

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 4 AUGUST 1977**

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## PAPERS

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

Report of the Under Secretary for Mines for the year 1976.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Racing and Betting Act 1954–1977.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916–1974.

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.

The Northern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1963 to 1964.

The Regional Electric Authorities Acts, 1945 to 1964.

The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1964.

Electricity Act 1976.

City of Brisbane Act 1924–1976.

Clean Air Act 1963–1976.

Regulations under—

Racing and Betting Act 1954–1977.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916–1974.

Electricity Act 1976 (Electricity Regulations).

Local Government Act 1936–1977.

Valuation of Land Act 1944–1977.

## PETITIONS

## CARINDALE ESTATE PARKLAND

**Mr. BYRNE** (Belmont) presented a petition from 20 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take all necessary steps to preserve as a park for posterity an area of historical significance in Belmont, namely, that part of the Carindale Estate (stage 3) being developed by Finance Corporation of Australia Ltd.

Petition read and received.

## QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) presented a petition from 14 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will support the existence in perpetuity of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra for the musical and cultural benefit of the citizens of Queensland.

Petition read and received.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (11.13 a.m.), by leave: A reference made in this House yesterday by the member for Townsville South wrongly associated me, as the member for

## THURSDAY, 4 AUGUST 1977

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

## PRIVILEGE

COMMENT ON CABINET MINISTER BY  
MEMBER FOR SALISBURY

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have given consideration to the matter raised on a question of privilege by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. It is my opinion that the remarks allegedly made by the honourable member for Salisbury are strictly a matter between her and the unnamed Minister, who is at liberty to take any action he may care to outside this House. I do not feel that the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition is one for referral to the Privileges Committee.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I warn all honourable members that I will not tolerate persistent interjections. I issued a similar warning yesterday. If honourable members continue to interject today, I will have no hesitation in dealing with them under Standing Order 123A.

Cairns, with alleged public statements on the Cedar Bay raid. I have never made any such statements.

We in this House know of the excesses of the member for Townsville South and are apt to treat them with the dispatch that is necessary and relegate them in the usual form.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I advise all honourable members that I will not tolerate persistent interjections while a member is on his feet. I ask the House to observe silence while Ministers or members make their statements.

**Mr. JONES:** We hear them from the irresponsible member for Townsville South and we always take those statements with a grain of salt. However, the public might not be as familiar with his antics and his slings of the stagnant bucket. I feel that the matter should be clarified at this point.

For the Premier of Queensland to deign to accept them and in a blatant misuse of question-time endeavour to entertain this House with such a diatribe as we heard yesterday is of sadder consequence and shows a regrettable lack of desire to uphold the prestige, integrity and good conduct of this House. To align himself by innuendo with the statements of the member for Townsville South, which he, as a Christian gentleman, must know are false, ill-founded, untrue and of doubtful intent, is despicable. I challenge the Premier and any of his Ministers—for that matter, any member of the House—under privilege or otherwise, any member of the public—

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

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I rule that the honourable member for Cairns is going beyond the privilege of Parliament in his statement. His submissions so far are not in accordance with the privilege of Parliament.

**Mr. Aikens** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Townsville South will resume his seat.

**Mr. JONES:** This has been a matter of public comment and the Premier has concurred with what has been said by the honourable member for Townsville South. It is untrue and I feel that an apology is necessary. I also feel that this explanation is necessary. There was a staged innuendo made yesterday.

In deference to the issue, I made no comment on the matter. The raid did not take place in my electorate. Cedar Bay is in the electorate of Cook and neither the member for that area nor I made any comment on the raid. The matter was sub judice and

I held that justice was not only being done but was being seen as being done. I have made strong statements as a citizen, a member of Parliament, a parent and grandparent, on the drug issue. I have also spoken on it as an active member of the Cairns District Drug Action Committee, which was set up in 1975 to combat drugs, pushers, pedlars and parasites. But I have never made any statement on the Cedar Bay raid.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Cairns will have the opportunity during the Address-in-Reply debate to deal with any matter that he wishes to bring before the House. I should say that this morning he has had more than the privilege of the House extended to him in relation to this matter.

## SITTING DAYS

### SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, and that on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after 1 o'clock p.m. on Wednesdays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business.”

Motion agreed to.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, and notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, on each sitting Wednesday a period shall be allotted until 1 o'clock p.m. for discussion of matters of public interest on which any member may address the House for ten minutes. If the discussion is still proceeding at 1 o'clock p.m., it shall be terminated by Mr. Speaker.”

Motion agreed to.

## TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES

### SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the following amendments to the times allowed for certain speeches shall apply—

(1) Under Standing Order No. 37A (Disallowance of Proclamations, Orders in Council, Regulations or Rules):

Mover of the motion, fifteen minutes; seconder of the motion and any other member, ten minutes; Minister in reply, twenty minutes. Total time allowed, two hours.

