

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 3 AUGUST 1977**

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## WEDNESDAY, 3 AUGUST 1977

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

### DEATH OF MR. I. M. BROWN

#### SEAT DECLARED VACANT

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that I have received from the Registrar-General a certified copy of the registration of the death, on 12 May 1977, of Ivan Milton Brown, Esquire, lately serving in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Clayfield.

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier): I move—

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Clayfield hath become and is now vacant by reason of the death of the said Ivan Milton Brown, Esquire.”

Motion agreed to.

#### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (11.3 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of Ivan Milton Brown, Esquire, lately serving as member for the electoral district of Clayfield.

“2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.”

The late Ivan Brown, who died on 12 May this year in Brisbane, had been elected member for Clayfield in a by-election just eight months previously. At the time of his untimely death he was providing honourable service to the Parliament and to his constituents.

Although present among us for such a brief time, he won the respect of all members on both sides of the House. In a very special way he won my very high regard and respect.

He was closely involved in the business life of Queensland and knew the State from one end to the other. His love of Queensland and his involvement in a politically aware family naturally led him into the political arena and into this Parliament.

He won the by-election for Clayfield on 29 May 1976 and was sworn in on 25 August of that year. On the same day he delivered his maiden speech in the Address-in-Reply debate. I am sure that if Ivan Brown had lived he would have made a substantial mark in the affairs of this House. It is indeed a loss to Parliament and to Queensland that he suffered a fatal heart attack so early in his parliamentary career.

Mr. Brown was born at Dromana in Victoria in 1922 and spent his formative years on the family property outside Melbourne.

He, together with his sister, inherited the musical skills of his mother. He was a choir boy in Melbourne's St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral and later developed into a pianist of note.

During World War II he was on active service with the 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion, A.I.F., serving in the Middle East and South Pacific zones. The Brown family served Australia both in peace and in war. His father lost a leg in France in World War I and his brother Kenneth was killed in the fighting around Rabaul during the Second World War.

Ivan Brown was always community-minded and played an active part in the church, Scouts, Rotary, the R.S.L. and sporting affairs.

He set up his own business in Queensland under the name “Ivan Brown Agencies” and, as a manufacturer's agent, covered northern New South Wales, Darwin and all of Queensland. His wife Elva, who was born in Cairns, greatly assisted her husband during his years in business and public life. Most of the political involvement of Mr. and Mrs. Brown was in North Queensland, where they proved a strength to the Liberal cause in both Cairns and Townsville. Mr. Brown was also a member of the State Executive of the Liberal Party, area chairman of the Lilley Federal Division from 1973 to 1975, and a vigorous campaigner in various State and local government elections. While in this House, he was an active member of the Government's Industrial Development committee, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs committee, Police committee and Works and Housing committee.

Ivan Brown was a great coalitionist. He was a firm believer in the contribution being made by the National and Liberal parties to the progress and development of Queensland. On behalf of the Government—and, indeed, on behalf of all members of this Parliament—I extend sincere sympathy to his widow and to the surviving family of this late, respected member of the Parliament of Queensland.

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (11.7 a.m.): I second the motion proposed by the Premier. In doing so I point out that it is not often that we have to speak to a motion of condolence for a member who passes away such a short time after entering Parliament and while still serving with us.

Ivan Brown endeared himself very rapidly to his colleagues in this House. In the short time he was here he became very popular with his colleagues, members of the House generally, the staff, and others associated with him. As the Premier said, he had a long career in the Liberal Party and held office in quite a few important areas of the party. I got to know him while he was so engaged and long before he became a member of this House. I knew of his vigour and concern in the multitude of interests he had.

It is a matter of record that his health deteriorated quite rapidly after what appeared to be the very vigorous and healthy life that he had led. This was very noticeable in the last few months that he was with us.

In his maiden speech in this House not so long ago Ivan Brown referred to a number of matters that had concerned him for most of his life, including the viability, strength and future of small businesses in the community, he being the head of one such business and associated with many others. He knew of the problems facing businessmen and he wanted to have them rectified. As a member, he made attention to some of these matters part of his special crusade. His speeches here and elsewhere on these matters reflected his thoughts.

He was very closely associated with his church and was a member of a number of charitable organisations, including the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. He was very highly regarded in the community and the business world. Since his untimely passing I have been responsible for looking after part of his electorate and I know from the concern and interest expressed by many of his constituents and the public bodies in his electorate that he will be very much missed, just as he will be in this House.

On behalf of members of the Liberal Party I extend to his widow and family our deepest sympathy.

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (11.10 a.m.): The Opposition wishes to be associated with this motion of condolence and the expressions of sympathy to the widow and family of the late Ivan Brown. As the Deputy Premier said, very rarely do we find ourselves speaking to such a motion about somebody who sat in the Parliament with us; but this is the second occasion in the life of this Parliament. The first followed the death of the late Marty Hanson.

I found Ivan Brown to be a quiet, rather gentle man. I met him for the first time at Albion in the middle of the by-election—a very hectic by-election for the Clayfield seat, which he won. From the time he came into the House, I do not think anybody could ever have been offended by anything he said or did. He was always quietly spoken, very gentle and very gentlemanly—a person with a pleasant smile and manner.

I did not know him in the Liberal Party, other than in the House as a member and in that particular campaign. However, I know that anyone who is involved in politics and who works up through the ranks of a political party spends a lot of time away from his family and puts a lot of effort into community affairs. When I look through his history in the Parliamentary Handbook, I see that he served in the Armed Services. In that regard I heard the Premier speak of his father and a brother who, I think he said, was lost in service for the country. In this sphere, too, we can see that the Brown family made its contribution to the community generally, and not just through the Parliament.

It is significant that today we are moving this motion of condolence when at this time last year Ivan Brown was moving the motion for the Address in Reply. I repeat that the Opposition welcomes the opportunity to offer its condolences to the family of the late Ivan Brown and to join in this motion.

**Mr. LANE** (Merthyr) (11.11 a.m.): I wish to associate myself with this motion of condolence to the widow and family of the late Ivan Brown. He was known to me very well and, I am proud to say, was a friend of mine for a number of years. Ivan Brown as a man had a great future in this Parliament. He had his feet very firmly on the ground. He understood people and, as a practical person, he could have looked forward to a very long career in politics. It is a great shame—and indeed a great sorrow to those of us who knew him well—that death should befall him when it did and cut off such a promising parliamentary career.

To me Ivan Brown was a man of great courage. He demonstrated that during his years as a serviceman in the Second World War. As well, I saw instances of personal courage exhibited by him in the community generally. I remember that on one occasion during a particularly hectic Federal campaign he was working extremely hard for the Honourable Kevin Cairns, the member for Lilley, who was also a friend of Mr. Brown's. I had to restrain Ivan Brown from some very heavy physical labour after he had suffered a bout of illness. He was a man who believed in doing things with his own hands. He got out and did them himself. He was a tradesman in the way he conducted himself in life.

I know that Mr. Cairns would also wish to be associated with this motion of condolence. Ivan was his campaign director in more than one Federal campaign and put in many arduous hours on behalf of the candidate and member, whom he very properly claimed as his friend.

Ivan Brown was to me a man's man—one with whom a person could have a very direct conversation. Whilst he was quiet in manner, he spoke very clearly, and even bluntly, when he was not impressed with the nonsense and even untruths that people may have been uttering. As a man's man, he gained the respect of members in this House and of many people in the community.

He was associated with St. Mark's Anglican Church in Bonney Avenue, Clayfield. I know that he was devoted to the church and indeed a devout Christian. I express my sympathy and sorrow to the widow and family at the death of Ivan Brown. His widow continues to work in the community and does a very fine job in community activities. She is a very public-spirited person, just as her late husband was.

Ivan travelled the State for a number of years as a representative. A lifetime in the Armed Services and on the road throughout all parts of this State probably laid the basis for his very real and practical attitude to life. I was very sorry to see Ivan Brown go; but am pleased to have the opportunity of associating myself with the motion of condolence.

**Dr. CRAWFORD** (Wavell) (11.15 a.m.): I should like to add my personal condolences to the widow and family of the late Ivan Brown and to express to the House my personal sorrow at his passing from our community.

There are very few members of a community these days who are prepared to act out a life of selflessness with personal integrity of the calibre evidenced by Ivan Brown. He was a man who had experienced a very great amount of personal illness and suffering over the years. Many people in such a situation would have allowed themselves to become semi-invalid or to cease not only their own style of living but certainly community service. Ivan's code of conduct in the community was such that he was prepared to exert himself even more after he had recovered from his initial illness and he undoubtedly put his health in jeopardy as a result.

With his code of ethics, he was of tremendous value to the community. He was a Rotarian. He was interested in every form of community activity that was worth while. His church and other associations have been mentioned in this House. He was a person whom the community could ill afford to lose.

I therefore associate myself with the motion and express to his widow and family my deepest sympathy in this irretrievable loss.

**Mr. DOUMANY** (Kurilpa) (11.17 a.m.): I should like to associate myself with the motion of condolence moved by the Premier. In particular, I express my appreciation for the many hours of enjoyable and productive work that I undertook with Ivan Brown on committees in the Liberal Party as well as in this place.

Ivan was a man of great courage and persistence. He was a man who did not give up easily. He was the sort of man of whom we need a lot more in the community. Ivan did not know when to say die.

He had faced illness in the last 12 or 18 months and, as the previous speaker said, had recovered from a very major bout of illness. He faced up to his task with great courage and tenacity. It is a great pity that Ivan did not serve a longer term in this place to enable him to contribute even more to the Parliament, to the people of his electorate and to the people of Queensland.

I should like to associate myself with the motion of condolence and also to extend my personal sympathy to Mrs. Brown and her family on their very sad loss.

**Mr. PORTER** (Toowong) (11.19 a.m.): Very briefly on behalf of the late Ivan Brown's back-bench colleagues, let me say how much we miss him. I think that all back-benchers will agree with me that Ivan was, in the best sense of that rather trite phrase, a good man. He was always eminently sensible and rational in the views that he arrived at and, once he had decided to take a stand on a matter, he could not easily be persuaded away from it; certainly he could not be seduced or frightened away from it. He was a very useful member of this House; all of us who were associated with him appreciate that.

