

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 1977

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

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Government Gas Engineer and Chief Gas Examiner, for the year 1975-76.

Rural Reconstruction Board, for the year 1975-76.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

Grain Research Foundation Act 1976.

Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1973.

Orders in Council under—

Mining Act 1968-1976.

Mines Regulation Act 1964-1968.

Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913-1976.

Racing and Betting Act 1954-1975.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916-1974.

Apprenticeship Act 1964-1974.

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1974.

The City of Brisbane Market Acts, 1960 to 1967.

The Commissions of Inquiry Acts, 1950 to 1954.

Dairy Products Stabilisation Act 1933-1972.

Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act 1958-1975.

Meat Industry Act 1965-1973.

Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923-1974.

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1973.

The Soil Conservation Act of 1965.

Stock Act 1915-1976.

Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1973.

Wheat Pool Act 1920-1972.

City of Brisbane Act 1924-1976.

City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1976.

Clean Air Act Amendment Act 1976 (No. 2).

Fisheries Act 1957-1974.

Regulations under—

- Mining Act 1968–1976.
 Land Tax Act 1915–1976.
 Pay-roll Tax Act 1971–1976.
 Workers' Compensation Act 1916–1974.
 Inspection of Machinery Act 1951–1974.
 The Statistical Returns Acts, 1896 to 1935.
 Fire Brigades Act 1964–1976.
 Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966–1972.
 Agricultural Standards Act 1952–1972.
 Chicken Meat Industry Committee Act 1976.
 Diseases in Plants Act 1929–1972.
 Fruit and Vegetables Act 1947–1972.
 Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926–1973.
 Stock Act 1915–1976.
 Local Government Act 1936–1976.
 Building Act 1975.
 By-laws Nos. 1071 to 1074 under the Railways Act 1914–1976.

Rules under—

- Factories and Shops Act 1960–1975.
 Inspection of Machinery Act 1951–1974.
 Ordinances under the City of Brisbane Act 1924–1976.
 Government Gazette Extraordinary of 17 February 1977 containing a Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor to the effect that Her Majesty The Queen has been pleased, by Order-in-Council made on 17 January 1977 to declare Her Assent to the Bill intituled "A Bill to provide for the payment of pensions to certain former Governors of the State and for the spouses of certain deceased Governors and former Governors and to provide for matters incidental thereto".

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

LEGAL FEES RECEIVED FROM THE CROWN

Hon. J. W. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove—Minister for Survey and Valuation) (11.9 a.m.): I would like to make a statement relating to some difficulties the Leader of the Opposition has in understanding some remarks of mine and of the Minister for Justice made on 8 December last year.

I also think it is important that it is made a matter of record once and for all that most of what Mr. K. J. Hooper said on 8 December last was completely false. There were of course some figures which were correct but when he came to do his additions the result was completely wrong and consequently the impression which he created was grossly misleading.

I should like to commence by referring to the figures as shown in the returns tabled in Parliament of fees which I received as a barrister in recent years from the Crown and

the S.G.I.O. For convenience I shall describe the financial year 1975-76 as 1976 and so on. The figures are:—

Year	\$
1976	1,552
1975	6,109
1974	1,447
1973	805
1972	1,245
1971	1,562
1970	114
1969	1,001
1968	1,430
1967	1,499
1966	1,990

Anybody reading those returns would notice in most years the name R. F. Greenwood appears alongside my own. He is my brother and has established one of the most extensive and successful practices as a defence counsel in Queensland. He consequently does a great deal of work for the Public Defender. It is noteworthy that his name does not appear at all in 1975, the year when the unusually large amount of \$6,109 appears against my own name.

The relevant figures for my brother in recent years were—

Year	\$
1976	10,039
1975	No Entry
1974	3,720
1973	2,207
1972	615
1971	1,994
1970	775
1969	258

The honourable member for Archerfield stated to the House on 8 December that in the 1974-75 financial year I received legal fees from the Crown amounting to \$6,109. That statement is incorrect. When a person has the returns before him, as the honourable member for Archerfield must have had when preparing his speech—

Mr. Frawley: He has never prepared a speech in his life. They are written for him by Trades Hall.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I accept the honourable member's statement. However, he must have had them.

It seems pretty obvious that the clerk compiling the return included my brother's fees with mine. Correcting the figures—\$3,290 should have been under my name and \$2,819 under R. F. Greenwood. However, the ordinary, common-sense explanation didn't commend itself to the honourable member for Archerfield.

On the same day the honourable member for Archerfield stated also that returns tabled in Parliament showed that since my election I had received an amount of \$14,843.60. Mr. Speaker, I was elected on 7 December 1974, and that statement by the honourable member for Archerfield is grossly incorrect. It is incomprehensible to me how any honest man

looking at the figures in the returns could come up with that result. It is so wrong as to be incomprehensible.

I have added up the figures, trying to work out how he arrived at the result, and for a while I tried to give him the benefit of the doubt. I thought he might have believed that I entered Parliament in 1969 instead of 1974; but, when I added them up that way, that explanation didn't help him. I thought he might have added in my brother's fees since 1974, but they don't add up, either, and that explanation does not help him. The only explanation I am left with is that he deliberately fabricated the figure in order to give some credence to his speech.

I shall refer to the figures again in a moment. It should be remembered that the way the returns are prepared they not only include fees paid by the Crown—that is, fees paid by the Crown Solicitor for Crown briefs or by the Public Defender for public defences—but they also include fees paid by private solicitors for civil work between private litigants in those cases where the insurance company happened to be the S.G.I.O. To this extent the figures are not easy to interpret, because they include amounts which in no sense can be regarded as fees from Crown briefs.

The remarks of the honourable member for Archerfield were made during the debate on the Crown Appointments Declaratory Act and the alterations it made to the Officials in Parliament Act. Three points should be made on that topic. The first is that it is useful for the Parliament to contain a number of professional men. It is recognised that engineers, accountants, solicitors, architects and members of other professions have a contribution to make to the complex problems of government today. Secondly, whilst their duty to their electors is paramount, it is important that they should keep in touch with their professions and maintain some level of professional practice—at least while they are back-benchers. Thirdly, in the particular case of members of the bar it has always been recognised that they should be prepared to accept professional work from the Crown Solicitor as well as from private solicitors.

There is nothing in the Officials in Parliament Act which prevents this. The view has been held for many, many years that the Officials in Parliament Act does not apply to members of the bar. Since a decision of the English Court of Appeal in 1907, it has been accepted that the Act does not apply to solicitors, either. There is no doubt whatsoever in the ordinary case; but it is only in recent years that members of the private bar have been briefed to prosecute for the Crown in criminal cases.

I sought the opinion of the Acting Solicitor-General earlier in the life of this Parliament and he assured me that the Act did not apply to briefs to prosecute for the Crown. Just before Christmas, when the honourable member for Archerfield raised the matter in

the House, two further opinions were obtained, one from the Crown Law Office and one from the most eminent and distinguished Q.C. practising in Queensland at the private bar. In both cases the opinion was—as the Attorney-General reported to this House—that the Officials in Parliament Act does not apply. My own view is that the Crown represents the public interest and that it is the duty of a barrister to accept Crown work and fit it into his programme if he possibly can.

Since coming into Parliament I have accepted three briefs from the Crown. One was a brief to prosecute where a V.I.P. from another State had been assaulted while on a holiday at the Gold Coast. His credit was going to be attacked and it was desirable to have a fairly senior member of the bar to handle the prosecution. The second was an appeal to the High Court. The Health Department's interpretation of "cannabis" was being challenged and a number of prosecutions depended on the outcome. Once again I felt that it was an important case and that I should accept the brief. The third case was one of alleged fraud, many elements of which were alleged to have taken place in another State. The facts were extremely complicated and again I felt that I should accept the brief.

From my entering Parliament on 7 December 1974 to 30 June 1975, the total amount of fees received from the Crown or the S.G.I.O. amounted to \$599. From 1 July 1975 to 31 June 1976, the figure was, as I have mentioned, \$1,552, of which the sum of \$1,090 was from private solicitors for civil work—some of it, I might say, done about three years or so before—and S.G.I.O. matters. Only \$462 represented fees from the Crown.

These figures indicate how hopelessly wrong and misleading were Mr. K. J. Hooper's allegations of \$14,843.

I am reluctantly driven to the conclusion that Mr. Hooper's figures were a fabrication and it makes it very difficult for me to accept his remarks in this House as being those of a responsible member.

PETITION

AMENDMENT OF LIQUOR ACT

Mr. SIMPSON (Cooroora) presented a petition from 102 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend the Liquor Act so as to allow golf and bowls clubs to sell take-away bottled liquor to their members.

Petition read and received.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (11.19 a.m.), by leave: This is about me and not my no-hoper brother.

"The Courier-Mail" of today, 9 March, makes special mention, with appropriate headlines, that I was absent from the Chamber

when the vote was taken yesterday on the motion of the Leader of the Opposition. That is true. But as it implies that I was remiss in my parliamentary duties and particularly as it makes no mention of 10 other members who were absent, I should like to again assert that I have never voted and will never vote on a motion actuated by purely political propaganda or hypocrisy, no matter who moves it.

Yesterday's motion was moved by a political hypocrite and supported by 10 other hypocrites and I refused to insult my electorate by voting on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The first part of the explanation proper is in order but I would say that the second part is incorrect.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. FEDERAL TAX REIMBURSEMENTS TO STATES

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

With reference to proposed changes in the relativities under the new federalism for the reimbursement of 33.6 per cent of the tax pool to the States and the formula upon which Queensland receives its portion, will he outline what proposals he has put forward to the Prime Minister and his Treasurer for Queensland's future allocations and does he accept that the Federal Grants Commission is a suitable body to carry out a review of the existing relativities?

Answer:—

The only matters relating to the review of relativities which is presently under active consideration are the composition of the body which will undertake the review which is to take place before the end of 1980-81 and the guide-lines which such body will be asked to follow.

There have been some discussions on these matters within the confidentiality of Premiers' Conferences, and discussion is to be resumed at a forthcoming meeting of the Premiers' Conference.

As it is necessary that Premiers' Conferences be held in an atmosphere of willingness to achieve a consensus view which takes into account the different arguments put by all States, it is not appropriate for me to state in advance of the meeting what this State's attitude will be.

Whatever body is finally decided as being appropriate to carry out this review, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition can be assured that when the time comes for submissions to be made to such body, the Queensland Government's case will be adequately presented.

2. STAMP DUTY AND DEATH DUTY

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

(1) To ascertain the economic results of the State's elimination of death duties

from 1 January, what was the total amount received from stamp duties in January/February 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974 and 1973?

(2) What was the State's stamp duty charges or levies in each of these years?

(3) Has his Government, in checking the economic effects of this decision, checked to see whether sales have been of residential or business properties and, if so, how many of each category were transferred in the January/February period of the past five years?

(4) Are figures available on a district basis of stamp duty paid on titles transferred and, if so, what were the numbers in each category for January/February for the last five years in Gold Coast, North Coast, Brisbane and North Queensland?

(5) What amounts have been received by way of death duties since 1 January, 1977?

Answers:—

As there are quite a lot of figures included in the answer I table it and ask that it be incorporated in "Hansard"—

(1) Conveyance duty collected during the two-month period January/February, in each of the past five years, is as follows:—

	\$
1977	5,667,926
1976	4,685,814
1975	2,729,596
1974	4,426,880
1973	4,299,936

(2) The present rate of conveyance duty, and that which applied in 1976, is calculated in accordance with the following scale:—

\$1.50 per \$100 or part thereof up to \$20,000;

\$300 plus \$2 per \$100 or part thereof exceeding \$20,000 but under \$50,000;

\$900 plus \$2.50 per \$100 or part thereof exceeding \$50,000 but under \$100,000;

\$2,150 plus \$3.00 per \$100 or part thereof exceeding \$100,000 but under \$500,000;

\$14,150 plus \$3.50 per \$100 or part thereof exceeding \$500,000.

In the years 1975, 1974 and 1973, the conveyance duty was charged at \$1.25 for every \$100 or part thereof.

(3 and 4) This information is not available.

(5) Succession duty paid for January and February of this year amounted to \$3,327,331.

3. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINAL SCHOOL-CHILDREN

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in the "Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 15 January in which certain people,

following an Aboriginal and Islander Council meeting at Charters Towers, made alarming and scurrilous charges against white school-teachers, accusing them of "streaming" Aboriginal and Islander school-children into courses at State high schools that stopped them going any further than fourth form and that such teachers put the blackest kids in the lowest classes, on the basis of the fairer the skin, the higher the class, and that many teachers showed their racist attitudes by referring to Aboriginal and Islander children as "boongs"?

(2) As the charges received very wide publicity not only in the Press but in other media, did John Rockett, or any other official of the Teachers' Union or any member of the A.L.P. of which Mr. Rockett is a prominent and vociferous member, make any attempt to defend the State school-teachers against this type of political scurrility and, if so, when and how?

(3) Did the Townsville Trades and Labor Council or any official of it attempt to defend the teachers and, if so, when and how?

(4) Apart from a long, generalised Press statement that was too long to print, did the Minister launch any attack on this scurrility and the people responsible for it and, if so, when and how?

(5) Did the A.L.P. shadow Minister for Education in this House make any attempt to defend the State school-teachers against this monstrously foul attack and, if so, when and how?

Answers:—

(1) Yes, and I thank the honourable member for sending me a copy of the article together with his comments.

(2 and 3) Not to my knowledge.

(4) The article in the "Townsville Daily Bulletin" was a long one and required a long reply. The Press statement was not a generalised one but a specific statement covering the points of the article. If the newspaper had considered it too long, there was no reason why extracts from the reply could not have been printed as it is a well-known fact that newspapers do not hesitate to condense statements given to them. The Acting Editor of the "Townsville Daily Bulletin" was specially asked why my reply was not used and he was only able to say that he knew of no reason except that possibly it was mislaid prior to or after being received. The Acting Editor did, however, request that a further copy of the release be forwarded to him, and this has been done.

In my statement, some of the points made were as follows—

(i) "Allegations concerning the streaming of Aboriginal students into dead-end courses, because of the students' colour,

were wide of the mark and quite unfair, particularly in the case of these students attending schools in Queensland."

(ii) "The education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students had been an area of great effort over the past years. A large number of advances have been made and these have been of great help to Aboriginal and Islander students. Advisory teachers, including an Aboriginal teacher, visit schools to discuss the education of indigenous students. Seminars for teachers are held in Brisbane and Townsville each year and these deal with the education of indigenous students."

(iii) "The reference to students being placed in classes on the colour of their skin would have no foundation. Although the greater number do not proceed beyond grade 10 an increasing number now see that higher education is important."

(5) Only the Opposition spokesman for education can answer this question.

4. LABOR-IN-POLITICS CONVENTION ATTITUDE TO COLLINSVILLE POWER STRIKE

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

(1) Will he ascertain if Senator J. Keffe, his wife Townsville Alderman Sheila Keffe, Townsville Alderman Mike Reynolds, Mr. Col Emery or Mr. Alex Wilson, all of whom were representatives or delegates to the recent Labor-in-Politics Convention, attempted to raise at that convention the frightful plight of the citizens and workers of the Townsville Regional Board area, the tremendous losses suffered by industry and North Queensland in general and the staggering amount of wages and salaries lost by workers who were laid off as the result of the strike by a small group of employees at Collinsville?

(2) If the matter was raised at the convention, by whom was it raised and what was the method and outcome of such raising?

(3) Is there any record of Mr. and Mrs. Keffe, Messrs. Emery, Rockett or Wilson mentioning at the convention or anywhere else, that during that strike and the resultant electricity blackouts thousands of workers, their wives and children had no refrigeration, fans or cooling systems and no heating for food preparation, compelling workers to go to work "on a glass of water and a cold sandwich", and children to go to school without a hot breakfast, together with many other grave discomforts and disabilities?

(4) Did Alderman Mike Reynolds stoutly support the strike in a statement over a Townsville radio station and was his action applauded at the following meeting of the Townsville Trades and Labor Council?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I welcome the honourable member's question because I appreciate his concern for the people of North Queensland. He will acknowledge, of course, that I am not privy to the proceedings of the recent Labor-in-Politics Convention but I would think that, as they applied particularly to the strike by Collinsville maintenance employees, there would have been little of criticism and much of praise. It is not my desire to canvass the events at Collinsville that caused so much suffering, hardship and financial loss to the people of North Queensland. But I want to say this Government and the Industrial Commission stand ready at all times to investigate and redress, if necessary, industrial wrongs. And I can say in favour of the workers at Collinsville that, when the Government instituted an exhaustive and expensive inquiry into all circumstances of their employment and found they were not suffering any penalties in relation to their counterparts elsewhere, they accepted the findings.

The honourable member is asking whether Senator Keffe, two Townsville City Council aldermen and two other delegates to or representatives at the Labor-in-Politics Convention attempted to raise the question of loss of wages and disruption of industry as a result of the strike. If Senator Keffe raised anything which resembled criticism of any strike I would be amazed. If he raised the question of community inconvenience and industrial loss I would be similarly surprised. What I can say is that if he didn't, he is a disgrace to North Queensland.

I would welcome a statement from the Leader of the Opposition as to the Labour-in-Politics Convention's attitude to the effects of the Collinsville strike. Indeed, the Australian Labor Party in this House has an obligation to all of Queensland to state unequivocally just where it stands in relation to the use of the arbitration system and on strikes against public welfare and the welfare of other workers.

5. AUSTRALIAN UNION OF STUDENTS

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

(1) Has he seen reports in the media concerning a recently held meeting of the Australian Union of Students at Monash University at which decent students, both

men and women, were subjected to detestable and cowardly oral and physical attacks by the Communist, lesbian, homosexual, pot-smoking elements and the raff generally because they would not support the outrageous proposals put forward by those elements?

(2) If so, is he aware that these A.U.S. meetings are financed by money conscripted from students at their respective universities and colleges of advanced education by the administration of those institutions and paid over willy-nilly to the students' unions, which then affiliate with the A.U.S.?

(3) Is he aware that these affiliation fees amount to \$700,000 per year?

(4) As universities are controlled by State legislation, will he give an unqualified assurance that, as far as Queensland is concerned, the relevant Acts will be overhauled in order to protect decent students and the reputation of our universities and colleges of advanced education from the student scum who fatten and batten on the present legislation and, as a first step, will he make the payment of fees to a student body voluntary instead of compulsory?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes, I am aware.

(3) Yes, I am aware.

(4) This matter is under investigation by me. I am shortly to meet the members of the Senate of the University of Queensland and councillors of other institutions to discuss these matters.

6. VANDALISM AT SCHOOLS

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

(1) With regard to the shocking act of vandalism which occurred at the Everton Park State High School on the night of 7 March, is he aware of the growing resentment by the community towards the lunatic fringe who are destroying and disrupting our schools in an ever-escalating number of occurrences?

(2) What are some suggestions being considered by his department to minimise the continuation of such destruction, together with the associated risks to gallant members of our dedicated fire brigades?

(3) Will he discuss these proposals with the Ministers for Education and Cultural Activities and Works and Housing as soon as possible?

(4) Does he support my call for living-in janitor/groundsmen supported by guard dogs to provide some deterrent to these rat-bags who are costing the community millions of dollars through their wantonly destructive acts of wasteful vandalism?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) As the honourable member knows, I have made representations to Cabinet to increase the numbers of personnel in the Police Force. This will enable the Police Department to engage more persons in field work with a view to the prevention and detection of this type of offence. Many other matters are, of course, receiving due consideration.

(3) Yes.

(4) Whilst I support all measures calculated to reduce vandalism of this kind, the matter is one for consideration by my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Education, who necessarily must be governed by availability of finance in making his decision.

7. ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

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

(1) With regard to his answers to my questions on 7 October 1975 and 30 and 31 March 1976 concerning electoral redistribution wherein he indicated the development of an alarmingly undemocratic situation in that as at 31 December 1975 there were 12 electorates above and three below the allowable 20 per cent zonal variation of the quota, which electorates by zones as at 31 December 1976 were (a) above and (b) below the allowable 20 per cent variation under the Electoral Districts Act 1971?

(2) Do these variations indicate an urgent need for a redistribution both in the public interest and in the name of future truly democratic elections?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I table the information sought by the honourable member.

The Government is giving consideration to the implications of the variations disclosed by these figures and the question of remedial action being taken in terms of the relevant legislation.

Mr. LINDSAY: I rise to a point of order. On 30 March 1976, in answer to a similar question, the Premier tabled information. Subsequently that information did not

appear in "Hansard". If the Premier tables information, I would ask that it at least appear in "Hansard". Personally, as the representative of the 14,000 people of Everton, I would like to hear the answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The material tabled by the Premier will appear in "Hansard".

Answer (contd.)—

(a) *Districts above allowable 20% variation of Quota*

Zone 1—South-eastern Zone—

Albert
Fassifern
Landsborough
Mansfield
Murrumba
Pine Rivers
Redlands
Salisbury
South Coast
Surfers Paradise

Zone 2—Provincial Cities Zone—

Isis (Bundaberg Area)
Townsville (Townsville Area)

Zone 3—Western and Far-Northern Zone—

Belyando

Zone 4—Country Zone—

Nil

(b) *Districts below allowable 20% variation of Quota*

Zone 1—South-eastern Zone—

Baroona
Brisbane
Clayfield
Ithaca
Kurilpa
Merthyr
South Brisbane

Zone 2—Provincial Cities Zone—

Nil

Zone 3—Western and Far-Northern Zone—

Gregory

Zone 4—Country Zone—

Nil

8. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS IN EVERTON ELECTORATE

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

With regard to previous representations made to him on behalf of the people of the Everton electorate, what is the estimated cost and the approximate date of completion of (a) Grovelly Pre-school, (b)

swimming pool and new school buildings at the Grovely State Primary School, (c) repainting of the Enoggera State Primary School, (d) upgrading and repainting of the Everton Park State High School, (e) development of playing areas at the Everton Park State Primary School and (f) upgrading of classrooms and facilities at both the Mitchelton Infants School and the Mitchelton State Primary School?

Answer:—

(a) Grovely Pre-school estimated cost \$170,137. Due completion date 4 April 1977.

(b) Grovely State School—Toilet block and replacement of fire damage is completed at a cost of \$218,000. The estimated cost of the swimming pool is \$123,200 subsidised by the Government to extent of \$49,000, and it is due for completion in June next.

(c) Enoggera State School—External painting is to be carried out under contract at cost of \$15,689. The contractor has not yet commenced work but my department is endeavouring to have it expedited by the contractor.

(d) Everton Park High School—Work to cost \$41,328 covering upgrading and painting has been authorised with due date for completion at end of April next, dependent on progress by painting contractor.

(e) Everton Park State School—Ground improvements are estimated to cost \$5,550 with anticipated completion at end of this month dependent on weather conditions.

(f) Mitchelton Infants School—The upgrading of classrooms is estimated to cost \$6,300 with an anticipated completion for commencement of the second term of this school year. Mitchelton State Primary School is in the electorate of my colleague Honourable John Greenwood. Therefore I have given no information on it.

The foregoing represents works authorised to the value of \$580,204, and I therefore commend and congratulate the honourable member for Everton on the manner in which he has furthered his representations to me to that extent, in the interests of his constituents and schoolchildren in his electorate.

9. TREASURY SAVINGS ON PUBLIC PROJECTS

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

(1) Concerning his statement that he was able to save \$35,100,000 for spending

on other public projects, how was this amount calculated and from what sources did it result?

(2) Was the saving the result of (a) last year's retrenchments of public works and forestry employees, (b) the slowing of school construction last year, which has resulted in schools not being ready this year, (c) the failure to engage the normal or increased numbers of junior cadets or apprentices into the Public Service from last year's school-leavers and/or (d) the failure to provide money to help those who lost their jobs on Fraser Island?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The additional funds made available from State Consolidated Revenue to employment-generating capital works have totalled \$65,000,000 since November, not \$35,100,000 referred to by the honourable member for Bulimba in his question. These funds have been directed towards areas that I outline in the statement which I now table. I ask that the table be included in "Hansard".