(2) Under Standing Order No. 109 (Time Limit of Speeches):

(a) Paragraph 4—In Committee on a Bill, Motion or Estimate—substitute 'ten minutes' for 'fifteen minutes'.

(b) Paragraph 8—In Committee on the introduction of a Bill—substitute 'twenty minutes' for 'twenty-five minutes'.

All other provisions of Standing Orders Nos. 37A and 109 shall continue to apply."

Motion agreed to.

#### DAYS ALLOTTED TO ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### SESSIONAL ORDER

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

"That the House may, on the Tuesdays and Thursdays allotted to the debate on the Address in Reply, continue to sit until 10 o'clock p.m. Each of the periods between 11 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. and between 4 o'clock p.m. and 10 o'clock p.m. shall be accounted an allotted day. All provisions of Standing Order No. 17 shall, mutatis mutandis, continue to apply."

Motion agreed to.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

##### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

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

"That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the constitution of Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, the receiving of resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day."

Motion agreed to.

#### MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. GYGAR** (Stafford): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, of expenses of Ministers for the period 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail."

Motion agreed to.

#### OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. CASEY** (Mackay): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government department (all funds) in 1976-77."

Motion agreed to.

#### USE OF OFFICIAL AEROPLANE

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. MULLER** (Fassifern): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return in relation to the operation of the official aeroplane during the year 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977, showing in detail (a) total flying time, (b) total number of flights, (c) total number of passengers and (d) names of Ministers by whom the aeroplane was used."

Motion agreed to.

#### FEES PAID BY CROWN TO BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. LOWES** (Brisbane): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors during the 1976-77 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received separately."

Motion agreed to.

#### FEES PAID BY CROWN TO PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to public relations agencies or consultants and advertising agencies or consultants during the 1976-77 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received separately."

Motion agreed to.

#### ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE, REFERENDUM ON CHANGES TO COMMONWEALTH CONSTITUTION

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. GUNN** (Somerset): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return providing details of advertising expenditure incurred by the Queensland Government in connection with the referenda conducted by the Commonwealth Government in May 1977."

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, showing the number of Government employees as at 30 June 1977 (all departments) paid from Consolidated Revenue, Trust Funds and the Loan Fund respectively.”

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. TRANSFER OF MONEYS TO TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

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

(1) Were any moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or the Loan Fund transferred to any Trust and Special Funds during June 1977 and, if so, which individual Trust and Special Funds received moneys from Consolidated Revenue and what was the amount involved in each case?

(2) Which individual Trust and Special Funds received moneys from the Loan Fund and what was the amount involved in each case?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Funds from both Consolidated Revenue and the Loan Fund were transferred to various Trust and Special Funds in June 1977, just as such transfers took place in every month of last financial year and every month of every preceding financial year since the beginning of time.

A great number of Trust and Special Funds are financed from these sources and it is normal practice to make the necessary transfers on a monthly basis or progressively on some other basis during the year to meet the needs of the Trust and Special Funds concerned.

To list out this normal bookkeeping exercise for a month of last financial year is a quite voluminous task and I suggest it would be meaningless to the honourable member and this House.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. KNOX:** It would obviously be meaningless. If the honourable member had understood, he would not have asked the question.

*Answer (contd.):—*

I do not wish to deploy my staff on this at this time when they are fully engaged on the preparation of data for the forthcoming Budget. However, if the honourable member could reframe his

question and ask precisely what he wants to know, I will certainly do my best to answer it for him.

2. QUEENSLAND UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

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

(1) Does the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations provide the State Government with figures relating to unemployment in Queensland?

(2) If so, in each C.E.S. district in Queensland and considering the whole State, in June 1977, (a) what was the total unemployed, (b) what was the total number of young people under 21 unemployed, (c) what percentage of the total unemployed did young people represent, (d) of the young people unemployed what was the male/female break up, (e) how many of the unemployed were school-leavers and (f) what percentage of the total unemployed did these school-leavers represent?

(3) What were the figures in June 1976?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) The Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations publishes the Monthly Review of the Employment Situation and contained in this official Commonwealth publication is most of the information which the honourable member now seeks to have incorporated in “Hansard”.

With respect to that information which the honourable member seeks and which is not included in the official Commonwealth publication, I will ask the Acting Director of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations in Brisbane to supply this information to the honourable member from his official records.

3. PRE-SCHOOL FOR OONONBA

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

As Oononba is entitled to a pre-school, when will this proposal be approved and construction be commenced?

*Answer:—*

The establishment of pre-school facilities at Oononba is provisionally planned to begin during 1979.

## 4. IDENTITY OF ACCUSED ZAPHIR

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

Is the man named Zaphir who is the vortex of proposed industrial action by the Storemen and Packers' Union the same person who, in 1968, was fined \$500 by the Customs Department after a public hearing for distributing pornographic films and, if so, will arrangements be made to fully publicise the matter so that the people of Queensland, who will be subjected to considerable inconvenience and distress by the proposed strike, will be made aware of the type of man on whose behalf they will grievously suffer?