I say that his wife and his family have lost a very good husband and father, that the community has lost somebody who meant something to it and that this House is the poorer because of his absence. I conclude by repeating that I think that, using the rather trite phrase meaningfully and in its best sense, the greatest tribute we can all pay to him is to say that he was a good man.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to, honourable members standing in silence.

#### PAPERS

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

##### Reports—

Public Accountants Registration Board, for the year 1976.

Board of Trustees of the Queensland Museum, for the year 1976.

University of Queensland, for the year 1976.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

Electoral Districts Act 1971–1977.

Acquisition of Land Act 1967–1977 and the State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971–1974.

Prisons Act 1958–1974.

Forestry Act 1959–1976.

Diseases in Timber Act 1975.

Twelfth Night Theatre Building Trust Act 1977.

District Courts' and Magistrates Courts' Jurisdiction Act 1976.

Orders in Council under—

State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971–1974 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Gladstone Area Water Board Act 1975.

Audit Acts Amendment Act 1926–1971.

Factories and Shops Act 1960–1975.

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

Port of Brisbane Authority Act 1976.

Water Act 1926–1976.

River Improvement Trust Act 1940–1977.

Forestry Act 1959–1976.

Barrier Fences Act 1954–1972.

The Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1967.

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

Land Act 1962–1975.

Fauna Conservation Act 1974–1976.

Explosives Act 1952–1975.

Medical Act 1939–1976.

Ambulance Services Act 1967–1975.

The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Libraries Act 1943–1977 and the Local Government Act 1936–1977.

Grammar Schools Act 1975 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958–1974.

State Housing Act 1945–1974.

Fisheries Act 1957–1974.

Collections Act 1966–1975.

District Courts Act 1967–1976.

Magistrates Courts Act 1921–1976.

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Regulations under—

Mining Act 1968–1976.

Petroleum Act 1923–1976.

Fire Brigade Charges Refund Act 1977.

Fire Brigades Act 1964–1977.

Children's Services Act 1965–1974.

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

Queensland Marine Act 1958–1975.

River Improvement Trust Act 1940–1971.

Irrigation Act 1922–1977.

Traffic Act 1949–1977.

State Transport Act 1960–1972.

Main Roads Act 1920–1976.

Fauna Conservation Act 1974–1976.

Health Act 1937–1976.

Hospitals Act 1936–1976.

Nursing Act 1976.

Explosives Act 1952–1975.

Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976.

Companies Act 1961–1975.

By-laws under—

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

Education Act 1964–1974.

Statutes under—

University of Queensland Act 1965–1973.

James Cook University of North Queensland Act 1970–1977.

Rule under the Elections Act 1915–1976.

Report of the Committee of Enquiry—  
Future Land Use—Moreton Island.

Rule of Court under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961–1976.

(A) Proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration as State Forest under the Forestry Act of:—

(a) All that piece or part of State Forest 234, parishes of Kenilworth and Tuchekoi, described as portion 197, parish of Kenilworth, as shown on plan Mch. 3943 deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General and containing an area of 2.25 hectares—  
and,

(b) All that piece or part of State Forest 268, parishes of Berwick, Blackfriars, Holborn and Waterview, described as portion 99, parish of Waterview, as shown on plan Cwl. 2612 deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General; Parts 'A' and 'B', as shown on plan FTY. 619 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the

Conservator of Forests, and containing an area of about 136 hectares—and,

- (c) All that piece or part of State Forest 611, parishes of Beerwah, Canning and Toorbul, described as areas 'A', 'B' and 'C' as shown on plan FTY. 836 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 26 hectares—and,
- (d) The whole of State Forest 702, parish of Meunga, containing an area of about 2 104 hectares—and,
- (e) All that piece or part of State Forest 3, parishes of Bowarrady, Moonbi, Payungan, Talboor and Wathumba described as area 'A' as shown on plan FTY. 862 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 16 200 hectares—and,
- (f) All that piece or part of State Forest 750, parishes of East Haldon and Townson described as area 'A' as shown on plan FTY. 685 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 2 900 hectares—and,
- (g) All that piece or part of State Forest 792, parishes of Conondale, Kilcoy and Monsildale, described as area 'A' as shown on plan FTY. 878 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 1 740 hectares—

under the Forestry Act 1959–1976.

- (B) A brief explanation of these proposals.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

##### HOUSTON OIL AND MINERALS OF AUSTRALIA LTD., OAKY CREEK PROJECT

**Hon. R. E. CAMM** (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines and Energy) (11.35 a.m.): I wish to make a ministerial statement on the facts relating to the granting of an authority to prospect to Houston Oil and Minerals of Australia Ltd. on the Oaky Creek project.

First let me say that never, in my many years as Minister for Mines in this State, have I known of more spurious, illogical and ill-conceived arguments put forward in a futile attempt to discredit the Queensland Government on its decision to grant this company an authority to prospect on this area.

When the Leader of the Opposition found himself in possession of the annual report of the company, which stated that \$1,500,000 would be spent on the project within the next three years, he didn't even bother to check out the facts. On the basis that you never spoil a good story for the sake of a few facts, he launched into a tirade against the State Government, claiming that I had, and I quote, "grossly misled Queenslanders" over our dealings with Houston Oil and Minerals.

For the sake of honourable members and the people of Queensland, I would like to repeat what I said in this House on 30 March this year, and it is recorded in "Hansard". At the time, I told the House that the tender submitted by Houston Oil and Minerals for the German Creek project was a very attractive one in that the company was prepared to spend \$80,000,000 in the next three years. The fact was that no other company was prepared to obligate itself to that extent. In the main, other companies proposed spending \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 on exploration activities only within the next three-year period.

In view of the employment opportunities that were offered to the State by Houston Oil and Minerals' commitment, it was decided that the adjoining area of Oaky Creek be offered to Houston Oil and Minerals.

Subsequent events have proved that the action of State Cabinet is within the guidelines that we as a Government have established for the allocation of deposits within the Central Queensland coal area. It is also indicative of the concern that the Government has felt about the delays that have occurred in bringing a number of Queensland coal projects to development stage.

Obviously considerable developmental costs will be saved if the German Creek project, released earlier, and the Oaky Creek deposits can be brought into production at the same time and so share infrastructure costs and requirements.

I would also point out to honourable members that in recent years several other authorities to prospect have been approved by Cabinet without prior advertisement for competitive application, so there was nothing new in the Oaky Creek procedure.

All the conditions that were attached by Cabinet to the offer of this authority to prospect, including the 20 per cent equity involvement by an Australian company, have been met by Houston Oil and Minerals of Australia and R. W. Miller and Company Pty. Ltd., and the authority to prospect document has now been issued. I will table a copy of this document, as well as a chart setting out the exploration and developmental expenditure which was submitted in the previous application by Houston Oil and Minerals for the German Creek project.

Parliament is the appropriate place for me to take this action to let the members and the public know that we as a Government have acted honourably and honestly in the best interests of the people of Queensland.

I trust this will now end the wild speculation that we have heard and seen from the Labor Party, sections of the media, and indeed some sections of the mining industry itself who were deluded into believing that there was something sinister and strange in this Government's decision.

There have been attempts by certain sections of the media, particularly the financial pages of the "Telegraph" newspaper, to denigrate this Government's attempts to get new mining projects under way. Whatever motives these people may have, whether they be political or delusions of self importance, they are certainly not in the best interests of this State or the encouragement of Queenslanders to invest in these projects.

However, in general, I have no argument with the newspaper reports on this issue. "The Courier-Mail", the A.B.C., "The Australian", "The Financial Review" and regional newspapers have publicised our efforts to get new mining ventures under way without reverting to snide, unfounded and underhand criticism. In fact the media generally in this State do act in a most responsible way. I can say that I have a very good working relationship with the journalists from newspapers, television stations and radio, and with their help I will continue to promote and encourage the development of Queensland's vast natural resources.

*Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the documents on the table.*

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### SESSIONAL ORDER

**Hon. T. G. NEWBERY** (Mirani—Leader of the House), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, and notwithstanding the provision of Standing Order No. 68, questions may be asked by members without notice being given. The period allowed each day for the asking of questions upon notice and without notice and for the answering of questions shall not exceed one hour: Provided that this period shall terminate at 12 o'clock noon on the days allotted for the discussion of matters of public interest."

Motion agreed to.

## PETITIONS

### AMENDMENT OF CITY OF BRISBANE ACT RELATING TO BENEFITED AREAS

**Mr. LAMOND** (Wynnum) presented a petition from 630 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland

will amend the City of Brisbane Act to provide for the defining of benefited areas for the purpose of making and levying separate rates to defray the cost of particular functions such as the provision of off-street parking.

Petition read and received.

## REVIEW OF LAWS RELATING TO RAPE

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) presented a petition from 58 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will have an urgent review made of the laws relating to rape, with particular reference to the laws relating to evidence.

Petition read and received.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### COMMENT ON CABINET MINISTER BY MEMBER FOR SALISBURY

**Mr. BURNS:** In directing a question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, I draw his attention to "The Australian" of Monday, 1 August, in which the Liberal member for Salisbury was quoted as referring to a Queensland Liberal-National Party Cabinet Minister in these terms—

"He is incompetent and crooked and not fit to be even in Parliament let alone the Cabinet and you can print that because I've told him so to his face."

I now ask: Will he take action to see that his Liberal colleague names the incompetent and crooked Minister who is not fit to be in this Parliament and, before the State election is held, will he hold a public inquiry into the Minister's activities so that the people of Queensland can be aware of the honesty or otherwise of the members of this Liberal-National Party Cabinet?

**Mr. LICKISS:** This is obviously a facetious question. In fact, in the strict terms of the question as phrased, I do not think the matter comes within the province of the Attorney-General. The answer therefore is, "No."

