quite a lot about other matters, while he is a champion of Queensland and while I hope that he remains Premier of this State for as long as he wishes to remain Premier, he knows very little about the shabby and shady dealings connected with the law.

At the introductory stage, obviously the Premier was embarrassed in trying to defend the indefensible. Today during the speech of the honourable member for Archerfield the Minister for Justice interjected and tried to defend the indefensible. This is something that cannot be done, and no-one should attempt it.

When I and other members asked the Premier why it was that barristers and barristers alone have a special protection in this Parliament with regard to office of profit under the Crown and why it was that they are regarded as being celestially begotten and anointed of God, all that the Premier could say was that it is a matter of precedent.

Mr. Moore: We did it for Vince Jones and we did it for Deeral.

Mr. Houston: Both your own members.

Mr. Moore: We did it for Duggan. We looked after him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. AIKENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was regarding those interjections with the contempt they deserve.

Throughout the Premier's long and honourable occupancy of his office he has demonstrated that history is made not by the men

who follow precedents but by the men who set precedents. The Premier has set many, many honourable precedents. But on this occasion, unfortunately, he was talked into following precedent in a world about which he knows nothing—the shady, seamy, sleazy world of law. He knows nothing about that, and I hope that he never knows anything about it.

The honourable member for Ashgrove is a barrister-at-law and he practises law. In fact, he makes a very good living at the bar and has raked in quite a few thousand dollars for representing the Crown. Yet here is a barrister who could not interpret a plain law with regard to holding an office of profit under the Crown. If I may say so, I think he was actuated by cupidity and avarice and walked in boots and all.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. I find those remarks personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. AIKENS: I merely expressed an opinion. I did not say he was actuated by cupidity and avarice. I merely expressed that opinion, and it has been ruled by the Speaker of the House of Commons that no-one can object to the honest expression of an opinion. The honourable member knows that as a lawyer—not that he knows very much as a lawyer; he has demonstrated that.

He could not, for his own protection and for his own safety—for the protection of this House—properly legally interpret what constitutes an office of profit under the Crown. He cannot deny that. So he walked in, boots and all, and accepted this money when even a tiro at the bar—even a chap who is just carrying the letters for a barrister; even a chap who was only considering going into the legal fraternity—need only have a look at the law and precedent and say, "This is an office of profit under the Crown. Don't touch it with a 40 ft. pole." But the honourable the Minister touched it with a 40 ft. pole. He touched it with his hand, and he walked into it. So we have this Bill specially introduced to protect—I will let the "cupidity and avarice" go—the absolute, monstrous legal ignorance of the member for Ashgrove.

Mr. LICKISS: I rise to a point of order. I have had occasion to answer a question directed to me about the legality of the situation of the honourable member for Ashgrove, the Minister for Survey and Valuation. I expressed an opinion which was obtained by the Crown on the best legal advice available to the Crown.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. LICKISS: I am on my feet at the moment.

The advice which was tendered to me, in answering the question, was that the honourable member did not occupy or have a position of profit under the Crown.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I take it that the honourable member for Townsville South will accept the submission of the Minister on that matter.

Mr. AIKENS: I am absolutely—

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. Because a very important principle has now been introduced into this debate, is it not true to say that the Crown opinion has been proved wrong before today in a court of law?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Townsville South to accept the submission made by the Minister. It is not for me to adjudicate whether his statement is right or wrong. After all, it is for a court or Parliament itself to adjudicate on that.

Mr. AIKENS: With all due respect to the honourable member for Bulimba, a man who like myself has grown grey in the service of the people, I would want to know what right he has to buy into a submission being made by me.

Now we have an amazing statement made by the Attorney-General that I am very happy, I am elated, I am regaled, to accept at its full face value, that the Crown Law Office, to which many questions are submitted for elucidation and interpretation, ruled that the action and attitude and conduct of the Honourable the Minister for Survey and Valuation—the member for Ashgrove—did not constitute a breach of the rules relating to holding an office of profit under the Crown.

Why the hell, then, is this Bill going through the House? Why the necessity for the Bill if the honourable member for Ashgrove acted legally and constitutionally and in good faith? Why the Bill? I think this exemplifies more starkly than ever the point that I made that our honest—and I have no doubt that he is honest—Premier has been suckered. Who gave him the legal impression and the legal interpretation that the honourable member for Ashgrove, the Minister for Justice and the Crown Law Office have all acted illegally in advising the member that it was not a breach as an office of profit under the Crown and that he, the Premier, should introduce this Bill?

We know, of course, that this Bill has caused quite a lot of consternation in the Government circles. We know that the National Party just got their approval of this Bill through by the proverbial whisker. We know that they realise, as I realise, that this Bill opens the door to all sorts of chicanery and skuldugery in the future, unless—and

I am prepared to accept the Premier's assurance on this point—the Premier proposes, as he said, to introduce a further measure in the next sittings of this session of Parliament to clean this matter up completely. I can rely—everyone in Queensland can rely—on the honesty and integrity of the Premier to carry out the promise he has made to this House.

Let me outline what other people have done. I am only going to digress very slightly, Mr. Speaker, because I would not take advantage—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Townsville South that I do not want him to digress at all.

Mr. AIKENS: We had a lot of trouble for many years over the question of what was sub judice and what was not sub judice. So this Parliament appointed a committee, which has brought in a report. It was good enough to give me a copy of the report. It buttresses everything I have said over the years about matters in this Chamber being sub judice or not sub judice. Now I have this Bill, this debate and the Premier's assurance to buttress everything that I have been saying over the years about this office of profit under the Crown racket and rot that has been worked by the barristers.

Other members have protected themselves. The honourable member for South Brisbane is drawing a fairly munificent salary as a lecturer at the university in addition to his parliamentary salary. According to my interpretation of the law dealing with an office of profit under the Crown, he is skating on very thin ice. But at least before he took that position, I understand—I am relying not only on his word but also on the word of people in whom I have a lot of faith—he took steps to see that he was not breaching the law with regard to an office of profit under the Crown.

Mr. LAMONT: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member's allegations are not true. I am not receiving a munificent salary—I think the words were—from the university. Moreover the allegations are irrelevant because it is not an office of profit under the Crown. I was lecturing for a few hours at the invitation of a senior lecturer out there. I understand other honourable members have done the same. It is certainly not an office of profit under the Crown. It was an invitation from a senior history lecturer to go out and do a few hours with him. It was not an appointment by the Crown or for the Crown.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. AIKENS: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the honourable member for South Brisbane if he received any pay or emolument at all for going to the university and doing, as he says, a few hours' lecturing.