The second part of his question, where he alludes to the possible reasons for the funds becoming available, is indicative of his inability to follow State Budget strategy even though this was spelt out by me in my Budget speech in September last, when I said—

"I give the assurance to the Committee that wherever and whenever possible during the year every dollar of saving that can be made in the State budget provisions will be immediately redirected to capital works to supplement the approved State capital programs. This is the crucial area for the whole economy in the short term, for employment in Government and private areas, for the maintenance of skilled groups and so on and this is the area I will be keeping under constant review during the year."

The Budget savings have come from varied sources, the chief of which is indicative of the success of the Federal Government's economic management policies whereby cost escalations have been held to a lower level than had been experienced in recent years.

In 1974-75 the cost of salary and wage award increases to the State Budget was \$106,800,000; last year it was \$71,600,000. In view of the higher base on which these increases apply, a sum of \$83,500,000 was provided in this year's Budget. It is now expected that the award increases in the current year will be no more than \$48,000,000. The saving under this heading realises more than half the funds that have now been released for employment-generating projects.

1976-1977

DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT GENERATING FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FROM STATE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND NOVEMBER 1976 AND FEBRUARY 1977	
Railways	\$7,000,000
Additional rolling-stock, civil works and earlier placement of orders to enable continuity of employment and an easing of the 1977-78 Loan Program	
Irrigation	\$3,960,000
To allow a maintenance of effort on the irrigation programme generally which was slowing down because of a fall-off in Commonwealth funding. Where additional work is proposed, it will generally be let to contract so as to avoid a build-up in commission staff.	
Specific allocations to Commonwealth funded projects are—	
Kinchant Dam	\$400,000
Monduran Dam	\$1,300,000
Roads	\$13,000,000
To maintain an overall effort in the total Roads Program	
S.E. Division	\$3,315,000
S.W. Division	\$2,890,000
Central Division	\$2,515,000
Northern Division	\$750,000
Metropolitan Division	\$3,130,000
Miscellaneous	\$400,000
	\$13,000,000
Housing	\$10,000,000
To enhance the funds available for home buyers to purchase spec homes already built or to be built.	
Special workers' dwelling scheme administered by Queensland Housing Commission.	
Maximum Loan	\$18,000
Term	15 years
Interest Rate	7½%
Repayments	adjusted for C.P.I. increases
Agricultural Bank	\$3,500,000
Additional funds to continue advance approvals for existing clients.	
Schools	\$3,700,000
Groundworks at existing schools	\$600,000
Remodelling and Upgrading of existing schools	\$2,100,000
Acceleration of site preparations for new schools opening 1978	\$1,000,000
	\$500,000
Police Housing	\$500,000
Hospitals	\$5,000,000
Additional maintenance and repairs at Metropolitan and Country Hospitals	
	\$1,837,000
Additional maintenance and repairs at Psychiatric Hospitals	
	\$595,000
Construction of new accommodation at Psychiatric Hospitals	
	\$770,000
To facilitate commencement of Mater redevelopment and Mount Gravatt Hospital	
	\$1,798,000
Urban Transport	\$453,000
Additional expenditure on approved works.	
Backlog Sewerage	\$7,300,000
To enhance sewerage programs of various Local Authorities which were slowing because of the virtual cessation of Commonwealth funding for backlog sewerage.	
Mapping and Surveying	\$622,000
To enable additional important mapping and survey works to be carried out by private survey firms at present in a depressed state.	
Titles Office	\$100,000
For surveyors updating old titles.	
Additional Allocations within the Consolidated Revenue Fund to maintain expenditure effort	
	\$10,173,000
	\$65,308,000

10. INCREASED ROAD TRAFFIC FROM
NEW PORT OF BRISBANE

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

(1) When the new port for Brisbane becomes operational, what is the anticipated increase in traffic density in the suburbs of Morningside, Bulimba, Hawthorne and Norman Park?

(2) What effect will it have on traffic noise at night in these suburbs?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) It is expected that any increases in traffic resulting from the construction of the new port for Brisbane at Fisherman Islands will be concentrated along Lytton Road, and consequently it is anticipated that the suburbs of Bulimba and Norman Park will not be affected by the increase in traffic.

Were the facilities at Fisherman Islands not constructed, it is predicted that in 1991—that is the year that the honourable member for Bulimba will enter either “Eventide” or the Freemasons Home—the traffic volume in Wynnum Road from Norman Creek to Junction Road would reach 55,000 vehicles per day and in Junction Road 16,500 vehicles per day.

With the construction of the new port the comparable 1991 traffic figures are 58,500 vehicles per day and 20,000 vehicles per day.

Thus increases of 6 per cent in Wynnum Road and 17.5 per cent in Junction Road are predicted.

Of the additional 3,500 vehicles per day, it is anticipated some 1,150 per day will be trucks. No definite information is available, but some 30 per cent of these trucks may travel at night.

It is considered that the additional 340 trucks travelling at night will cause only marginal aggravation of the noise climate which currently exists. The honourable member will be able to sleep at “Eventide”.

11. PUBLIC SERVICE INTAKE OF
SCHOOL-LEAVERS

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

What was the Public Service intake of school-leavers for January 1975, 1976 and 1977?

Answer:—

I table the information sought in respect of clerks, stenographers and clerk-typists and trainees in school dental therapy. Figures for other categories, such as clerical and general assistants and cadets through to Drawing Office aides are not readily available.

—	January 1975	January 1976	January 1977
Clerks	218	120	82
Stenographers and Clerk-Typists ..	93	145	77
Trainees in School Dental Therapy	24	96	86

12. SEAFOODS RECEIVED AT MARYBOROUGH
FISH DEPOT

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

(1) What were the respective quantities of fish and other marine products received at the Maryborough Fish Board depot from fishermen at Boonooroo, Maryborough and Hervey Bay over the last five years?

(2) What were the respective volumes of mullet, mackerel, prawns and other marine products received at Maryborough Fish Board depot for each of the last five years?

Answers:—

(1) No details are kept of the sources of origin of fish intake.

(2) I table a summary of landings at the Maryborough Fish Board depot for five years, 1971-72 to 1975-76, and ask that it be incorporated in “Hansard”.

Year	Mackerel (Kilograms)	Mullet (Kilograms)	Total Fish (Kilograms)		Prawns (Kilograms)	Mud Crabs (Bodies)	Sand Crabs (Bodies)	Squid (Kilograms)	Scallop (Kilograms)
			Whole Fish	Fillets					
1975-76 ..	9,643	153,120	374,409	2,671	7,555	45,684	20,581	507	33
1974-75 ..	26,691	152,522	390,166	2,884	40,118	48,235	1,435	316	1,953
1973-74 ..	19,227	291,010	358,854	11,842	17,164	38,078	944	287	100
1972-73 ..	47,859	190,590	461,832	14,115	14,115	20,957	1,748	802	3,235
1971-72 ..	43,128	269,691	499,593	9,041	22,204	25,959	591	559	679

13. GRANVILLE BRIDGE OVER MARY RIVER

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

(1) What is the present position regarding the investigation into widening the Granville Bridge over the Mary River?

(2) What estimated costs are to be incurred and what saving would there be if the bascule span did not have to be maintained in an operative condition?

(3) What provision could be made to enable the Hyne & Son sawmill to continue to off-load Fraser Island timber from the punt in the event of the timber punts not being able to go past the Granville Bridge should the bascule span be rendered inoperative?

(4) Is he aware of the even more urgent need to widen this bridge as a result of the decision to upgrade to tourist standard the Maryborough to Tin Can Bay road?

(5) Is consideration being given to the construction of a new high-level bridge to supplement the Granville Bridge so that Granville district is not cut off from the city in flood-time?

Answers:—

(1) After considerable negotiation, planning is now proceeding on the basis of widening the bridge, retaining the bascule span in an operative condition. A bascule bridge is a drawbridge balanced by a counterpoise, which rises and falls as the bridge is lowered or raised.

(2) It is anticipated that this work will cost of the order of \$300,000. Were the bascule span to be removed, this cost would be reduced by the order of \$50,000.

(3) It is understood that, were the bascule span to be rendered inoperative, Hyne and Son would require a new wharf with off-loading facilities and an extension of the cable railway.

(4) Yes, bearing in mind that the increase in traffic is likely to be marginal for some years yet.

(5) No consideration is being given to a new high-level bridge at this stage.

14. SPEECH THERAPISTS

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

(1) With reference to previous questions on the matter, when were applications for speech therapists called for (a) Bundaberg and (b) Maryborough?

(2) How many applications were received?

(3) When will an appointment be made?

(4) How many speech therapy students graduated last year?

(5) How many speech therapy students are expected to graduate at the end of 1977?

Answers:—

(1) Applications for speech therapy positions in seven centres, including Bundaberg and Maryborough, were called in the Government Gazette of 22 December 1976 and later in the daily Press of 15 January 1977.

(2) Three applicants for Bundaberg later advised that they had taken other employment and of two applicants for Maryborough, one withdrew and one accepted other employment.

(3) No appointments are possible at this time but the positions at Bundaberg and Maryborough are to be readvertised shortly.

(4) Fifty-eight.

(5) Thirty-one.

15. PENSIONER UNITS, BUNDABERG; HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, BUNBARGER AND HERVEY BAY

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

(1) When will the pensioner units which a Brisbane firm commenced in Barolin Street, Bundaberg, be completed?

(2) How many Housing Commission houses are currently under construction in (a) Bundaberg and (b) Hervey Bay?

(3) When will further Housing Commission houses be erected in (a) Bundaberg and (b) Hervey Bay?

Answers:—

(1) A tender to complete these units by the end of July has just been let.

(2) (a) 13 under construction, 8 programmed for early tender; (b) nil.

(3) (a) 20 are scheduled for letting of contracts by June 1977; (b) land acquisition is currently being undertaken for future construction programmes.

16. URANGAN BOAT HARBOUR

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

(1) When was the Urangan Boat Harbour last dredged?

(2) Since that dredging, how much silting has occurred?

(3) When will further dredging take place?

(4) In view of the serious silting which continues to hinder the efficient use of the harbour, what changes are envisaged to make the harbour more efficient?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The Urangan Boat Harbour was last dredged during the year 1975-76 and since that date there has been approximately one-half of a metre siltation adjacent to the northern boat ramp. Whilst

dredging in this particular area will be carried out when necessary, further major dredging in the boat harbour is programmed for 1979-80 subject to funds being available for the work. At this stage I am unaware of siltation in the boat harbour serious enough to hinder its reasonable use and I would appreciate the honourable member's further advices on this point.

17. STOCK ASSESSMENT LEVY SCHEME

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

(1) How much money was collected in each year of the Government's Stock Assessment Levy Scheme?

(2) Has the Government commenced refunding payments to graziers under this illegal levy scheme and, if not, how soon will the Government do so in order to provide some cash relief for graziers who are financially desperate because of the Government's failure to properly assist the industry?

Answers:—

(1) Stock assessments have been received as follows since inception of the levy.

Financial years 1931-32 to	\$
1963-64	8,391,090
1964-65	986,952
1965-66	842,651
1966-67	857,834
1967-68	880,611
1968-69	920,430
1969-70	821,527
1970-71	781,059
1971-72	805,000
1972-73	1,097,940
1973-74	1,490,800
1974-75	1,341,206
1975-76	1,703,066
Total assessments collected to 30 June 1976	<u>\$20,920,166</u>

(2) Action is presently being taken to refund all payments received in respect of the 1977 assessment.

For the years prior to 1977, the only payments which may be eligible for refund are those which were paid "under protest" at the time of payment.

18. GRAZING LEASEHOLD AND FREEHOLD LANDS

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

(1) In each of the last three years, how many graziers who hold Crown land lease tenures have been forced to surrender their leases because of the slump in the beef industry?

(2) In each of the last three years, how many graziers who hold land under (a) freehold tenure and (b) Crown lease tenure have received assistance from the Rural Reconstruction Board to purchase (i) adjoining holdings and (ii) other holdings that are not adjoining?

Answers:—

(1) No leasehold tenures used for beef production have been absolutely surrendered to the Crown during the past three years.

(2) A total of 112 graziers were assisted to purchase holdings under the farm build-up provisions of the rural reconstruction scheme during the past three years. Of these graziers 43 held freehold land and 69 held leasehold land. Of the freeholders, 31 acquired adjoining holdings and 12 purchased holdings within working distance. Of the leaseholders, 39 acquired adjoining holdings and 30 purchased holdings within working distance.