**Mr. Burns:** One law for Ministers and another for citizens.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. Burns:** We will raise it later by way of privilege and then see what happens.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

### TRIAL OF POLICEMEN OVER CEDAR BAY COMMUNE RAID

**Mr. AIKENS:** I ask the Premier: Now that the three police officers who were charged over what is known as the Cedar Bay affair have been completely exonerated, will any action be taken against the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Cairns and the member for Rockhampton, whose completely

untrue, scurrilous and contemptible statements and actions fanned the flames of invective used by the anti-police groups, such as the Council for Civil Liberties and other A.L.P. riff-raff during the period of anguish and distress suffered by the officers concerned? Can any action be taken to make these political scavengers meet any of the cost involved in the court actions or will this be borne entirely by the unfortunate taxpayers? Will the monstrously foul statements made by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Cairns and the member for Rockhampton be referred to the Privileges Committee of the Parliament?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** It would be a very good idea if they were. I feel that the Opposition members to whom reference was made in the question ought to feel downright ashamed of themselves.

**Mr. Wright:** He is not a very good reader, anyway.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. Marginson** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** It is obvious that honourable members opposite are feeling very uneasy and ashamed of themselves.

**Mr. Knox** interjected.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** That is true. The people will judge honourable members opposite at the coming elections, that is for sure. Those honourable members prejudged this case. I think that every honest and respectable citizen would feel very ashamed to think that those men are in Parliament.

I tipped that something like this would come up. The people of Queensland have not missed yet another about-face by the Opposition Leader and the A.L.P. in their attitude to the law, particularly if it involves one of their union mates.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition knows the rules of debate. I warn all honourable members that I will not tolerate persistent interjection. I warn all honourable members that the next to interject will be dealt with under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** It was quite obvious that this question would be raised in the House today and, naturally, as at all times, I am ready and prepared for it. I have had no communication with the honourable member for Townsville South.

I want to place on record that, in the Cedar Bay case, all four policemen charged following allegations about the raid on the Cedar Bay commune on 29 August have

been acquitted. I want that on the record. That is why I am dealing with this issue in answer to the question. They are Inspector Robert Gray, Sergeant Desmond Patrick Crowe, Sergeant Ronald Joseph Pocock and Constable Jan Brand. All of them have been acquitted. That fact goes into the record. All four had their names entirely cleared and have been or will be reinstated in the Queensland Police Force.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the A.B.C. programme "This Day Tonight", which played a leading role in the events preceding the charging of the police, made no mention whatever in its programme last night of the fact that they had been cleared. Not one word was mentioned about it.

**An Honourable Member:** Shocking!

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** It is absolutely shocking and disgusting.

Another aspect I wish to comment on concerns statements by the so-called shadow Minister for Justice (Mr. Wright) on the A.B.C. radio programme "P.M." last night. He said police had been made the scapegoats and that the Queensland Government was to blame. Well, for the record, the original raid was authorised by the former Police Commissioner (Mr. Whitrod), whose praises have been sung by the Opposition.

The raid followed well-founded suspicions of major drug-growing and smuggling in Far North Queensland. I wish to tell the House that the drug problem has intensified, not lessened, in Queensland.

The honourable member for Rockhampton talked about a "Bill of Rights". I did not hear anything from this champion of rights when Mr. Terry Managrove was being stood over by unions at Gladstone and I did not hear anyone in the A.L.P. rushing in to stand up for the rights of Mr. Noel Latham at Broken Hill. But then, of course, unions are involved and members opposite just would not be game enough to stand up to any union.

**Mr. Knox:** Look at what Trades Hall did to Tommy Burns yesterday.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** That is true. The stand of honourable members opposite is purely political. It is interesting to note that where rights are written down they are the most confined, as in the new Russian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech, assembly, thought and movement. But let someone just try such a freedom, particularly a freedom such as striking, and see how far he will get in the socialist workers' paradise!

The A.L.P. is soft on drugs and this is one of the real reasons behind its attempts to pillory police who were doing their duty at Cedar Bay. I predict that the New South Wales royal commission into drugs is an



attempt to forestall the Federal inquiry so that the use of marijuana can be decriminalised.

I could go on at considerable length in reply to this question. I do want to say that the Queensland Government will step up, not ease down, the war against illegal drug usage. We will also put to the Federal inquiry that there should be increased surveillance of the coastline of Far North Queensland in order to detect illegal movements of aircraft and ships involved in drug-running. There should be tougher penalties for pushers and improved rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts. The Queensland Government will also step up its drug programme for young people and its warnings to them against drugs generally.

Finally I say in reply to the honourable member's question that I, with him, feel very ashamed that people who are present here today and on whom the community depends so largely in many other areas played such a prominent part in attempts to denigrate and ridicule the police. It has been shown that they were entirely wrong and it is now up to those honourable members to apologise to the police.

#### GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: In view of the superior performance of Queensland as shown in the latest statistics pertaining to the Consumer Price Index and the percentage reduction in unemployment, is it true that the economy of this State is responding to the sound economic management of this Government?

**Mr. KNOX:** On behalf of the Premier and my colleagues I am happy to say it is true that the management of the affairs of the Government, both administrative and financial, in the past 12 months has been in very good hands. I explained in the Budget speech last year that, financially, we were going to run a very tight ship and as a result of this and the careful husbanding of our resources—even though times were somewhat difficult—we have been able to provide job opportunities in our State through the expenditure of some \$70,000,000, which we were able to do by diverting savings we made in various areas. We are very happy about having been able to do this. In consequence the reduction in unemployment in this State has been quite impressive, as was revealed in this morning's newspaper. And because of the way in which we are handling the affairs of the State, I forecast now that over the next two or three months that story will continue.

I assure the honourable member that the Premier and all my colleagues are working hard to ensure that Queensland is looked after, in spite of what is happening in New South Wales where a Labor Government is

driving everybody out of the State and driving industries away. Members of the Opposition in this State would love to see such calamities here. For purely political reasons they would love to see high unemployment and all sorts of problems in this State. They have no genuine interest in the people of Queensland.

#### MEDIBANK CHARGES ON DECEASED ESTATES

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Minister for Health: Has he seen recent Press reports indicating that Medibank charges are levied against the estates of deceased persons? Is he aware of any justification for this practice?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I am aware of the Press report about the incident the honourable member has mentioned. He drew my attention to it first thing on Monday morning, when he became aware of the problem. The administration of Medibank is not the responsibility of this Government. If it were, it would be drastically changed. I assure the honourable member that we will continue to make every effort to have the Federal Government change its attitude towards Medibank.

As to the particularly nasty situation which has been drawn to our attention—although it is not a matter for which we are responsible, in the interests of the people who are concerned about it, and as a result of the representations of the honourable member, I have written to the Federal Minister for Health (Mr. Hunt) and asked for clarification on the point.

#### A.L.P. ENDORSEMENT FOR SANDGATE ELECTORATE

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Has he seen recent Press reports which indicate that there will be an attempted Trades Hall take-over of the electorate of Sandgate in that the notorious Warburton of the Electrical Trades Union will receive Q.C.E. endorsement for that seat at the next election? In order that democratic processes should prevail, despite the intended acts of the Queensland Central Executive of the Australian Labor Party, will he ensure that all sections of the Legislative Assembly Act relating to freedom of election to this place are observed?

**Mr. KNOX:** Years ago there used to be a system of sponsorship of members of Parliament. At that time it was not possible for a person to get into Parliament unless he was sponsored by groups of well-meaning citizens, who paid not only his election expenses but also his salary. Of course, that was made illegal. Sponsorship of the salary of a member of Parliament is still illegal. With the A.L.P. in this State, which is one of the extreme Left-wing groups in Australia, the stage is being reached where it is under the

patronage of the Trades Hall exclusively. The leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party almost begged the Trades Hall on his knees to allow him to have some discretion in the selection of candidates for the next State election. However, his applications to the Trades Hall have been thrown out completely and he is now obliged to accept those candidates who meet with the approval of the Trades Hall and have its support.

**Mr. Marginson** interjected.

**Mr. KNOX:** The honourable member is very fortunate; he was able to beat the system. If he had not beaten it, he would not be in this House today. His leader, on the other hand, has not been able to beat the system and is now entirely subservient to the Trades Hall.

The most disgraceful aspect of the whole operation is that decent members of the A.L.P., those who have been members of it for years and years and are very loyal to its cause, will not have any say in the Labor Party plebiscites for the selection of candidates. This is a pretty terrible situation. Sandgate is a case in point. Quite obviously the A.L.P. rank and file in Sandgate will not be able to say who should be their candidate. There is no democracy in their party and they are now subservient to a body that opposes democratisation of the trade union movement.

**Mr. Bjelke-Petersen:** Casey is mixed up in it, too.

**Mr. KNOX:** I didn't know about that. If he is, it is no wonder that his reappearance in the A.L.P., which was condoned and nurtured by the Left Wing, has resulted in his sudden and meteoric rise to his present position. I would suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he himself may well be the next one to lose office on that side of the House, with the darling of the Trades Hall, the member for Mackay, waiting to step into his shoes.

#### INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE

**Mr. CASEY:** I ask the Premier: In view of the collapse of the International Sugar Conference earlier this year and the delicate situation that now exists in relation to some of the sugar industry's long-term contracts with other countries, will he lead the Queensland delegation to the next International Sugar Conference, to be held in Geneva next month, the outcome of which is of vital importance to the future of the sugar industry? If not, who will represent the Queensland Government at this conference?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I assure the honourable member—although he must know this very well—that members of the Government and I follow very closely every detail

of the sugar industry. As late as this morning, I was in consultation with a group of men in connection with the sugar agreement and the problems associated with selling sugar to Japan. Last night I met about a dozen top representatives of the sugar industry on the same question. The Minister for Mines and Energy has also been involved in these discussions. The honourable member can very safely leave this very delicate and difficult situation in the hands of the Government and the Ministers concerned. Naturally they are doing everything that is necessary. At the appropriate time a decision will be made on who will be going to Geneva next month.

We did not hear a word from the honourable member for Mackay during the Norwich Park disputes. I wonder if he will ask a question or say one word about all the men who are out of work at Norwich Park. He couldn't care less about them.

#### REINSTATEMENT OF INSPECTOR ROBERT GRAY

**Mr. TENNI:** I ask the Minister for Police: Following yesterday's verdict in the Cairns District Court vindicating the action of police at Cedar Bay, will he now expedite the necessary procedure to reinstate Inspector Robert Gray in the Queensland Police Force?

**Mr. NEWBERY:** I have already set in train the necessary machinery by referring an Executive Council minute recommending the lifting of Inspector Gray's suspension and his reinstatement in the Police Force as from today. I now await the determination of His Excellency the Governor on this matter.

#### DEVALUATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR

**Mr. MARGINSON:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: In view of today's announcement that the Australian dollar has been devalued by almost 2 per cent against the United States dollar, what effect might that have on this State's finances and its general economic condition, was he advised of the proposal and does he agree with it?

**Mr. KNOX:** Any comment about that would naturally be more appropriate during debate on the Appropriation Bill, which I will be presenting to the House next week.

#### WORKS DEPARTMENT SCHOOL PROJECTS IN LABOR ELECTORATES

**Mr. WRIGHT:** I direct a question to the Minister for Works and Housing. In view of the fact that the Minister has on at least two occasions refuted claims by the honourable member for Archerfield that his department reallocated funds for school-works projects in Labor-held electorates to Government-held electorates, will he now table details of all school-works projects

that had been planned for Labor-held electorates for the 1976-77 financial year and advise which of these were not proceeded with because of the lack of, or unavailability of, funds, or for any other reason?

**Mr. LEE:** It seems certain that the honourable member for Rockhampton does not understand the workings of the Works Department. Priorities change daily from electorate to electorate and when some priority is changed from his electorate to another, even to that of his leader, he immediately says that we are playing politics. So far as I am concerned, we look at the priority of works and deal with them in priority. Therefore I have nothing to table and nothing further to say on the matter.

#### FORM OF QUESTION

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) proceeding to give notice of a question—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is referring to a case that is already before the court. I should think that the matter would be sub judice. However, I will allow the honourable member to finish asking his question.

**Mr. Wright** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I shall deal with the legal eagle from Rockhampton in a minute.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I have not got dirty, no matter how old I am.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AIKENS** concluded giving notice of the question.

#### ORDER IN CHAMBER DURING QUESTION-TIME

**Mr. BYRNE** (Belmont) proceeding to give notice of a question—

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Cairns will not be here tomorrow if he does not behave himself.

**Mr. BYRNE** continuing to give notice of a question—

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If the honourable member for Cairns does not behave himself, I shall have to deal with him. I do not want to do so, but if he interjects once again I shall deal with him under Standing Order No. 123A.

#### PRIVILEGE

##### COMMENT ON CABINET MINISTER BY MEMBER FOR SALISBURY

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.35 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. On Monday, 1 August, an article appeared in "The Australian" newspaper under the heading "Queensland rivalry is just the trigger for the 'big bang'" in which the honourable member for Salisbury was quoted as saying about one Queensland National-Liberal Party Cabinet Minister—

"He is incompetent and crooked and not fit to be even in Parliament let alone the Cabinet and you can print that because I've told him so to his face."

As this remark reflects on each member of the Cabinet and the whole State Parliament, Mr. Speaker, will you refer this matter to the Committee of Privileges for investigation and report to the House before this session ends?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I will have a look at the matter.

#### NEW SPEECH-TIMING DEVICE

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I wish to inform honourable members that a new speech-timing device has been installed above the clock behind me. This device will be set in motion as soon as a member commences his speech and will show at a glance just what time remains of a member's speech. A short buzz will sound five minutes before a member's time expires and a longer buzz will indicate that his time is exhausted. I trust all honourable members will give this innovation a chance because I believe it will be of advantage to them. I seek the co-operation of all honourable members until they get used to it. I hope it will be of some benefit and will eventually prove satisfactory to honourable members.

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that His Excellency the Governor, on Tuesday, 2 August, delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume honourable members will take the Speech as read?

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**Mr. TURNER** (Warrego) (12.38 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said: I move—

"That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the fourth session of the Forty-first Parliament of Queensland—

'May it please Your Excellency:—

'We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled,

desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session.

"The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State."

I extend my congratulations to Sir James Maxwell Ramsay on his appointment as the 20th Governor of this vast and wonderful State and I pledge the continuing loyalty and affection of the constituents of the Warrego electorate to His Excellency and to the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II.

I am certain that Sir James Ramsay will fulfil his important duties in a most exemplary fashion and will bring to this office the same dignity and decorum shown by his predecessors. I compliment the former Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, on a job well done and I wish him a long and happy retirement. I do not have to mention again in this Chamber the esteem and admiration that so many Queenslanders had for Sir Colin Hannah. He travelled extensively throughout the State and he was not afraid to speak his mind and stand up for the rights of the citizens of Queensland when he felt that they were being threatened.

Since the last session of Parliament there have been several significant and, indeed, dramatic events that have a direct relationship to the welfare and prosperity of the people of this State and nation. Most recently, of course, we have had the news of the impending retirement of the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr. No doubt members of the Opposition in this House greeted the news of Sir John's retirement enthusiastically. The Australian Labor Party has been smarting for the past 20 months since that very courageous gentleman took the initiative that eventually removed the Whitlam Government from office.

The choice of the people of Australia, as the election records show, was a resounding defeat for the Australian Labor Party, creating one of the biggest electoral landslides in the history of modern politics in this country. It was this, I believe, more than anything else, that created the antagonism, the vindictiveness and even the viciousness of the subsequent attacks that were made on His Excellency and his office. There could have been nothing more galling to Mr. Whitlam and the Labor Party than the action of the electorate, performing its constitutional right, in sweeping them out of office in such a demonstrative manner.

The furore of those days has now largely gone but I believe I speak for the great majority of Queenslanders when in moving this motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply I pay tribute to Sir John Kerr for the highest manner in which he conducted his office, his unflinching dedication to his duties and his determination to see that, whatever the consequences, justice would be done. Sir John Kerr has won a permanent place among the greats of our nation. His quiet dignity and dauntless courage have entrenched him for all times as a man worthy of the high office he has held and as a truly loyal Australian.

To Queensland's own Governor-General elect, Sir Zelman Cowen, I offer congratulations on his appointment. Sir Zelman should be a popular choice for the position, having had a brilliant academic career and being an authority on constitutional law.

As I have spoken about the offices of Governor and Governor-General I think the Australian Labor Party's attitude to those offices is worth recording. At the recent Perth conference of the A.L.P. a motion was moved that would be binding on all future Australian Labor Party Federal Governments should the A.L.P. ever be returned to power—Heaven forbid!—to take away the powers of the Governor-General and the Senate. It reminds me of a cricket team that is prepared to play as long as there are no umpires and it can make its own decisions whether players are out or not.

We are all well aware of the policies of the Australian Labor Party Opposition in this Chamber. We have seen the Leader of the Opposition at rallies in King George Square crying out for this country to be turned into a republic. In the time I have been in this Chamber Opposition members have been outspoken in their calls for a republic, saying that the sooner we become a republic the better and that Government House could be used as an old people's home. One thing has appalled me more than anything else. Opposition members can correct me if what I say is wrong, but several days ago I read in the newspaper about a rally in this fair city to raise funds for the Australian Labor Party. According to the report, as a means of raising funds for the "Bank on Burns" campaign, supporters of the Australian Labor Party erected effigies of the Governor-General (Sir John Kerr) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser), at which for a fee water bombs and other missiles could be pelted.

**Mr. Doumany:** Shame!

**Mr. TURNER:** You can say that again. What a lovely attitude in a country like Australia! The people of Australia, and particularly the people of Queensland, showed during the Queen's recent Silver Jubilee

celebrations just what their attitude was to the monarchical system in Australia. We are well aware of the Opposition's attitude.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. TURNER:** Let them sing out as much as they like. If their shoes are pinching them, let them sing out. I don't know when they are pinching them.

Let those who deny this office, who want to see our treasured traditions of justice and fair play removed, who want to see installed a political figurehead rather than the representative of Her Majesty, stand up and be counted, and let the people of Queensland know where their allegiance lies in this matter. Let those who want to disrupt rather than construct, those who seek dissension rather than co-operation, those who would rather have anarchy than democracy, come from behind the cloaks they use to try to cover up their true intentions.

I believe that the system under which we live in Australia is the best in the world. In only 200 years it has transformed Australia from a penal settlement into one of the lucky countries in the world. Before we throw this system out like someone throwing the baby out with the bath water, let us have a look at the alternatives that have been presented to us throughout the world.

**Mr. Lee:** By the A.L.P.

**Mr. TURNER:** By any socialist country or communist country. Does a better system prevail in East Germany, in Czechoslovakia, in Russia, in Poland, in China, in Vietnam, in Cambodia or in North Korea? Is it any wonder that people come to our shores in what are nothing more than bath-tubs in an endeavour to get away from these communist and socialist so-called Utopias?

**Mr. Gygar:** What about Uganda? It's a republic, too.

**Mr. TURNER:** And it's a wonderful place, isn't it!

In his Opening Speech, Sir James Ramsay touched on many subjects. It would be impossible to elaborate on every facet of his speech; however, I believe I should endeavour to speak on as many matters as possible in the limited time available.

Sir James referred to the great development that has taken place in this State. Figures show that Queensland is the most progressive State in the Commonwealth. Prior to the advent of the National-Liberal Government Queensland was, of course, a Cinderella State. It had stagnated for many years under A.L.P. socialist Governments. Now, however, under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen we have thrown off that tag and rate as the leading State in Australia. In fact, Queensland is the fastest-growing State in Australia. The population

increase for the five years to 1976 was the highest in the Commonwealth. It is reasonable to assume that this growth rate will increase now that Queensland has abolished that most iniquitous of all taxes, State death duties.

We have only to look at the real estate boom on the Gold Coast to realise that people in southern cities are moving to Queensland not just to take in our sun and our sand but also to gain the benefits accruing from the removal of this iniquitous tax. They are coming here also because we lead Australia in so many other areas as well. This is clearly evident when we see that Queensland is the most decentralised State in mainland Australia. Over 50 per cent of its population live outside the capital city.

Compare that with the position that obtains in the other States. The latest figures that I was able to obtain from the Parliamentary Librarian show that New South Wales has 60 per cent of its population in Sydney; Victoria has 68.3 per cent in Melbourne; South Australia has 69.2 per cent in Adelaide and Western Australia has 62.2 per cent in Perth.

One-third of all towns throughout Australia with a population exceeding 25,000 are situated in Queensland, and of the nine fastest-growing towns and centres in Australia, five—Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba, Bundaberg and Mackay—are in Queensland.