Mr. LAMONT: On another point of order, yes. I asked if the university could pay to a charity that I designated, any emolument it was considering paying to me. They told me that the taxman would not accept that. But the net receipts will in fact go to charity.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Townsville South to accept that.

Mr. AIKENS: I accept that because he told me what I expected to hear—that he had received pay. The mere fact that he gave over to charity the pay that he received does not alter the fact that he received pay.

We have in this House a very eminent solicitor.

Mr. LAMONT: I rise to a point of order. I thought I had made the point clear that the teaching I undertook at the university was at the request and invitation of a senior history lecturer, who paid me out of accounts that he controlled, not accounts controlled by the Crown. I was not appointed by the Crown. If I received some money from a university history lecturer's expenses and then put it into charity, in no circumstances does this come into the category of an office of profit under the Crown any more than, for example, does the honourable member for Bulimba in his small business of raising greyhounds.

Mr. AIKENS: I have listened to that. I will end this confabulation by saying that it does not matter who paid him; the money came originally from the Crown.

Let me now deal with the honourable member for Townsville. He is a very eminent member of the medical profession. He was a consulting surgeon employed by the Townsville Hospital Board and before he would allow himself to be nominated for that seat, which he won hands down, he secured the best legal advice available to him to see if he would be committing a breach under the law regarding an office of profit under the Crown. I am not quite sure but I think he might have got the ruling from the Crown Law Office that he would not be breaching that particular law. Why didn't the honourable member for Ashgrove take similar steps?

I am not going to pursue it, Mr. Speaker, but we have the amazing position disclosed—or should I say exposed?—by the Attorney-General that even if the Crown Law Office did give the honourable member for Townsville that assurance, the Crown Law Office does not know what it is talking about. The Crown Law Office knows nothing about the law of this State, because we have been given an assurance by the Minister for Justice that that office ruled that the action of the honourable member for Ashgrove, now the Minister for Survey and Valuation, was not

a breach of the law concerning office of profit under the Crown. It is symptomatic of barristers that if the honourable member for Ashgrove could not interpret that law in order to protect himself, what would be the chances of any of his clients who asked him to interpret any other law?

I am not going to develop this argument any further. This is a monstrous Bill. It is designed to defend the indefensible. I am going to oppose it and divide the House on it merely to let the people know where I stand on this matter. They know that I have stood on the same ground for 30 years, and it has not been shifting sand. I do not propose to make any greater fuss about it, because of my regard and respect for the Premier and the assurance that he has given the House that in the next session this putrid, stinking, reeking mess as it applies to barristers will be cleaned up once and for all.

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.32 p.m.): Those honourable members who listened carefully to the Premier's introductory speech would have grasped immediately that what we are doing today concerns a principle. It concerns the principle that the greatest possible cross-section of the community should have an opportunity to be represented here in this Chamber, that democracy should have its way in that the maximum number of people, irrespective of their occupation or to what representative body they belong, should be qualified to come here without any inhibition in law against their representing the views of the people in this Parliament, so that the broadest view can be expressed in this place. This is a great principle by which many of us have stood so frequently in Parliament and out on the highways and byways of the State, and it is something that we are intending to perpetuate here today in this amending legislation. It is the principle that as few people in the community as possible should be precluded from eligibility for election to this Parliament. That is the principle we are concerned with. That is the end of the quotation.

Mr. Moore: Who are you quoting?

Mr. LANE: I am quoting myself; those are precisely the words that I used on 25 August of this year when legislation was being considered to amend the Local Government Act as it applied to a member of Parliament who at that time was a member of a local government advisory committee. The same principle that then applied to the honourable member for Cook now applies to the honourable member for Ashgrove. I am sure that if all members, irrespective of the party to which they belong or any independent position they hold, were to examine their actions on that occasion in August and line them up against what is being done today, they would feel bound once again to support the same principle. Indeed, any person who now opposes this principle would be shown to be inconsistent in the light of action taken by members in August.

It would, I think, be a form of inverted snobbery for anyone to rise in this people's House and suggest that because a man has higher academic qualifications than others who did not have those educational advantages, he should for that reason be disadvantaged. I personally reject snobbery of any kind. Inverted snobbery has its basis in the philosophy of the class war, which I know that all members of the Government parties soundly reject. All Liberal members stand by the policy and platform of the Liberal Party, which seeks to encourage individual initiative. I shall read from our platform so that all members will be able to see where we stand on this matter. It says—

“Members of Parliament should possess appropriate qualities, experience, dedication and ability with a proper understanding of the parliamentary system and a respect for its traditions and functions. They are responsible to their electors and should not be subject to direction by persons or organisations either inside or outside the Parliament.”

That is where we depart most markedly from the Opposition and the Australian Labor Party, whose members do accept direction from organisations and persons outside Parliament. I would have thought that members of the Opposition would be hypocrites to stand up in this place and suggest that to represent anyone's point of view or to carry out any service in the community might bring some form of influence to bear on a member of Parliament when they themselves are directed quite clearly by an unrepresentative body, an organisation—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will come back to the contents of the Bill. I think he has wandered far enough.

Mr. LANE: I do not wish to delay the House any longer than is necessary. I merely wish to mention a couple of matters relating directly to this Bill. I want to quote from the speech of the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads on 25 August in respect of other legislation but which pertains to this same principle. The Minister said—

“The purpose of the provision is to avoid any possible argument that the holding of such office was in contravention of section 5 of the Officials in Parliament Act.”

That is why we find the Premier standing up for the same principle in supporting this sister legislation here relating to another member of Parliament whose integrity is, I believe, beyond dispute. I would like to feel—in fact, I have been assured—that this legislation relates to all members who find themselves in a similar position. I am sure we would find all Ministers, and indeed the Premier, on their feet should the occasion ever arise that some tradesman, businessman

or artisan was placed in a similar position. I think it is up to all members to do as they did on 25 August and support this legislation, because the same principle is involved.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.38 p.m.): This legislation before us has been described as enabling legislation. Having listened to the comments of speakers from both sides, we would agree that it is a matter of great concern. In fact, it requires great deliberation by this Assembly because it does not refer to only one man who has, unfortunately, been caught out in this instance. I do not believe he would have done what he did with any malintent or to make a profit. I do not accept that. I do not think that the money would be worth while. I want to make it clear that I am not playing personalities here, but this does raise the question of political patronage, and this is something that must exercise our minds.

However, we have to consider the roles of members of Parliament, and while the legislation overcomes the difficulty that has been faced by the Minister, I would hope we could go back and have a darned good look at the Officials in Parliament Act. After all, what is wrong with members of this Assembly holding positions, or offices of profit, as the Act says, but not taking the money?