*Answer:—*

I am sure the honourable member can appreciate that it would be inappropriate for me to answer any questions in relation to a matter presently before the courts.

## 5. FRAUD AT KING GEORGE SQUARE CAR PARK

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

(1) Is he aware of an article in the "Nation Review" of 28 July entitled "Labor machine moves to cover up city scandal"?

(2) Will he ascertain if fraud has been perpetrated within the Brisbane City Council centring on the King George Square car park, with allegations of rigging time clocks and pocketing counter proceeds?

(3) In view of the Watergate-style cover-up being apparently perpetrated by the council, will he do all within his power to ascertain the facts?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2 and 3) I am advised that the matter has been investigated by the Auditor-General. The Brisbane City Council handed it over to the police, as a result of which proceedings have been instituted against a number of persons in the District Court. The matter is currently awaiting the determination of the court.

## 6. DEPOSIT/REFUND ON SOFT-DRINK BOTTLES

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

(1) Is he aware that the deposit/refund on a large soft drink bottle is now 20c?

(2) Is he aware that some shopkeepers will not refund the 20c to children, insisting that they will refund it only in kind by way of sweets even if the total refund is 80c or more?

(3) As drink companies refund shopkeepers for all bottles they collect irrespective of the number, and as it appears that certain shopkeepers are trying to profiteer out of children, will he investigate this matter and, if necessary, present legislative means to ensure fairness in this case?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I have no personal knowledge of the practice referred to by the honourable member but if it does occur in circumstances where children are forced to take sweets rather than money it is a reprehensible one. This is a matter which appears to be in the area of consumer affairs rather than in any other area of the law. It is suggested that the question be directed to my colleague the Hon. F. A. Campbell, Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs.

## 7. HOUSING COMMISSION EASY-PURCHASE PLAN

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

How successful has the easy-purchase plan for Housing Commission houses been and what are the numbers of houses involved and inquiries received?

*Answer:—*

The Government's decision to allow sales to tenants on \$25,000 loans with deposits as low as \$200 has had a good response. The terms are generous and the interest rates of 5½ per cent and 7½ per cent most attractive. They show this Government's genuine concern for people and their natural wish to own a home. The figures below show that hundreds of families will sleep tonight secure in the knowledge that they will own the roof over their head. This scheme gives an opportunity they would not otherwise have had.

Another scheme is where the State injected \$20,000,000 into mortgage finance to assist over 1,100 families to acquire homes. These initiatives show that this Government acts positively and with great humanity, as I am sure the honourable member recognises.

The scheme was introduced in August 1976 and figures for comparable periods before and after then are—

—	Inquiries	Sales
6 months to August 1976	473	160
6 months to February 1977 .. .. .	911	500
4 months to June 1977	368	184

8. BEEF PRICE STABILISATION SCHEME

**Mr. Katter**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) What were the results of the Agricultural Council meeting held at Alice Springs?

(2) Have a number of other States not agreed to a minimum price stabilisation scheme for beef?

(3) Was agreement reached at the Premiers' meeting on the beef industry for some eastern Australia stabilisation of beef prices?

(4) Will he urgently consider a State meat marketing authority and police a schedule of minimum prices?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) In view of the absence from Brisbane of my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries, who has been attending the Australian Agricultural Council meeting in Alice Springs, I would ask the honourable member to place his question on notice for next Wednesday, 10 August.

9. CHARTERS TOWERS-MINGELA SECTION OF FLINDERS HIGHWAY

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

(1) Is he aware that on the western half of the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Mingela there occurs one serious accident per month off the narrow one-lane bridges and that there have been three deaths on the bridges in the last five years?

(2) When will rebuilding work commence on this section of highway as, despite repeated statements, no reconstruction work has commenced?

(3) Will he visit Charters Towers within the next month to discuss this very serious situation with the city and Dalrymple Shire Council?

(4) What are the details of work to be done on this highway this financial year?

*Answers:—*

(1) Though aware of the problems generally, I was not aware of the detailed statistics quoted by the honourable member.

(2) Following completion of the bitumen surface through to Cloncurry, a greater emphasis can now be placed on reconstruction between Townsville and Charters Towers. Works on which a start is imminent—it may be today—include

reconstruction of 10 Mile Creek bridge and reconstruction of a 6.1 km section between Oakey Creek and 7 Mile Creek. A further scheme, the approaches to 10 Mile Creek bridge, has been released.

(3) Should the councils support the honourable member's invitation, I would certainly see if such a meeting could be arranged.

(4) Further works are planned between Reed River and Cardington.

10. TEACHERS RECRUITED FROM OVERSEAS

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

(1) How many teachers were recruited from overseas for Queensland schools in each year since 1972?

