

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 1977**

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## WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 1977

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

### PAPER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

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

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1. FORESTRY DEPARTMENT PLANS FOR JIMNA

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

(1) What are the long and short-term plans of the Forestry Department for the township and work-force at Jimna?

(2) Has the Forestry Department agreed to finance the provision of S.E.A. power to this township?

(3) If not, has the department any plans to provide additional new plant at the powerhouse?

(4) Has the department planned to supply power to only those living in Forestry Department married quarters and buildings?

(5) Will the occupation permits that provide seven-year leases for local residents be reviewed so that terms can be extended?

(6) Can the leases be transferred to residents who do not work for the department but who wish to use the homes as week-enders?

(7) Can the leases or permits be free-held?

(8) Has any decision been made on the future planting of pine?

(9) Is there any future plan that includes the termination of planting of pine?

(10) Have the Forestry Department premises at Sunday Creek been taken over as an environmental school?

(11) Will S.E.A. power be connected to Sunday Creek and, if so, can it be then connected from Sunday Creek to Jimna?

Answers:—

(1) Jimna is the headquarters for Jimna forestry subdistrict comprising 47 000 hectares of high-quality hardwood forest and established hoop pine plantations. 2 595 hectares of hoop pine plantations have been established since 1938-39. The present work-force, comprising 46 wages and five salaried staff, is engaged on continuing

silvicultural operations in management of plantations and hardwood forests, as well as harvesting operations. There are no present plans for staff reduction, but this will be dependent on funds available in the future.

(2) No.

(3) The question of replacing the present generators is under investigation but no decision has been made.

(4) No, but the present generators are at maximum production and are incapable of providing power to both private houses and departmental married quarters. Hence the department has been unable to supply power to all its employees up to this time.

(5) Occupation permits are limited to a term of seven years under the Forestry Act.

(6) Transfer to other than departmental employees may be permitted subject to acceptance of such conditions as laid down by the department.

(7) No.

(8) No decision has been made to alter the current planting programme at Jimna.

(9) No.

(10) Yes.

(11) I am not aware of any proposal to connect power to Sunday Creek.

I propose to issue a statement later in the day to put this whole matter in proper perspective.

#### 2. ROAD-MARKING AT "STOP" SIGNS

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

(1) Is he aware that the Brisbane City Council has introduced a system of road-marking at intersections where "stop" signs exist by extending the white stop line in line with the kerbing and channelling, resulting in a vehicle crossing the accepted pedestrian traffic walk area before having to stop, and that in many cases where this new marking has been carried out pedestrian road-markings have been eliminated?

(2) Does this represent a further hazard to the pedestrian?

(3) What advice has he received from the Queensland Road Safety Council in connection with this apparent dangerous planning?

Answers:—

(1) The Brisbane City Council should be implementing the provision of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices which, in these respects, is in accordance with Australian Standard AS 1742 and thus is national practice.

(2) The manual states that the location of individual stop bars is a matter for engineering judgment taking account of visibility, clearances and pedestrian safety. Should the honourable member know of

any which he feels may be a hazard to pedestrians, I ask that he let me know of the location involved and I will arrange for these to be examined by Main Roads Department and Brisbane City Council traffic engineers.

(3) The Road Safety Council gives advice to my colleague the Minister for Transport.

### 3. JOHN ROW BRIDGE, INGHAM; EFFECT ON FLOOD LEVELS

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

Will he authorise an immediate investigation and hydrological study by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission into the effect of the structure of the John Row bridge at Ingham upon the flow of floodwaters of the Herbert River when that river submerges the bridge as it did in the past week, causing serious damage to bridge approaches and adjoining private property?

*Answer:—*

I have arranged for the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission to collect data relating to the possible effect of the John Row Bridge on flood levels in the Herbert River. These data will be analysed and appropriate observations made to the Main Roads Department.

### 4. STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE IN NORTH QUEENSLAND DISASTERS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the recent editorial in "The Herbert River Express" praising the activities of State Emergency Service personnel during the Ingham flood situation?

(2) Does he support the sentiments expressed in the editorial regarding the excellent work undertaken by State Emergency officers and volunteers in disaster situations in a number of areas of North Queensland this year?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I have read the editorial referred to by the honourable member which appeared in "The Herbert River Express" on 12 March and give my full support to the sentiments expressed therein.

There can be no doubt that the State Government's move to establish a counter-disaster department known as the State Emergency Service has saved lives and much valuable personal property in flood and cyclone situations in Queensland over recent years.

No praise can be too high for the efforts of State Emergency Service officers, police and civilian volunteers who, over the last four months, have coped with emergency

situations at Burketown, Karumba, Cairns, Mareeba, Gordonvale, Innisfail, Ingham and in many communities adjoining these areas. I am sure honourable members on both sides of this House will join with me in acknowledging the outstanding and unselfish efforts of these men and women who have done so much to provide for the safety and well-being of Queensland citizens affected by the recent disasters.

### 5. DISTRIBUTION OF EGGS

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

(1) How many eggs were sent to the northern division from the Egg Marketing Board from each of the central and southern divisions in the years 1974, 1975 and 1976?

(2) How many eggs were sent to Mt. Isa, Longreach and Charleville in the same years?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) This information is not readily available but will be passed on to the honourable member as soon as it can be compiled by the Egg Marketing Board.

### 6. MR. SEBASTIAO MAIA'S TENURE OF "TURN-OFF LAGOON"

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

(1) What are the terms and conditions on the property "Turn-off Lagoon", which was recently acquired by the Brazilian Mr. Sebastiao Maia?

(2) Was this property previously an occupational lease or other short-term tenure renewed annually?

(3) Have any applications for a change of tenure been received from Australian investors prior to the acquisition by the Brazilian and, if so, why were they refused?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "Turn-off Lagoons" expired holding is held as an occupation licence in the name of Lawn Hill Pty. Limited. It is understood that Mr. Maia has acquired the shares in Lawn Hill Pty. Limited.

An application to lease the area as a pastoral holding was received from Messrs. C. J. Murat and T. Dukes of Mt. Isa. They were informed that as the land would be required eventually for future public purposes it was intended to grant the present occupiers continuity of occupancy for grazing purposes under an annual occupation licence for the time being.

The proposal to grant a special lease to Lawn Hill Pty. Limited, and consideration of the conditions to be attached thereto, have been deferred until a firm policy decision is made on the type of management to be adopted to control similar

special areas of land such as this throughout the State. Investigation in this respect is being carried out in conjunction with the ongoing review and rewrite of the Land Act.

7. **MR. SEBASTIAO MAIA'S FUNDING OF CATTLE PROPERTY PURCHASES**

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

Has Mr. Sebastiao Maia brought any moneys into Australia for the purchase of cattle properties in Queensland or has any such application been received?

*Answer:—*

Applications for the import of overseas funds are made to the Reserve Bank and do not come to the notice of the State Treasury. Consequently, I am unable to provide the information sought.

8. **STRIKE AT CONSOLIDATED FERTILIZERS' GIBSON ISLAND PLANT**

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

(1) Is he aware of the costly disruption being experienced by primary producers because of the unavailability of fertiliser at a time when they need it to plant crops and fertilise fruit trees for their economic survival?

(2) Is he aware that this shortage has been created by a strike of crane drivers and heavy-equipment operators at Consolidated Fertilizers' Gibson Island plant?

(3) If so, what action can be taken to overcome this industrial blackmail that is financially embarrassing the primary producers who are innocent victims of this dispute?

*Answers:—*

(1) I have been advised of a dispute between A.C.F. and Shirley's Fertilizers Ltd. and the F.E.D.F.A. which took place between 1 February 1977 and 7 March 1977.

(2) I am further advised that the dispute involved a claim for an increase in dust allowance previously arrived at by a private agreement between the union and the employer. Members of the union included crane drivers and other machine operators.

(3) Following conferences held before the commission, the parties agreed to accept the commission's recommendations in the matter and work resumed on Monday, 7 March 1977.

9 and 10. **SUPPLIES OF WHOLE MILK**

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

(1) Who sets the quotas for whole-milk suppliers to wholesale vendors in the Brisbane Milk Board area for (a) country factories and (b) direct suppliers?

(2) Who sets the quotas for whole-milk suppliers to other factory areas in Queensland?

(3) Are the milk quotas co-ordinated and controlled through any Government department, Government-sponsored organisation or statutory marketing authority and are they legally binding under any Act of the Queensland Parliament and, if not, how are they controlled, administered and disciplined?

(4) What are the guide-lines for the redistribution of quotas that have been surrendered by dairy farmers who have been forced to leave the industry and who were (a) suppliers to the Brisbane Milk Board area or (b) suppliers of whole milk to other factory areas in Queensland?

(5) Will any further increase in consumption in the Brisbane Milk Board area be taken up by giving whole-milk quotas to additional suppliers outside of the existing supply area to allow them a living from the industry, or will it be distributed amongst the existing suppliers whose quotas are currently being reduced by 5 per cent?

*Answers:—*

(1) The quotas for whole-milk suppliers to wholesale vendors in the Brisbane Milk Board area are set by the Brisbane Milk Board.

(2) The individual factory concerned.

(3) There is no control over quotas in country areas of Queensland. The only control is over supply to the Brisbane milk district under the Milk Supply Acts 1952-1972.

(4) The quotas of direct suppliers to the wholesaler in the Brisbane Milk Board area who have left the industry are surrendered to the board and reallocated by the board. Decisions for factories other than the Brisbane wholesaler are determined by the factories concerned.

(5) No decision has been made.

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

(1) What basis will be used to select the new suppliers who will be allowed to supply whole milk to the Brisbane Milk Board area and who will allocate their quota?

(2) What basis is being used, for example, minimum quota or maximum quota, as the figure on which the newly proposed 5 per cent quota reduction figures will be based for the redistribution

of milk quotas to enable additional producers to supply the Brisbane Milk Board area and the payment of compensation to the suppliers concerned?

(3) In determining the total amount of milk to be made available for quota redistribution to the new suppliers, will the figure be based on bottle and cartoned milk sales only, or will it also include figures for bulk-milk sales to cafes, milk bars, hotels, etc., and modified milk, yoghurt, and other such milk products also?

(4) As at 31 January and/or 28 February 1977, what percentage over minimum quota was consumption in the Brisbane Milk Board area?

(5) When will the recent dairy industry inquiry report be released?

*Answers:—*

(1) The allocation of the quotas derived from the 5 per cent reduction was based upon the recommendations of the committee of inquiry, which recommended the suppliers and the amount of their quotas.

(2) Minimum quota.

(3) The amount of milk to be made available is based upon milk as determined by the Milk Supply Acts 1952-1972, namely, bottled, cartoned milk sales and bulk-milk sales to cafes, milk bars, hotels, etc. Modified milk, yoghurt and other dairy products are not included.