Mr. Moore: It is an office of profit.

Mr. WRIGHT: Just a moment. There are two points here. One is not supposed to hold the office of profit, and secondly, one is not to receive the money. One is not to be in the position of receiving the money. I have thought very carefully about this aspect since it was raised, and I go back to 1969-70 when I was lecturing for Adult Education. I was simply asked to help out because they were—

Mr. AIKENS: I rise to a point of order. It was determined in Foley's case that there is no need for any money or emoluments to pass. Corruption is doing something that is wrong, so whether he took money or not, it is still corruption in the eyes of the law.

Mr. WRIGHT: I accept the honourable member's point. I thought I made it clear that it is not whether one takes the money or not; it is that one should not be in the position to receive it. In 1969-70 I was lecturing for Adult Education. I was asked to help out because I had some expertise in the field of the cuisenaire system that was being used.

Mr. Moore: We've got you in the book here.

Mr. WRIGHT: The honourable member might have it in the book. It is the first time I have mentioned it here. But the point of the matter is that I was in a position where

I could have received money because it was the normal practice to do so. Fortunately for me, I said that I would not take it; secondly, Adult Education had no money, anyway.

I wonder how many other members have been in a similar position—the honourable member for South Brisbane, for example. How many other honourable members have carried out their duties as members of Parliament and accepted a community responsibility, one that they believed should be carried out?

In a sense, I question what is happening. I believe that this is enabling legislation, and I supported the Opposition in voting against its introduction; but, having considered it further, I believe that we should look at our roles as members of Parliament. I do not think that there should be anything to prevent us carrying out duties as long as we are not paid for them. Businessmen who are members of this Assembly can do what they like. They can spend a couple of hours a day in the Chamber, then go back to their businesses and make money; but a professional person who wishes to help someone else—a local organisation, a school, or some section of the Education Department—cannot do so because of the risk of losing his seat.

Mr. Lamont: Your own deputy leader is a very successful businessman in the greyhound industry.

Mr. WRIGHT: I know that he is a highly qualified judge of dogs, but I think that is irrelevant in one sense.

In my opinion, the matter should be considered again, and I appeal to the Premier to do so. In saying that, I am speaking personally, not on behalf of the Opposition. We must reconsider our role. We have certain rights to carry out our responsibilities as members of Parliament provided that we do not receive money for doing so.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (12.42 p.m.): The honourable member for Townsville South has indicated that he will again divide the House and vote against the measure. I will support the Bill, but for three reasons only.

Firstly, it is a temporary measure, and the very wording of the Bill indicates to us that it can be no more than temporary. It relates only to the members of this House for the time being—those who are members on 6 December.

Secondly, I will support it because a promise has been made for a total review of this situation by the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, and he will be held to that promise by all members of the Government parties.

Thirdly, I will support the Bill for the reason that it will remove any slight doubt—and I emphasise “slight doubt”—that might

relate to those two members who represent us on the senate of the University of Queensland.

I would not want my support for the Bill to be seen as an endorsement that members of the House should enjoy an office of profit under the Crown. When the Premier introduced the Bill, he referred to the Officials in Parliament Act and mentioned the history of “position of profit under the Crown”. Originally it related to a person who was elected and who was enjoying a position of profit under the Crown before he was elected, and an onus was placed upon him to relinquish that position when he was elected. But apparently, with the passing of the years, situations have arisen in which members have entered into contractual relationships with the Crown after their election.

If we extended immunity to every person in the House who wanted to take advantage of it, we would see a strange situation; we would also see a very unhealthy situation. We have in this Chamber four distinguished medical practitioners, a public accountant, an agricultural scientist, and a pharmacist. It could well be that under these provisions any of these gentlemen, and others whose profession I cannot readily recall, could enter into a contractual relationship with the Crown. I emphasise that that would be quite unhealthy.

The matter can be summarised in this simple way, Mr. Speaker. The Government should not offer fees or work to members of Parliament, and members of Parliament should not accept fees or work. I would hope that heavy emphasis will be placed upon that proposition when the Minister redefines this provision in the March session.

The important point is that there are occasions on which members of this Assembly are appointed to other bodies by virtue of statute. That is true of the two members who presently represent us on the senate of the University, and I am sure there are other similar cases. The Bill must specifically extend immunity to such persons because they are appointed by the House and given a specific job to do, and in no way should their responsibilities be deemed to be positions of profit under the Crown.

I for one—and I am sure that I speak for many of my colleagues—will hold the Government to its promise that this matter will receive a total review, and I will be looking forward to new measures in the March session that will redefine the whole situation and, at the same time, revoke the very temporary measure that we are presently considering.

Mr. LAMONT (South Brisbane) (12.45 p.m.): I enter this debate to make a few brief comments which are quite relevant to the Bill. Since the original legislation dealing with office of profit under the Crown was introduced about 1907, Government has

expanded into a large number of areas in which it was not involved in the past. As a result there has been a considerable increase in the number of possible grey areas in which members of Parliament might be involved by serving in an office profitable to them either in terms of monetary profit or prestige. Both can be regarded as profitable to the member.

We have already had examples suggested. We had the case of a barrister being called upon to exercise his duty to contribute to the community. There are no doubt cases where medical officers who are members of Parliament are called upon in emergencies or special circumstances to assist people in hospitals, Government institutions and so on. We have had an Opposition member state that he was asked to assist adult education in his area where he was perhaps the most appropriate person to give assistance.

As I have already stated, I was asked to go out to the university and assist. I want to clarify my position. When I was offered the job of assisting at the university, I was completely flattered that I was considered the appropriate person to do so. Because of the additional prestige it gives me in my profession, I would have been quite happy, and still would be, to render that service without fee. I said that, but I was told that that was not acceptable. I said that I would be quite happy to nominate a charity and have the money paid to it, if necessary; but I was told that that was not acceptable.

I sought advice from a leading Q.C., who advised that, because the offer was made by a senior lecturer who chooses whom he wants to assist him, it is not an office of profit under the Crown. However, the net return I obtained from this source will be finding its way to charity. I do not know how much it will be net, but I believe it will be in the vicinity of a couple of hundred dollars.

I think it is entirely proper that doctors, lawyers, teachers and perhaps even shire councillors (whose councils, of course, are sustained to an extent with money from Crown revenue)—and others with special qualifications who are in Parliament should in fact contribute to the community if they are the most appropriate people to give assistance, as long as they are not in the original sense engaging in offices of profit under the Crown.