(2) How many of these teachers are presently employed?

*Answers:—*

(1) The total number of teachers recruited from overseas on a contract basis was 1,854. The numbers recruited in each of the years from 1972 were—

1972	..	..	..	Nil
1973	..	..	..	18
1974	..	..	..	959
1975	..	..	..	777
1976	..	..	..	100
1977	..	..	..	Nil

(2) The number of these teachers at present teaching in Queensland schools is 769.

11. RECREATION AREA OF BULIMBA STATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Concerning the Bulimba State Primary School and my many representations and questions concerning the development of a recreation area in Lytton Road and Taylor Street, Bulimba, for the use of the children attending this school, (a) what is the latest position and (b) for how much longer must the children travel over busy intersections and through busy shopping areas to attend an area suitable for athletic and ball games?

*Answer:—*

The position regarding the acquisition of additional land for Bulimba State School has not changed since I wrote to the honourable member on the matter in May 1975.

The Department of Works which investigated the site has submitted an adverse report and the possibility of developing that site was subsequently shelved. Other suitable land is apparently not available.

12. MAYORAL ELECTIONS AND LOCAL  
AUTHORITY NUMBERS

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

(1) Concerning his advocacy for the election of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane by the people instead of by the council aldermen, will he explain what prompted his change of attitude from that expressed on 31 August 1972 in this House, when his opening remarks on the City of Brisbane Act Amendment Bill were, "I rise to support the Bill so capably introduced by the new Minister for Local Government (Hon. H. A. McKechnie). I congratulate him on such a forward move so early in his administration of a department in which all Queenslanders are interested"?

(2) Will he also explain whether it is his intent to reduce the number of local authorities in Queensland by about half, as he advocated in that same speech?

*Answers:—*

(1) I notice that the honourable member for Bulimba has not quoted other relevant remarks that I made in the same speech, and I particularly refer him to my remark, "that for the last 10 to 15 years the city of Brisbane has not been governed democratically". I did not then favour and I still do not favour a dictatorship in the Brisbane City Council.

My recent reference to the manner of election of the Lord Mayor of the city of Brisbane was made in the context of debate upon the merits of a change to preferential voting at local authority elections.

In Brisbane we already have preferential voting, but the Lord Mayor is not directly elected. Outside Brisbane we have directly elected mayors and chairmen, but first-past-the-post voting. I am at present looking at the possibility of a more uniform approach to the matter.

(2) It is not my intention to reduce the number of local authorities in Queensland by half.

13. S.G.I.O. PROPOSAL FOR HIGH-RISE  
APARTMENT BUILDING, STANLEY  
STREET

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

(1) Will he investigate the rejection by the Brisbane City Council of the S.G.I.O. proposal for an 11-storey apartment building in Stanley Street, South Brisbane?

(2) In view of the obvious desirability of this development, which would complement the new Cultural Centre, is this

decision by the council politically motivated with the object of maximising the Australian Labor Party vote in this area?

(3) If this is so, will he take strong action to secure an early reversal of this decision and thereby allow redevelopment of this important area of Brisbane to proceed, in accordance with the community's desire?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I am advised that application was made to the Brisbane City Council by the State Government Insurance Office (Queensland) under the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1976 for a rezoning of certain land in Stanley Street, South Brisbane, by the inclusion of such land in the residential B zone, for the purpose of enabling the erection on the subject land of an 11-storey apartment building.

I am further advised that the application was rejected by the council on 2 August 1977.

Under the Act the town clerk has to notify the applicant of the council's decision within seven days and the applicant has a right of appeal to the Local Government Court against the decision.

Since a right of appeal is involved, I feel that it would not be proper for me to comment further in the matter.

14. MORE POLICE AND NEW STATION FOR  
BLACKWATER

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

In view of his findings on his recent visit to Blackwater, will he arrange for more police and another car and for a new police station to be built?

*Answer:—*

As a result of the honourable member's continued representations on this matter, and his invitation to the Commissioner of Police and me to personally inspect the police facilities at Blackwater, approval has now been given for an increase of two in the established strength at that station. One member will be transferred there in the near future. The closing date for applications for the other advertised position is 15 August next and an appointment will be made as quickly as possible after that date.

A survey of transport resources is being carried out and it is proposed to reallocate vehicles to best advantage. The claims of Blackwater for another vehicle will be considered when the survey is completed. The matter will also be considered in the light of funds available under the 1977-78 estimates.

The erection of a new police station is listed on the forward planning building programme of the Police Department with high priority and the project will be undertaken as soon as funds are available.

I thank the honourable member for his interest in police matters generally, and his untiring efforts towards the improvement of services in his electorate are no doubt appreciated by his constituents.

15. IMPROVEMENT OF GREGORY HIGHWAY

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

In view of the increasing importance of the Gregory Highway, particularly that section between Clermont and the Belyando River, will funds be urgently allocated to proceed with some urgent work?