19. LIQUOR LICENCES HELD BY THE DAVY GROUP AND JOHN HANNAY, MACKAY

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

(1) Has the position regarding the sale of cut-price liquor changed over the last few months?

(2) How many licensed victuallers licences and spirit merchant licences are held by the Davy group and by John Hannay of Mackay and where are the licences located?

(3) When were the licence fees due and payable on these premises?

(4) Have any extensions of time been sought in respect to these fees and, if so, what are they?

(5) Have they yet been paid and what amounts are involved in each case?

Answers:—

(1) I am informed that price-cutting is still continuing to the same degree as previously.

(2) The Davy group has interests in 13 licensed victualler's licences and two spirit merchant's licences, namely—

Crown Hotel, Townsville;
Commercial Hotel, Gladstone;
Prince of Wales Hotel, Mackay;
Gracemere Hotel, Gracemere;
Bellevue Hotel, Toowoomba;
Gloucester Hotel, South Brisbane;
Zack's Hotel, Toowoomba;
Portadown Hotel, Toowoomba;
White Horse Hotel, Toowoomba;
Russell Hotel, Dalby;
Canecutter Hotel, Innisfail;
New Imperial Hotel, Warwick;
Australian Hotel, Roma;
Beenleigh Rum Pty. Ltd. Beenleigh;
H. T. Christen Pty. Ltd., Bundaberg.

Mr. John Hannay has interests in three licensed victualler's licences, namely—

- Oriental Hotel, Mackay;
- Oriental Hotel, Rockhampton;
- The Chalet, Dalrymple Heights.

(3) Licence fees were due for payment on 7 January 1977.

(4 and 5) Extensions of time have been granted in respect of the payment of these fees but the details of these extensions and the amounts outstanding may not be revealed pursuant to the provisions of section 6B(4) of the Liquor Act.

20. LOCAL PRODUCTION OF PARMIGIANO-TYPE CHEESE

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

(1) Have any attempts been made by his department or by the dairying industry in Queensland to make a Queensland cheese which would be equivalent to the Italian manufactured cheese known as "Parmigiano-reggiano", which pasta manufacturers in this State are forced to import at great cost, viz. \$7 per kg ex-factory?

(2) As a cheese of this exact type is essential to preserving the quality of ravioli, cannelloni and lasagna produced in Queensland and sold throughout Australia, will he undertake to have the matter investigated so as to assist the pasta industry?

Answers:—

(1) No. Parmigiano is a hard grating parmesan cheese quite dry with low moisture and low fat. Reggiano refers to the locality in Italy in which it is produced.

Very little work has been done on this type of cheese in Queensland, as there has been no demand up to the present, and the market would be limited. The Woodford factory has made a type of parmesan cheese on an experimental basis. Parmigiano is a very slow curing cheese, taking 2-4 years to ripen. The manufacturing technique is not difficult, but a lot of labour is involved and a fairly substantial market would be needed to warrant setting up a plant in Queensland.

(2) I will ask my officers to investigate the economics of making this cheese in Queensland.

21. REPORT BY RENDEL AND PARTNERS ON PORT OF BRISBANE

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

(1) With reference to a comprehensive plan which was prepared by Rendel and Partners for the development of the Port of Brisbane, when was the report received by the Government and what was its cost?

(2) Has the report been supplied to the Port of Brisbane Authority and is the authority currently acting on the recommendations in matters of detailed planning of the port?

(3) Is it intended to make the plan available for industry and public examination?

(4) In view of his announcement on 21 October 1976 that tenders were being called for one container crane for the port and the announcement of the chairman of the authority on 1 February that tenders had been called for two container cranes, which statement is accurate?

(5) How many container cranes are recommended in the report referred to by Rendel and Partners?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) The Port Planning Study for Brisbane produced by Rendel and Partners was received by the Department of Harbours and Marine in mid-1976. The total cost of the investigations, study and the report amounted to \$617,000 which was financed from Port of Brisbane harbour dues.

The report has been handed over to the Port of Brisbane Authority, which is presently studying its contents and recommendations. Until the port authority completes its examination of the report and formulates a basic plan of development, it is not appropriate for the authority to make any public statement on planning.

Tenders have been called for the supply of one or two container cranes with the object of savings being offered if a second crane is purchased.

Rendel and Partners made no specific recommendations of numbers of container cranes; however one container crane per berth is minimal, and as the throughput of cargo per berth reaches saturation for one crane, then a second crane becomes necessary.

22. USE OF DOMESTIC WATER STORAGE AREAS FOR RECREATION

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

In view of the recent cholera scare, what attitude has his department adopted to the proposed use of reservoirs and other areas of domestic water storage as places for aquatic sports and areas for recreation?

Answer:—

The attitude of the department to all matters of public health is constantly under review and I assure the honourable member that it will certainly be adjusted if thought necessary as a result of the current investigation.

23. REDLAND SHIRE DIVISIONS

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

(1) Has the Redland Shire Council made representations to him to alter the divisional boundaries within the shire by creating seven divisions instead of the present six?

(2) Did the council also request that the number of aldermen be increased?

(3) Does the proposal by the Redland Shire Council show that the numbers of electors in various divisions have no equality whatever, one division having approximately 200 whilst others will have 2,000 to 3,000?

(4) What is the estimated number of electors in each of the seven divisions as proposed by the Redland Shire Council?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, public notice has been given of the proposal to redivide the shire so that seven electoral divisions would be created in lieu of six as at present. Maps illustrating the proposal are on display at the offices of the council and the Director of Local Government, and objections to the proposed redivision may be lodged up to 2 June 1977.

(2) Yes. The Council is presently comprised of a chairman and ten members and the proposal is to increase the number of members to twelve, this being the maximum number permissible under the Act.

(3) The division of the shire which contains the least number of electors is that comprised of a number of islands in Moreton Bay which were placed under the council's control in 1973. These islands, which are sparsely settled, have 265 electors enrolled. I do not believe it would be practicable, in view of special circumstances which apply, for these islands to be included with one of the mainland divisions, and it is not proposed that the area of this division be altered. It is felt that the voting strengths of the proposed divisions are not inequitable having regard to the character of each such division.

(4)—

Division No.	Number of Electors
1	3,687
2	2,216
3	3,294
4	940
5	3,451
6	265
7	619

24. LANDSBOROUGH SHIRE DIVISIONS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 25 January last headed "Shire deadlocked on Divisions", particularly that section of the article where a councillor alleges that there are fewer than 152 electors in rural divisions of the Landsborough Shire whilst in the division based on Caloundra one councillor represents as many as 1,200 electors?

(2) Will he have these allegations investigated so that voting strengths in all divisions will show at least some aspect of equality?

(3) What is the present number of electors in each of the divisions in this shire?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware of the newspaper report referred to by the honourable member.

(2 and 3) The number of electors in and the number of members assigned to each of the divisions of the Shire of Landsborough as at the 31 December 1976 were as follows—

Division 1—	318 electors, 2 members
Division 2—	1152 electors, 2 members
Division 3—	765 electors, 1 member
Division 4—	1344 electors, 2 members
Division 5—	5738 electors, 5 members

Under the Local Government Act 1936–1976 the assignment of divisional representation is a matter for the Governor in Council, but the local authority concerned is entitled to make its representations thereon. In assigning divisional representation, regard is had to the number of electors and the rateable value of land in each division. I have received no representations for an alteration of divisional representation in the Shire of Landsborough but would be prepared to consider any such representations if made to me.

25. KARUMBA WATER SUPPLY

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

(1) Is the present water reticulation system servicing the township of Karumba satisfactory?

(2) What amount has been expended by the Carpentaria Shire Council on the water supply for Karumba and what subsidy has it received?

(3) What plans are proposed to improve the water supply system at Karumba and what is the estimated cost?

Answers:—

(1) The present source of supply and water supply reticulation system at Karumba are below the standard of normal urban water supply systems in other parts of the State.

(2) The Carpentaria Shire Council has not raised any loan moneys for capital works for the Karumba water supply and consequently has received no Government subsidy. The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission has expended considerable sums on providing a source from underground and meets a heavy annual cost for operation and maintenance of this source of supply.

(3) No firm proposals are being considered by the council at this stage. Over the last 10 years a wide range of schemes have been under consideration and costs ranged from \$1,500,000 to more than \$3,000,000. These costs are considered to be beyond the ability of the council to finance. The Commonwealth has been requested to give financial assistance, but has not agreed to do so up to the present. Investigations are being carried out to find an economically feasible scheme that could be implemented as a normal local authority project.

26. CABOOLTURE RAILWAY YARDS

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

Are any steps being taken to upgrade the Caboolture railway yards?

Answer:—

Following the honourable member's earlier approach to me, arrangements were made for the grass in the Caboolture yard to be cut and the yard tidied. The bond-wood huts referred to have been inspected. Some will be replaced and all painted at an early date.

27. DEPOSITS ON LAND PURCHASES

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

(1) Is he aware that some real estate agents continue to demand or induce the payment by prospective buyers of substantial initial deposits, well in excess of 10 per cent of the purchase price, prior to the confirmation of availability of suitable finance and final settlement?

(2) Is he aware that in cases where a prospective buyer wishes for valid reasons to withdraw from such a preliminary transaction, he or she may be forced by the agent to take costly legal action to recover deposit moneys which by that time are safely ensconced in a trust account earning interest?

(3) Will he inform the public of the rights of buyers in regard to acceptable levels of initial deposits and their entitlement to immediate recovery of such moneys where withdrawal from a purchase transaction is based on valid grounds, for example, the non-availability of suitable finance?

Answers:—

(1) It is possible that some agents attempt to secure a substantial deposit, particularly where home units are involved. However, the amount of deposit required and other conditions of sale are solely a matter of negotiation between the parties involved.

(2) Withdrawal from real estate transactions is determined by such factors as to whether or not a written contract has been

entered into and, if so, the conditions stated therein. Under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971-75 a real estate agent must retain deposit moneys in his trust account where he has been notified of a dispute until such dispute has been resolved or legal proceedings have commenced.

(3) My advice to the general public would be that at all times before entering into a contract they should seek legal advice as to their rights and their entitlement in the event of a cancellation of the transaction.

28. CHECKS ON REPAIRS CARRIED OUT UNDER MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

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

(1) In view of the increasingly high cost of motor vehicle insurance and the corresponding escalation of accident repair bills, will he investigate the growing plight of motorists who are obliged, in order to release their vehicle, to sign a so-called "certificate of satisfaction", which virtually frees the repairer from any consequent liability resulting from poor workmanship?

(2) Will he urge motorists to protect their interests by securing, prior to signing a certificate of satisfaction, an independent, authoritative assessment of the work carried out by the repairer?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) This question should be redirected to my colleague the Honourable W. E. Knox, M.L.A., Deputy Premier and Treasurer, within whose ministerial jurisdiction rests the administration of the Insurance Commissioner.

29. POULTRY FARMERS AND EGG PRODUCTION

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

(1) What are the numbers of poultry farmers who have been allocated hen quotas in each of the northern, central and southern divisions in Queensland?

(2) How many eggs per year are produced in each division?

(3) What are the numbers of poultry farmers and what are their geographical locations west of the Great Dividing Range?

(4) How many eggs are produced by each poultry farmer in the western areas?

Answers:—

(1) Northern Division 50; Central Division 35; Southern Division 270.

(2) Egg-production figures are not collected by the Commonwealth Statistician. However, the Egg Marketing Board has supplied the following estimates of commercial production in 1975-76: Northern

Division 3,781,680 dozen; Central Division 2,099,000 dozen; Southern Division 25,978,670 dozen.

(3 and 4) The information requested by the honourable member is not readily available. However, the information is being obtained and I will make it available as soon as it is to hand.

30. DREDGING AT SOUTHPORT BROADWATER

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

(1) Has he received any complaints from the Gold Coast City Council, commercial fishermen, tourist operators or other members of the boating fraternity regarding dredging programmes at the Southport Broadwater?

(2) What is the express purpose of the dredging operations?

(3) Are they being carried out to provide sand for beach replenishment rather than to specifically deepen the channels?

(4) Has he received any complaints that the fishermen are finding it difficult to get to the Broadwater as boat channels are not deep enough for their trawlers at low tide?