There are three reasons why I think that members of Parliament should be able to do this. Firstly, that they may be able to make a unique contribution to their community, and in given situations they may be the most appropriate people to do so. Secondly, it is obvious that the value in the Parliament of a barrister or a solicitor with his knowledge of the law, of a doctor with his knowledge of health, of a teacher with his knowledge of education, is that these people can bring to light the expertise they

possess in their particular areas. In considering legal questions it would be of little use depending in this Parliament on a barrister who had not been in practice for 10 years. Keeping in touch with a member's profession is an important way of ensuring that his contribution to the people through this Parliament will be a relevant and up-to-date one.

Whether or not the honourable member for Rockhampton received money from adult education is not relevant. Equally, whether or not I give to charity the money I receive is not relevant. Whether or not a member is in a position where no pay at all is involved, such as a university senate position, is not relevant. In fact there are many positions which add to the prestige of an individual in his profession or just generally in the community.

What was the original intent of the concept of barring a member of Parliament from an office of profit under the Crown? It was to avoid a circumstance where members of Parliament operating in another capacity—in a public capacity—could be vulnerable by virtue of their being members of Parliament to political influence from their party. I do not think anyone would suggest that the honourable member for Rockhampton, by teaching in adult education, that I, by giving some lectures by invitation at the University, that a member who is a doctor, by doing some work at the General Hospital, that a lawyer member, by prosecuting for the Crown, would be susceptible or vulnerable to political influence in the pursuit of these duties.

As to the university senate—it is a peculiar thing that the University of Queensland Act does in fact require that two members of Parliament sit on the senate. I believe that could be a grey area. A parliamentarian sitting on the senate could be open to political influence from his party as to how he should vote on a wide range of matters relating to the university, and although there is no money attaching to that position I postulate as a possibility that, if in the near future the Federal Government were to set up a board to look at the proliferation of universities and colleges of advanced education in this State and wanted on that board a trade-unionist, the most appropriate person for appointment, if he is retired by then, would be the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is a trade-unionist, a senior statesman of the Labor Party and a man with many years' experience on the university senate. That appointment would constitute a profit accruing to him from the prestige of having held that post.

I do not believe that the original concept of office of profit was meant to cover university senators; nevertheless that office is an office of prestige that is meaningful to the man who holds the appointment.

The honourable member for Townsville South has asked why have the Bill at all if none of these people are in fact in an office of profit under the Crown. The answer is this: Government has expanded into so many areas and there are so many grey areas of concern to all of us that the Government believes it is time that we defined what is and what is not an office of profit under the original intention, which was that members must not act in a public position where they are susceptible to political manipulation by their political parties. I think that every position that we have discussed today will be exonerated when we apply that principle, as was the case when the House of Commons passed a similar enabling Bill last year.

I entirely support the Bill as interim action. I look forward to having the whole matter cleared up next year so that from time to time members can make valuable contributions to the community and also widen their knowledge of their own professions so that their contributions in Parliament itself can be relevant and up to date. I endorse the Bill and have nothing but praise for the Premier for clearing up this matter.

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12.54 p.m.): I want to make only a couple of brief but pungent remarks. First of all, I want to say that I reject in toto the rather juvenile suggestion of my colleague from South Brisbane—

Mr. LAMONT: I rise to a point of order. The elderly gentleman from Toowong insults me with the word "juvenile".

Mr. PORTER: The quality of his capacity will be judged by what he has said, and when he suggests that I, appointed to the university senate—

Mr. LAMONT: I take a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Would the member withdraw the word "juvenile"?

Mr. PORTER: He is a little younger than I am.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I would ask for the co-operation of the House in allowing the debate to proceed. I believe that from time to time members have risen to points of order when it was not necessary to do so; they only waste the time of the House. Normally the House rises at 1 o'clock, but I would advise the House that in accordance with the arrangement made yesterday between the Whips and all the parties the House will continue sitting until such time as the business of the House is completed. No lunch is provided today and it is intended that when the House rises we will move into our Christmas festivities. I again ask honourable members to co-operate.

Mr. PORTER: If my comment that the honourable gentleman is juvenile offends him, I am only too happy to withdraw it

and apply it only to the tenor of his remarks—which, I think, is quite justified. If anybody is suggesting that I on the senate of the university act in a political manner, I regard that as gratuitous insult. It is not so at all. I act on the senate in what I regard as the best interests of the university.

Mr. LAMONT: I rise to a point of order. I have never said that the honourable member for Toowong or the honourable member for Bulimba has acted in a political manner. I merely said that a member of Parliament sitting on the senate could in fact be susceptible to political influence by his party—"could be", not "had been".

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Toowong to accept the submission of the honourable member for South Brisbane.

Mr. PORTER: I have to accept it, Mr. Speaker. It's a distinction without a difference, though I accept it.

I also reject totally the suggestion that by being on the senate a person is somehow securing profit in the form of prestige. It is a piece of egregious nonsense to suggest that a person at my stage serves on a body such as the senate of the university for the sake of prestige. I dismiss it in toto. I would not have been lured into this debate but for that sort of nonsense spoken here, and I want to nail it as nonsense. It helps none of us.

I am in total agreement with what the honourable member for Chatsworth said today, and what I said yesterday is along the same lines as it. It is a matter of regret that this Bill is before us. We support it because it is a temporary measure. I certainly will want in the future something that ensures that there will be no more financial favours offered to any member of Parliament—or accepted. What manner of Parliament would this be if all of us tended to develop into part-timers? What manner of Parliament would it be if all of us were entitled to scramble for the small but juicy bones—and sometimes big bones—that could fall from the Treasury table? What sort of persons would we be if we were seeking favours from Ministers in terms of extra emoluments? What power would it give to the Executive? It is a horrifying prospect to contemplate.

All of us who are interested in the future of this Parliament—and indeed in the whole system of parliamentary Government—will want nothing to do with it. So I look forward to the Bill that has been promised by the Premier next year. I am sure it is one that we will all support.

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.57 p.m.), in reply: I have been very interested in today's debate. It is quite clear that there are many views, many

attitudes and many angles on matters that for a long time have been in what might be termed a grey area.

As I indicated earlier, this legislation is what could be termed a holding operation. As a measure it will be used as a preliminary to something much more complete—something that I am sure will cover the situation to the satisfaction of members generally.

Mr. Aikens: It is one big mess. If you clean it up next year, we will be happy.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I appreciate what the honourable member says. I state also that his attitude, like that of the honourable members for Toowong and Chatsworth, is similar to my own and that of my deputy and my colleagues. An office of profit under the Crown has to be very clearly defined. From time to time, I have been asked by members what it means. Federally and in the States there is a great deal of uncertainty and confusion.