Answer:—

As the honourable member is aware, I have given substantial support to works in his area within the limited funds available. I will have the matter examined by the district engineer, but unless there is a significant increase in funds for roads from the Commonwealth, an extension of the current programme is not possible.

Perhaps it would be a good idea if the honourable member were to have a word in the ear of his Federal member. In fact it would be a good idea if all State members were to remind their Federal members of the position in relation to the allocation of funds to road-works in Queensland. The Federal Government should either give us more funds or get to hell out of it altogether and allow road construction to be a State function entirely.

16. YAMILA-EMERALD SECTION OF CAPRICORN HIGHWAY

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

In view of its increasing importance, what can be done to urgently obtain funds to widen that section of road on the Capricorn Highway between Yamila and Emerald?

Answer:—

Priority has to be given for extension of the road west of Emerald. The Comet and Dawson River jobs, which were most necessary to reduce flooding delays, have been given first priority east of Emerald before other works can start such as the widening the honourable member refers to.

17. KEMP PLACE TUNNEL

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

(1) With reference to the proposal which I have raised with him to carry out works on the Kemp Place tunnel to allow for two-way traffic, is he aware of the relief which such a scheme would provide to motorists wishing to leave New Farm, who would avoid the traffic congestion in Fortitude Valley, particularly at the Ann Street corner?

(2) What stage has been reached by his technical officers in the examination of this proposal?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware of the relief which some effective bypass of Fortitude Valley would provide to New Farm motorists proceeding to and from the city.

(2) Several proposals have been drawn up and discussed between officers of the Main Roads Department and the Brisbane City Council. The views of the fire brigade have also been sought. Complications have arisen which require further investigation. Nevertheless I am hopeful of receiving a report on the matter in the near future. When I receive it I shall convey its contents to the honourable member.

18. AFLATOXIN IN PEANUTS

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

(1) When did his department become aware of the presence of aflatoxin in the Kingaroy peanut crop and what action has it taken since then regarding this toxin, which is said to cause cirrhosis of the liver and cancer and is threatening this year's \$15,000,000 crop in the South Burnett, which economically is presently one of Queensland's most deprived rural communities?

(2) Is the Atherton Tableland peanut-growing area free of this toxin and, if so, is it because of different farm practices carried out in that area?

(3) As aflatoxin in peanuts has been known in the United States for more than eight years and is considered to be a serious health risk, why has not his department taken action to ensure that farm practices in the South Burnett were altered as a preventative measure before the present serious loss situation was reached?

(4) As the present electronic equipment used to sort the peanut crop is not capable of detecting all nuts that could be contaminated by the mould, what guarantee does the public have that their health will not be damaged by Kingaroy peanuts?

*Answers:—*

(1 to 3) Aflatoxin is the end-product arising from the development of a fungus which can result from adverse weather conditions principally at time of harvest.

Weather conditions in the South Burnett district prior to and at harvest of the recent crops were unusual and conducive to fungus growth to a greater extent than in previous years. This was not the case with the Atherton Tableland crop, where good quality peanuts were harvested.

My department has been aware for some time of the problems associated with aflatoxin in peanuts and in other crops and has given advice to the Peanut Marketing Board on methods of sampling and of analysis to detect levels of the toxin present in peanuts. It has also provided advice to farmers on the best methods of harvesting and handling peanuts to reduce the risk associated with fungus growth.

The Department of Primary Industries has always emphasised the need for growers to follow practices which will produce a high-quality peanut. There has been a continual search for more suitable methods of handling the crop when adverse weather conditions prevail.

An officer of the Department of Primary Industries, together with Peanut Marketing Board representatives, leaves on Friday, 6 August 1977 to examine the latest techniques in use in the U.S.A.

(4) Because of the assistance given by my department and the increased activity by the board in processing, sampling and testing of peanuts, the honourable member can be assured that nuts sold will comply with the tolerances recently determined by the Department of Health.

#### 19. COMMERCIAL SHOPPING CENTRE DEVELOPMENT, VICTORIA STREET, MACKAY

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

With reference to the proposal to develop a site for a commercial shopping centre at the western end of Victoria Street, Mackay—

(1) Did the initiative come from the local authority concerned, the successful tenderer or the Land Administration Commission?

(2) Were the site requirements set out by the local authority, the Land Administration Commission or any other authority?

(3) Did the local authority request an environmental impact study of the area of the development under section 32A of the Local Government Act?

(4) Has section 80 of the Harbours Act been complied with?

(5) Who is the (a) design and (b) supervising authority for the conditions of the lease?

(6) In respect of the requirements of the lease, have the findings and recommendations of the body which is conducting a model study of the Pioneer River been complied with?

(7) What further lawful approvals have to be obtained before (a) development can commence and (b) the shopping complex can be completed?