The Treasurer has indicated that State taxes will not rise in the next Budget. It is worth reminding honourable members that, in relation to State taxes, Queensland is the lowest-taxed State in Australia. The figures substantiate this claim.

For the year ended 1976 the State taxes per head of population were as follows—

State	\$ per head of population
Queensland .. .. .	157.85
New South Wales .. .. .	230.32
Victoria .. .. .	243.32
South Australia .. .. .	225.91
Western Australia .. .. .	179.71

In 1975-76 the value of exports from Queensland amounted to \$2,360 million, the highest of all States. In that same year the excess of exports over imports stood at \$1,680 million. Like Queensland, Western Australia had a surplus, of \$1,400 million, whereas New South Wales had a deficit of \$1,200 million and Victoria a deficit of \$1,000 million. Clearly the nation would be bankrupt if it depended on the exporting capacity of the States with larger populations. It appears that the products of the highly protected industries of Victoria and New South Wales are not required by other nations and that the real wealth-producing section of the economy is in Western Australia and Queensland.

The Governor spoke of the level of assistance given to sport and community recreation groups. Sporting bodies are very appreciative of the assistance given by the State Government, as are the various cultural associations throughout Queensland. Culture has really taken on in the West. The Minister for Education and Cultural Activities could well consider sending fine arts teachers into western areas to teach not only the children but also the various adult cultural groups, who wish to learn.

In recent years education in Queensland has advanced tremendously. The State Government can be justifiably proud of its achievements in this area. Sixty per cent of all children now have pre-school facilities. Pre-school buildings and equipment in virtually every major Queensland centre are unequalled in the rest of Australia. I compliment the Minister for Works and Housing and the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities on what has been done in this field.

A budget of \$1,000,000 has been allocated for the priority education programme in Western Queensland. This programme entails the sending of remedial and resource teachers to isolated areas. Children undergoing primary correspondence, secondary correspondence and School of the Air training will benefit tremendously. I compliment the Government on introducing this programme.

The State Government has been responsible for advances in many areas. The iniquitous probate tax has been abolished and fire brigade levies on properties situated outside fire brigade areas are no longer in force. Road permit fees are also to be phased out in the next Budget. Road-works throughout the State are being improved continually. This requires the expenditure of tremendous sums. Because of increasing costs and the higher standard of roads that have to be constructed today, money does not go as far as it used to.

When I was recently in the electorates of Gregory and Warrego with the honourable member for Gregory and the Minister for Mines and Energy, I found that many of the shires in these western areas wanted funds allocated for the restoration of works that suffered flood damage earlier in the year. On their behalf I make a plea to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

The railway service has been improved. Additional cattle wagons and camp wagons have been provided to fill areas of need. I compliment the Minister for Transport on what has been achieved. Many new camp wagons have been provided for the men working in relaying gangs and flying gangs in the inland areas of Queensland.

The electricity supply has been extended, and in my electorate extensions have been made to the navvies' quarters at Mangalore

and Yalleroi. Air-conditioning of many railway stations is being undertaken. The cross-river link is being constructed in Brisbane and the electrification scheme is proceeding.

The Governor spoke of the role of the State Grants Commission. Local councils in western areas appreciate the tremendous assistance given in the way of grants by the Commonwealth and State Grants Commissions, but many of the western shires believe that greater representation should be given to western areas in the composition of the State Grants Commission.

While talking about shire councils it is worth mentioning that on the trip which the Minister for Mines and Energy, the honourable member for Gregory and I undertook through the inland areas last week, we visited nine councils on the way from Mt. Isa to Charleville. Every council expressed its appreciation to the Minister for the reorganisation of the electricity supply industry, a move designed to equalise electricity tariffs right throughout Queensland. This has already assisted greatly in areas in the West. The Paroo Shire Council has been relieved of a debt of \$476,410 by the South West Queensland Electricity Board. The citizens of Cunnamulla and the Paroo Shire would have been called on to pay that debt if the board had not taken it over. In the Central Western Region a debt of some \$750,000 has been taken over from the C.W.R.E.B.

What surprised me was that, when the Bill came before the House, it met with such severe opposition from the Labor Brisbane City Council and the A.L.P. Opposition. It is proper and correct that remote areas pay their contribution towards urban transport, cultural centres and the Commonwealth Games—and I have no argument about that—but it intrigues me that the State A.L.P. Opposition have in recent months been constantly pushing a theme of concern for rural areas and concern for western people. I am amazed that they had the gall to walk out of this Chamber when a vote was taken on the introduction of that Bill rather than vote in support of it. Their action, I believe, showed to the people in western and other rural areas just how concerned the Australian Labor Party is for people in the West—a concern that is possibly similar to a cat's concern for a mouse.

In the recent redistribution the A.L.P. wanted nine seats west of the Great Divide, conveniently forgetting who introduced the zonal system. I remind them that it was none other than Ned Hanlon, the Labor Premier, in 1949. Then the quota for western seats was 4,613 and for the metropolitan area, 10,715—a ratio of 2.3:1. The ratio between rural and metropolitan is now 1.6:1.

I would like to put on record this part of Mr. Hanlon's speech in support of his zonal legislation—

"The population of Brisbane is growing rapidly, but we do not wish to reach the stage in this State when the representation of Brisbane in this Parliament will overshadow country representation... It would be a bad thing not only for the country people but in the last analysis a bad thing for the metropolitan area, because on the successful development and expansion of our country areas depend the very life and security of our capital cities."

One would think that it was Mr. Joh Bjelke-Petersen who was making that statement, not Ned Hanlon.

**Mr. McKechnie:** It's a different A.L.P. now.

**Mr. TURNER:** I can assure the honourable member that most people in Queensland are aware that it is a different A.L.P. from the one of the Hanlon and Chifley era.

As the A.L.P. professes to support western areas, I wonder if it also supports the Western Australian A.L.P. conference decision to increase taxation on the top 10 per cent of wage earners. Does it support the reintroduction of a capital gains tax? We all know that it supports and advocates the reintroduction of death duties in Queensland.

**Mr. Wright:** That's a lie and you know it. It is a blatant lie. You're a liar.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Rockhampton will withdraw that.

**Mr. Wright:** The comment made by the honourable member for Warrego is totally untrue. I will withdraw my comment that he is a liar; but he is telling an untruth and he knows it.

**Mr. TURNER:** The Governor, in his Opening Speech, spoke of the part played by mining development in Queensland. He quoted the annual value of mineral production as exceeding \$1,400 million—a three-fold increase in four years. He also spoke of the high level of industrial disputes. Unfortunately, there appear to be forces at work deliberately stopping progress in this country. In recent times we have been subjected to endless strikes and stoppages, many of which are not related to improving the working conditions of the labour force.

Those who have read Alan Reid's recent series of articles in "The Bulletin" under the heading "The Militants" would be well aware of the very real problems we are facing in Australia today. At the risk of being accused of union-bashing, I believe it is my duty to attempt to explain what I see as happening in this country.

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

**Mr. TURNER:** There are two current issues of confrontation that I would now like to talk about. They are the actions of militant trade unions in general and the mining and export of our minerals in particular.

Let me say from the start that, whilst I am not a trade union man myself, I believe in the basic principle of the trade union movement—and that basically is the improvement of wages and conditions for the worker. In that respect the trade unions have achieved a great deal, for the Australian worker enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Indeed there are many knowledgeable people who are now saying that our high wages and other conditions have priced many of our goods off overseas markets. But that is another matter, which I will not elaborate on today.

There have been many instances recently where unions not only have been in direct conflict with employers over matters such as wage claims and employment conditions but also have embarked on political strikes to pressure Governments to adopt certain policies.

There was a time when the right to strike was accepted as the worker's ultimate right. When all other attempts to improve his conditions or terms of employment failed, then he withdrew his labour. This situation was only reached as a last resort and the decision to strike was in fact taken in desperation. I am sure that many of the rank-and-file union workers in this country will remember those conditions, and I do not think that anyone would dispute that the workers of this country do have the right to strike when all other avenues have been denied them or closed to them.

But in recent years the right to strike has been more often abused than used, particularly by the so-called militant Left-wing unions, which are invariably led by those with extreme Left-wing views. For example, how can the unions impose on Governments their ideas on the decisions whether or not to export our minerals? How can unions claim they have the right to decide whether or not the uranium that is mined in this country is to be sent to overseas markets just because Left-wing spokesmen, such as the Carmichaels and the Mundeys, want to push their own political ideologies onto this country? They were not elected by the people of this country in a democratic election. Strikes cannot be used for things such as political purposes, to disrupt our overseas trade or to determine Government policies.

I believe that the Australian worker is equal to any other worker in the world. A comparison of our shearers with those in South Africa, New Zealand or anywhere

else in the world, shows that they hold all of the records. Our cane-cutters hold their own in comparison with cane-cutters in any other part of the world, and hold all of the records. When our axemen entered into international competition, they swept everything before them. I contend that, given the initiative, the incentive, and the opportunity to work, the average worker in Australia cannot be surpassed.

That leads me to question why we have been subjected to continuous strikes and bans on the export of uranium and the export of coal as well as bans on French mail and cars, on American shipping and on the export of live sheep and cattle from Australia. Recently we have witnessed the troubles in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, at the Chrysler plant in South Australia, at the Newport Power Station in Victoria, at Norwich Park in Queensland and at T. A. Field's meatworks in Rockhampton (resulting in its closure). In addition, we have had the Zaphir case in Toowoomba and the Latham case in Broken Hill.

I believe that a small group of militant trade union leaders is working on an Australia-wide basis to wreck the nation's capitalist system. In their opinion, wrecking the economy is the surest way of wrecking the system. They are not my words; they are the words of Sir John Egerton, the former president of the Trades and Labor Council. He made a statement which was published in an article which appeared in "The Sunday Mail" of 19 December 1976. If he does not know what is going on within the trade union movement in Australia today, I do not know who does.

During the recent Chrysler troubles in South Australia, the Premier, Mr. Don Dunstan, attacked the Worker Student Alliance and said that their whole philosophy is to destroy the social, industrial and political institutions of our democratic society.