(4) At 31 January the average daily intake for the month of January was 105.8 per cent of the minimum quota.

(5) The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Dairy Industry will not be released.

#### 11. EXPORT ROAD TO MACKAY HARBOUR

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

(1) What is the estimated cost of the proposed export road to the Mackay Harbour from Malcolmson Street to the harbour road along the southern bank of the Goose Ponds?

(2) As part of this work, what upgrading will be carried out to the Evans Avenue crossing of the Goose Ponds and what is the estimated cost of this upgrading?

(3) What was the estimated cost of the previous proposal to build the new road on the northern bank of the Goose Ponds and why was the route changed?

(4) Is he aware that the new proposal will reduce the park lands of the North Mackay Recreational Reserve by approximately 3½ acres and, if so, what is being done to compensate the people of North Mackay for this loss?

(5) Will Hamilton Street be widened under either proposal and, if so, to what extent?

(6) Have Commonwealth funds been allocated for this work and, if so, when will it commence?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 6) The information sought by the honourable member for Mackay is too detailed to permit an accurate answer being given immediately. I will provide the honourable member with a written answer to his question as soon as the information can be put together in the form requested.

#### 12. COMPENSATION FOR INJURY TO TEACHER AIDES AND PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ORGANISATION WORKERS

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

(1) As many persons provide voluntary service to State schools either as volunteer teacher aides or workers for parents and citizens' associations, in the event of such a person being injured, what compensation is provided by way of payment for medical expenses and for loss of employment during a period of incapacity?

(2) Should such a person be involved in or inadvertently cause an accident, is this person protected from liability by an all-risk or public-risk insurance policy?

*Answers:—*

(1) As voluntary workers in or for schools receive no remuneration and do not work under any contract of service they are not "workers" in the terms of the Workers' Compensation Act and, accordingly, do not come within the ambit of that Act. Any action to recover damages for accidents at school or en route to or from school would be based generally upon ordinary principles of tort liability.

(2) Some parents and citizens' associations have public risk policies to protect certain of their members and helpers. However, this is a matter for any particular association. If an accident arises in circumstances where a volunteer teacher aide can be held to be in law a servant of the Crown, the Crown would ordinarily be vicariously liable in damages.

#### 13. THREAT OF HUGE WAVES TO GIANT SHIPS

**Dr. Lockwood**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services—

(1) Has he read the article in "The Bulletin" of 19 February which summarised the threat of giant episodic and aberrational waves to giant tankers and bulk-ore carriers over continental shelves when wind, wave, swell and current are in different quarters?

(2) Which sea lanes traverse the continental shelf of Queensland and over what distances?

(3) Are any of the sea lanes likely to produce giant aberrational waves that could crack a tanker or carrier in two and, if so, where and under what circumstances?

(4) In the interests of safety and conservation, can his department recommend or order a ship out of a danger area when wind, wave, swell or current could produce giant aberrational waves?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) The inner route of the Great Barrier Reef over a distance of approximately 1,000 nautical miles from Torres Strait to the Capricorn Channel. The coastal shipping track south of the Capricorn Channel is for the most part to seaward of the continental shelf.

(3) Over the route the Great Barrier Reef acts as a barrier against ocean swells. However, the southern part of the coastal shipping track is unprotected over a distance of about 350 nautical miles. Large waves do built up in this area in cyclonic conditions. To the best of the knowledge of my Department of Harbours and Marine, there is no record of the type of giant aberrational waves referred to in the article occurring off the Queensland coast.

(4) No. The safe handling of a vessel is the responsibility of the master of the vessel. He is the only one who is in a position to decide what course of action is called for in any given circumstances. Furthermore, the Government of a coastal State does not have jurisdiction over vessels on the high seas.

#### 14. BUNDABERG Q.A.T.B. PURCHASE OF AERIAL AMBULANCE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in the "Sunday Sun" of 13 March wherein a Bundaberg doctor criticised him for the decision of the Health Department to refuse the Bundaberg Q.A.T.B. permission to purchase an aeroplane?

(2) Will he please explain in simple detail why the State council recommends against such a move by the Bundaberg Q.A.T.B. when it has the necessary finance and has proved the need for an aircraft?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. I am surprised at the statement of this doctor that the local ambulance officers had raised more than \$200,000 to pay for an air ambulance. The fact is that the Bundaberg Ambulance Staff Fund Raising Committee has never at any time received the approval required under the Ambulance Services Act to raise money for an air ambulance. A permit was issued to this committee to raise

moneys for the expansion of ambulance services in the Bundaberg area for 12 months from 2 October 1975 (and for this purpose only), and a further permit for 12 months from 2 October 1976 for the same purpose. I have been advised by the secretary of the State Council of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade that a member of the Bundaberg Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade who is a zonal representative on the State council had assured the council that the fund raising had been solely for the purpose given in the permit and not for an aerial ambulance service, although there was thinking that the expansion of the ambulance services could include an aerial ambulance service. The honourable member will appreciate that the collection of moneys for ambulance transport purposes except in accordance with the conditions laid down in a permit issued under the Ambulance Services Act is a breach of that Act.

(2) The matter of a State-wide aerial ambulance service was discussed at the State conference of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade on 7 October 1975, which resolved:—

"That the conference commends the conception of there being a State-wide Aerial Ambulance Service and recommends that the State Council examine the feasibility of such a scheme including—

(i) respective areas of operation.

(ii) degree of public participation.

(iii) all aspects of financial considerations including the extent of Government interest and aid."

The report of a subcommittee set up by the State Council to investigate this matter was forwarded to my department in December last. The recommendations as to a State-wide aerial ambulance service are actively under consideration, and the formation of a special departmental committee consisting of senior departmental officers and including representation of the State Council has been approved. The honourable member will appreciate that any decision reached as to a State-wide aerial ambulance service will affect not only Bundaberg but also areas with established aerial ambulances, such as Cairns and Rockhampton, and remote areas without the financial capability to set up an aerial ambulance service. I consider that the advice given by the special sub-committee of State council that the proposal of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade Bundaberg Committee to establish an aerial ambulance service is premature in view of the contemplated State-wide rural health considerations is, under the circumstances, fully justified. The Government is committed, as the honourable member is aware, under its rural health policy to provide better health and medical care service to the outback areas of the State.

15. PETITION TO INVESTIGATE HERVEY  
BAY SHIRE

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

(1) Did he receive a petition from approximately 1,200 electors of the Hervey Bay area asking him to make investigations into the conduct of the Hervey Bay Shire?

(2) Would he advise what action he intends to take on the petition?

(3) What action should people take when they have a grievance against their local authority?

*Answers:—*

(1) The petition I received purports to comprise 1,192 names of which it is claimed 799 names have been identified as electors.

(2) I have already pointed out to the petitioners that the Hervey Bay Shire Council was established only last year after years of agitation by local residents, and that I would be very reluctant to direct an investigation of such a newly established and elected council which is no doubt still "finding its feet".

(3) The answer to this question depends upon the nature of the grievance and whether the law prescribes a specific remedy, as in many cases it does. For example, the right of appeal exists against many decisions of a local authority under the Local Government Act and the Building Act.

In other circumstances a common law right of action could exist, or a submission could be made to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

Of course, the basis of local government is that there be close contact between the electors and the elected representatives, and it could be expected that local residents with a grievance would express their grievances on the local scene.

As a final line of action, the electors with a grievance have the right every three years to express their dissatisfaction with their elected representatives on the council by means of the ballot-box. In other words, to use the honourable member's language, they can get booted out of office every three years if they don't measure up.

16. BUNDABERG Q.A.T.B. PURCHASE OF  
AERIAL AMBULANCE

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

(1) Is he aware of the deep concern over his refusal to allow the Bundaberg Branch of the Q.A.T.B. to purchase an aerial ambulance?

(2) When does he expect a decision to be made on whether the Government will set up aerial ambulances throughout Queensland?

(3) Does he know that in 1975-76 56 cases were transported to Brisbane and that in eight months of 1976-77 there have been 76 cases?

(4) Are so many cases transferred to Brisbane owing to a shortage of certain specialists at the Bundaberg General Hospital or a lack in after-care service and accommodation?

(5) Does he know that some 10 or so years ago only one specialist was employed and that now the hospital has eight specialists on tap and can call on other private specialists if the need arises?

(6) Does it mean that the more specialists there are available, the greater the number of cases that have to be transferred to Brisbane, or is it that the Bundaberg Hospital lacks a specialist clinic and is so out of date that some patients cannot be treated there?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) The matters raised by the honourable member are very similar to those raised by the honourable member for Isis, and I refer the honourable member to the answers I have already given to the member for Isis.

(3) The advice provided by the Bundaberg Hospital is to the effect that the number of patients who have travelled to Brisbane by air on the recommendation of the medical superintendent of that hospital is far less than that quoted by the honourable member. Perhaps the honourable member is quoting all cases which have been transported to Brisbane whether by air, ambulance or other transport.

(4 to 6) It is true that the number of specialists employed by the Bundaberg General Hospital has increased in recent years, and this is to the credit of the Bundaberg Hospitals Board and to my own department. It is true that all specialties are not covered and it is still necessary to transport some patients to Brisbane.

I do not agree with the honourable member's suggestion that the Bundaberg Hospital is out of date. The treatment given by both visiting and full-time staff at the hospital is of a very high standard.

17. TRAFFIC BRIDGE OVER WOOGAROO  
CREEK, GOODNA

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

I refer to the condition of the traffic bridge over Woogaroo Creek in Brisbane Terrace, Goodna, which almost wholly carries traffic to and from the Wolston Park Hospital from the city of Ipswich and other areas to the west of the hospital, and ask—

(1) Is he aware that the engineers of the Ipswich City Council have indicated that the bridge requires early replacement?

(2) As this bridge is used almost exclusively in the servicing of the hospital, is his department prepared to assist financially in providing a new bridge?

(3) If necessary will he recommend to the Honourable the Treasurer the provision of moneys for the construction of this bridge?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I am aware of the condition of the traffic bridge over Woogaroo Creek, Brisbane Terrace, Goodna.

The provision of roads and bridges within a local authority area is a function of the local authority. The honourable member is aware that expenditure by local authorities in this regard attracts State Government subsidy of 15 per cent.

Advice has been received from the Ipswich City Council that it is proposed that the Brisbane City Council and the Ipswich City Council will share in the cost of replacing this bridge. The State Government will pay the usual subsidy of 15 per cent on all moneys so expended.

My department does not have available to it any funds for works of this nature.

18. CONNECTION OF SEWERAGE TO HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES IN WOLSTON ELECTORATE

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

(1) Is he aware that a number of Queensland Housing Commission houses in the electorate of Wolston which are situated in sewerage areas declared by the Ipswich City Council have not been connected to the city's sewerage system by the Housing Commission?