(5) Is he aware that at low tide fishermen could be delayed for up to two hours before getting out to work and that there are also difficulties when trawlers are forced to return early because of weather conditions?

(6) What action has been taken to ensure that the Broadwater boat channels are deep enough to prevent any loss of life and property during difficult weather conditions and to prevent further continued damage to the commercial fishing operations?

Answer:—

(1 to 6) Complaints have been received by the Department of Harbours and Marine regarding siltation in the channel through the Broadwater. A dredging permit for this area was issued to the Gold Coast City Council on 20 July 1976. The conditions of the permit included the deepening of the navigation channel and it provided that the council may use the spoil for beach-protection purposes. The Gold Coast City Council ceased operations in November 1976. I am aware that the present situation presents problems in navigation for vessels such as trawlers and, with this in mind, the Department of Harbours and Marine has called tenders, to close on 23 March next, for the dredging of shoal areas between Biggera Creek and the Gold Coast Bridge.

I might add that there has been constant representation from the members representing this area, who are looking after their own affairs quite adequately.

31. HAZARDS OF INFLATABLE SWIMMING AIDS AND TOYS

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

(1) Will he consider banning the manufacture and sale of flimsy inflatable toys as used by children when swimming at beaches?

(2) Is he aware that the Product Safety Committee of the New South Wales Labor Ministry of Consumer Affairs is now investigating the safety of water aids and toys?

(3) Is he aware that three children were drowned after being swept from a rubber raft off North Wollongong beach, New South Wales?

(4) Is he aware that surf lifesavers in Queensland are constantly rescuing children who have got into difficulties because they relied on unsafe water aids and toys?

(5) When can the parents of Queensland children expect the State Government to act to prevent drownings off the Queensland coast associated with the use of rubber inflated swimming toys?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) I suggest that the honourable member redirect his question to the Minister for Health.

32. INCREASED FOOD PRICES OVER HOLIDAY PERIOD

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

(1) Has the Consumer Affairs Bureau received complaints regarding increases in food prices prior to and over the holiday period and, if so, what were the complaints and what action did the bureau take?

(2) Is he aware that figures from the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics revealed that 37 items found on normal family shopping lists increased in price over the eight weeks prior to New Year's Day?

(3) Is he aware that the New South Wales Prices Commission has already undertaken an investigation into alleged food rip-offs?

(4) What action does the Ministry contemplate regarding this matter?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) As the honourable member is aware, most major manufacturers have to apply to the Prices Justification Tribunal for any price increase. There has been no evidence available to my department suggesting "rip-offs" (whatever that means) as mentioned by the honourable member.

Experience has shown that the fixing of prices by a statutory authority does not overcome the costs involved in the supply of commodities or control retail prices. Price control operates in South Australia and does not reduce prices of commodities in that State compared with prices operating in other States.

33. SILTATION AT TOONDAH HARBOUR,
CLEVELAND

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

(1) Is he aware of the dangerous siltation at Toondah Harbour, Cleveland?

(2) What action will be taken to rectify this dangerous situation?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The honourable member will be aware that the operation of the vehicular ferry in close proximity to the boat-launching ramp, Toondah Harbour, causes silt to be deposited in the channel approach to the boat ramp. This approach was dredged by the Department of Harbours and Marine during May 1975 at a cost of \$9,900. The approach quickly resilted. The channel was again dredged during February 1977 at a cost of \$2,300 but again it quickly resilted.

In view of these experiences, it is clear that no acceptable relief from the siltation problem will be economically achieved until further major developments are carried out at Toondah Harbour. In the meantime, operations from Toondah ramp should be on a restricted basis having regard to the tide. A warning sign has been placed at the ramp drawing the attention of the boating fraternity to the presence of soft mud in the channel adjacent to the ramp.

34. PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

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

(1) Is there at present a shortage of physical education teachers and, if so, what is the reason?

(2) Are qualified physical education teachers involved in teaching other classroom subjects, which is detrimental to the time they have available for physical education?

(3) In view of the shortage, has his department considered employing physical education teachers on a part-time basis?

Answers:—

(1) During the 1977 academic year, provision has been made for the employment of 554 physical education teachers by this department. This represents an increase of 75 teachers over the 479 physical education teachers employed during the 1976 academic year.

(2) All teachers including physical education teachers are required to have teaching expertise in more than one subject area. This is not considered to be detrimental to the teaching of physical education subjects.

(3) Part-time physical education teachers are already employed in certain areas of the State.

35. VANDALISM AT SCHOOLS

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

In view of the losses to the Education Department through vandalism and arson, will he set up a security surveillance system for the schools in the metropolitan area where teachers or pupils are not resident on the site?

Answer:—

To date it has been Government policy to rely on the efforts of officers of police, with their mobile patrols, for the protection of school buildings and equipment. My department has collected information on how other States attempt to solve this problem and has had discussions with commercial organisations and firms on the use of equipment and random security visits. None of these inquiries has offered a satisfactory solution.

36. MT. GRAVATT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

(1) Will he outline the stages, the expected completion dates and the relevant estimated expenditure involved in relation to the construction of the Mt. Gravatt Technical College?

(2) When is it expected that the first students will be enrolled and what trades will be accommodated in the short and long term?

Answers:—

(1) A tender for site preparation, earthworks, and road-works was accepted on 3 March 1977 with completion date due on 23 June 1977. Planning documentation is in hand for an automotive and allied trades building, and a technology building. It is anticipated that tenders will be invited for these works early in May next. No indication can be given at this stage as to firm completion dates of the works. However, construction times are scheduled at 52 weeks from date of acceptance of a satisfactory tender in each case. Further building development is a matter for funding provisions yet to be determined for the future financial years.

(2) These questions are matters for answer rightly by the Honourable the Minister for Education.

37. CUNNAMULLA PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

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

When will the new Cunnamulla pre-school centre be completed and operative?

Answer:—

The works have been taken over by my department and will be completed at the latest for the commencement of the second term of this school year.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Dr. EDWARDS: Yesterday the honourable member for Windsor asked me a question without notice concerning the cholera outbreak in the Beenleigh area and asked if the war-time military camp site, Camp Cable, had been investigated. I advised him that I was certain this area had been fully investigated and tests taken, but that I would have the matter further checked. I have now done this and have been advised that this area was fully investigated.

The furthest point upstream where positive tests have been found is upstream of Camp Cable, and therefore contamination has occurred upstream from the site referred to by the honourable member. I am also advised that it is extremely unlikely that cholera bacteria would remain active for 30 years. I have also had my departmental officers check with the medical officer in charge of Army health services during the latter part of World War II, and I am advised that during that time no cases of cholera had been reported at Camp Cable.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

Mr. CORY (Warwick) (12 noon): I wish to bring to the notice of the House two matters relating to fire protection services in this State. The first is the grave fire risk arising from road and railway reserves throughout Queensland.

Let me deal with road reserves first. One finds that more and more roads are being gazetted, with new resumptions being made, but very rarely are the old roads returned to landowners.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much noise in the Chamber. If honourable members wish to continue their conversations, I advise them to do so outside.

Mr. CORY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If many old roads were returned, landowners would not have access to various properties. With fewer stock using public roads today, in many instances reserves become overgrown. This not only creates a dangerous fire risk for adjacent properties but also creates a seed bed for noxious weeds. In my opinion,

the Government should look at the situation carefully and decide who should be responsible for coping with the problem.

At present, the road-building authorities—the Main Roads Department or local authorities—are unable to meet the costs involved and are very reluctant to spend additional money to enable them to cope with the situation. I believe that the Government should look to the bush fire brigades operating throughout the State. They provide an efficient system of fire protection and control, and perhaps they could be given the added responsibility of carrying out regular maintenance of Crown land reserves. If neither road-building authorities nor railway authorities will accept the responsibility on behalf of the Crown, the Government must find some other effective method of protecting the people living adjacent to Crown reserves from the hazard of fire. It may be possible to compensate bush fire brigades for carrying out the work. They have people of experience in their ranks and, if additional labour were needed, reasonably regular employment could be provided for some of those who are now unemployed.

In my opinion, the Crown should be responsible for looking after its own land in the same way as a private landowner is compelled to look after his land. In city areas, a health inspector comes in and more or less directs a landholder as to the standard required, and I think that the Crown should accept its responsibility and meet similar requirements on its land. In rural areas, the Crown should accept responsibility similar to that which the private landholder is forced to accept.

As I said earlier, road construction authorities are reluctant to undertake the task because of the additional cost involved, and I believe that very careful consideration ought to be given to having the work carried out by existing fire protection services. It would be only fair that compensation should be paid to them, perhaps based on the time spent in a particular area. At the same time, additional employment could be provided for those who are willing to work.

The second matter that I wish to bring to the attention of the House is the lack of legal co-operation between urban fire brigades and bush fire brigades. I appreciate the fact that in many areas co-operation between the brigades is very good. However, there is no legal backing for that co-operation, and how far an urban fire brigade can go into rural areas is at the discretion of the board. I should like to see an association of urban fire brigades with the Rural Fires Board. They should have part of their function committed to the Rural Fires Board, more or less in complete co-operation with the bush fire brigade system.

As I see it, the present problem is that if an urban brigade helps a bush fire brigade, which it has no legal responsibility to do, it has certain doubt as to where it stands in law. Sometimes a brigade that gives such assistance is criticised by those who are

financing the board. It may be criticised on the ground that it is protecting an area which is not paying substantially for that protection, because the urban areas are, in fact, the ones paying. To overcome that situation, urban boards could well be given a certain amount of financial assistance by way of subsidies from the Rural Fires Board, as distinct from direct funds made available under the Fire Brigades Act, for the purchase of certain items of equipment.

There are two fire protection services. One operates under the Fire Brigades Act, which comes under the administration of the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs. In addition, there is the Rural Fires Act, which comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Basically we are looking for the same type of protection from each service, and therefore there should be better liaison between the two. It may well be that they have to come under two separate Acts but I do not think it would be impossible to allow an urban fire brigade to obtain a certain amount of equipment under the Rural Fires Act. This would justify the operation of an urban fire brigade in a rural area and it would overcome the present criticism. This will be particularly applicable with the change in the assessment of the fire brigade levy by insurance companies where a reticulated area is serviced by an urban fire brigade.

I believe that urban fire brigades would like to think that they can co-operate. I also believe that urban fire brigade officers are willing to help and advise bush fire brigades on technical and other matters. I know that urban fire brigade officers service much of their equipment free of charge. All that is needed is a structure that will allow urban brigades to obtain certain equipment that would be available to the bush fire brigade system which, in effect, would be financed by the bush fire brigade system. That is all we ask.

We realise these people are professionals and that they know their job. Even one man and one appliance can be a great help to a bush fire brigade and the voluntary workers that keep it going. They certainly get assistance with equipment, but they are voluntary workers and they are using their own time in doing what they can to help. I think this other little bit of help, and the small amount of finance that would flow to urban brigades to make it possible, would overcome the legal doubt about whether they are covered. It would protect urban brigades in the event of an insurance claim as the result of a mishap.

REDISTRIBUTION OF SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND ELECTORATES

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.9 p.m.): Yesterday's editions of the "Telegraph" newspaper carried an article under the headline, "Libs-NCP Poll

"War". That article reported a secret gathering of National Party parliamentarians and party back-room bosses in Brisbane on Monday. We now find that the subject of discussion was the result of the proposed redistribution of South-east Queensland electorates before the so-called impartial, independent inquiry is even started. The article stated—

"This will mean sitting Liberal members opposing each other for endorsement, causing massive friction within the Party.

"A National Party source——"—

I am told that it was Mr. Evans—

". . . said: 'It's now war. We mean business—if they want to play it tough we'll have a look at redistributing them out of Parliament.

"The Liberals used their numbers to steamroll us in Canberra; we'll do the same here and we have the majority.'

"National Party strategists believe there are up to 13 seats which could be altered to make them shaky for the Liberals."

This is part of a report that has been circulating in Brisbane for some time. During that period Bob Sparkes has said, "They took the 20 per cent loading off us in Canberra. We are going to get even." After the Western Australian elections he said, "We lost a Minister in the Western Australian elections. As National Party members we are going to get even." I am informed that he told the National Party members in this Parliament, "You will toe the line. We are going to rig the boundaries here to stay in power."