There are plenty of problems in the wool and beef industries arising from inflation and over-supply. The beef industry is working towards a classification scheme and it is to be hoped that, with the co-operation of the Federal Government and all States, a beef stabilisation scheme can be implemented. But what do we see following disputes in the meat industry? T. A. Field's have closed their works at Rockhampton and laid off 350 men. They blame industrial disputations which have caused stoppages on 49 days since the end of January, with 67,121 man-hours lost and a loss of production of 13,276 cattle. They have been unable to fulfil orders. They have breached contracts. They have lost U.S.A. quotas, and orders for Japan have had to be cancelled. Just when these works are needed in operation because of the over-supply of cattle in Australia they are closed.

In more recent times a lucrative market has opened up in the Middle East for old wethers. This has been a tremendous boon to people who run old wethers as they have never made money of this order before. Now union intervention is preventing live sheep and cattle from being sent from Australia for slaughter overseas.

The dispute at Pilbara in Western Australia has caused Japan to enter into major new iron-ore contracts with Brazil. These contracts could conceivably have gone to Australia if there had not been industrial trouble at Pilbara.

The Government of Victoria has had tremendous problems in getting the Newport project off the ground. One could not estimate the cost of this industrial disputation to Victoria in terms of job opportunities alone.

The infamous Latham case at Broken Hill is enough to make any thinking person hang his head in shame. It must go down as the case in which the freedom of the individual was sacrificed on the altar of trade-unionism. Apparently Latham has been classified as expendable purely for political expediency. It is a far cry from the trade-union ideals of the 19th Century to the realities of their actions in the 20th Century.

I would now like to discuss the troubles of Utah in Queensland with the Seamen's Union. I wonder if it is mere coincidence that the head of the Seamen's Union in Australia, Elliot V. Elliot, is on record as saying that he believes in the overthrow of capitalism and, "I am doing everything I can to weaken it."? The Seamen's Union has extremely good conditions for its workers in Australia. They enjoy approximately six months on duty and six months off, or one month on and one off right throughout the year. I think that is wonderful; if ours is a society affluent enough to sustain such conditions, well and good. But the Seamen's Union wants its members to take over the manning of ships carting coal to Europe. The Spanish seamen now manning Utah ships are working under an international maritime award. In fact, their conditions are better than those laid down under that award in that Utah has done so much for them.

I cannot see how Utah can possibly pay the rates demanded and cart coal economically from Australia to the European market. The increases would mean that Utah just could not compete with suppliers in other countries. These markets would be lost to, and supplied by, none other than Poland and Russia. The Australian coal export markets would be lost and, if this principle flowed to other industries, we would lose more than coal markets. Many of our export markets could be lost to Poland and Russia. That would please Elliot V. Elliot because he is friendly with those people.



It is quite often said that Utah makes large profits. Let us not forget that Utah developed mines in Queensland when no-one else was interested in them. The oil crisis has increased the price of coal.

**Mr. SPEAKER** (following interjection from gallery): Order! Anyone in the public gallery who misbehaves will have to leave.

**Mr. TURNER:** I contend that there is no stigma in making profits. The Federal Government takes 47½ per cent of all profits from Utah and other companies in company tax. In addition there is the taxation paid by the workers, railway revenue and State royalties.

The delay in the go-ahead for the Norwich Park project is preventing 1,000 jobs from being made available, together with the ancillary industries which would flow from them. When fully operational Norwich Park would provide the State Government with revenue of somewhere in the vicinity of \$20,000,000 to \$22,000,000 in royalties and rail freights. So it is not a project which we would like to see lost to Queensland.

The intervention of the Seamen's Union in the Central Queensland coal industry is beyond mere coincidence. Men such as Elliott V. Elliott and unions such as the Seamen's Union are a direct threat to the future security and progress of mining in this country, and also a direct threat to the job opportunities of countless thousands of Queenslanders. I do not think we would want to see the mining industry in Queensland end up in the same position as the shipbuilding industry.

I have spoken to members of the parliamentary delegation which recently travelled to Japan and Korea. All emphasised the point that we as a trading nation are not looked upon too favourably by these overseas countries. It was pointed out by these people that if the storemen and packers wool bale weight dispute had continued for another two months, the woollen mills in Japan would have switched over to synthetics, never to return to wool, and I do not think one would have to be tremendously intelligent to work out the ramifications that this would have for the economy of the country, and the wool industry in particular.

There is another contentious issue I would like to discuss, and that is uranium. The A.L.P. has really excelled itself on this subject. Like lemmings, they have thrown themselves into a sea of confusion over whether to mine it or not. Bob Hawke says we should mine it; the faceless policy makers of the Australian Labor Party say it should be left in the ground; Whitlam does not really know; and Tom Burns and his cricket team do not know whether or not they should come out in support. No doubt many honourable members will have noticed that the Leader of the Opposition has made himself the spokesman for the mining industry in this State. The

very party that did more to destroy the mining industry and demolish the confidence of our overseas customers in our mineral industry now wants to protect the industry and the workers who are involved in it. Let him and his colleagues go out and ask the industry who removed the incentives for exploration, who sent the companies into bankruptcy and who had them packing their bags and leaving for overseas.

**Mr. Wright:** Tell us about Utah's profits.

**Mr. TURNER:** I have already explained that. If the honourable member had been listening, he would have heard me say that 50 per cent of the company's profits go to the Federal Government in addition to the royalties it pays to the State Government. But I will continue: where would our coal industry be today if it was not for Utah and other overseas interests which took the chance and spent the money to develop these resources? Our minerals would still be in the ground and we as a State would be that much poorer for it.

As a primary producer in a country that is fortunate to have an excess of the basic needs of everyday life, I believe this country has a responsibility to provide the emerging nations of this world with both the raw materials and primary produce that they lack. We also have a responsibility to provide the industrial nations with their basic energy requirements, for without these their industries will come to a standstill and their economies collapse. And one does not have to be a student of history to realise that when this occurs nations have virtually no alternative other than armed aggression.

By the turn of the century the oil and natural gas reserves of the world will be fast diminishing. Other forms of energy, such as solar, wind and wave power, are still in the early experimental stage. The emerging nations are looking for alternative supplies of basic energy for power generation and an obvious one to meet their requirements is nuclear power. Australia is naturally recognised as a world supplier of this mineral. Here in Queensland we have the only operating uranium mine in the country as well as other areas with a high potential for mining. The Queensland Government is in favour of mining uranium provided that the current restrictions and safeguards on its sale are maintained. But I do not think we should delude ourselves that we have any monopoly on the supply of uranium. In fact, if we never mine our uranium the world will still use nuclear power.

A five-year moratorium on the mining of uranium has been proposed. Does anyone think that any potential customer is going to wait for five years until we make up our minds whether or not to mine uranium? Those customers will go somewhere else to get their uranium. They don't care whether

they get it here or not. Where would that leave us, the people of Queensland? Back where we were a quarter of a century ago, again relying on our primary producers to maintain the economy. Once a customer is deprived of our goods because of some political principle, then distrust and suspicion that flows into other areas is created. It is not just uranium that is the issue; it is the standing of this State and nation on international markets. That is far more important to us, both now and in the future, than the argument as to whether or not uranium should be mined.

Australia is a great country, with all of the natural resources to make it one of the greatest nations in the world. We should try to cultivate our history and heritage. We no more show our maturity and independence as a nation by breaking away from our traditions and heritage than a youth shows his maturity and independence by tearing up his birth certificate, changing his name and disowning his parents. To develop this great nation our forefathers faced many hardships and made many sacrifices. They showed courage, initiative and strength of character. These qualities that have characterised Australians in the past were never more needed than they are today if we wish not only to maintain our way of life and our quality of life but also to retain our very nation for future Australians.

In conclusion let me say how honoured and privileged I am, as the representative of the people of the Warrego electorate, to have been chosen to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency Sir James Ramsay's Opening Speech in State Parliament.

**Mr. BYRNE** (Belmont) (2.32 p.m.): It gives me very great pleasure to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech. At this time I wish to affirm my loyalty and that of my electorate to the Crown and to praise the new Governor, Sir James Maxwell Ramsay, the twentieth Governor of this State. I think that all of us are able to perceive that he is a man who possesses the warmth, ability and integrity not only to be able to hold that high office but also to perform it well. The warmth and humanity that he possesses will very soon become evident to the people of Queensland and, because of that, he will increase the respect that the people of Queensland already have for our style of democratic government.

In my first Address-in-Reply speech to the Parliament I stated that we must look to the children of today for they are the society of tomorrow. That is indeed the truth. But before proceeding with that theme, it is important that we reflect at this stage on the institution of Parliament itself, not so much objectively as subjectively because of the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Parliamentary democracy, as we see it in western countries, is not indeed the solid and totally impenetrable thing that some people perceive it to be. Because it is a freedom and because it is something which is able to maintain rights and privileges, it is indeed something that can be destroyed, something that can be weakened and something that can be broken down. Unfortunately, those in our community who do most to weaken that parliamentary institution and to break it down are often parliamentary members themselves and the Press. When we see that situation existing we must be fearful for the future.

If people from different sections of those two groups, which should have the greatest understanding of what parliamentary democracy is all about, combine and begin questioning the strength of parliamentary democracy, abusing it and breaking it down, then the situation exists in which the community can only follow suit. So both parliamentary members and the media are charged with a very high responsibility. Their responsibility is not only to operate within the parliamentary institution but also to preserve it—to preserve it beyond the question of falsehood, beyond the question of its being a game and a useless thing, beyond the question of its being a totally pointless thing and just an accretion to government.

Although at times it is easy for the media and parliamentary members to berate other parliamentary members, to berate the system and to berate our form of Cabinet government, and at the same time try to make fools and buffoons of parliamentary members, of Cabinet Ministers and of the whole structure, it makes it very much harder for them to maintain the integrity and carry the responsibility that are necessarily inherent in the system.

For that reason it is unfortunate that I am told by people that this session of Parliament will be one in which people will drag out dirty linen and tell stories; one in which members will use this House not for the purpose of raising the complaints made by the community, not for the purpose of bringing before the eyes of the public certain injustices, but for the purpose of gaining short-term political benefit by berating parliamentary colleagues and members of other parties. While destroying their colleagues and other parliamentary members those persons will also be destroying the entire structure itself. I hope that members will reflect on that before they decide to pursue courses of action that will be detrimental not only to themselves and to other members of whom they speak but also to the Parliament.