(2) How many houses owned by the commission and situated in a declared sewerage area in the electorate of Wolston have not so far been connected to the council's sewerage system?

(3) When is it likely that this work will be done?

(4) Will he specifically advise when the commission houses in Stuart Street, Goodna, and the adjoining streets, which area was declared a sewerage area by the Ipswich City Council in June 1976, will be connected to the city sewerage system?

(5) What is the cause of the delay in this work?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am aware that arrangements were made to have the 487 rental houses in declared seweraged areas serviced immediately after declaration and as soon as engineering information could be obtained from the council.

(2) About 230. Connections are occurring daily, so the figure reduces constantly.

(3) Two contractors have asked to be released from their contracts for 68 houses and tenders are being re-called. Contractors are working on the balance of 162 and work should be completed within the contract times by the end of July.

(4) In the Stuart Street area (Smiths Road, Stuart, Alice and Albert Streets) the Ipswich City Council did not supply needed information until October/November, four months after declaration of the area. Thirty-seven rental houses have had drainage completed and tenders for W.C. installation are being invited on 19 March. The estates south of Eric Street were not declared until December 1976 and contracts were let in January for the 167 rental houses to be completed by the end of July this year.

(5) Delays in the supply of essential information by the council, the failure of contractors to fulfil contract times, the plumbers' lengthy strike last year, shortages of skilled labour and some minor material supply problems.

19. ALLEGED DIVERSION OF WORKS DEPARTMENT FUNDS TO SCHOOLS IN GOVERNMENT ELECTORATES

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

(1) Is he aware of allegations that he and the Premier collaborated to switch funds earmarked for schools situated in Opposition electorates to schools situated in electorates held by members of the National and Liberal Parties and I refer specifically to a report in "The Sunday Mail" of 13 March, which referred to schools in North Mackay, East Bundaberg, Inala West and Richlands East areas that were put off and the money spent in Government electorates?

(2) Did the Premier instruct him to put a red pencil line through projects designed for Labor areas?

(3) For how long will the people in these areas have to suffer this political persecution because they had the foresight to vote against the Government at the last election?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes, and it is typical of the A.L.P. propaganda machine nearing an election.

(2 and 3) No, and the honourable member will be aware that the colour red is repulsive to me. I have never been issued with a red pencil since my appointment as a Minister of the Crown.



20. INTRASTATE OPERATION OF A.N.L.  
CONTAINER SHIPS

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

I refer to the Press release this week that agreement has now been reached between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments for A.N.L. container ships to engage in intrastate trade between Queensland ports, with restrictions placed on the carriage on certain items of goods and machinery. Whilst applauding this initial breakthrough to assist the viability of North Queensland ports, I refer him to the deputation I attended with members of North Queensland port authorities early this year, when it was made clear that the A.N.L. ships might cease their calls to Mackay and Cairns unless they were allowed to engage in the carriage of goods without restriction in competition with rail and road hauliers, and I recall at that meeting a request was made for the Queensland Government to allow A.N.L. to compete on a "grace and favour" basis for a trial period of 12 months to see what impact their venture into intrastate trade would have in relation to any losses that might be suffered by the Queensland Railways. Does his Government now intend to give A.N.L. a chance to compete in the freighting of containerised goods for a trial period to comply with the wishes of North Queenslanders, who demand the right of choice in the mode of transport of their goods?

*Answer:—*

While it is true that agreement in principle has been reached between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments on the entry of the Australian National Line into certain areas of intrastate trade, the question of the goods, commodities and methods encompassed is still a matter of Government policy and I cannot enlighten the honourable member further at this juncture.

21. UNION MEMBERSHIP OF TRANSFERRED  
ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES

**Mr. M. D. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) As at the time of the introduction of the Electricity Act of 1976 he stated that employees in existing boards would not become redundant and that they would be re-employed in the proposed new electricity boards, is he aware that some employees in the existing electric authorities in Townsville, who are presently employed without being members of a union, are now being pressurised into becoming members of a union with the threat of not being employed in the new organisation if they decline to do so?

(2) What is the practice in this matter and will he declare that employees need not join a union if they are presently employed on that basis?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) The present policy of the Townsville-based electric authorities is that employees at the time of commencement are required to be financial members of an appropriate industrial union or to give an undertaking to the employer to join an appropriate industrial union. It is intended that this policy will continue to apply after reorganisation.

22. PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT  
PIMLICO HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) In view of the undertaking given by him last year that loan funds were available to the Townsville City Council to channelise the intersection of Fulham Road and Hugh Street so that the Traffic Engineering Trust Fund could fund the installation of pedestrian traffic lights outside the Pimlico High School in Townsville, as none of these works have been commenced, what is the cause of the delay?

(2) As the student enrolment at Pimlico High School is the largest in Queensland and as students, parents and academic staff are concerned at the dangers to which students are subjected at this busy traffic intersection, will he give instructions to have these works expedited?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I am advised that work on the channelisation of the Fulham Road and Hugh Street intersection has commenced and completion of the work could be anticipated by July 1977. In the submission made by the Townsville City Council for allocations from the Traffic Engineering Trust Fund in 1976-77, signalisation of this intersection was rated as its third priority. Funds available were insufficient to reach the third priority project. Presumably council will afford this project a higher priority in 1977-78 when submissions for allocations from the Traffic Engineering Trust Fund are made.

In answer to the second part of the honourable member's question—the roads concerned are not declared under the Main Roads Acts. They are under the jurisdiction of the Townsville City Council. Consequently it would be unwise of me to issue any instructions on the matter at all.

23. REDCLIFFE CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON REDCLIFFE HOSPITALS BOARD

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

(1) Has he received a request from the Redcliffe City Council for representation on the Redcliffe Hospitals Board?

(2) Does he not believe that a city of 40,000 people should have a representative of the council on the board of the hospital in the city?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Yes, I have received a request from the Redcliffe City Council to give the council representation on the Redcliffe Hospitals Board. The honourable member would be aware that the Hospitals Act provides for only one representative to be elected by the component local authorities within the area of the hospitals board administration.

This representative is not a representative from a local authority from which he or she particularly comes, but is a representative of all local authorities in the area and is expected as a team member of the hospitals board to present the views of all the local authorities he or she is representing, and not just those of his own local authority.

A councillor of the local authorities within the Redcliffe Hospital area has been elected as a hospitals board member and should the Redcliffe City Council have a problem relating to the hospital, then it should discuss it, either with the board or the local authorities' elected board member.

24. SAMFORD LAND FOR REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL ALCOHOLICS

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

(1) Is he aware that Senator Bonner, the Chairman of Aboriginal Hostels, has been examining land in Samford with a view to establishing a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics?

(2) Has any advice been given to his department by the Commonwealth regarding this proposal?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Commonwealth Aboriginal Hostels have not consulted my department regarding a proposal to establish a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics, nor do they, apparently as a matter of policy, consult my department on any of their activities. It would be a matter for extreme regret if such a centre were established for Aborigines, as the State already has well-developed existing services in this professional sphere and has achieved a degree of

success with voluntary patients. One can only assume that such a service, were it to proceed, would be a further form of separate development which will extend divisions amongst the people of this State.

25. BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL IMPOSTS ON BUSINESS EXPANSION

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

(1) In view of the recent statements made by the Commonwealth member for Bowman, will he consider ordering an investigation into the dealings of the Brisbane City Council with people who wish to expand or establish a business and who are being blackmailed by the council into putting money into the city loan or paying for non-existent services?

(2) Is he aware that on television last night the Lord Mayor blamed the State Government and claimed that the council was forced by this Government to place some unnecessary demands on applicants who wished to expand their businesses?

*Answers:—*

(1) Under the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1976 an applicant to the Brisbane City Council for approval, consent or permission to use or develop land has a right of appeal to the Local Government Court against the refusal of his application or against conditions imposed by the council when approving the application. The court has power to allow any such appeal unconditionally or subject to such conditions as it deems fit and its decision is binding on the parties to the appeal. Since rights of appeal are available to dissatisfied applicants, it is not considered necessary to hold an investigation into the matters raised by the honourable member.

As he is aware, the council has recently prepared and submitted to me a modified town plan for the city of Brisbane. The modified plan contains certain provisions dealing with contributions by developers and these were the subject of a number of objections when the plan was advertised. These provisions and objections will receive full consideration before the plan is submitted to the Governor in Council.

(2) I am aware that the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane recently appeared on T.V. and commented on developmental requirements imposed by the council. Such requirements are matters solely within the discretion of the council, and the Government has not directed the council thereon. One matter that I understand was mentioned was the requirement for the undergrounding of electricity, the inference being that this requirement flowed from a provision contained in the Local Government Act 1936-1976. Section 34 (12) of that Act provides that a local

authority, when dealing with an application for the subdivision of land used or proposed to be used for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, has to take into consideration whether, in accordance with a by-law of the local authority, the applicant should be required to provide by arrangement with the relevant electric authority for the undergrounding of electricity supply to serve his subdivision.

It will be noted that the provision only becomes operative if the local authority has made a by-law dealing with the subject and such by-law has been approved by the Governor in Council. The application of this provision to the city of Brisbane is a matter of legal interpretation but I am advised that the Governor in Council has not approved an ordinance made by the Brisbane City Council dealing with the undergrounding of electricity supplies.

As previously mentioned, the whole matter of contributory requirements of the Council are to be examined in conjunction with the modified town plan for the city of Brisbane.

**Mr. HINZE:** I can understand the reason for the honourable member's question. There has been quite a lot of controversy about so-called blackmail and sweetheart agreements. I have spoken to Lord Mayor Sleeman and we are to meet very shortly to discuss these statements. Yesterday I met the person who wrote to the paper—a man by the name of Kirmos—and I am having further discussions with him. It is not good for local government to have these statements about blackmail and sweetheart agreements being bandied about.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** The Albert Shire has been renowned for this for years.

**Mr. HINZE:** The honourable member for Archerfield would know all about sweetheart agreements.

**Mr. Alison:** And blackmail!

**Mr. HINZE:** Yes. I am told he used to blackmail the poor little girls in his own union, so he would know all about blackmail.

The honourable member for Murrumba can rest assured that I am treating the matter seriously. On behalf of the Government, I am discussing the matter with the Lord Mayor of the city of Brisbane.

## 26. RESTRICTIONS ON BOATING PATROL OFFICERS

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

(1) Is he aware of a departmental instruction dated 23 July 1975 under the signature of Mr. G. Price, Superintendent of Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, forbidding patrol officers from carrying out inspections and, if necessary, seizures on railway platforms?

(2) Does he recognise that this instruction has forced young patrol officers into

unnecessarily dangerous situations in pursuit of suspected illegal crabbers into remote areas, whereas they could otherwise have been able to police the illegal trade from the relative safety of railway platforms and airports?