I give an assurance to honourable members that in the new year the Government will seek by legislation to define quite clearly what can and what cannot be undertaken by members of Parliament, and where those who have the ability and the time can with justification and good conscience do certain things outside their parliamentary duty. We will define that quite clearly, and honourable members will have every opportunity to debate that measure when we resume in the new year.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, by leave, read a third time.

SUCCESSION AND GIFT DUTIES ABOLITION BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (1.1 p.m.): I move—

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

All honourable members were in support of and agreement with this measure to eliminate succession duties and gift duties, having in mind what it would mean to very many people throughout the State. It is indeed a historic piece of legislation that this Government has introduced. I have no intention of pursuing the subject. It was covered very fully by many honourable members yesterday.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (1.2 p.m.): I agree with the Premier that this matter was canvassed quite fully at the introductory stage. As I said, we are not opposed to the principle. Our only concern is that the Government does not see fit to act on higher taxation in other fields that affect our people indirectly.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (1.3 p.m.): I was not at the meeting when this measure was approved. I want the Premier to know that if I had been there I think I would have been one of those who expressed some reservation about the measure.

I found something compelling in the Premier's speech yesterday which gives me enormous reassurance about the wisdom of this measure. He pointed out that death duty was intended originally to attach itself to wealthy estates. Because of the use of trusts, gifts and tax avoidance, those it was intended to hit have succeeded in avoiding it and the tax has moved down very substantially towards the middle-income group and the lower-income group. I find that argument compelling and for that reason now, more than I would have done five or six months ago, I support the Bill with some enthusiasm.

There is one matter upon which I seek some clarification. I do not want to delay the House overmuch. I want to refer to a hypothetical case of Jones who died on 30 June 1976. His estate is taxed. Instead of the estate passing on in the usual fashion, his estate passes on to a life tenant. An obligation is placed on the life tenant to divest himself of the estate to the remaindermen in the fullness of time. Let us say that the life tenant dies on 30 June 1978. By this time the Bill is a fact of life and estates are no longer assessed. Under those circumstances would the estate that still remains be deemed to attach to Jones who died on 30 June 1976 when estates were being assessed or would the situation apply to the date of death of the life tenant? This matter has been referred to me by legal practitioners. I promised them I would raise it. I ask the Premier to clarify it now or later by way of public statement. I assure him that those who are involved in estate matters find this to be an area of some interest and concern. It is a grey area. I hope that in the fullness of time the Premier will choose to give some clarification of the matter.

I am happy to say on this day in December that the Premier and I are in total agreement on the issue.

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (1.5 p.m.): I want to express a short opinion on this matter. I did speak on it during my Budget speech earlier this year. The less said on this subject, the less confusing it is likely to be. I think all members would accept that in the

field of death duties and estate problems, there is more confusion and lack of knowledge than in almost any other.

I have already said in this Chamber that I am not opposed to the main principles of the Bill but I object to the fact that it prescribes no upper limit. I feel that this legislation will perhaps not have much effect now or possibly for the next generation. However, if it is retained, in generations to come there will be a build-up of speculative dynasties in Queensland. It is for that reason that I feel that an upper limit should be prescribed. I do not think that people who have the finance to enable them to engage in speculative activities that are detrimental to the rest of the community should be allowed to do so.

Mr. SIMPSON (Coorooora) (1.6 p.m.): I support the Premier in bringing down a Bill to eliminate succession duty and gift tax from 1 January next year. These taxes fall unfairly on the community because no-one knows when he will die and no-one knows when they will be collected. Businesses find themselves faced with taxes for which they cannot budget. There are times when fathers and sons die almost on the same day, and the burden of then paying more than one lot of probate duty is quite intolerable. At times properties have to be sold up because no cash is available to pay these duties. The loss of capital in such situations can cause businesses to fold up, or at least to become shaky. They lose their expertise and capital that could otherwise be used productively for the development of the State. This legislation is already inducing businessmen to come to Queensland and this trend will offset the loss of revenue that will result from the Bill.

I regret that Federal succession duties and death duties will mean that more money will be retained in Canberra. This is a matter that should be followed up with the Federal Government to ensure that advantages gained by this legislation are not lost.

I thank the Premier for the introduction of the Bill. It is a forward move in freeing people to get on vigorously with the business of free enterprise in this State in the manner to which we in Queensland are accustomed. It has been shown that big businesses and estates do not pay high probate duties, because they find ways to avoid them. It is therefore not valid to argue that there will be a great build-up of capital in this State. I certainly do not believe that that will happen. However, even if that did happen the resultant greater productivity, through the incentive to make money, would return far more in revenue than what was lost in duties.

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (1.9 p.m.), in reply: I appreciate that many members, including the honourable member for Townsville, who just

sought the call, would like to speak. I am sure that they would support the Bill and I am sure that I would also appreciate the remarks that no doubt they would make. But time is beating us today.

I just want to conclude by saying to the honourable member for Chatsworth that I appreciate the thoughts that he has expressed. It was a question that Cabinet and my colleague the Treasurer had come to some finality on where the cut-off point would be, and perhaps if we went further into life interest and so on, it would drag on for a long time and cause quite a deal of confusion. It would probably not be worth the effort to try to collect this money and so it was decided to have this clear cut-off point.

The honourable member for Mackay said that he would like to put an upper limit on it. I think he must be a very clever man if he can imagine that anybody could survive personal and company tax and still boost his estate. I hope the honourable member is not doing it, because if he is he must be doing it surreptitiously.

Mr. Casey: Most certainly not. You may be able to cover this point with a conveyancing tax.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: This is true. I do not go along with the honourable member's suggestion that there ought to be an upper limit—inflation would get us all up into that upper bracket again very quickly—but I do say that this action will benefit the State tremendously, and that is the main objective of the Bill. I think we will all live to see the day where real benefits will flow to the people and the State.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 5, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—No duty on gifts made on or after 1 January 1977—

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (1.12 p.m.): I consider that not enough publicity has been given to this monumental piece of legislation. The deletion of probate and succession duties from the Statute Book would not be adequate and could not be successful without the deletion of gift tax. Gift tax was introduced into this and all other States many years ago in an endeavour to prevent people avoiding the payment of probate and succession duties. The Premier has now abolished this tax, so giving complete freedom across the board to inheritance in this State.