Today is the birthday of the present Government. It was 20 years ago today that a Country-Liberal Government assumed office. Over that 20 years Queensland has advanced in leaps and bounds and beyond the goals achieved by any other State in the same period.

People saw Labor Governments in office until the mid-1950s. Since then they have been able to compare the performance of those Governments with that of Country-Liberal and National-Liberal Governments. Recently people saw a Federal Labor Government in office, the areas in which it tried to operate, the initiatives it took and the policies it tried to fulfil in a very short time. They are therefore able to appreciate the fact that this Government administers the finances of this State responsibly, reliably and properly for the benefit of the community.

As has been said, Queensland has the lowest taxes in Australia. Queenslanders are the lowest-taxed people in Australia, yet they are able to maintain one of the highest standards of living in Australia. Under successive Treasurers, more particularly Sir Gordon Chalk and Bill Knox, we have been able to maintain an efficiently balanced Budget, one that takes into account the considerations of the community at both a community and an individual level and ensures that the productivity of the State is always high. We have seen the greatest growth in Queensland's history; we have seen development occur in primary production and through mineral enterprises; we stand as the third-greatest manufacturer in Australia.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** We have seen a lot of unemployment.

**Mr. BYRNE:** There is indeed unemployment, and it is a problem that merits very serious consideration. Unfortunately, the situation that developed between 1972 and 1975 has been extremely difficult to remedy. I do not believe that the present Federal Government has taken the most sensible or the most far-reaching initiatives that could be taken to overcome unemployment.

The problem of unemployment strikes at the very heart of the community. I refer specifically to school-leavers. The young person who leaves school has goals, desires, ambitions, hopes and aims. He has an enormous and broad optimism. However, that optimism is exceptionally fragile. The person who leaves school or completes his studies and goes out to try to enter the work-force takes with him an enormous bravado. If he goes out and finds that he is rebuffed once, twice or three times, if he finds that he appears not to be wanted or needed by the community, if he finds that he cannot get a position in which he can utilise his talents, nothing but a psychological breakdown of himself, either direct or indirect, can occur. The effect on the community in the short and long term is severely detrimental. Unless this defect is corrected, very soon it will proceed and extend long into the future. Unemployment is the most serious problem facing Governments in Australia, not so much because

it affects 5 per cent of the community but more importantly because it affects the young people in the community, who, in the future, should be the solid support of the entire community. It is exceptionally important that unemployment be tackled as the major problem by all Governments in Australia and corrected.

People in Brisbane and Queensland have been able to see the Government's performance in the past 20 years. Even more specifically, in the past five years development and progress have been unprecedented. People in Brisbane can see the Riverside Expressway, the South East Freeway and the capital works and programmes in the fields of health, housing and transport that this Government has embarked on in the past few years and cannot fail to be impressed by the initiative and drive that the Government possesses. It is essential that this initiative and this drive and the philosophy behind the progress that Queensland has experienced in the past 20 years be maintained. They can be maintained if this Government continues to maintain its position in the future.

When elected to this Parliament I took the record of being the youngest person ever elected to any Parliament in Queensland's history. I still maintain my position as the youngest member in this Parliament. Despite that, I have found that it is no excuse to say, "I am sorry I have made a mistake. I will learn later" or "I will bide my time and find the correct way to do things." That is not the process which I found was appropriate. That is not the way in which a person who is elected to Parliament can proceed. Right from the outset it was important to grasp the nettle and to realise that one was not elected for three years to be a novice in Parliament, to stand in the second row and wait to help the electorate in a few years' time after becoming more experienced. Rather, one had to go to the forefront and as early as possible learn the ropes, so to speak, as to how best to assist people in the electorate and to perform effectively in Parliament.

I feel that in my time in this Parliament I have contributed somewhat both to the operations of the Parliament itself and to progress in my electorate. I am pleased to have been associated with the area of Belmont, with its people, with its educational organisations, its sporting and church bodies and other community groups in order to be able to understand their problems and bring them before the Parliament. That is the essential role and responsibility of a member of Parliament—not to come to this place and try to break down the building societies, to destroy economic structures or to push party matters.

People are elected to this Parliament by the electors to represent them responsibly. The first responsibility of a member is to the State generally; that is the responsibility he must place first. Secondly, he has a responsibility to his own electorate. Finally—and I would very much appreciate it if the A.L.P. could realise this—the third responsibility of a person elected to Parliament is his party. The party is not his first responsibility, but his third. Whenever a member decides to put his party on the top rung, ahead of the State or the electorate, nothing good can come of it, but rather detriment to the community generally. That is something that members of the Australian Labor Party have yet to realise.

I mentioned earlier that the media have a very important responsibility to the community. I point out that we in Parliament are able to say under privilege many things. The reason for that is that it is the full 82 members of this House who have to make the decisions. If one of us has an idea, opinion or some knowledge that the others do not have and if a proper and wise decision is to be made, that knowledge should be spread more broadly. As the 82 members are charged with such an onerous responsibility, it is important that such knowledge be spread to the other 81.

However, the responsibility for what goes into the community—the responsibility for what the public reads and sees and the knowledge the public receives; the stress and the emphasis placed on certain aspects of political life or governmental decisions—rests on decisions made not by ourselves but by the media. So today, when communication is so important, the responsibility of the media continues to rise even higher—so much so that it could be said that the media's responsibility to the community for the reports of what is said in Parliament is far greater than the responsibility that we as parliamentarians have to our colleagues in this place, simply because of the effect that the media can have over people written or spoken about or indeed the circumstances referred to.

So I would hope that the media would bear that responsibility well. I instance yesterday's function after the opening. At the garden party yesterday I was approached by a member of the media, who spoke casually to me while I was sitting down drinking a cup of tea. Before I knew it, suddenly there was a microphone under my nose, a television camera winding away and an interviewer at my right ear saying, "Enjoying yourself?" Of course, the innuendo of that comment was, "Though you are having a good time here, the rest of the people of Queensland, who are paying for all this at a time of economic crisis, are not getting anything." After I said, "Yes. Yes, I am", he went on to say, "Is this one of the perks of parliamentary office?" Not having had even a moment's breath to think about how I

could have answered that, I said, "I consider this simply one of the traditions of the past that has been carried on to the present. It is a pleasant tradition and I think it should be continued into the future." What I should have pointed out to him, of course, was, "If you think, and if you intend trying to put across to the public, that this Government is wasting thousands of dollars on a garden party for a few snobs of Brisbane, you are so far from the point, because you could get a better afternoon tea at a parents' and citizens' meeting than two dried-out sandwiches, a couple of scones and a cup of weak tea."

This is the way the media can work. They have a choice between two courses of action. They can highlight all of this by saying to members of Parliament at a garden party outside in candid interviews, "Enjoying yourself?", insinuating to the public that this is a great waste of time and that we are people who are not concerned with the community. On the other hand, they could say, "The Government is being frugal. All they are having after an hour or an hour and a half inside in fairly close quarters is a cup of tea and a couple of sandwiches and then they are being told to go home." It depends on the way the media want to interpret it. They can put across two different points of view, depending on how they feel and depending on the effect that they want to create. That is why it is so important that the media act responsibly. I use that only as an example to illustrate the point.

In the electorate of Belmont I have endeavoured, as I said previously, to represent the views of the people I was elected by—the views of the people I have come to represent and whom it is my desire to continue to represent in the future, despite the fact that redistribution plays havoc with many of our intentions and desires for the future. But more on redistribution shortly. I have endeavoured to bring the community in the electorate of Belmont far closer to the Parliament and to the workings of Government by holding a series of seminars in the fields of education, justice, justices of the peace, small business and sporting and recreational bodies. Also, I have endeavoured to maintain close contact with the community (because I see it as a responsibility of a member of Parliament to maintain that close contact) by continually writing to the majority of the community and keeping in contact with them. Most households would probably receive between 5 and 10 pieces of correspondence from me per year.

**Mr. W. D. Hewitt:** Many people do not realise how important those seminars are.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I agree. I was told by some members that they were a waste of time because the community was not interested in seminars. All I can say is that the lowest attendance at any seminar I have held was

120 and that, in the main, they are attended by closer to 400 people. That shows that the community is interested and that the people who knock seminars do not know how to organise them or would prefer not to do the work.

Another step, which has proved to be important in maintaining communication with the electorate, was the establishment of a Belmont community broadsheet, itemising areas of interest to the community as well as timetables for various local and community events.

During my time of service in the Parliament I have taken up a couple of issues that I consider to be of very great importance to the community. I am pleased to say that I dealt with one of them in the second speech I made in Parliament. I refer, of course, to the Juvenile Aid Bureau. I am pleased that after two years of working at it and after two years of striving in this Parliament, in my party room and the Government party room, in interviews with the Press and the other forms of the media and consultations with members of the Police Force, the Minister for Police and Police Commissioners, I have been able to see that the Juvenile Aid Bureau is not to be disbanded, as was the intention, I found out, when I was first elected. Not only has it not been disbanded, but in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Youth, it will be broadened.

Its achievements will show that this Government, irrespective of what a public servant might think, is concerned with the community, is concerned with young people, and does not desire to see them carry into the future the blots of court sentences. The errors of their past will not hang over them like the Sword of Damocles. I am very pleased to have been associated with that project. If it were my only achievement in this Parliament, I would have achieved a great deal more than I originally expected to achieve when I was elected.

In this Parliament I have been a reasonably vocal member. Sometimes honourable members might think that I suffer from an excess of tongue that is unable to halt itself. They might be quite right. I have delivered something over 100 speeches in the time I have been here. I have asked many hundreds of questions. I am pleased to have been associated with the moving of several amendments, all of which were successful, even though when they were moved a degree of heat was associated with them.

I wish to refer now to something of very great importance. It arises from what I have been saying in relation to individual members of Parliament.

**Mr. Burns** interjected.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition will be very interested in what I have to say.