(3) On what authority was this instruction signed, what was its purpose and will he ensure that the instruction is rescinded forthwith?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) No. Patrol officers in the course of normal duties patrol remote areas for many purposes apart from illegal crabbing. No instructions have been issued in relation to airports.

(3) This instruction was signed by the superintendent, acting on legal advice to him, which indicated in the first place possible legal action against patrol officers for damage caused to consignments due to officers' inspections and that section 92 of the Constitution afforded a defence once the items were consigned interstate. However, I propose to seek legal advice on the matter.

## 27. INTIMIDATION BY ILLEGAL CRABBERS

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

(1) What action has been taken by his department with regard to allegations of intimidation of Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers by suspected illegal crabbers in the Gladstone and Bundaberg areas?

(2) Have any charges been laid in relation to these alleged offences?

*Answers:—*

(1) There have been no recent official complaints lodged with the Police Department at Gladstone or Bundaberg of intimidation as suggested. Some three months ago a request was made by an officer for a member of the Police Force to be present whilst he interrogated a suspect. This assistance was rendered and since that date no further request has been made for assistance. On 5 January 1977 a letter was received by a Fisheries superintendent alleging that the vessel of the writer had been rammed and that he, the writer, would be carrying a rifle for his own protection in future. This matter was investigated, but no evidence was obtained which would substantiate the preferment of any charge.

(2) No.

## 28. INQUIRY INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM

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

(1) Has he noted from news reports of 15 March that the Australian Labor Party

has followed my lead in seeking submissions from the people of Queensland or advice on changes preferred by parents and employers to the secondary-school system?

(2) Does he agree that the time is well overdue for the needs and desires of the people to be given greater consideration in education planning, which to date has been dominated by educationists who apparently believe that they and they alone have the God-given right to determine education values, standards and goals in education in Queensland?

(3) Will he consider establishing a new committee of inquiry to give the secondary-school system a complete overhaul with a view to adopting a system having the best of the present system modified by the best of the system it replaced, with no more than half the membership of such a committee being educationists and the remainder of the complement being made up of representatives of the professions and employer and employee organisations?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am aware of the recent comments of the Opposition spokesman on Education regarding this subject. I am also aware of the views of the honourable member, who has expressed them from time to time as a member of my parliamentary education committee.

(2) I have always given ample opportunity to people representing parents, industry and commerce to put forward their views concerning education planning. These views are expressed in correspondence to me or my department or by the individual members of committees who represent these groups. I shall continue the practice of encouraging such groups to make their views known and I can assure the honourable member that these views will be given full consideration.

(3) The setting up of such a committee would of course be a matter for Cabinet. I do not believe the time is appropriate to set up another committee of inquiry into secondary education. However, I am committed to continuing modifications arising out of our experience in administering the system.

29, 30 QUEENSLAND PERMANENT  
and 31. BUILDING SOCIETY

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

(1) Further to my question of 10 March concerning the directors of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, what was the nature of the valuations undertaken by Messrs. Olsen and Postle?

(2) How much was paid by the society to these directors or to the companies with which they are associated for undertaking the valuations?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The specific information sought by the honourable member for Archerfield concerning the nature of valuations undertaken by certain persons on behalf of the Queensland Permanent Building Society and the amount paid in valuation fees is not on record in the office of the Registrar of Building Societies.

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

(1) What are the rates of interest being charged to borrowers by the Queensland Permanent Building Society?

(2) Why has this society introduced a tiered system of interest rates for loans of different sizes?

(3) Have any other societies introduced this tiered-rate system?

(4) Is he watching the operation of the system to ensure that borrowers are not discriminated against?

*Answers:—*

(1) Current borrowers' interest rates charged by Queensland Permanent Building Society are as follows:—

Range	Owner-Occupied	Non-Owner-Occupied
\$0—\$24,999	12.5 per cent	13.5 per cent
\$25,000—\$39,000	13 per cent	14 per cent
\$40,000—\$49,999	13.5 per cent	14.5 per cent
Over \$50,000	By negotiation	

In the case of new loans, if in respect of a pay-out of an existing mortgage an additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent is charged.

(2) The society is obviously following the established practice which exists in other States throughout Australia in introducing a tiered system of interest rates for loans of differing values. The society has claimed that a tiered system is more equitable to the majority of borrowers than a system based on average interest rates applicable to all.

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes.

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

(1) Why has the Queensland Permanent Building Society introduced a 1 per cent levy on its borrowers who fall more than two months in arrears with their repayments?

(2) Have any other societies introduced this charge?

(3) What action will the Government take to ensure that borrowers suffering temporary hardship are not thrown out of their homes because of this charge?

(4) What other levies are imposed by the society on borrowers in arrears?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am given to understand that the basic reasons for the introduction of a 1 per cent levy on loan repayments more than two months in arrears are:—

To control the number and extent of arrears which normally occur with a financial institution of this type;

To offset the often substantial processing costs involved in following up arrears of repayments; and

To deter borrowers from casually breaking contract arrangements with respect to their mortgage repayments.

Under mortgage insurance agreements, societies are obliged to take remedial action where arrears exceed the equivalent of two months' repayments and to formally report cases exceeding four months. I understand that similar levies are imposed in other States and in one particular instance at a higher level than that applicable to Queensland Permanent Building Society.

(2) Yes.

(3) The management of the Queensland Permanent Building Society has given assurances that in genuine case of hardship special arrangements will be made with the particular borrower and, if necessary, the loan renegotiated on terms more favourable to the mortgagor.

(4) Where equivalent value of one-month arrears occurs, the society dispatches a reminder notice to the borrower. Irrespective of the amount of arrears involved, a charge of \$5 is levied for the recovery of administrative costs incurred in checking financial records and correspondence.

If payment is not made within a further two weeks, a second reminder notice is dispatched, which also attracts a \$5 levy. If arrears amount to the equivalent of two months' repayments, a third notice is forwarded attracting a \$10 levy and containing notification that if no payment is made within the next 30 days the additional 1 per cent charge will be levied until all arrears are eliminated.

### 32. POLICE DISTRICT FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

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

In view of the huge population growth of the Central Highlands, will he establish a police district in the area and have adequate housing provided?

*Answer:—*

Some preliminary planning for a police district based on Emerald has been carried out and the project, including the aspect of housing, is still under consideration.

### 33. NEW UNIFORMS FOR QUEENSLAND POLICE OFFICERS

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

(1) Will action be taken to issue policemen and policewomen in this State with new, improved uniforms using Queensland-grown cotton and wool, as the present uniforms are heavy and the hats do not protect the face sufficiently and have many other irregularities?

(2) Will an effort be made, in unison with the Health Department, to clinically work out the most healthy and comfortable uniform?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) The Commissioner of Police has arranged for all aspects of uniform issues to members of the Police Force to be examined by a committee with a view to effecting improvements wherever possible. Expert technical and other relevant advice will be sought before recommendations for any changes are made. It is my intention, before any finalisation is reached, to have a close look at the suggestions myself. I favour a uniform that a policeman would want to wear and a uniform for policewomen that is both serviceable and one of which we could be proud.

### 34. CHILD-BASHING

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

(1) What action can be taken in Queensland by a doctor to help a child who he knows is being bashed severely by the parents?

(2) What can a doctor do when he knows that a parent is sexually molesting his children?

(3) Are there any moves afoot to help these affected children and to counsel guilty parents with a view to helping them overcome their malicious problem?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I should like to thank the honourable member for his interest in this matter. As with his interest in the development of distinctive number-plates for Queensland motor vehicles and the promotion of the Queensland flag, he has again brought forward a matter that is of great importance. I now read the prepared answer.

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) There exists in Queensland a Co-ordinating Committee on Child Abuse, on which are represented the Department of Children's Services, the Health Department through the Director of Maternal and

Child Health, the Police Department and two paediatricians, one from each of the major metropolitan children's hospitals, who co-ordinate cases of child abuse which come to the notice of the hospital. This committee has been formed to provide an effective service so that all Government departments involved can respond quickly and efficiently if cases of child abuse occur.

In the metropolitan area if a case of child abuse is referred to a doctor in private practice, he should immediately refer it to one of the major metropolitan children's hospitals. Once this happens, the case is referred as a matter of course to the Department of Children's Services, either so that the child can be taken into the care of the Director of Children's Services or so that the parents can be counselled and given supportive services.

A person who fears a child is being abused should contact the officer in charge of the Child Protection Unit, Department of Children's Services, which has been set up by the Government, under the Minister for Community and Welfare Services, for this specific purpose. I should be pleased if this were given publicity throughout the community.

The sexual molestation of children, if this is proven, would be regarded as coming within the category of physical abuse of children and the matter should be reported either to the police or to the Department of Children's Services.

### 35. REPORT ON WOOD-CHIP PROPOSALS

**Mrs. Kyburz**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

When will members of Parliament be privileged to read the report of the inter-departmental committee convened in 1975 to investigate wood-chip proposals?

*Answer:—*

My Forestry Department was represented on the interdepartmental advisory committee convened in 1975 to investigate proposals to establish a wood-chip industry. However, as the committee was convened by the Co-ordinator General, any requests dealing with matters considered by the committee should be directed to the Co-ordinator General's Department.

### 36. VANDALISM IN CAMP MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA

**Mrs. Kyburz**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

Following the disgusting vandalism of facilities in Camp Mountain National Park, will he now consider the introduction of admission charges to defray the cost of providing such facilities?

*Answer:—*

This matter was incorrectly reported in the Press. The serious vandalism referred to was not in a national park, and the damage was in fact caused to the excellent facilities provided by my Department of Forestry in its Camp Mountain recreation area.

This recreation area lies within a very large area of forested country which I hope will be developed as the Brisbane Forest Park by co-operation between the State Government and the Brisbane City Council. We have had some very good meetings on this subject with the council and I have reason to believe that the proposal will go ahead.

Legislation is likely to be required to bring this to fruition, and the possibility of charging for admission will be given due consideration.

### 37. KIDNEY DONOR STICKER FOR DRIVING LICENCES

**Mrs. Kyburz**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware that all licences issued in Victoria are now accompanied by a card saying that kidney transplants are urgently awaited and anyone who wishes to be a donor should attach a sticker to the licence?

(2) As the need for healthy kidneys is so urgent, will he consider the introduction of such a card and sticker in Queensland?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am not aware of the full details of the recent scheme for kidney donors to which the honourable member has drawn attention, but it appears to be similar to proposals for a Queensland scheme which was carefully examined several years ago.

(2) Having regard to all the circumstances, including administration difficulties for the issue of donor cards with renewed driver licences either in respect of kidney or other organ transplants, approval could not be given as it was considered at that time that driver licences were not the appropriate document to carry this or similar information.

However, in view of the honourable member's interest I am only too happy to have the matter further investigated.