When we look at the cost of collecting gift tax we find that it is a most uneconomic type of tax. The cost of collecting Federal probate and gift taxes is about \$23.82 per

assessment, so honourable members can see that it is not a very efficient method of taxation. One of the recommendations of the Senate select committee inquiring into Government finance was that certain taxes should be abolished, and one of them was the tax on gifts between spouses. They made no recommendation about the removal of taxes on gifts to other members of a family or from person to person. Yet we in this State have done this.

Mr. Moore: The Press never gave it a write-up at all.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Admittedly the Press did not even mention it. The passage of this Bill completes the elimination of succession duties and I consider the Premier should receive special mention in the Press for his vision in introducing this far-reaching legislation.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 9, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, by leave, read a third time.

MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (1.16 p.m.): I move—

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

I thank honourable members for their contributions. It is clear from the comments they made that they appreciate the need for legislation.

As I said at the introductory stage, this is a very simple piece of legislation aimed at providing access by the Commissioner for Main Roads to additional funds for maintaining and improving our roads. The State Government recognises the need and is doing something about it. The legislation represents part of the Government's effort to have access to more funds for road works, and, of course, the Government will continue with its approaches to the Commonwealth to substantially increase its road-funding commitment.

I think that the provisions are well understood and accepted, and I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. MARGINSON (Wolston) (1.17 p.m.): As I said at the introductory stage, the Opposition has no objection to the Bill. It is wholly and solely to authorise the Commissioner of Main Roads to obtain loans by way of debentures, and we support it.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hinze, by leave, read a third time.

FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (1.19 p.m.): I move—

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

I was pleased indeed with the reaction of general approval from both Government and Opposition members to the Bill now before the House. In spite of the fact that it was introduced at the end of a very busy session, honourable members made some very worthwhile comments.

The Leader of the Opposition, the honourable member for Townsville, the honourable member for Isis and others all drew attention to the fact that there are only five wildlife rangers to cover the State and that this number is inadequate. I agree and, as I said, I shall be providing in the next Budget for further appointments. However, I draw the attention of honourable members to the fact that we do have a fairly long list of ex officio fauna officers, including all members of the Police Force. The service has an extremely good working relationship with them.

Furthermore, my colleague, Mr. Newbery, the Police Minister, has agreed to a proposal I made to him arising out of honourable members' contributions to the debate last night, that is, that our wildlife rangers be enabled to receive some training in investigations methods at the police academy. Also for police in situations where they are likely to come across a great deal of this trafficking—the National Parks and Wildlife Service would be willing to train them in recognition of the various species that are smuggled.

As well as the police, certain field staff of the Departments of Lands, Forestry, Primary Industries and Harbours and Marine are ex officio fauna officers. Of course, we cannot forget the several hundred of our valuable honorary protectors who each year bring offenders to book. The staffing position is therefore not as acute as it sounds.

Another matter which many honourable members raised was the proposition that if export of our fauna were made easier, this

would lower the price and assist to reduce the rewards of present smugglers. The honourable member for Carnarvon put it that if birds such as galahs and sulphur-crested white cockatoos could be shot when they were in pest proportions on crops, it would be better if they could be trapped and exported. The birds would thus not be slaughtered and the State would gain revenue by way of royalties.

So far as the overseas export of fauna is concerned, two authorities are involved, firstly, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and secondly the Commonwealth Departments of Customs and Police. It is extremely difficult to obtain Commonwealth approval, which is limited to bona fide zoos, for scientific purposes and to pet fauna, which must generally have been kept for six months before approval to export is given.

It is feared that a more liberalised approach would result in organised trapping of birds and other fauna and our being unaware of the quality of the premises to which the birds were going. We have a duty to see that our fauna go only to people who can give them good living quarters. We need to look to their well-being because they have no say in the matter.

The quarantine and pest aspects also pose problems. Once a large legal traffic were allowed, it would be very difficult to prevent entry of various diseases which could affect not only other animals but people as well. Then, of course, exotic animals do become pests if they escape. The Australian possum and European deer in New Zealand are good examples. In other words, almost all overseas countries are reluctant to accept large numbers of wild fauna from other countries. At this time, therefore, I do not believe this is a matter that the Government should decide without a great deal of expert advice.

As to penalty—the Leader of the Opposition mentioned that the 1974 Act carried a maximum penalty of \$300. It was actually \$3,000.

Mr. Burns: No, the Act before that was the one I was talking about.

Mr. TOMKINS: I see. We believed it was pretty severe, but evidently it is not. The present maximum of \$10,000 and two years' gaol is substantial in anyone's language.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (1.23 p.m.): We welcome the move to protect and preserve the fauna of the State. I have a couple of queries to raise with the Minister. It is proposed to amend section 14 of the Act to provide—

“(1) if he is a member of the Police Force of the State or a wildlife ranger employed by the Conservator, may without any authority other than this subparagraph arrest a person found committing an offence against this Act . . .”

I thought people were allowed to do that anyway. Carter's "Criminal Law of Queensland" in Part VIII dealing with procedure on arrest provides—

“(c) It is lawful for any person who finds another committing the offence to arrest him without warrant.”

Under those circumstances I believe that the wildlife rangers would be able to arrest. If a citizen can do it, why can't they? They are citizens of the State. Having made that point I am not going to argue about it any further. What is being done is very good. The penalties are being increased to \$10,000, except in one provision. That relates to people who keep fauna.

I think we have to start at two different levels. We ought to be setting out to catch people who trap birds. A person cannot trade in them until they are trapped. I believe that there should be a heavier penalty there. I cannot see a heavy penalty for trapping in this Bill. I can see penalties for keeping fauna, offences by fauna dealers, buying and selling fauna, dealing in fauna, removal of fauna from one section of the State to another and removing fauna from the State, but I cannot see anything at all about trapping. It could be there but in a quick look through the Bill I cannot see it. In addition to that it seems to me that at the other end it is time we had a look at some controlled export ourselves. One way to stop illegal dealing is to make provision for people to be able to buy some of the birds. I believe that people are paying as much as \$5,000 and \$6,000 for golden-shouldered parrots. I have not seen one, but if they could be sold—

Mr. Moore: They are breeding them down at Woody Point.

Mr. BURNS: In that case, it might be worth while making provision for the restricted sale of those birds. I am sure that by doing so the Government would lessen the opportunity for the illegal dealer to make a lot of money. If he is not going to make much money from the sale of those parrots he will get out of the trade. We do not oppose the Bill.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (1.26 p.m.): I hope that when the Minister is considering the expansion of his department he will pay attention to the fact that it is not necessary to have the total area of parks or forestry reserves set aside. Many countries have areas in which flora and fauna are conserved mixed up with industrial and urban areas. In eastern countries it is quite common to see rice paddy-fields, cattle-grazing areas, factories and houses all mixed up together. This matter should be considered in Australia in order to preserve our unique fauna.