(8) Will the successful tenderer have to enter into any bonds regarding the completion of the development and, if so, with whom?

*Answers:—*

(1) When this project was first suggested, the initiative did not come from the local authority, successful tenderer or the Land Administration Commission. However, that proposal lapsed, and subsequently the local authority resubmitted the project for further consideration.

(2) Site requirements for this project were specified by the Land Administration Commission having regard to the requirements of the local authority, Department of Harbours and Marine, Main Roads Commission, the Pioneer River Improvement Trust and the Queensland Fisheries Service.

(3) No. In view of the fact that the views of all interested departments and authorities had been obtained it was not considered necessary to require further study of the project.

(4) The special lease enabling the carrying out of the project will issue pursuant to section 80 of the Harbours Act and section 205 of the Land Act and the requirements of those Acts will be complied with.

(5) Compliance with the conditions of lease will be supervised by the Land Administration Commission.

(6) The line, the limits and the levels of reclamation within the Pioneer River are required to be to the satisfaction of the Pioneer River Improvement Trust and Mackay City Council. The work of reclamation as it affects the Pioneer River must be in accordance with the requirements of those authorities. In fixing its requirements, the Pioneer River Improvement Trust will no doubt be guided by results of the hydraulic model study and I am informed that the preliminary report on this study was made available to the developer late last year.

(7) The tender submitted by the developer appears to conform to the requirements of the tender document. Negotiations between the Land Administration Commission and the developer are

continuing with a view to the reaching of agreement on suitable terms and conditions for the special lease over the developmental area.

(8) Yes. The agreement required to be executed between Mackay City Council and the developer requires the lodgment of a performance security with Mackay City Council.

20. CENTRE NEAR WYNNUM FOR MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL

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

(1) Is he aware that considerable inconvenience is being experienced by residents in outlying suburbs such as Wynnum, who are being called on to make their registration renewal payments at Boundary Street, City?

(2) In accordance with the Government's policy of decentralisation, will he give serious and favourable consideration to the establishment of a regional office, incorporating all facilities, at a centre near Wynnum?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I commend the honourable member for bringing forward this matter relative to his electorate. One of the best things done by this Government in the past three years was the establishment of the regional registration centres. I am sure that all honourable members will agree with that. A number of other regional centres with priority have to be attended to but I will certainly give consideration to the Wynnum area in the very near future.

21. RECLAMATION WORK, MANLY BOAT HARBOUR

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

(1) Is he aware of my submissions and the many objections by the people of the Wynnum electorate opposing the proposed reclamation from the western side of the Manly Boat Harbour?

(2) In view of the strenuous objections to this proposal, what action is being taken by his department?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) I am aware of submissions by the honourable member for Wynnum in support of objections lodged with my department by certain residents in the vicinity of Manly Boat Harbour to reclamation on the western side of the harbour programmed for commencement during the 1976-77 financial year as part of a proposed

extension to the mooring area within the harbour. In view of the honourable member's representations the work has not commenced pending a review of the planning of the harbour.

I would remind the honourable member that the development of a boat harbour at Manly commenced in 1958 and that a plan of the harbour including this reclamation has been on public display for many years at the Manly swimming-baths. With the exception of a slipway construction no objection to the general plan was previously forthcoming. The honourable member will be aware that there is a serious shortage of moorings available for small craft in the Brisbane region. This is evidenced by the fact that there are some 250 applicants listed with the Port of Brisbane Authority awaiting moorings at Manly Harbour. Some \$1,088,000 has already been spent on the harbour, which at the present time provides for 301 moorings. If this expensive infrastructure is to be fully utilised a total of 919 moorings can be provided at an additional cost of about \$1,000,000. However it will not be economically possible or practical to extend the present mooring area unless further reclamation of land for car-parking and other amenities for the boating public takes place adjacent to the harbour.

As I have mentioned, future planning of the harbour is at present under review and I would invite the co-operation of honourable members in this review in the best interests of all concerned.

22. ADMINISTRATION OF SPEECH THERAPY SECTION

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

(1) Is there any proposal or intention to transfer the administration, together with the staff, of the speech therapy section in the Department of Education to the Department of Health?

(2) If such a proposal is anticipated, will he advise me of the advantage of such a move?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) While there have been general discussions on the placement of speech therapists in employment in different Government departments, no decision has been made to transfer therapists in the Department of Education to the Department of Health. The inter-departmental committee for social welfare could eventually make recommendations in this area. I personally favour therapists working in schools remaining as direct employees of my department.

23. PROTECTION OF SCHOOLCHILDREN  
FROM MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

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

(1) With reference to accidents involving children being struck by motor vehicles on busy roads outside the Boondall, Zillmere North and Norris Road Schools in the Pine Rivers electorate in recent weeks, wherein one child was killed and two seriously injured, will he have investigations made into the safety of schoolchildren in those situations?