### 38. ATHERTON TABLELAND RAIL SERVICES

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

(1) Is he aware of rumours circulating on the Atherton Tableland that the rail services are to be curtailed and that the Atherton area will be served from Mareeba?

(2) As there is concern amongst the customers of the railways, could he inform the House if any alteration to the rail services is contemplated?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) No.

39. TENDERS FOR NEW BLOCK AT GLENMORE HIGH SCHOOL, NORTH ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) Did his department call tenders for the construction of a new block at the Glenmore High School, North Rockhampton?

(2) Was this block described as "Block J" and defined as a "music block"?

(3) Did tenders close in October 1976 and, if so, what decision has been made regarding the tenders received?

(4) Did the tender include work relating to the extension of the toilets to provide showers?

(5) Can he give any indication as to when this work will commence?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 5) Tenders closing on 26 October 1976 were invited for the erection of a music building at the Glenmore State High School. This building will also contain accommodation for a casualty clinic and a staff room as well as boys and girls showers and change areas.

This project is reviewed from time to time in relation to available finance but no indication can be given at this juncture as to when work is likely to commence. In the meantime alternative accommodation is being used.

40. MONITORING OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

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

(1) Does he monitor industrial production in Queensland?

(2) If so, what is the level of production for each of the 32 items in the Commonwealth Statistician's list of selected production indicators for each month of 1976 and January and February of 1977?

(3) What is the seasonally adjusted figure for each?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development carefully reviews all statistical bulletins issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and such other governmental authorities as compile material relating to various aspects of manufacturing industry.

For the information of the honourable member, I would point out that the monthly series to which he refers is compiled on a national but not a State basis. A more limited set of statistics is, however, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics covering a selected number of commodities produced in Queensland. This series, which is published under the title of "Monthly Summary of Statistics—Queensland", can be obtained from the Parliamentary Library.

41. EUROPEAN CARP

**Mr. Turner**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Development and Fisheries—

Will he indicate what steps are being undertaken to control or eradicate European carp in south-western rivers and streams?

*Answer:—*

Experience in other States would indicate the eradication of the introduced species, European carp as virtually impossible; therefore, approval in principle has been given to the establishment of an industry in western Queensland to supply interstate manufacturers of pet food and fish bait, which will create employment opportunities as well as contribute to control of this pest fish.

Guarantees and safeguards will be required that any such enterprise would be effective only against the European carp and not damaging to native species.

In New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia over 600 000 kilograms of European carp are harvested annually for bait and pet food.

42. REPORT ON WOOL TOPS FACTORY FOR WESTERN QUEENSLAND

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

When will the findings of the firm of consultants conducting a feasibility study into the possibility of constructing a wool-tops-making factory in Western Queensland be released to Cabinet?

*Answer:—*

A study on the location and viability of a wool-processing plant in Queensland has been completed by consultants on behalf of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development and my department.

It is expected their report will be finalised by the end of March and submitted to Cabinet early in April 1977.

43. NEW RESIDENCE FOR SCHOOL DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, CHARLEVILLE

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

When will the new deputy principal's residence be constructed at Charleville?

*Answer:—*

Due to the honourable member's representations, it is anticipated that this residence will be completed in about 12 weeks' time.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

**Mr. BURNS:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: In view of the alarming statement in "The Courier-Mail" today that the National Party has already produced three maps before the proposed redistribution inquiry begins, will he, as the Liberal partner in what he termed a balanced coalition, arrange to have any such maps tabled in this Parliament so that they can be compared with the end result of any redistribution? Will he also, to allay public fears that the National Party is about to engage in another electoral rort, give the House an assurance that the Liberal Party will adhere firmly to its policy that a Supreme Court judge should head the electoral commission?

**Mr. KNOX:** The legislation under which a redistribution can take place at any time is the 1971 Act, which members of the Opposition at that time were not able to convince the democratically elected members on this side of the House should be changed. When—and if—a redistribution is conducted, it is the privilege, and indeed the right, of any person or group of people in the community to submit suggestions to that tribunal. No doubt many maps will be submitted to the tribunal if a redistribution takes place in this State.

All we hope is that we never again have a situation in which, as occurred when the Labor Party was in office in this State, no maps are produced and that we do not see printed finally a set of maps showing half the electorates in Queensland in the shape of dumb-bells or great long elongated shapes going for miles in a certain direction to take out little pieces of territory. The A.L.P. even went to the extent of not taking off the rolls the names of people who were in the cemetery.

### OVERDRAFT LIMITS, QUEENSLAND BANKS

**Mr. BURNS:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Is he aware that Queensland banks are restricted to allowing only about \$14,000,000 a week of new overdraft limits? Is he aware that this will prevent many small businesses from obtaining temporary finance for tax payments due at the end of the financial year, to the extent that they will be either bankrupted or forced

to close? What action will the State Government take to ensure that normally viable small businesses do not fail owing to the Federal Government's credit squeeze?

**Mr. KNOX:** I am not aware of the precise arrangements relating to overdraft limits. I know that a number of people have received advice of restriction of overdraft limits. Presumably that is a private matter between those people and their banks.

As to the prospects of bankruptcy, and so on—I do not believe that in this State small businesses generally are facing such a situation. Indeed, all indications in the figures available to me as late as yesterday are that small businesses in Queensland are in a much better position to meet any problems in the economy than are small businesses in New South Wales under a Labor Government.

### ADDITIONAL POWER STATION IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

**Mr. HARTWIG:** I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: In view of a long record of apparent industrial troubles at the Gladstone super powerhouse, and as I have always argued in this House that no Government should place all its power generation in one basket, would he give due consideration to erecting another power station in Central Queensland or to enlarging existing ones such as Callide or Rockhampton, where ample water and millions of tons of cheap coal are available, which would save the transport costs associated with getting coal to Gladstone?

**Mr. CAMM:** The Electricity Commission is always looking for sites for future power stations. At the present time it is calling tenders for the supply of coal for a power station that will be built within the next 10 years. We are all aware of the large coal deposits in Central Queensland. At the present time the Electricity Commission is undertaking a large drilling programme in the Bowen Basin to ascertain the qualities and quantities of coal in the area. Now that we have an assured water supply in Central Queensland from the Fairbairn Dam and the various weirs on the Mackenzie River, the area mentioned by the honourable member will be taken into consideration when the planning for a new power station is under way.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### PRESERVATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY; REFERENDUM PROPOSALS

**Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12 noon):** At present there would appear to be substantial pressure for the removal of all our links with England, for the termination of a constitutional monarchy and for the introduction of an Australian republic. In the wake of the visit by the Queen and her husband it is pertinent to examine a proposition which



would change so much so irrevocably that we would need to be very sure indeed of what we were doing before we embarked on such a course.

Did the Royal visit actually disclose any strong demand for a republic? Do a sizeable number of Australians want to cut the British painter, deny their origins, reject their Monarch and, instead, pay homage to a new style of elected local head of State?

I said "there would appear to be substantial pressure" for the notion of a republic, and the appearance is a dim one at that. Even the most one-eyed critic could not suggest that there is such republican fervour around that the Royal couple are being received in Australia with hostility or disdain, or, for that matter, even indifference. On the contrary there is such warmth in the mass welcomes that it goes far beyond any expectations of the tour's organisers.

Whilst a few are frantically beating the republican drum and attacking the Sovereign's impartiality by implying partiality on the part of her representative, the Governor-General, the Royal visit has been a triumph. It has been a triumph for common sense and tradition, a triumph provided by the hundreds of thousands of ordinary people expressing unmistakably their feelings and attitudes, which stand in very sharp contradiction to those attitudes touted by over-rated authors, disgruntled politicians, superficial journalists and addled academics.

No media mention could be complete without comment on the A.B.C.'s "This Day Tonight" show. Nobody could have watched it over the past two weeks without having its bias thrust down his throat. Bias from professionals is bad enough, but when it is expressed in crude terms of undergraduate cartoon lampooning it becomes not only irritating, but also nauseating. That A.B.C. team warrants a good shake-up not just because of its interminable bias, but mainly because of its consistent vulgarity and stupidity. It does no good to the profession of journalism.

Does the evidence show that Australian people are moving to seek an end to our present system, with a republic put in its place? I challenge anyone to show me any such evidence at all. Organised rallies by the frenetic faithful are evidence of nothing but the pathetic lack of logic from the few mad mullahs. But the evidence to the contrary, that is, that Australians do not want a republic, is overwhelming. The annihilation of Labor in 1975, after it had been reluctantly forced to the polls by the Governor-General's dismissal of it, is an unanswerable part of that evidence.

I know that we will probably be told of the survey commissioned by the A.B.C. and a Left-wing weekly journal purporting to show a small majority of people favouring a republic. But that was an ANOP survey, which is notorious for its consistent over-valuing of Labor and the causes Labor

espouses. It is also notorious for undue weighting given to Melbourne and Sydney industrial suburbs and for its indifference to sampling outside capital cities. The Morgan Gallup poll (whose reliability is respected even by Labor people) conducted last September showed that three of every four Australians were flatly opposed to a republic.

We should also ask just what is at issue when we discuss the merits of our present system and the republican alternative. Is it merely the minor differences between two basically similar forms of self-government? Indeed it is not! Never fall for that siren song. The systems are utterly different and anyone who tells us that it would be better to have a Jimmy Carter-type figure as head of State rather than a British Sovereign either is clearly not right in the head or is deliberately acting against our best interests. The two systems are worlds apart.

What we enjoy in Australia by virtue of our British heritage is the greatest, the longest and the most consistently successful essay in political liberty that has been recorded in the whole of world history. Little by little, with many setbacks and adjustments, there emerged in Britain a system of law and legal processes that was strong but elastic, which protected the humble and yet restrained the Monarch, and which by dint of development and consensus became proof against all the efforts by tyrants to dispose of it, or to bypass it.

The peculiar—indeed, unique—British capacity to make great change without totally denying the fruits of history is nowhere better seen than in the creation of Parliament, with its triple components of Crown, Lords and Commons. This system, in one form or another, has been adopted over the entire civilized world. It is notable that the British even when twice they dethroned a tyrannical King and Parliament recognised his successor, had the infinite wisdom to preserve the continuity of a strong Royal Government. I believe that our historic system of checks and balances operating through the processes of constitutional monarchy provides insuperable obstacles to what has been well described as "the infinite audacity of elected persons."

With a Monarch as head of the realm, the State is not endangered because someone at the top seeks to serve insatiable ambition. After all, what ambition could there be for a Monarch born to rule and trained from childhood to subjugate self in the acceptance of duty and responsibility? The only ambition, I would think, would be to lay down the heavy burden.

But an elected president is a man of raging ambition, or he would not have sought the role in the first place. Because of the inevitable elective processes he will have many obligations that, once successful, he must fulfil. Anyone who does not believe that should look at the composition of the American Cabinet. Anyone who doubts that should look at presidents around the world in the context of contemporary history.