When Robert Towns landed in Townsville it was a magnificent area of swamps in which kangaroos, ducks, wild geese and brolgas abounded. It captured his heart, and led him to settle there. These days, however, those waterways have either totally disappeared as a result of draining or been interfered with. Fortunately there remains a magnificent area associated with the town common backing onto an area that was at one time the resting paddocks for Wirth's Circus. That area is named Mt. St. John Zoo after an old pioneer St. John Robinson, who bred kangaroos, wild ducks, geese and brolgas on it. Their offspring can still be seen there today.

I suggest that the Minister give consideration to the preservation of an area like Mt. St. John Zoo and its associated waterways in conjunction with the town common. It would be quite easy to acquire that land in continuity, thereby preserving a great heritage. Such an area would attract considerable interest from tourists. Many visitors come to Townsville to see the brolgas dance. These features could be preserved and commercialised.

I have no criticism whatsoever of the Bill. It is a forward-thinking measure and it deserves the full support of the House.

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (1.28 p.m.), in reply: I thank the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Townsville for their comments. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the commercial sale of rare and expensive birds. We will have a look at it. I think there are problems associated with such a move. As has been pointed out, this illegal trade is conducted by organised crooks, and I think it would be difficult to police the organised sale of such birds.

The member for Townsville referred to the preservation of certain areas. The National Parks and Wildlife Act is being thoroughly overhauled and I hope that a new Bill will be brought forward next year. I will certainly take notice of his comments. I thank honourable members generally for their remarks and commend the Bill to the House.

Motion (Mr. Tomkins) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 13, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

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

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): Mr. Speaker, we have now come to the part of today's proceedings that I think we have all been looking forward to. I therefore move—

“That this House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 o'clock a.m. on a date to be fixed by Mr. Speaker in consultation with the Government of this State. Mr. Speaker shall, not less than seven days prior to the meeting date so fixed, give notification of such meeting date to each member of the House.”

Motion agreed to.

VALEDICTORY

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (1.32 p.m.): I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

In doing so, I wish every one of my colleagues and members generally a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year—and a period of relaxation after a long, strenuous session. As I suppose members realise, since we commenced on 28 August we have dealt with 58 Bills, 54 of which have been passed. Four Bills remain on the Business Paper. It has been a very busy session and we have dealt with many important issues.

I hope that we are all spared to return here next year in good health and strength. The Deputy Premier has reminded me that as we adjourned just prior to the election I said to one honourable member that he could now go and sleep to his heart's content because he certainly would not be here when the Parliament reassembled. My forecast proved to be correct; he is now not with us. Perhaps some honourable members can work out who that was. I am not making any such forecasts on this occasion. I certainly hope that everyone returns safely early in the new year. The Leader of the Opposition does not need to have any worries about an early election.

I wish to extend my personal thanks and the Government's to everybody concerned with the running of the House. We thank you for the wonderful way in which you have conducted the business. With a little advice and help, you have assisted some members to maintain the dignity of the House. Perhaps we all need that on occasions. I extend to you, Mr. Speaker, very sincerely, a big thank you. I wish you, your wife and family the very best for Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and pleasure to express appreciation to the Chairmen of Committees, who acted as Speaker during your short absence through ill health. Our best wishes go to him and his family. I express similar wishes to my very good friend and colleague the Deputy Premier (Mr.

Knox). It has been a great pleasure to work with him. I appreciate the dedicated way in which he and indeed all my ministerial colleagues have shouldered their very heavy responsibilities.

I thank the Government Whips for their contributions to the conduct of the business of the House and members generally for their efforts in debate.

Mr. Speaker, we are very fortunate in having the band of officers who support you and the Chairman of Committees in the general conduct of parliamentary business. We thank the Clerk (Mr. Cyril George), Mr. Wyborn and the other members of the Clerk's staff for their ready assistance.

To Mr. Leo Murray, our Parliamentary counsel, and his staff I offer my thanks for their hard work and the long hours entailed—frequently well into the night.

To the Chief Reporter (Mr. McCarthy) and his staff, we say thank you.

To the Librarian (Mr. Bannenberg) and his staff, we also offer our thanks.

I express thanks to members' typists and to Miss Glennie and her staff. I think we all take our hats off to Miss Glennie for the work she does in helping all of us in the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms.

I compliment the messengers on their cheerful manner. I see a few of them in the Chamber. Unfortunately, John Fisher had to retire when his health deteriorated. I see George Peters there. Good on you, George; you have been doing your job very well.

I express thanks to the switchboard attendants, whom we hear from frequently, but seldom see. We remember them on this special occasion.

I thank those on the communications side, the members of the Press gallery, who keep the public informed. We recognise their responsible work and the good way in which they carry it out.

I thank and express good wishes to Mr. Keith Spann; my secretary; my Press secretary; and other members of my staff. I am sure that all honourable members would like me to express thanks to those who work very close to them and me. We recognise their worth and the way they help us.

This sittings of Parliament is already history. We approach the season of peace, good will and happiness, hoping for some relaxation.

I wish all honourable members a very joyous Christmas and good health in 1977 when we will renew our endeavours in the service of the people of Queensland. It has been a great pleasure to work with every honourable member. Political life is a strange and extraordinary one. I think that all round there is a spirit of good will among all honourable members on both sides of the House. I thank them all and wish them the best.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (1.37 p.m.): As I imagine all honourable members would be, I am happy to support the motion moved by the Premier.

To you, Mr. Speaker, and to the other presiding officers I express thanks for all of the courtesies that have been extended to honourable members during the sittings. I attach to that expression the officers sitting at the centre table who maintain the records of Parliament so efficiently.

As this is still the Forty-first Parliament and there being no prospect of an early election, as the Premier indicated we on this side of the House would like to extend our very best to the Opposition for the festive season. Long may they reign in their position.

In Parliament we take a lot for granted. We are so absorbed in the day-to-day activities of debate and the cut and thrust of argument that sometimes we fail to realise that Parliament would just not function but for the numerous behind the scenes people who ensure that the wheels are well oiled. I support the remarks of the Premier concerning the people who ensure that those wheels are well oiled.

The domestic staff ensure that Parliament functions. The security staff numbers have been increased during the year. Their hours are arduous. Often I have had reason to call at Parliament House quite late in the evening or early in the morning to pick up things or to attend to urgent matters. They have been standing by to let members into and out of the building and to ensure security. This is something quite new. I regret that something has appeared on the horizon in our nation that requires this because for years we did not have to bother about it.