What an undemocratic farce! Bob Sparkes, Mike Evans and the other non-elected bully boys of the National Party are able to forecast the results of the pending redistribution. In yesterday's paper we were given the results of the pending redistribution—and the commissioners have not even been appointed yet. We are told what seats will be going. Some Government members have been able to tell us that their seats are going. We have read that the seats of Brisbane and South Brisbane would disappear and that the member for Brisbane was going to take the seat of the member for Aspley. This is the type of disgraceful, dishonest, undemocratic political behaviour that we would expect from Idi Amin in Uganda, not from anyone in Queensland.

The National Party does not want a fair redistribution; it wants to rot the electoral system and rig boundaries that are already rigged. The Premier, Sparkes, Evans and others who guide the destiny of the National Party have no respect whatever for the integrity and ethical standards that Queenslanders expect from their parliamentary representatives. The Liberal members are shivering and scared now in the face of political extortion and standover tactics, but it was the insipid surrender of Liberal members, including their leader, Mr. Knox, to

the National Party in this Parliament in 1971 that makes this crucifixion of democracy possible today.

After a faint show of spirit by eight Liberal "rebels" who crossed the floor and voted with the Labor Party to defeat the Government on a certain issue, they ran away. At that time the National Party did what it is doing today; it started to threaten the Liberal members. It said, "We will have 83 seats. We will start to go it alone."

Within a short time the Liberal Party caved in, and one of the results of that cave-in was the right of the Premier of the day to order a redistribution without any recourse to Parliament. Parliament has no right to discuss or to debate a partial redistribution. Cabinet can order a redistribution; it can decide to redistribute the boundaries throughout the whole State or a portion of the State or a single zone of the State. If Cabinet decides to have only a partial redistribution, this Parliament is not allowed to debate that decision. The Queensland Parliament is one of the few Parliaments throughout the world in which a member is not allowed to debate such a decision.

On 2 March 1972 "The Courier-Mail" reported as follows:—

"It is surprising that a redistribution can be effected and become operative without discussion of the final proposals by Parliament.

"All Parliament was asked to do was to pass an Act setting out the principles for a redistribution. Parliament should have had the right to debate the new boundaries, and disallow them if it wanted to before an election.

"Federal Parliament has this power, and they have exercised it."

Here in Queensland we are not allowed any such power and the cave-in by the Liberals in 1971 reduces our rights even further.

I am told that the reason for the rigging of the boundaries is that it helps country people and country electorates. Mr. Evans is now talking of having 86 or 87 seats in Parliament and has mentioned the restoration of the Upper House. He made those comments at a Methodist conference, so I do not suppose he would deny having made them. Nor would the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads be prepared to deny that he said, "Brother, you let me get hold of the pen and I will redistribute and gerrymander them so that Labor will never get in."

Mr. Hinze: You told me how to do it.

Mr. BURNS: We need not have any more worries about the Minister talking of a fair election.

Mr. Hinze: I learned from the A.L.P.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I will not tolerate persistent interjections for one moment

longer. I warn all honourable members that I will deal with them under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. BURNS: Let me deal with some of the electorates in country areas. Barron River has 16,187 electors on the roll whereas Mulgrave, next door, has 9,966 on the roll. But Mr. Sparkes wants to alter the boundaries only in South-east Queensland because, as he has been reported in the Press, that is where the National Party will gain the advantage.

The Mt. Isa electorate has 13,069 on the roll and the Brisbane electorate has 9,600 on the roll, but the Mt. Isa electorate contains 51,820 sq. miles compared with Brisbane's 5.3 sq. miles, in which are to be found many offices including Parliament House. Yet the Government claims that it is looking after the people of Mt. Isa!

The electorate of Flinders, which is adjacent to the Mt. Isa electorate has 7,965 electors on the roll. Why should two electorates, divided by an imaginary line be treated so differently? The Isis electorate, which is a country electorate taking in Hervey Bay, Childers and other such places, has 17,834 electors while Maryborough has 12,665. Why should Isis have 17,834 electors when the electorate of Burnett has only 11,936 electors? Why should the electorate of Mackay have 16,567 electors when Whitsunday has only 11,743? Why should Mackay have 16,567 electors when the adjacent electorate of Mirani has only 10,670? The Port Curtis electorate has 16,459 voters while the Auburn electorate, which is next door, has only 9,541. In the same vein, the Rockhampton North electorate has 16,208 electors while Callide has only 11,699.

We will give the Liberal Party an opportunity to press its case. If I read section 23 of the Electoral Districts Act correctly, it might give Liberal Party members an opportunity to debate some of these matters in Parliament; it might give them an opportunity to force the Premier to introduce an amendment if he wishes to redistribute boundaries. I ask members of the Liberal Party to look at section 23 (3) of the Act, which says—

"The first such annual roll for an electoral district determined by Commissioners under Part IV of this Act . . ."

Part IV of the Act refers to subsequent redistributions of electoral districts. The section continues—

". . . and proclaimed by the Governor in Council shall contain the names of electors registered as living in that district on the thirty-first day of December next following the date of the appointment of those Commissioners."

If we appoint the commissioners now, under section 23 (3) of the Electoral Districts Act the annual roll has to be made up from those people registered as living in the district on 31 December this year. The Commissioners cannot be appointed today and a

redistribution made before Christmas unless an amendment is introduced into this Parliament to allow it.

Mr. Miller: It is already in the paper.

Mr. BURNS: I hope it is in the paper.

I hope that all the Liberals will come over and vote with me and not run away as they did last time. The honourable member for Toowong was one of the eight, but the next time we put the acid on him Charlie Porter went to water; he squibbed; he ran away. This is an opportunity for the Liberals who feel that they will be disadvantaged following statements by Mr. Evans and Mr. Sparkes, which made it very clear that they will rig the boundaries against the Liberal Party in the south-eastern corner of the State. They will rig the boundaries so that the National Party stays in power. They said, "We are going to get even. It is war." We will find out whether the Liberal Party has any backbone, whether it has any spine and whether it is prepared to stand up and fight. It ran away before but the Liberals will not have to ring up Jim Killen on this matter to get orders; it can make its own decisions. There is no requirement to get a direction from elsewhere. The Liberal Party should be able to stand up for itself and decide whether this Parliament has a right to debate the redistribution of electoral boundaries in Queensland. Irrespective of the idea of rigging zones, if the right of this Parliament to debate is not a principle we should all stand by, I do not know what is.

I remember that in 1971 "The Courier-Mail" featured an editorial wherein the Country Party complained that the commissioners did not do as they were told. The Country Party complained at that time that the commissioners did not do as they were told! The National Party does not have to worry about that now. It has made up its mind which boundaries will be brought down and where the lines will be drawn. But the poor old Liberal Party is still carrying resolutions at conventions suggesting that a Supreme Court judge should be one of the commissioners. We have been suggesting that for years but the Liberal Party has never backed us.

Mr. Aikens: They're on the nose.

Mr. BURNS: The honourable member for Townsville South implies that we do not want a Supreme Court judge, but a 1975 Liberal Party convention resolution supports any and all moves for a fair and equitable redistribution of electoral boundaries in Queensland on the basis that the number of electors in any electorate shall not vary from the quota by more than 10 per cent of the quota. That is the State policy of the Liberal Party but we do not hear Liberal members talking about that here.

(Time expired.)

ILLEGAL MUD-CRABBING AT GLADSTONE

Mr. LAMONT (South Brisbane) (12.20 p.m.): Today I wish to raise the matter of the mud-crab industry.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. LAMONT: The reason I am involved in this is that a large number of seafood outlets are in my electorate. Also, Mr. Burleigh Marr is a constituent of mine and I have several friends in Gladstone who are very concerned at what is going on. So at the request of local fishermen I travelled to Gladstone and went out in the boats to have a look at the fishing industry. I also flew over the area.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. LAMONT: If you blokes in the Opposition would be quiet and get your member for Gladstone in here so he could look after his own constituents, I would not have to worry about it for him. If he were not neglecting the people of Gladstone, I would not be here doing this.

I went up there, went out in the boats and flew over the area so that I could see the mangroves from the air. I visited the local R.S.L. club and spoke to a large number of local fishermen. The local fishermen want the industry to endure. Unfortunately, a few fly-by-nighters are prepared to rip off the industry, to make a fast killing and then move on. The residents of the area involved in mud-crabbing will then be left without an industry in which to work.

The hostility that has been engendered is considerable. Already one boat has been sunk and two boats have been damaged. Crab lines have been cut; pots have been thieved and shots have been fired. Patrol officers are currently under considerable intimidation. Only a week ago a patrol officer—a young man who is married and has a young child—was told by one of the illegal crabbers, "You had better take out greater insurance for your wife and your child because your job is not safe if you keep trying to catch us."

Another fisherman, by the name of Kevin Robert Appo, made a statement—I have it here; it is purportedly over his signature—about a patrol officer. He said, "He's going to get the best thumping of his life in Gladstone and it won't be by me. But if I'm kicking around when it happens I may get in for my chop too." That is a statement he made to one district patrol officer about another patrol officer. As I said, I have it in writing.

In another instance the same Kevin Robert Appo is purported to have said in a report to a patrol officer, "I'm going to get a gun and if they try anything again they will cop it." That is the type of intimidation directed at patrol officers. We also know that two patrol officers went missing three years ago in the Bundaberg district and that their bodies have never been found.

These same illegal crabbers have been written up by the popular Press—"The Australian" in this case—as heroes. In one story this Kevin Robert Appo admits that he has fired shots at other people's boats; he admits that he earns \$1,000 a week. I would like to know whether the person who wrote that story has found out whether or not that same man who claims to be making \$1,000 a week is actually on a full invalid pension from Senator Guilfoyle. The newspaper article is only half the story—the glorified story. This man and his colleagues are apparently making threats against patrol officers; they are intimidating local fishermen who are operating legally, and at the same time, on my information—and I would like this to be checked out—drawing pensions from the Department of Social Security.

Even the Sunday afternoon casual fisherman who goes out to get a couple of crabs for his dinner is becoming enraged at all this. The illegal fishermen do not waste time sorting out the females from the males, nor do they sort out the undersized ones. Everything they take they can just bundle up into a consignment. Of course, they are buying off the water. They will take anybody's crabs. They don't have to worry too much. I am told they are also taking other people's crab pots. Consequently, they can easily make \$1,000 a week, whereas the legal fisherman makes only about \$400 a week because a lot of his time is spent sorting out the legal crabs. Out of his \$400 he has to pay for his boat, maintenance, licence and so on. He ends up with about \$150 to bring up his family. Why wouldn't he be enraged when he sees people of this sort—like Kevin Robert Appo—claiming to "The Australian" that he makes \$1,000 a week? He could only do that if he is operating illegally.

Mr. Prest interjected.

Mr. LAMONT: You weren't here in the Chamber when I started out defending the people of Gladstone. Don't come in now and start attacking me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order!

Mr. LAMONT: If you were looking after your constituents—

Mr. PREST: I rise to a point of order. I have raised this matter quite frequently in the House—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! As the honourable gentleman is taking a point of order, I would ask him to state it.

Mr. PREST: The honourable member is misleading the House. On 9 September I asked a question of the Minister—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr. LAMONT: I accept that the honourable member has raised the matter. All I am saying is that he has done such a poor job that I have to fill in all the gaps.

When the patrol officers go out into these areas, they have no radio. When they see somebody whom they suspect of being an illegal crabber, what should they do? What would you do if you were a young patrol officer on your own in a boat with no radio, no gun, nothing, and you had to chase such people into lonely areas? Would you chase them into the lonely mangrove areas, without a radio to report back where you were, whom you were chasing and who was involved? Of course you wouldn't—especially when you know that two patrol officers went missing and their bodies were never found. You wouldn't do it; you couldn't do it. The department has to give the patrol officers a radio. Then, when the illegal crabber knew that he was being reported back to base, that would be a great deterrent against his taking action against the patrol officer in a lonely area. Why should the patrol officers have to chase them into these areas anyway?

Mr. Wright: What has the Minister for Fisheries done?

Mr. LAMONT: I am about to come to that question.

Why should they have to do this, anyway? After all the illegal crabber has to ship his crabs from somewhere—either from an airport or from a railway station.