The great safeguard of a constitutional monarchy is that, within it, total power resides with no-one. The elected persons have not got it, thank God. The Sovereign has not got it. But in the emergency of crisis, only the Sovereign can send the issue back to its only valid area of determination, the people, for a decision by free vote of free men.

Whilst the Queen is Queen of England, and our Queen, no potential traitor can become sole head of the Army, no satanic destroyer can become sole head of the Church, no psychotic can become sole head of State. The concept of a republic, so feverishly promoted by the Left and their gaggle of clever-clever talkers, would deny us all those safeguards won over 2,000 years of struggle, martyrdom and compromise. No wonder people will cry, not only from residual loyalty but also because of the need to safeguard essential political liberties, "God save the Queen"—and cry much more fervently, in view of our political history over the last few years, "God save the Queen of Australia!"

I conclude by referring briefly to the Federal Government's proposed referendum. Just as I oppose any diminution of our constitutional monarchy because its existence is the surest protection against the insatiable ambitions of power-hungry demagogues, so for the same basic reasons I oppose the referendum proposals. We do not want the Federal system further impaired and the Senate downgraded, with even more power shifted to Canberra. What we said was wrong and sinister in presenting the "No" case in 1974 when Mr. Whitlam presented the questions is just as wrong and sinister today when Mr. Fraser proposes them.

We bitterly attacked the Whitlam proposals as deceitful and dangerous. Now that they have become Fraser proposals, is it to be advanced that they have somehow become acceptable, that we were lying in an attempt to con the people in 1974, that what was black three years ago has now miraculously become white? I could answer in the words of Eliza Doolittle in Shaw's play "Pygmalion", but I content myself by saying, "Not for me!"

Finally, I want to say that I will fight this referendum—if it is held—tooth and nail, publicly and privately, confident that in so doing I will be voicing the fervent determinations of the overwhelming majority of people in this State.

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE AND  
DARRA EXPLORATION PTY. LTD.; MINING  
AT TANNUM SANDS

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis) (12.10 p.m.): I rise to speak on a matter that is of interest to not only my electorate but all of Queensland because if the type of Government action to which I am about to refer is to be allowed to continue, what is happening in my electorate could occur in other areas. My interest is in the appointment by Cabinet of a committee to investigate the possibility

of a franchise agreement between the State and Darra Exploration Pty. Ltd. I shall return to that matter later in my speech.

To start at the beginning—Darra Exploration planned to mine and remove the rich fertile soil from the best of the farming land in the Bracewell/Mt. Larcom district. This would cause a great loss of various farm products and would put off the land many families who have farmed it for years. Evidence was presented to a Mining Warden's Court in Gladstone but unfortunately the warden's report has never been made public in full. This is one report that should be released as there is a cloud of doubt over its contents.

The people of Queensland realise that there must be progress and industries but they will not tolerate underhand and back-door agreements. The farmers are entitled to know all that is going on and what is being done with the land and they want to know that what is being done is in the best interests of all rather than a local company controlled by another company in Switzerland. The people at Bracewell are living a life of uncertainty, not knowing when they will be asked to move from their farms or how much they can expect to receive in compensation for being put out of business. The Coughlans, for instance, have been offered \$126 for 3 ha of valuable farming land. If that is any indication of the compensation to be paid, the farmers will not be receiving very much. I believe that the company paid \$1,200 per ha for land in the Targinnie area.

Let the company come clean with these people right along the line because they have been given a pretty raw deal. Why is the Government protecting this company? Is it because a certain concern connected with it gives very generously to National Party campaign funds?

Now let me outline what the Government is doing to take away the powers of local authorities in the area. Loss of these powers will allow the company to go ahead with its plans without meeting the requirements on which the local authorities insist. These requirements are in the best interests of all persons in those areas. Local authorities must ensure that pollution and noise nuisance are not permitted. They must also ensure, by calling for objections to such activity in their areas, that the rights of the people are preserved. They also have the right to ask companies of this size to assist them to finance works that will be required because of the company's developments.

We now hear that silica is to be mined and extracted from the sand at Tannum Sands. This is, I am certain, news to us all. At least it is news to the people in that area. I am quite sure that there would be objections from them if it were known that sand-mining at Tannum Sands was proposed.

Why these underhand and so-secret agreements? Let the Government come out into the open and allow the authorities closest to the people to have a say on what is to be required. I believe it is true that the worst air pollution monitored comes from the plant of the cement company at Darra. We want clean industries which will play ball with local authorities to ensure that there is not a repetition of the Fraser Island incident. In that case a company, after spending big money, was closed down and men were thrown out of work because the plant did not come up to expectations. Let us therefore hear objections and have them all dealt with now. Local authorities do a good job and they should not be over-ridden by any franchise agreement.

We were told last year that the bridge and road-works to connect Gladstone and Fisherman's Landing, where the plant is to be built, were to be given a very high priority. So they should have been. Unfortunately we are now told that the bridge is still in the planning stage and that the committee that is investigating the franchise agreement will at some time or other speak with the local authority concerned. If this bridge had been built before tenders were called for any construction work on the plant, there could have been a 25 per cent saving on building costs. Men and materials have to be transported 40 or 50 miles by road from Gladstone through Yarwun to Targinnie. If the bridge had been constructed first, there would have been direct access to the site involving a distance of only six or eight miles. This would have saved a lot of money. Now we will have to accommodate the work-force at Fisherman's Landing, which will ultimately result in a great increase in the cost of the plant.

The point I am getting at today is that this Government has set up a committee to investigate a franchise agreement between it and the company. As I said previously, local authorities do a very good job, and when industries such as clinker plants or cement plants are established in an area, the local authority should have the final say because it is the arm of government closest to the people and will look after their interests. We therefore ask that the Government looks seriously at the objections of the local authority before entering into this agreement.

#### EGG MARKETING PROBLEMS IN NORTH-WEST QUEENSLAND

**Mr. BERTONI** (Mt. Isa) (12.17 p.m.): The problem I wish to bring before the House today is one that has been simmering in North-west Queensland for many years. North Queensland egg producers have complained for years that the Queensland Egg Marketing Board has been trying to squeeze them out of business. Northern consumers are being forced to purchase low-quality, stale eggs from the board because only a small number of locally produced eggs are

available. For years we in the West have been putting up with eggs coming from the south-east corner of the State that are sometimes four to six weeks old, whereas the Board has now instituted a system under which it sets down a life of only 21 days for eggs throughout Queensland. I quote from the Queensland Agricultural Journal of July 1974, which states—

"From the time an egg is laid, its internal quality begins to deteriorate."

**Mr. Jones:** Are those eggs date-stamped?

**Mr. BERTONI:** I will come to that in a moment.

The eggs that are arriving in Mt. Isa are quite stale; the yolks are enlarged and flat and break easily when cooking, and the surrounding white is watery and weak. If anyone wishes to deny what I have said, the "Queensland Agricultural Journal" of July 1974 gives clear examples of what eggs should be like when they are broken open.

**Mr. Casey:** It's your Government's fault.

**Mr. BERTONI:** The honourable member should not worry about our Government.

The average buyer would naturally rather have eggs that are fresh; but they are virtually impossible to obtain in Mt. Isa because of the stranglehold that the board has in that area. It has at least 85 per cent of the local market simply because it controls the hen-quota system that operates in the northern and north-western areas of the State. The majority of people do not want second-rate eggs. For the last seven years, the Mt. Isa Hospital, for instance, has chosen local eggs instead of Egg Marketing Board eggs. The housekeeper at the hospital says that the Egg Marketing Board eggs are never as fresh as the local ones. She says that the board eggs are pale, runny and look unappetising to the patients. She also says that with a local supply they never have to worry about running out of stocks and that the eggs are always fresh. For that same reason the chief cook at Mount Isa Mines prefers local eggs. He claims that Egg Marketing Board eggs have a "stale" or "freezer" taste.

The Egg Marketing Board claims that egg quality is one of its priority concerns, and admits that it has been having problems with ageing. It was reported in the board's February 1976 newsletter that two board officers who recently surveyed the outer-area markets indicated that eggs have been arriving at outer-area destinations in what was almost coyly described as "a less attractive condition than was originally the case."

An effort has been made to improve the quality of eggs throughout Queensland, and in January 1977 the board introduced the open-dating of egg cartons—a very good idea. It meant, of course, that cartons would have a date stamped on them so that consumers could see at a glance the date by which the board believed the eggs should be used and whether they were fresh eggs of good quality.

In its February newsletter the board welcomed the new open-dating system. It said—

“. . . particularly from the viewpoint of the pressure that it will put on all parties concerned with the marketing of eggs (including the Board and its Officers) to ensure that there is no delay in the progress of eggs from the farm to the consumer.”

But, as I shall demonstrate, the board's concern was totally hypocritical and false. The next line of the article said—

“With an exercise such as this, it was only to be expected that difficulties would occur, but happily they were overcome as they came to light.”

Yes, they were overcome all right—easily!

The Egg Marketing Board decided that it could not market the eggs in North Queensland or North-west Queensland within 21 days. It then had three options open to it: to air freight eggs to northern and north-western areas, which, of course, would be far too costly; to advance the date on the cartons beyond 21 days, because consumers would not know that that had been done; or—and this was the ideal solution—to remove the expiry date from any egg cartons that went west of Charleville or to North-west Queensland. That was the way in which the board overcame the problem, and stale eggs are continually being sent from the south-east corner to northern and north-western areas. Does anyone in this part of the State really care? Only members representing northern and north-western areas really care what goes on in their own areas as a result of the complete monopoly of the Egg Marketing Board and the Hen Quota Committee in the south-east of the State.

The Minister advised me recently that there are 50 egg producers in the northern division, 35 in the central division and 270 in the southern division. He said also that almost 32,000,000 dozen eggs were produced in 1975-76, of which the northern division produced almost 12 per cent, the central division about 6 per cent, and the southern division 81.5 per cent. A large part of that 81.5 per cent is going north.

Yesterday I asked in this Chamber how many eggs were going to northern areas. I was told by the Minister that—quite conveniently, I believe—the figure could not be supplied, that it had to come out of the office. The Egg Marketing Board would have the production figures available.

**Mr. Jones:** Despite the production of eggs in the southern division, one of our producers was fined \$1,000.

**Mr. BERTONI:** I agree with the honourable member, and I shall come to that later.

As I said earlier, southern egg producers over-produce greatly, and northern egg producers are subsidising that over-production.

Whereas a northern egg producer supplies 3.33 dozen eggs annually per head of population, the producer in the south-eastern division floods the market with 17.5 dozen eggs annually per head of population. These figures are taken from the Queensland Government Gazette. It is about time the Minister for Primary Industries took more notice of members representing northern and north-western areas and tried to eliminate some of the ideas of the Egg Marketing Board and the Hen Quota Committee. The members of those bodies are only feathering their own nests.