I refer to the question of privacy. When a person is elected to Parliament, he ceases to be private John Citizen and becomes Public Utility No. 1. This is something that I have become aware of. I am sure that other honourable members would have been aware of it long ago. A member of Parliament virtually ceases to have a private life. Members of the public like to play havoc with his life and like to know every last thing he does. They are not interested very much in what other private citizens do, but once a person takes on public office his private life suddenly ceases to be inviolate and every last person, last group, last media spokesman wants to tap his phone to try to find out what he can to destroy him.

I refer to a comment made by the Governor-General designate (Sir Zelman Cowen) in his 1964 lecture, "The Private Man". He said—

"Man's privacy is his safety valve. He has in his permissible area of deviation, his opportunity to give vent to what he would not express or do publicly."

It is a clear fact of life that what is expected of members of Parliament, how they perform publicly what is expected of them, and the fact that they fulfil publicly the responsibilities that are expected of them do not mean that they cannot, at the same time, maintain and preserve a private life. It is absolutely imperative for their sanity, and in so many cases for the sanity of their wives and children, that that be the case. I hope that we will not in the future see members of Parliament, members of the media, the community and various organisations trying to pry into people's private lives and, in the case of members of Parliament, that small area of isolation that they have with their wives and families. I hope that no attempts are made to destroy the sacredness of solitude that they are able to preserve.

I hope that fellow members of Parliament will respect that privacy and realise that when they move against it they are breaking down still further the respect that other members have for the privacy that members deserve. Nor do my remarks apply only to members of Parliament; they apply to all who find themselves in public life.

I should now like to refer to the recent electoral redistribution and to point out that in terms of the 1971 Act that redistribution has, I believe, to be considered fair. From someone whose seat, it would appear from the media, has been abolished, that may sound an unusual comment. However, I am sufficiently objective to realise that the redistribution was obviously drawn up under the greatest secrecy. The commissioners maintained their confidence absolutely and, despite what members of the Opposition may think, I believe it was a fair redistribution.

The unfortunate position of Opposition members is that even if they were allowed to draw the maps as they wished, they still could not obtain a majority. If the Leader of the Opposition had been told, "You draw up the maps and see if you can get into Government," they still would not be able to manage it. That is the unfortunate situation that they are in and the reason why they did not bother to make a submission to the tribunal in relation to the maps. Any distribution would be as effective as any other for the Labor Party because the votes that they would obtain would be virtually the same. They polled 35 per cent at the last election, and they have now had a survey carried out which shows that at the next election they will poll up to 40-odd per cent. After looking at the electorates in which the Labor Party chose to have its survey carried out, I do not think they chose the best electorates in which to make the most impartial survey. I am sorry that they may have lost \$23,000 for nothing.

**Mr. Houston:** Aren't you appealing against the redistribution?

**Mr. BYRNE:** I shall be pursuing the legal course of action open to every person in relation to the redistribution. If, because of the inability of the commissioners to see on a map that there are dead ends, I find that the community of interest in Belmont will be broken up and divided, and that it will be harder for one member to service the new electorate, I will, of course, point out that inconsistency to the commissioners and I would expect them to see that changes are made in the interests of the community.

**Mr. Lamont:** If every electorate was equal in voting content and the Labor Party received the same percentage of votes, it would not have any members.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I think I mentioned that before.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I do not think the honourable member for Bulimba has benefited significantly from the area of Belmont that has been transferred to his electorate. In fact, if I were the honourable member I would be somewhat concerned about my political future.

I wish to make specific reference to the Governor's Opening Speech. I point out that he said that his Ministers fully accept their responsibilities and appreciate the problems that exist, particularly in the areas of education, health and housing. I should like to confirm those sentiments and agree with him completely. I have served on three committees concerned with the areas mentioned and I can say that the people of Queensland could not be better served. The Minister for Works and Housing has said, as I said during my speech in the Address-in-Reply debate

when I was first elected to this House, that housing is a most important subject, and it is most important to the electors of Belmont. Indeed, it is an area of great concern to the Government. I will not cease my criticism of Federal Governments that do not give it a high priority. Last year the Federal Government refused to increase expenditure on housing beyond \$370,000,000. I was grossly disturbed by this and I said so at the time in my speech during the Budget debate.

Prior to his unfortunate death I discussed with Senator Greenwood the fact that it was terribly important that there be massive Government expenditure on housing. By that I do not mean welfare hand-outs but making housing funds available to the community at low interest. If that was done the only Government subsidy that would be necessary would be the difference in the interest rate that it would have to make up. I will build a scenario to explain what I mean. Instead of allocating \$370,000,000, suppose the Federal Government allocated \$1,370 million to housing. What would be the effect of that? The effect would be a rise in the Budget deficit of \$1,000 million, which would enable the housing construction industry to revitalise itself. And from this would flow many things of a beneficial nature. Firstly, it would enable those people in the community who presently find themselves in high-cost rental accommodation or are paying out more and more money to purchase their own homes. In many cases the rent they are paying is only a few dollars less than the weekly repayment on a housing loan. I am not referring to the Commonwealth's paying \$2,000 for \$6,000 saved; but if people were not forced to pay exorbitant interest rates just because of prevailing economic circumstances they would be able to buy their own home.

If the Government subsidised interest rates, people in rented premises would have an incentive to purchase a home and once in a home would be contributing enormously to the revival of productivity in Australia. If there is one industry in Australia which creates more jobs than any other, it is the housing industry. Every family in Australia has two or three major areas of expenditure. If they have enough money, the first major area on which they spend it is housing, the second is investment and the third is entertainment and leisure. If people own their own homes and have the money available, they tend to spend it on household goods and appliances and the painting, extension and renovation of their homes. All of these things are job-producing because a demand is created, but when people rent premises their capacity to purchase a home is immediately cut in half. Why Governments do not realise that fact is beyond me.

If the Federal Government injected another \$1,000 million into the field of housing, this would increase the deficit but the Government would get the money back even though the

repayments would be made over a long period at low interest. The Government would lose in the short term because of the interest subsidy but that short-term loss would be minute in comparison to the amount of money it loses through unemployment and the problems that develop because people do not have the security of their own home. If that was seen as a priority, then this country would be back on its feet in no time at all. What is more, it is what the community wants. If we spoke to people in rented accommodation, they would say that they want to be able to have the security of their own home. They want to be able to determine their own lives in their own homes. They do not want to be handing out money out to a landlord every month and seeing no return for it except that they are allowed to remain in the premises which they rent. I tend to think that it is because of a lack of advice from the bureaucracy that the Government does not pursue that course of action. I would only hope that the Federal Government, which has much greater capacity for deficit budgeting than the State, would allocate more funds to the field of housing. It would be so progenitive of expansion and employment in the community that in a very short period of time it would overcome the problems associated with inflation and unemployment.

**Mr. Lee:** The Queensland Government has done more for housing in the last year—

**Mr. BYRNE:** I would have to agree with the Minister's comment. No better home-purchase arrangement exists in Australia for Housing Commission homes than the one that exists in Queensland. Consider the people in my electorate who had been neglected for years prior to my election to Parliament. Just about every last rental house in my electorate has now been painted; fences have been upgraded; internal facilities have been improved. With this Minister we have seen in the housing field changes that I am proud of. Personally I am proud to stand up in the community and say, "I am a member of the Queensland Government. I support the Queensland Government for its initiatives in housing." The people in my community are aware of that. We have seen that this Government has respect for people in their homes. It does not offer them a bark hut in an area with another 1,000 bark huts and say to them, "You go and live there. You are the cast-offs from the community. We don't want you." That is what the Labor Government did in the 1950s with its ghetto-style housing, and that is what bureaucracy carried on. But that policy has now changed. We see no more of that ghetto-style Housing Commission estate. We see now that the Government is actually concerned with people. It is not leaving its houses unpainted and depressed.

I refer to a statement I made in my first Address-in-Reply speech, which I think is as significant now as it was then. I said—

"A depressed environment is self-perpetuating; a depressed society is self-destructive. People for whom the material side of life has been fraught with misfortune often cannot rise from their misfortune to change their society. There are those who try and succeed; there are those who try and do not succeed; there are those who do not try; and there are those who cannot try. Towards this latter group the Government owes its greatest responsibility, not to give them hand-outs but to create the climate and the environment for human endeavour."

I have noticed in my electorate that the Government is taking a much greater responsibility for maintaining homes so that people are once again taking pride in their dwellings. They are once again realising that they can beautify their homes and make the environment far better, and that it does not need to be depressed. Consequently they have an outlook on life which is far advanced on that which they held previously.

In his Opening Speech the Governor made reference to expenditure in the fields of sport, youth and community recreation groups. He mentioned that this assistance was the highest provided in Queensland's history, and higher than similar assistance provided in the other Australian States. This Government should be proud of that, and the people of Queensland should be proud of it, too, just as they should be proud of the advances this Government has made in the area of consumer affairs. Indeed, in both these fields Queensland leads Australia. In the area of community recreation and sport the Government operates not so much on the basis of a hand-out system as on an incentive system to try to encourage community and charitable groups to work for the community. The Governor went on to say that this assistance was "a sound investment in the welfare of the youth of today who are the citizens of tomorrow." We must for ever keep that thought before us. Government decisions and Government expenditure must always be made with the awareness of the needs of the young people of today who are leaving the schools and looking for jobs. Those same young people are more educated than the generation before them. They are the people who will have to carry greater responsibilities in the future. They will see our society moving into the 21st century. They are the people whom we have to encourage and provide for. In our initiatives we should not forget that providing for the children and youth of today is of the utmost importance.

Two groups in the community that should have specific ministries for themselves, specific departments for themselves, are the youth and the aged. I advocate most strongly

the creation of a Ministry for Youth and a Ministry for the Aged. Those two minority groups are of utmost importance to the community, yet they are forgotten; they do not have their own voices; they cannot speak for themselves, and if they try to speak for themselves they are not listened to. It is in those areas that Governments have responsibilities; it is in those areas that Governments must provide assistance. It is to those areas that specific attention must be paid in order to compensate them for the lack of attention that has hitherto been paid to them.

I congratulate the Governor on his appointment and I look forward to this session as one that will be of benefit to the community, as one showing that members of Parliament respect this Parliament for the integrity that it possesses and for the powers and abilities that it will carry forward into the future.

Debate on motion of Mr. Burns, adjourned.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. T. G. NEWBERY** (Mirani—Leader of the House): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.13 p.m.

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