I have a statement signed by a superintendent of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. It is dated 23 July 1975 and it advises that—

"(1) No seizures of fish or crabs are to be made from Railway platforms;"

Why should the department adopt that policy and thereby force these young men to go out in their patrol boats into lonely mangrove areas, when otherwise they could simply go to a railway station, look into a consignment, see some female or undersized crabs in it, and then seize the consignment? I would like to know who is protecting whom. I would like to know how much of that money from the illegal crabbers is going into pockets to protect illegal fishermen? Who is being paid off to protect illegal fishermen?

Anywhere along 100 miles of coastline from Bundaberg or Gladstone, these illegal crabbers can buy off the water, bring in the female and undersized crabs, take them in to a place where there are no patrol officers (because it is impossible for two men to patrol 100 miles of coastline), get the crabs to the nearest railway station and then have protection from some departmental instruction under which the officers cannot go onto the railway station to make a seizure.

These crabs are then consigned south by people using false names. This has two purposes: first of all the illegal crabbers cannot be traced under the false names and secondly, of course, there is a gross tax evasion, so that all the money that is sent back for these illegal crabs is tax-free. I should like the Taxation Department to investigate some of these things.

I propose to read out a few of the aliases under which illegal crabbers ship and I want to know whether in fact anybody can tell me who the real people are. There is a Mr. T. Savage and a Mr. Kirkpatrick whose address is South Post Office, Bundaberg. There are no licensed fishermen with those names. Are they in fact aliases for a man called Charles Dorrton or are they in fact real fishermen? If they are real names, under what authority are they shipping crabs? There is a J. Brown who uses the address of Box 705, Gladstone. Is he in fact Mr. Appo? There is a George Redfield who uses Box 873, Gladstone. Is he also a member of the Appo family? There is a D. Hallum who also uses Box 873, Gladstone. I have checked with the Corporate Affairs Office and that box appears to be in the name of G. Redfield & Co. and that company is registered care of N. K. Appo, 33 Barber Street, Bundaberg. Also there are N. Beutel, B. Edward and L. Brass, who are not licensed fishermen, but they are shipping illegal crabs south, apparently, I am told, through Box 794, Gladstone. I want to know if those men really exist or are those names pseudonyms; are they licensed fishermen and why are they shipping crabs south if they are not? There is a P. Martin and an R. Spears. I would like to know whether P. Martin is really P. Appo and whether R. Spears is really R. Bailey of Spears Street, Bundaberg. There is a J. Moses who uses P.O. Box 855, Bundaberg. Is he another member of the Appo family? There is a J. Jacobsen, a Mr. Kirby, a Mr. Lawson, a Brian Simpson, an R. Quaitte, an F. Pride and a man called Challice. None of them are licensed fishermen according to my research but they are all shipping consignments south. If I can find this out, why can't the department find out about it?

Obviously what has to happen is that patrol officers, instead of having to go into these quiet mangrove areas where their bodies could be poked beneath a root and left as crab-meat, should be able to go onto railway property (there should be no more of these dictates by superintendents that they cannot go onto railway property), open up consignments and, if female or undersized crabs are found in the consignments, the crabs should be put back into the water. Let us get the industry back on the road again.

I have also a list of 122 illegal consignments that have left railway stations at Meadowvale, Bundaberg and Avondale in the past few weeks and I intend to see that the Minister gets a copy of it. I should like to know whether every consignee of those 122 consignments is or is not a licensed master fisherman.

I had intended to spend my entire 10 minutes on this subject but I am afraid I have to leave it in the light of what the Leader of the Opposition has said recently about the problems between the coalition parties. I should like to spend the last couple of minutes on this matter. We came into the Parliament yesterday to get on with

the business of governing Queensland. He drew a blind across it to make out that he was on the attack. I was hoping that he would have had something constructive to say about unemployment, but he did not; he just wanted to attack the Federal Government.

(Time expired.)

A.L.P. ATTITUDE TO SOCIAL ISSUES

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (12.30 p.m.): Today I wish to speak about the attempts by the Australian Labor Party here in Queensland to hoodwink the people of this State into believing that it is a responsible party and one fit to govern. We had a perfect example of that here today when the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr. Aikens: You know they are going to let Don Chipp into the A.L.P. now?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I would not doubt that. Today the Leader of the Opposition read a prepared brief from the Trades Hall. It is well known that very few members of the A.L.P. can even make a speech, let alone write one. All their speeches are written at the Trades Hall and sent down here for them to read. The Leader of the Opposition accused the Government of attempting to gerrymander the forthcoming redistribution. He would know a fair bit about gerrymandering of electorates because in 1949, when the A.L.P. conducted a redistribution, it was recognised as the worst and most rotten gerrymander ever carried out in Australian political history. Let us take the seat of Nash, for example, which is now the electorate of Gympie. The A.L.P. even extended the boundaries of that electorate to the southern suburbs of Maryborough. They went up the railway line to make it a safe seat for an A.L.P. candidate. The Leader of the Opposition is hypocritical when he talks about redistribution when he has a piddling little seat of 18.9 square miles containing 15,000 people that I could run round between breakfast and dinner-time. So why the hell is he whingeing about a redistribution? Other members represent electorates far larger than his. There is no doubt that for a party which is regarded as the alternative Government for Queensland the A.L.P. certainly has a shocking record of deceit and corruption.

When the A.L.P. were in Government in this State 20 years ago, they even sold some of the furniture from Parliament House such as those nice round cedar tables. They sold plenty of them, and they even gave them to people to pay off gambling debts. If anybody wanted to become a justice of the peace or get out of a traffic offence, he had to pay £5 to his A.L.P. member. I worked here in those days so I know about it. I know some of the rorts and rackets that went on down here. One Opposition member accused this Government of doing nothing about closing down massage parlours, but when the A.L.P. was in power brothels flourished and certain A.L.P. members even had shares in some of

the girls. They were no better than procurers. There was a big kickback from the brothels into A.L.P. funds in those days.

Mr. Lester: Do you think the A.L.P. will include the legalisation of brothels in its platform?

Mr. FRAWLEY: It is always advocating the legalisation of brothels. It was not until this Government came to power in 1957 that Frank Nicklin had the guts to close down these places. There have been many attempts by the A.L.P. in this place to have brothels operating again in Queensland. Every A.L.P. conference from 1957 onwards has passed motions relating to the legalisation of brothels, marijuana and abortion on demand. Even the members of the Young Labor Party choose to emulate their big brothers, because at their last conference they passed a motion that any State Labor Government should legalise the possession of marijuana and even establish a Government agency to produce and distribute it in this State. For some reason the A.L.P. wants to legalise the possession of marijuana and even homosexual relations, so one wonders just how many members of the A.L.P. are homosexuals and how many of them smoke marijuana. They are always whingeing about it. No doubt the A.L.P. believes that by advocating the legalisation of these things it will get the support of all the rotten dregs of society.

Mr. Lamont: You know the Leader of the Opposition has gone to pot because his resignation actually hit the table at the Q.C.E.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am going to tell honourable members about that in a moment. When one examines some of the original policies and objectives of the A.L.P., one realises just how this once-great party has degenerated into what it is today—nothing more than a playground for every ratbag and radical who has an axe to grind. Once a party for the people, it is now dominated by Communists and Left-wingers, and the Left-wingers do not even have the guts to say that they are Comms, but they still try to carry out Communist policies. Labor's policy years ago was to improve the Australian standard of living.

Mr. Aikens interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I would flatten him like a tack. Years ago the Labor Party claimed they wanted to improve the Australian standard of living, yet the last Federal Government did more to reduce the standard of living in this country than any other Government in the history of Australian politics.

Mr. Wright: You're reading from your last speech in "Hansard".

Mr. FRAWLEY: I do not have to read my speeches. This is off the top of my head.

Mr. Wright: You have made it four times in the last six years.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have not said it four times, but if the honourable member listens carefully I will say it now. Years ago a member of the Communist Party was not even allowed to hold office in an A.L.P. trade union, but what have we got now? There's Hughie Hamilton, the president of the Communist Party in Queensland, who is also the secretary of the Building Workers' Industrial Union; Halfpenny and Carmichael of the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union and the Shipwrights Union are well known Communists. Carmichael is the president of the Australian Communist Party and also the assistant secretary of the A.M.W.U. and the Shipwrights Union. The A.L.P. is dominated by Communists and Left-wingers.

Since the dismissal of the Whitlam Government by Sir John Kerr, we have seen violence in this country such as we have never seen before. In Brisbane, we saw a march on Parliament House encouraged by the Leader of the Opposition, when he had some of his mates march down here carrying Communist flags and chanting Communist slogans.

Mr. Lester: What sort of a fellow is Senator Georges?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I will tell the honourable member about him in a minute.

The Labor candidate for Petrie at the last Federal election said that a lot of violence would break out in this country if the Labor Party lost the election. That was a typical example of Labor attempting to stand over people, wield the big stick and put the wind up them about what would happen if they did not vote Labor.

Last week, the Labor candidate for Redcliffe at the next State election came out in a big burst and said that Labor policy was decided democratically by the rank and file. Of course, that was before Gerry Jones' appointment was steamrollered through by the executive against the wishes of the rank and file and against all the rules.

Labor policy is, "If you don't like a rule, break it. If it doesn't suit the mob at Trades Hall, change it." Mr. Jones was appointed caretaker secretary after Bart Lourigan was forced to resign when he was made the scapegoat for Labor's dismal failure at the last State and Federal elections. The condition of Jones' appointment was that, because he was the endorsed candidate for Everton—incidentally he could not win that seat with a start—he would not nominate for the position of secretary. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Burns) resigned over the issue last week.

Mr. Aikens interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I will deal with Senator Georges in a minute.

Last week, the Leader of the Opposition resigned over that issue but was prevailed upon to withdraw his resignation. The honourable gentleman has a history of resigning.

When he was shadow Minister for Health in this Chamber, he resigned because the former Minister for Health, Sir Douglas Tooth, was too damned tough for him. He resigned as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and he put over some cock and bull story that his suits were stolen from his home by his political enemies. I know only too well that he got half those suits from St. Vincent De Paul for nothing.

Mr. Wright: They used to be yours, anyway.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Mine would not fit him. They would be too big in the chest for him.

As late as last Monday, most members of the Opposition in this Chamber were told by the Q.C.E. to toe the line. They were all kicked into line. They even have to pay 3½ per cent of their gross salary to retain their seats. The member for Bundaberg was the only member of the A.L.P. with enough guts to stand up to the Q.C.E. and refuse to pay the 3½ per cent. He is much better off now.

The appointment of Gerry Jones as secretary of the A.L.P. is a shining example of democracy as practised by the Q.C.E. Of course, Gerry Jones has great qualifications. He was Senator Georges' protege, and Senator Georges as honourable members know, is an associate of Communists. He and Jones sat down in the street and disrupted the traffic in July 1971, when the Springbok tour took place.

Bart Lourigan's knifing was poetic justice.

Mr. Lamont: He burnt the flag.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course he did! Then he tried to get the job of secretary of the R.S.L. at Gaythorne. Beat that one! That shows what sort of a hypocrite he is.

An Honourable Member: What about the turtles?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Oh, the turtles! Georges is lucky that there is a law which states that dugong cannot be taken in this country by white men. I have noticed that the honourable member for Cook has had his eye on Georges on more than one occasion, so he ought to be worried about that.

At the recent A.L.P. convention, an attempt was made to pull the wool over the eyes of Queenslanders by saying that in future any member of the A.L.P. could have a free vote on any social policy. Everyone knows that that is hogwash. A.L.P. members cannot have a free vote. Before they decide to become members of the A.L.P. and put their names in for nomination, they have to sign a document saying that they will do whatever they are told by the Q.C.E. and kick in 3½ per cent of their salary.

The Labor Party in Queensland has not done anything for the worker. It has used good sincere unionists to further the aims

of some of the crooked union bosses. It seems to me that one of the prerequisites for selection as a parliamentary candidate for the A.L.P. is that he has been a union organiser, and the honourable member for Archerfield is a classic example of that. I remember when, day after day, he stood over the women cleaners in the Treasury Department and literally robbed them of their membership fees.

The latest strike at Gladstone has been fostered by Mr. Vaughan, the Assistant Secretary of the E.T.U. in Queensland. Incidentally, he is the endorsed candidate for Nudgee at the next election. He is not fit to wipe the boots of the present member for Nudgee.