Let me give a typical example of what is happening in the North. In the Innisfail area there was a property on which there were 18,000 hens. The farmer sold the property and the person who purchased it thought he would take over the hen quota. The Egg Marketing Board and the Hen Quota Committee said, “No, you can't have the hen quota.” They took it from the northern division. Where did it go? It was either wiped out completely to reduce over-production or was brought down to the south-east corner.

In another instance in North Queensland, a farmer in the Mackay area was given a basic quota of 6,000 hens. He then received a letter from the board saying that he could have an additional 700 hens. After purchasing the additional 700 and bringing his quota to 6,700, he was told by the Egg Marketing Board or the Hen Quota Committee, “You can't have the extra 700. Kill them.” He had to kill the extra 700 so that the production of eggs in the south-east corner of the State could be kept going. It is about time something was done about that sort of thing. This is only a murmur. As long as I am a representative of the western areas, I will, with representatives of the northern areas, continue to demand equality. We want our areas to be self-sufficient. We want the northern division to supply the northern division.

(Time expired.)

#### ADVANTAGES OF THE MONARCHAL SYSTEM

**Mr. W. D. HEWITT** (Chatsworth) (12.36 p.m.): The occasion of the visit of the Queen has once again shown us the warmth and spontaneity that her presence in the Australian community generates. There is no discipline that forces people out into the streets to acknowledge her presence. They are motivated solely by a great warmth, a feeling of loyalty and an outpouring of empathy towards her. We saw that during her recent visit to this State. We are all most blessed that she has been able to occupy this role for 25 years. She has filled it with great distinction and honour.

Because she is with us once again her presence has stimulated discussion on the establishment of a republic in this nation and debate upon the advantages and disadvantages of a republic. There have been great rallies

and many disputations, comments and columns of print in the newspapers. The culmination of it all was a rally in the Sydney Town Hall where one of the principal speakers was the journalist Donald Horne. I have no objection whatsoever to this activity. We live in an age where nothing is taken for granted and all things are brought under critical scrutiny and review. Indeed, it is part of the Liberal philosophy itself, which says that there will be discussion, argument and dispute so that all things can be considered and all points of view entertained. But having said that I have no objection to those rallies taking place, I argue strongly with the propositions that are advanced—the propositions that somehow or other the monarchy is now redundant, that it has no relevance or appeal and that it should be replaced with a presidential system. To suggest that it has no appeal is to close one's eyes to the spontaneous response that the presence of the Monarch in our country brings about.

I am concerned that the republicans are expressing their viewpoint forcefully whereas those who support the monarchical system are not likewise supporting their viewpoint, and we are being beaten in the market-place. It is important that we get out in the market-place and defend the monarchical system not on the basis of sheer sentiment or pomp and pageantry, but on the very important place that it commands in the political fabric of this nation. In an increasingly materialistic and cynical world, in personal terms I value very much the tradition, the pageantry and the pomp which are part of the monarchical system. I have no objection to them whatsoever, and long may they be sustained. Indeed the Americans, in particular, look at our monarchical system with a sense of envy. All the things they produce when they install their head of State every four years in no sense can touch it, and in no sense can they touch the greater meaning of the monarchical system. But it is not good enough merely to defend the monarchy on the basis of sentiment, pomp, pageantry or tradition. If we go out into the market-place and defend it, we must do so on the basis of the very real value it is to us and the great safeguard it is to the many traditions that we adhere to very strongly. I would put it to the Assembly today that the strengths of the monarchy, firstly, are the reserve powers that are resident in it and, secondly, the ultimate powers that it denies to others. They are terribly important.

For hundreds of years great scholars have argued about and debated the reserve powers of the monarchy. Indeed, even in these advanced years of the 20th Century no clear definition has emerged. People are still uncertain about the extent of the reserve powers, and it is probably not a bad thing that an exact definition has not been laid down. And it probably should not be laid down.

One of the most eminent scholars from the Left, Dr. Evatt, in his book "The King and Dominion Governors" dwelt long and hard upon this very proposition. Dr. Evatt

was the first to concede that the residual powers were very real and that the powers could in fact be invoked.

It is to the great credit of this nation that in 77 years of federation those powers have been invoked on two occasions only. We all hope that they may never have to be invoked, but we are strengthened in the knowledge that they are there. What are some of those reserve powers—if one might try to put them down in very simplistic terms?

The first is the power to intrude on behalf of the people. If the Monarch or her representative thinks that the people's interest must be protected and if there are valid reasons why an intrusion must be made, that power is there.

The second is the power to question the actions of the Government. I suppose it is one of the niceties of government that when the Governor meets his advisers each week he does not automatically assent to everything that is presented to him. As the ultimate power in the State, he must be satisfied on the documents that he is being asked to attest.

Thirdly, the Monarch or her representative maintains the integrity of the Constitution itself.

Those who argue for a republic claim a presidential system is clearly superior. I suppose the best example they cite to strengthen their case is that of the United States of America, which by all tests that could be applied is a great democracy. No-one would suggest to the contrary. But even in the United States of America the powers that reside in the President alone are quite awesome. No-one would like to think that in our form of government such powers should reside in any one person. The Monarch shares the powers; and there reside within the Monarch certain powers of intrusion. She is in clear distinction from the President of the United States. Neither she nor any head of her Government commands the single awesome powers that the President of the United States commands.

If we want to look at other presidential systems, we should recall that a president is not removed from but is part of the political fabric. Surely to goodness the worst example we could cite is the recent episode in the sub-continent of India, where with the connivance of the President of the day constitutional processes were totally suspended and the constitution was pushed totally aside. That was made possible because the President was part of and indeed a creature of the political system. The Monarch, on the other hand, is not part of or a creature of the political system; she stands quite aside from it.

Let me relate some of the fundamental principles of our own domestic situation. We are governed by the provisions of the Constitution Act, which lays down the procedures of this House and determines the life of the Parliament itself. Suppose some autocratic

Government decided that the life of the Parliament should be extended and that elections should not take place or should be delayed indefinitely. To whom would the people have recourse? The only person in this State to whom they could have recourse is the guardian of the State Constitution Act—the Governor, acting on behalf of the Queen. It is those powers, which are all-important, that justify the monarchical system.

There are those who labour under the false impression that Parliaments are elected for three years and that they should enjoy an unqualified guarantee that they will serve those three years. Nothing could be further from the truth. The only principle that the Australian Constitution or indeed our own Constitution Act lays down is that the maximum life of a Parliament will be three years. There is a world of difference between that and a guaranteed life of three years. For any number of reasons the life of a Parliament and a Government can be terminated. Labor theorists should look at the life of the Gair Government, which was elected in 1956 with a very healthy majority and only some 12 months later the assurance of three years meant nothing. About 12 months after its election that Government was defeated in this Chamber and despatched to oblivion. I remind the House that that happened 20 years ago this coming August; we approach our 20th anniversary.

With the Monarch on our shores it is timely to think well of these important considerations and recognise that the monarchy has never been an irrelevancy, certainly is not outdated or outmoded and commands an important part in the constitutional life of this nation. While those residual powers are there, and while she has the authority to exercise them, we all sleep a little sounder and we are all aware of the fact that no other person can take these powers away. I repeat that the great strengths of the monarchy are those powers that reside in her and those powers which, in consequence, are denied to others.

#### QUOTAS IN BRISBANE MILK BOARD AREA

**Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (12.37 p.m.):** I rise to express some remarks about the very grave plight of the dairy industry in Queensland. Its organisation from the Government point of view has, I believe, the political implications of a Watergate cover-up and the financial overtones of a minor Lockheed scandal.

Most honourable members have a hazy idea of the manner in which the dairy industry is organised. The whole key to it concerns quotas and their allocation. The system of allocation in Queensland is shrouded in mystery. A few privileged producers are earning up to \$200,000 a year in the industry but a large proportion of producers are on or below the poverty line.

In the past 12 months 300-odd producers left the industry for all time. That is equal to about one every day. In the same period Queensland's milk production increased by

almost 7 per cent. During the past 10 years over half of the producers in Queensland have left the industry, the total number falling from about 10,000 to about 4,500. The Queensland Government cannot blame the Whitlam Government for that. It happened over a period of 10 years while the industry was being controlled by the Queensland Government.

Of the producers who are left in the industry, over 50 per cent are suppliers to the Brisbane Milk Board area, which is supposedly a good and satisfactory market to supply. But that is not the case for the remainder of the producers, who are in areas in which there is no control other than by quota allocations made by the factories. They determine the quantity of milk that the producers will supply to the factories.

To return to the Brisbane Milk Board area—I point out that almost 2,000 producers are supplying through various country factories in the south-east corner of the State. In addition, over 200 producers are classified by the Brisbane Milk Board as direct suppliers. Those 200, while representing less than 10 per cent of the suppliers to the Brisbane Milk Board market, supply about 40 per cent of the Brisbane Milk Board's requirements, and the other 2,000 share 60 per cent. That is hardly an equitable system. Some suppliers individually provide 2 per cent of the Brisbane milk market while the average country producer supplies only .03 per cent. But it is even worse when we look further into the picture and discover that, of the direct suppliers to the Brisbane market, 11 major suppliers provide about 20 per cent of the overall requirement. These people are certainly very well off under the system. They certainly should be considering the facts that I have presented.

Recently the Government set up an inquiry into milk-marketing in the south-east Queensland area, but it has not accepted the recommendations of that committee of inquiry. Instead, it has adopted its own system—a system under which all Brisbane Milk Board quotas are reduced by 5 per cent and a payment of \$200 a gallon compensation is made to those whose quotas are reduced.

Rich and poor alike—the biggest suppliers and the small, struggling suppliers—lose 5 per cent. Despite the implication of the Minister for Primary Industries in the House today in answer to a question from me, that was definitely not the recommendation of the committee. He deliberately misled the House by trying to indicate that this across-the-board reduction of 5 per cent was a recommendation of the committee of inquiry. It was not. The recommendation of the committee of inquiry was made on an entirely different basis. The Minister has accepted only a very small portion of that recommendation, and I believe that, for his own particular reasons, he deliberately misled the House this morning.

Many of the poorer producers, who will also lose 5 per cent, are on the poverty line. Some of them are supplying only some 22 gallons a day to the Brisbane market. They will still lose 5 per cent. On the other hand, the 11 very rich suppliers will not even feel the pinch—and, as I have mentioned, the income of some of them is in the vicinity of \$200,000 annually. Under this system, as soon as things get back to normal, many producers will return to the levels of their previous quotas. In addition, they will have in their pockets a cash bonus of \$200 for each gallon they lose under the 5 per cent reduction.

Modified and special milks are not included in the figure that is being worked on. I believe that they should be, because they are beginning to constitute a significant proportion of the overall Brisbane market.