I make particular reference to the staff who look after the gardens at Parliament House. They have had a very difficult time

this year owing to the construction of the new building. A great deal of their work over the years has been destroyed. They have had to make special arrangements this year to prepare for the future. It must be very soul-destroying for people as dedicated as they have been over the years to see these changes take place. Nevertheless, in the long term I think it will be for the better.

I should like to support the Premier's remarks about Mr. John Fisher, who is regarded as the Premier's messenger and who in fact is one of those extraordinary people within Parliament who ensure a smooth relationship between the Executive and members generally. I am pleased to place on record my appreciation of his services and I trust that his health will improve.

During this year upon the sad departure of Marty Hanson, we had an opportunity to record our condolences. His death brought a great sadness to all of us.

We are all pleased to learn that Geoffrey Chinchin is recovering well. I was out to see him last week. He has not been in the House at all during this half of the session but he is now restored to good health.

We also saw the retirement of John Murray and Gordon Chalk. They had different personalities and different ways of doing business, but they were part of the political scene in this House and they will be missed. We have a number of personalities all contributing in their own and different ways to the successful running of Parliament, and we enjoy their company while they are here.

At this time of the year we have the opportunity of placing on record all that has been done and I have very much pleasure indeed in supporting the remarks of the Premier and wishing everyone in the House, and those who work behind the scenes, the very best for the festive season.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (1.42 p.m.): I should like to wish every member of the House good health and good cheer for the Christmas-tide and I hope to see everyone back again next year. I wish everyone good health, because the Deputy Premier reminded us of the loss of Marty Hanson, whose death came as a blow to us all. In the few years in which I have been here whenever we have reassembled after a break we have had to pay tribute to a member or former member who has passed away. Let us hope that we all

have a wonderful Christmas with our families. Let us hope that we enjoy the festive season and that we do not have to come back to the sadness of missing friends.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I give my very best wishes for the Christmas season. In the very short time in which you have been in the chair you have done a great deal for members. There have been remarkable changes in the House in the few years that I have been here in the way that some of the committees are working, and even our own Parliamentary Association. That is a credit to you and I thank you for it.

To the Clerk of the Parliament and the gentlemen who assist him at the table, I give my thanks for their friendly advice whenever we want to know something about Standing Orders or what we should be doing in various situations. I convey to them the best wishes of the Opposition.

I thank the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Hewitt, for his assistance and forbearance on those occasions when we may have strayed a little from the subject of debate. The facts of life are that we appreciate the way in which he has handled proceedings. It is much easier for all if there is someone in the chair who is in control. I therefore again give my thanks to Mr. Hewitt.

I thank, too, the Whips, who work so well in ensuring that the business of the House goes through. It has been a fairly easy session in that we have not had too many very late nights. The business has been handled in a way that has been acceptable to all.

My congratulations go to members of "Hansard", who seem to be able to make our speeches read a lot better than they sound.

I also congratulate the Government Printer, who is still, I believe, the fastest printer in the Western World because no sooner have we agreed that a Bill be printed than it is being passed around. There is a great deal of work done after we go home even at 2 o'clock in the morning. Someone works through the night reading proofs and getting material ready for us to read the next day.

In the same way I thank the attendants who assist us to do our job in the Parliament. I thank those in the dining-room and the girls who look after us with that happy smile whenever we go in grumpy after a debate or do not have much time, or whenever we want to stay there late at night and hold them up.

I think everyone in the Parliament accepts that the girls on the switchboard and in the correspondence room do a lot of work for us, and they accept the times when we are unhappy about a phone call or a letter we receive. It is either the girls on the switch or the girls who do the correspondence for us who have to bear the brunt of our ill will. So we apologise if we have shown them any ill will during the year.

While I am talking of staff, I want to mention my own staff and the very hard work they have to do.

Mr. Jones: Your own small staff.

Mr. BURNS: Yes, my own small staff. They have done a very good job in looking after all the Opposition members. In fact, it has been a more difficult job for them recently than it was when we had a large Opposition, because we now use the staff as the Opposition staff rather than as the Opposition Leader's staff. I am grateful to them and to Laurie and Mark, who assist them.

We could go on to the cleaners and others who always seem to be able to make the room look good again the next morning after a heavy night, the gardeners, as the Treasurer said, the watchmen and the policewomen up in the gallery. They have been a fine selection of policewomen. Many a night when somebody is droning on in the House we study the girls in the gallery. It is all right from here in the Opposition benches to look up, and one always finds a happy, smiling young police lady up there looking after us all.

I want to thank the staff of the library. As the debates ensue we ask more and more from the library attendants and the staff of the library and they, too, do a remarkable job on our behalf—again with a small staff.

The same applies to the watchmen outside. When we are going out late at night there is always someone standing around ready to offer a cheery word to send us on our way.

There are also the journalists and others up in the gallery who report our speeches. They do not always report them the way we want it, but they are always reported faithfully and well in accordance with their duties here in the Parliament.

So may I say to each and everyone of them—and if I have missed anyone, I am sorry—thanks very, very much for a fine year.

I hope that they have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with their families and that we see them again next year.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Before the House adjourns, I would like to say that I appreciate the congratulations offered to me as Speaker and also the staff of the House. Might I say that it has been a very, very easy session because everybody has co-operated. This is a most important aspect of the running of the House. The co-operation of all members has been available at all times.

My congratulations go to the Whips, who have done a magnificent job, and also to the Leader of the House, who has been responsible for making sure that the business of the House is ready to proceed.

I thank the "Hansard" staff and my own staff, who have always been readily available and, as everybody has said, do a magnificent job. They have to sit here till all hours of the night, together with the police, the Press and everybody who is associated with the conduct of the House. All I can do is offer them my sincere thanks.

I offer my deep appreciation and heartiest congratulations to Miss Glennie and her staff, who have always been available to see that we get the necessary goodies. Even though we are running about an hour behind schedule for the Christmas get-together, everyone can take it that they will not be disappointed because the Treasurer is quite prepared to pick up the tab and look after you in that direction.

So before we proceed to adjourn the House, can I say: a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Bright New Year to you all. May 1977 bring everything you wish for yourselves. Having been a victim of ill health, I suggest that the most important thing is that you enjoy good health; if you have good health you are the richest man in the world.

To honourable members: I wish you and your families everything you wish yourselves; Merry Christmas and a cheerful and Happy New Year. My sincere thanks to everybody who has contributed in any way whatsoever to making the operation of this House the success which it has been and making my job an easy one. I extend an invitation to you all—staff, journalists, police, everybody, to join me in the refreshment rooms for a Christmas get-together.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.50 p.m.