(Time expired.)

HOUSING SITUATION IN QUEENSLAND

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (12.40 p.m.): The matter of public interest I wish to raise today concerns the parlous state of the Queensland housing industry, a state that can be laid fairly and squarely at the door of the Government and the present Minister for Works and Housing. Despite the bleats of the Minister about the lack of funds from Canberra, he cannot escape his responsibility. I am very pleased that he is in the House; he must have known I was going to make a speech. He looks very distinguished, even though he is well known in housing circles for his bungling ineptitude in the administration of the Housing portfolio.

The House will recall how the Minister and the Government extolled the financial wizardry of the Fraser crew at the last Federal election. The States were to receive huge amounts to overcome the lag in welfare housing. What happened? The Prime Minister has not honoured his promises. He has left the Minister sitting like the proverbial shag on a rock. So much for the new Fraser federalism. It is a sham and a farce. It means nothing.

In the rental sphere things are really grim. The Housing Commission list has grown to almost 11,000. Queensland pensioners, widows, deserted wives and low-income families are destined for a long wait for Housing Commission rental houses. In the meantime some are forced to live in caravan parks. Pensioners are forced to pay high rents to "slum lords" for primitive shared accommodation. Low-income families can pay up to 50 per cent of their income for private housing. Under the Lee system of looking after the Government's rich land-owning friends, 677 Housing Commission sites lie idle, plus hundreds of hectares of undeveloped Housing Commission land. Let the Minister deny that. He knows he can't; it is true.

It is interesting to note that in the last year of a Labor Government in this State—1956-57—the Housing Commission built 1,912 housing units. In the year 1975-76

under this present Tory Government only 1,994 Housing Commission units were built despite a population increase of over 40 per cent. And this Government and its Housing Minister have the cheek to say that they have the people's interests at heart. What a sham!

Day after day in my office I see the grave social problems that are being caused by the lack of suitable low-cost housing. Families are forced to live apart. They are forced to live with relatives and friends. These are the perfect conditions for marriage break-up, for wife and child-bashing, for alcoholism and future juvenile delinquency. Yet this Government and its pals in Canberra seem to be quite oblivious to the situation.

Malcolm Fraser said, "Life was not meant to be easy." Sure! It is not meant to be easy for the poor old battler but it is certainly easy for wealthy graziers like Malcolm Fraser and the honourable member for Callide. The Housing Minister is sure seeing that this policy of Fraser's is carried out.

In answer to a question some months ago the Minister told me that there were 1,084 applicants for single pensioner units and 323 applicants for married units. At that time there were approximately 1,400 pensioner applications outstanding. What a disgraceful state of affairs! I am sure that Queensland has the worst housing record of any State, including the Tory States of Victoria and Western Australia. If the previous completion rate of 100 or so houses per year is continued, then those people will be dead long before they get a unit allocated to them. What a disgraceful way to treat our old people! The "slum lords" don't mind, of course; they are making a fortune out of the aged. Inner city rents are already on the rise in anticipation of the next pension rise in May.

As the economy grows worse under the Fraser-Lynch economic bungling more and more people are turning to the Housing Commission for assistance. I can tell them through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they will get very cold comfort from this Government in their present plight.

I will reserve my comments on the H.A.V.E. scheme.

Mrs. Kyburz interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I am glad that the honourable member for Salisbury interjected. I am pleased to see her back in the House. Because she is regarded as a small "l" Liberal (if there is any such thing), it is quite obvious that after the forthcoming redistribution her seat will be history. I say that to the honourable member through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. She is serving her one and only term in State Parliament.

As I was saying, I will reserve my comments on the H.A.V.E. scheme now being tried in Melbourne and the Federal proposal that further moneys made available to the Housing Commission should be at the

current bond rate. Those matters are extremely important and deserve more than a passing reference. However, the Minister has not shown much fire and enthusiasm in fighting this last proposal, which will result in high increases in rentals. The Minister is merely a paper tiger. The private landlords can see a bonanza in both schemes.

In the home-purchase sector the outlook for young couples is no less grim. The high cost of land, as well as very high interest rates, is making it almost impossible for young couples to afford to pay off a home. It was not very long ago that about 60 per cent of average wage-earners in Australia and in Queensland could afford to buy a home. I am reliably informed that the position has now changed dramatically. It would seem that the position is as follows:—

Only 30 per cent of average wage-earners can afford a long-term mortgage, that is, one of 30 years' duration;

Slightly less than 25 per cent are in a position to undertake a mortgage of around 20 years' duration;

Less than 20 per cent of average wage-earners can afford a shorter term mortgage of 15 years' duration.

This is the situation under a Government and a Minister who are supposed to be wedded to the so-called Liberal philosophy of everyone owning his own home.

The major factors inhibiting home purchase are high interest rates and high land costs. It is amusing to hear the almost weekly call from Ministers in this Government for a lowering of interest rates. They are as well aware as I am that their political bedfellows and masters in Canberra are committed to high interest rates. The Liberal-National Party is a high-interest-rate party. In any event, this Government has abrogated its responsibility for interest rates. It has allowed the building societies to go their own merry way and set their own rates.

When Sir Gordon Chalk was Treasurer and Liberal leader, at least he was the master of the State's finances. He never ran away from his responsibilities or avoided the odium of an unpopular decision. The present incumbent of that office, however, is still blaming the Whitlam Government for the high interest rates. Surely he is not so dense—although I have my doubts at times—and out of touch that he does not know that Fraser and company have been running this country for the past 16 months.

For the Minister's information I point out that interest rates in September 1975, under the Whitlam Government, stood at 10.75 per cent. After 16 months of this so-called Fraser federalism and under these financial marvels in Canberra, whom the Minister supports, the interest rate has risen to 12.5 per cent and the rate on a second mortgage is approximately 18 per cent.

Is it any wonder that young couples cannot afford to own their own home? We know that most young couples rely on the

income of both husband and wife to meet mortgage repayments. The Fraser Government, with its level of unemployment—the highest in the nation's history—has successfully driven thousands upon thousands of married women from the work-force. The effect that this has had on the ability of young couples to pay off a home is quite evident in some of the newer suburbs. Anyone who drives around the suburbs in the two-mortgage belt, such as Jindalee and Jamboree Heights, will see the large number of homes offered for sale. Young couples are unable to afford the crippling interest payments, and these were the people who were so cruelly deceived in the 1975 Federal election campaign by promises of low-interest home loans. I am sure that at the first opportunity they will be delighted to register their appreciation at the ballot-box.

As to the high cost of land—we all know how land developers are so close to the heart of this Government. We have only to recall the way in which the Premier welcomed the supposed \$35,000,000 development at Victoria Point. The brain-child behind this \$4 company is none other than that well-known King's Cross philanthropist, Mr. Harry Londy. The land developers have a great deal of influence in the Government parties. In return for their financial support they are given almost open slather to take money off the prospective home buyers.

You will remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Whitlam Government made very generous offers to the States to enable them to set up Land Commissions. Of course, the Premier was so paranoid about the Whitlam Government that he rejected the offer out of hand. His attitude was so unlike that of the astute Don Dunstan in South Australia. I would urge the Minister to read the very well written article in last Friday's "Financial Review" on the success of the South Australian Land Commission. It has been very successful in keeping the cost of developed and serviced land at a price that most can afford. South Australia is very lucky to have a Labor Government in office.

It is quite obvious to me that the pensioners, the low-income families and the young home-builders will have to wait for the election of the Burns Labor Government at the next State poll to receive any justice.

INTIMIDATION BY ABORIGINES, NORMANBY AREA

Mr. YOUNG (Baroona) (12.50 p.m.): I enter this Matters of Public Interest debate to raise a very special problem affecting the Baroona electorate, particularly the Normanby area. In this area a large number of Italian and other migrant families live in fear from day to day. It is unthinkable that in today's society people should be living in Brisbane in constant fear of physical violence. Fear and uncertainty have sprung up because a number of Aboriginal

and other families living in the Normanby area have threatened local residents over a long period.

Mr. Lamont: I have the same problem but it occurs more frequently.

Mr. YOUNG: I do not doubt that.

The local residents in this area fear the number of male Aborigines who roam the streets at night and who are causing damage to much personal property. Reports to Government departments about the present situation have often resulted in nothing being done to relieve the tension in the area.

Generally, I treat all members of my electorate equally, but when people, particularly new migrants to Australia, are living in constant fear and danger of being subjected to violent behaviour, of having their houses set on fire and of being personally assaulted, it is an indictment of us all. Over recent weeks in the Normanby area an elderly woman was raped, much personal property was burnt and many threats made. The real problem is that no attempt appears to be made by many Government departments to cope with the problems. People are reluctant to complain because they have been told that if they do so worse violence will take place.

Householders in the area are also concerned about the way Aboriginal children seem to be able to roam the area unsupervised while children from other backgrounds, of both migrant and Australian origin, are sought out from time to time by various organisations and asked why they are not attending school. It is very difficult for migrants to understand why Aboriginal children seem to be allowed to roam at will, while their children are subject to very strict supervision.

As I have said, the most unfortunate aspect of the situation is that many of the local families are frightened to speak because they fear for their personal safety. Only this week I was talking to a couple of residents from the Normanby and Kelvin Grove areas who were in tears because of the frustration they felt in their present situation. One girl who was in my office said that her parents were unaware that she was there making complaints. Her parents were so frightened that they were not prepared to come forward. People have made me promise that I will not divulge their identity because they are fearful of personal reprisal. A situation in which families can have threats made against them, with little or nothing appearing to be done about it, cannot be allowed to continue. It is an indictment of us all that people in Brisbane, in 1977, live in such a situation.

In the past I have not wasted the time of this House in dealing with many problems of a like nature that occur almost daily in my electorate. I have not raised the problems in the Newmarket area associated with the Aboriginal hostel, where the drinking habits

of only some Aborigines—I emphasise “only some”—are causing grave concern. In this area Brisbane City Council property has been destroyed, and empty and broken beer bottles are causing great concern in the Newmarket convent school area. I believe that these problems can be dealt with at the local level but I am afraid that the situation at Normanby is likely to get out of hand.

The police, the Juvenile Aid Bureau, social workers and people from many Government departments are doing what they can but, over-all, the Normanby situation is getting progressively worse. I believe the agencies are endeavouring to defuse the situation as best they can but it seems that greater co-operation is needed between Federal and State Government Aboriginal departments. While there is insufficient support from the departments (I am not referring to either of the Ministers in any way because I know that both are responsible people), I personally fear for the safety and well-being of all the residents in the area. I only hope that the local people will not take the remedy into their own hands.

I must also emphasise that during my time in the Juvenile Aid Bureau and also in the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association I mixed with many Aboriginal families and I was impressed with the way they were able to cope with suburban living. Each one of us realises that it is only a very small percentage of the Aboriginal community that causes problems like this, but I am afraid that an extremely dangerous situation exists at present in the Normanby area.

Some of the most conscientious and eager members of the police clubs during my association with them were Aboriginal boys. I do not have to tell this House about the number of highly respected sportsmen and women in Queensland who have come from Aboriginal families. However, in the future, I hope that situations such as those that are presently occurring in the Normanby area will be diffused more quickly by greater co-operation by all Federal and State departments.

During my service with the Juvenile Aid Bureau I found that many people in the community—people in responsible areas of leadership—were very reluctant to take any action or make any complaints about Aboriginal families who lived or worked in the same environment. Surely it is only when the community as a whole can see all members of the public, irrespective of their backgrounds, being treated in a like manner that we can hope to diffuse this and other associated problems. Irrespective of background, religion or creed, I urge any parent with a child who is giving trouble to get in touch with people such as the Juvenile Aid Bureau or the social workers in the various Government departments for help and guidance. It is only when people seek help from all sides that we can hope to diffuse the present situation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as a result of this speech something will be accomplished urgently in the Normanby area. I do not wish this speech to be seen as merely a publicity-seeking stunt; but if something is not done shortly I am very concerned about what might happen. We cannot have people living in fear and being afraid to seek help because of threatened retaliation against them. That sounds more like the gangster era in the U.S. than 1977 in Brisbane.

The House adjourned at 12.58 p.m.