(2) In so doing will he have discussions with the Ministers for Transport, Local Government and Main Roads, and Police and the Lord Mayor to find ways of safeguarding our schoolchildren?

Answers:—

(1) The question of traffic congestion in the vicinity of schools and the dangers that this congestion may bring to pupils have been matters of concern to my department for a long time.

The provision of pedestrian crossings, traffic lights and traffic control devices in general is clearly the responsibility of the road authority, whether that authority be the Main Roads Department or the local council.

There is no doubt that schools do generate a considerable volume of traffic owing to the operations of school bus services and the setting down and picking up of children by parents in private cars. One would therefore expect that the road authority would pay particular attention to traffic control in these areas. My department endeavours to alleviate this problem where possible by agreeing to the excision of suitable areas of land from school reserves to enable roads to be widened to permit the installation by local authorities of bus bays out of the traffic flow. Consideration is also being given in the design and layout of new schools to the provision of adequate parking areas within school grounds for school staff vehicles, visitors' cars and service vehicles. These actions are part of an ongoing study into ways and means of increasing the safety of children in the general vicinity of schools. Indeed, as recently as 14 July the regional directors of the three Brisbane metropolitan regions conferred on this matter with traffic engineers of the Main Roads Department.

(2) I will certainly participate in any discussions arranged on this matter between the various Ministers concerned and the Lord Mayor.

24. ISSUE OF TRAFFIC OFFENCE NOTICE  
No. 1316990-4

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

Will he commend the police officer who issued traffic offence notice number 1316990-4 on the morning of 3 August for his dedication to duty in a situation where many would have hesitated or withdrawn?

Answer:—

It is not my usual policy to commend police officers for doing their duty in issuing traffic offence notices. However, if the honourable member feels that the particular incident referred to by him merits special consideration, I will be happy to have it examined if he will supply me with relevant details.

25. RESITING OF "NO RIGHT TURN" SIGN  
ON MARGARET STREET RAMP

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

Will he have the "No Right Turn" sign on the Margaret Street off-ramp from the south-bound lane of the South-east Freeway resited, making it more obvious and thereby reducing the number of motorists being booked for ignoring it?

Answer:—

I have arranged for Main Roads Department engineers to examine the location of the "No Right Turn" sign on the Margaret Street off-ramp and, if found necessary, to relocate the sign so that it is more prominent.

26. NEW SCHOOL FOR YORKEY'S KNOB

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

Will the proposed new school for York-ey's Knob be constructed in time for the commencement of the 1978 school year?

Answer:—

Yorkey's Knob State School has been listed in the draft capital works programme for replacement in the 1977-78 financial year.

However, at the present time the acquisition of the new school site is still under negotiation between the Land Administration Commission and the owner, and there is no guarantee that the replacement school will be ready for the commencement of the 1978 school year.

A suitable demountable building will be provided to remedy the situation should the building not be completed in time.

27. ANDREW OLLE'S ROLE IN THE CEDAR BAY AFFAIR

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

Will Andrew Olle now have his Logie withdrawn, as the people of Australia are now aware of his fabricated sensationalism on the Cedar Bay case?

Answer:—

I have no knowledge of the bases used in determining the recipients of Logie awards or whether suitable guide-lines are set to check the accuracy and balance of programmes nominated for such awards. However, it is not a matter which comes under my jurisdiction. It is purely a matter for consideration by the organisation which issues Logie awards and, in the light of recent events which have cleared police of allegations made against them, it is now a matter of conscience to that organisation as to whether such an award was warranted.

28. OIL-FROM-COAL CONVERSION PLANT

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

(1) With reference to his Press statements concerning an oil-from-coal plant to supply 20 per cent of the nation's oil needs, has the Commonwealth Liberal-National Country Party Government offered any financial support for an oil-from-coal conversion plant in Queensland?

(2) Has any locality been decided for the proposed plant and, if so, what is the plant's potential capacity?

(3) When would such a plant commence operation?

Answers:—

(1) Financial support for a feasibility study for the establishment of plants for the conversion of coal to oil is under consideration through the Australian Minerals and Energy Council by the Commonwealth and those States, including Queensland, with potentially suitable coal deposits.

(2) No decision has been made on the locality or the capacity of any such plant.

(3) No decision has been made on the commencing date for the operation of any such plant.

29. MR. IVAN DENNIS

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

(1) What is the current position and responsibility of Mr. Ivan Dennis?

(2) What is his current salary?

(3) Did Mr. Dennis miss out on the job of Chairman of the new Q.E.G.B. because he had argued that the seven distribution boards would not be autonomous, that their decisions would have to be approved by the Government and that the boards, despite the representation of local government and consumer members, would not have control of budgets, borrowing, prices and the placing of moderate-sized contracts that they should have?

Answers:—

(1) Mr. Dennis is a special consultant to the Queensland Electricity Generating Board. He is responsible for liaison with major overseas contractors specifically in respect of Gladstone Power Station and other major power stations, the investigation of developments in the generation and transmission of electricity and other duties as assigned.