At the end of January the consumption of the Brisbane milk market represented 105.8 per cent of existing minimum quotas. Therefore, in actual fact, the big suppliers will lose nothing under this scheme. Five per cent is being taken from them, but they are already supplying 5 per cent over the minimum quotas. The nett result is that they will retain their quotas. At least two of the suppliers will finish up with a \$20,000 cash bonus in their pockets.

What will it mean to the 600 producers in the Wide Bay, Burnett and Mary Valley areas who are hoping to get access to the Brisbane market? Only 2,860 gallons or less than 5 gallons per day each is available. At approximately 50c extra a gallon, all they will get out of it will be \$2.50 a day, while the big direct suppliers—and many honourable members know some of them—will get \$20,000 out of it.

Quotas are controlled by the State Government in a relatively secret way. Unlike sugar peaks, they are not openly published in the Queensland Government Gazette each year. Dairying is a controlled industry. Therefore, the incomes of those involved are controlled; but a favoured few are getting all the advantages.

I said earlier that this matter has political implications—because the Milk Board is completely controlled by the Government through Government representation. The Milk Board is under the direct influence of the Minister for Primary Industries. Surrendered quotas are not dealt with by an independent judicial body as is the case with the allocation of increased sugar assignments and reassignments in Queensland. A quota advisory committee is appointed by the Minister, but it has no legislative backing and no responsibility to the industry. And it is most important that it should have. That body is under National Party control. Three of its four members are members of the Brisbane Milk Board.

The dairying electorates in Queensland have traditionally been represented by the National Party. The producers in those electorates, who are just battling along, realise

that a favoured few, who are prominent in the National Party, are gaining the advantages. No wonder they want to sack the Minister! If they want to sack him, they must sack the Premier as well, because in this House the other day he backed the Minister 100 per cent on his handling of the dairying industry.

This is where the smell of a Lockheed-type scandal enters the picture. Allegations have been made that sums of up to \$10,000 have been donated to the National Party by some big direct suppliers to the Brisbane milk market in order to obtain additional quotas. Judging by the figures I have quoted today, it is very worth while for them to do that. Is it any wonder that they can do that, considering the money that is available? In many other areas of the State, prominent local National Party officials and major party donors are well looked after under the quota system. That is a well-known and established fact in the dairying industry. Is it any wonder that dairy farmers, who are among Queensland's hardest-working family groups, are asking what it is all about?

I challenge the Government today to set up a judicial inquiry into the dairying industry, that is, one presided over by a judge, to investigate the quota and marketing systems and to report to Parliament. If the Government has nothing to hide, it should not fear such an inquiry. I promise the dairying industry of Queensland that a Labor Government will immediately set up such an inquiry and that its findings will be used as the basis for a new system of quota allocations in Queensland which will be open and public knowledge for all. It will be a system controlled by legislation similar to the legislation under which the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board was set up in Queensland, and subject to annual review. It will allow for a better system to compensate those who want to leave the industry. Such legislation has worked effectively for the sugar industry for 60 years and there is no reason why it should not work for the dairying industry.

(Time expired.)

#### MARIJUANA

**Mr. GOLEBY** (Redlands) (12.46 p.m.): I want to bring before the notice of the House today a problem that is increasing within the community. I refer to the use of marijuana, particularly among young people. Many devious methods are being used in its distribution and I, like every other responsible member of the community, am most concerned about it. I hope that all honourable members will concern themselves with this scourge that is at present engulfing many fine young people in our community. When I go round my electorate visiting many schools and see the bright happy faces of the children there and realise that some of them will be subjected to the evils of marijuana and associated drugs, I am most distressed.

I should like to see much greater public education directed towards the problems presented by marijuana. We have all heard of cannabis, or marijuana, but few, I am sure, know much about it. Few would recognise it as it grows and I am also sure that few would recognise it in its cured form. I believe that as a Government and as members of this House we are responsible to the people we represent. I therefore urge the Minister for Health in particular to take notice of this problem. I suggest that his department have plastic replicas of the cannabis plant produced so that they may be displayed in public places to enable people to recognise it. I am sure that most members of this House do not know what the marijuana plant looks like.

Each day we read in the Press of many new areas of marijuana plants that have been discovered and those who are cultivating them are being fined; but unfortunately we do not know how much is being produced and peddled around the countryside, nor do we know the areas of production. I know that there is a special Drug Squad within the Police Force whose time is devoted largely to this problem. In my electorate only recently a rather large area was discovered and destroyed and the culprit received his just deserts. It is believed that land in forestry areas was being prepared for the growing of marijuana but those who were responsible for it were disturbed, by either timber-getters or forestry officers, and the project did not go ahead. But those are only isolated cases. I and, I am sure, other members would like to know how much marijuana is actually being cultivated and produced.

We hear much spoken about marijuana but few realise its harmful effects. They are listed and they include respiratory disease, foetal deformities, psychiatric disorders, impairment of the nervous system and serious impairment of driving ability. More seriously, marijuana often leads to the use of harder drugs.

Various cults are developing in our society, unfortunately amongst young people, many of them in their early teens.

Several methods of identifying a fellow marijuana user have been adopted involving the use of jewellery. Only recently it was drawn to my attention that jewellery is being sold in stores in our community in the form of replicas of the marijuana leaf and that young people are wearing this jewellery so they can recognise a fellow marijuana user. When a pusher sees a young person wearing this jewellery he immediately will try to pass this dangerous drug onto him. Unfortunately, this jewellery is being sold in the form of ear-rings, trinkets and anklets and is the latest trend in identifying users of marijuana. I would like to think that the Minister for Health could have these items of jewellery withdrawn from sale. I know of one high school—not in my electorate, of course—where the practice is rife and various students have been detected using marijuana. If it is available in one school, obviously it

is available in others, and before this method of distribution becomes too widely known I would ask the Minister for Health to take action to have it fully investigated.

**Mr. Houston:** Do the police know about this?

**Mr. GOLEBY:** I am sure the police are well aware of it, and so are responsible members of the community.

**A Government Member** interjected.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** Somebody has suggested that the Trades Hall is involved with the trinkets, but I cannot prove that. I would like to have this House recommend to the Government that a full inquiry be held into the distribution and sale of marijuana and the public generally educated to identify marijuana easily and thus be able to notify the responsible body of places where it is being produced. I know that in many cases it has been produced in local gardens as a pot plant. A team of detectives recently told me that they had gone to a certain place and recovered a number of marijuana plants which were being cultivated in a fernery along with other plants. The person concerned did not realise that he had been innocently growing it. But in how many areas is the plant disguised or hidden because it is being produced purely and simply for the purpose of distribution amongst our young people? I hope the Minister will have the matter fully investigated.

#### CAR-PARKING IN VICINITY OF ALBION PARK RACECOURSE

**Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.54 p.m.):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to—

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I rise to a point of order. When it became known that a colleague of mine had completed his contribution within the 10-minute time limit, I then approached Mr. Speaker and asked that my name be added to the list, and I believe he did so. What is the situation?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller):** Order! I remind the House of the well-known fact that a list of speakers for debates is prepared by the Government Whip. A list was prepared for the debate on Matters of Public Interest. I have informed the honourable member for Bulimba that the Government Whip has indicated to me that the honourable member for Merthyr has the time allocated to him and I have suggested to the honourable member for Bulimba that he should go and see the Whip in his room and straighten it out. The honourable member has chosen not to do so. I have called on the honourable member for Merthyr, and I do so again.

**Mr. LANE:** Mr. Deputy Speaker—

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr. LANE:** Don't take all my time off me.



**Mr. HOUSTON:** I rise to a point of order. When it became known that the time would be available, I looked around the Chamber and the Government Whip was not present. It is true that a list was supplied. I am suggesting that the name of the honourable member for Merthyr was not on any list that was supplied then.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I accept the point that the honourable member is making, but I come back to my original suggestion—that a list is supplied by the Whip to the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, as the case may be. Such a list was submitted, and a further name was added to that list by the Whip. I suggested to the honourable member that he take the matter up with the Whip, which he declined to do. As far as I am concerned, the matter is now closed. I have called the honourable member for Merthyr.

**Mr. LANE:** Despite the efforts of the honourable member for Bulimba to gag me and silence me, I intend to speak out on this matter, which is of great importance to my electorate although it probably will not concern many other honourable members in this Chamber.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** Obviously it does not concern the honourable member for Bulimba.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. LANE:** You go back to feeding possums to greyhounds. That's what you're famous for.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. LANE:** The matter that I wish to raise pertains to the parking of vehicles in the vicinity of Albion Park racecourse, in my electorate, during race meetings and the conflict that is currently occurring between two Government departments (the Police Department and the Main Roads Department) and the Brisbane City Council.

Unfortunately, the signs prohibiting parking, which read "No Standing Any Time", that are erected on the streets surrounding Albion Park racecourse have to be unlocked and folded down at the start of each race meeting. These signs prohibit parking that hinders local residents going to or from their homes and business people going to or from light industries and factories or places of employment in the area. The Brisbane City Council has refused recently to play its part by letting down the signs and displaying the "No Standing Any Time" notices on race days and trotting nights at Albion Park. I understand that a similar problem

arises in the vicinity of Eagle Farm and Doomben racecourse and at Woolloongabba when the dogs are racing.

**Mr. Houston:** No problem.

**Mr. LANE:** The only thing the honourable member knows about dogs is feeding possums and other live bait to greyhounds, and the sooner the police catch him for it, the better.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. LANE:** I have a letter from the Brisbane City Council which shows quite clearly that it has no intention of measuring up to its responsibilities. I wrote to the council recently and asked it to have the signs let down. The letter of explanation that came back to me and to the person who complained to me reads—

"It is the Council's responsibility to put up the signs, and it is the responsibility of the Police to ensure that the restrictions are properly policed. There are considerable technical problems in the policing of these matters in that if the Police launch a prosecution, a Council officer has to go to court to indicate that the signs were down prior to cars parking in the street."

There is an evidentiary requirement that a council officer go to court. The letter continues—

"Additionally, because the putting down of these signs involves overtime on behalf of Council employees, the Council is very reluctant to take any action because they do not derive any revenue from the fines which may be imposed—that goes to the Main Roads Department."

So, because there is no money in it, because there is not the almighty dollar in it, the Brisbane City Council is forcing people to put up with indiscriminate parking of cars outside their residences in the vicinity of Albion Park racecourse.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** The honourable member should go back to feeding dogs.

I take this opportunity of calling on the Brisbane City Council to co-operate with the Police Department in ensuring that there is properly regulated parking in the vicinity of Albion Park racecourse. I believe in "live and let live", and people should be allowed to go to and from their homes, just as other people should be allowed to go to their afternoon's entertainment at the races or their evening's entertainment at the dogs or the trots. This situation can be achieved only if the city council plays a reasonable and responsible part.

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

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.