(2) \$39,218 per annum.

(3) No.

30. HIDES AND OFFAL

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

(1) Do the returns from hide and offal pay for the slaughtering costs of a beast, as in the past?

(2) What is the average value of hides from clean country and what is the average market price of good quality hides from ticky country?

(3) What is the average value at the Brisbane Abattoir of (a) tongue, brains, sweetbread, heart, liver, kidneys, tripe and oxtail, (b) horns, ears, head piece, muzzle, weasand, offal, glands, shank hide pieces and sinews, and (c) bones, knuckles, gall, intestines, tail tips, hooves, tallow and blood?

Answers:—

(1) I have not been able to obtain any information to establish that hide and offal have paid for the slaughtering costs in the past or do so now. Slaughtering costs vary considerably between establishments.

(2) \$11.50 per hide from clean country and \$7.50 per hide from ticky country.

(3) Those items in category (a) are fancy meats and are owned by the operators who sell them. The current rates are:—

Tongue	.. .. .	30c per kg
Brains (Sheep)	.. .. .	80c per box of six
Sweetbreads	.. .. .	Little demand
Heart	.. .. .	60c per kg
Liver	.. .. .	30c per kg
Kidney	.. .. .	77c per kg
Tripe	.. .. .	60c per kg
Oxtail	.. .. .	55c per kg

Of the items in (b) and (c), most are rendered down, some going for glue prices at \$58 per tonne. No value can be determined for parts of the carcass which are rendered down.

Of the glands, the beef pancreas is sold for \$1.05 per kg. Gall is sold for \$2.56 per kg. Beef intestines for casings are sold for 15.5c per strand. Edible beef tallow is sold for \$375 per tonne and inedible beef tallow for \$321 per tonne.

### 31. PRE-SCHOOL FOR YEPPON

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

As Yeppoon has a population of approximately 6,000 people and over 700 children at primary school and as a pre-school centre is an absolute necessity for this town, what action is being taken to have a pre-school centre built?

*Answer:—*

Construction of a two-unit pre-school centre at Yeppoon is provisionally planned to commence during the current financial year.

### 32. NEW RAILWAY STATION FOR BILOELA

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

What plans are in hand for the building of an urgently needed new railway station at Biloela?

*Answer:—*

The Railway Department has no plans for the construction of a new railway station at Biloela. However, the provision of new railway stations is constantly under review and Biloela is being considered along with a number of other railway facilities as finance becomes available.

### 33. RAILWAY SINGLE-MEN'S ACCOMMODATION, MT. ISA

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

(1) In view of his inspection earlier this year of the fire-damaged single-men's railway quarters in Mt. Isa, what accommodation has been arranged for the railway employees involved?

(2) When will the rebuilding programme be completed?

*Answers:—*

(1) The employees who were displaced by the fire in the single-men's quarters in Mt. Isa were accommodated in a residence

which was vacant until recently. They are now being accommodated temporarily in inspectors' quarters.

(2) It was decided that the fire-damaged quarters be rebuilt and a check was made regarding building requirement. However, further analysis of the number of staff requiring accommodation indicated that this 26-bed building would be far in excess of requirements. Investigations are, therefore, proceeding as a matter of urgency into adjustment of railway accommodation in Mt. Isa to provide facilities more suitable to the needs of the situation.

### 34. WOODCHIP INDUSTRY

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

(1) How many approvals has the Forestry Department granted, and to whom, for the manufacture of woodchips in (a) existing sawmills, from offcuts of logs from State forests, (b) State forests, from discarded branches of logs destined for sawmills, logs found to be unsuited for sawmilling after felling and standing trees unsuited for sawmilling and (c) State forests, by clear-felling a whole area?

(2) Has the Forestry Department powers to regulate and control the above-mentioned woodchipping procedures in privately owned forests?

(3) Has the Queensland Forestry Department carried out original research into the regeneration of forests after the same woodchipping procedures and, if so, what was discovered in that research and has it been made public?

*Answers:—*

The only firm manufacturing woodchips in Queensland at present is Hardboards Australia Limited at their Bundamba plant. This is part of the process of manufacturing hardboard. Approval has been given in principle by this Government to Sawmillers Woodchips (Queensland) Limited, a consortium of sawmillers, to manufacture woodchips from sawmill residues for export. It is understood this firm has not yet negotiated a market for the woodchips.

The answers to the specific questions are—

(1) (a) Hardboards Australia Limited derives a small part of its raw material from offcuts of sawlogs from State forests. Sawmillers Woodchips (Queensland) Limited, under the terms of the approval in principle, will have to obtain all its raw material from offcuts of sawlogs. These may originate from Crown-owned or private lands.

(1) (b) Hardboards Australia Limited obtains some of its raw material from standing trees on State forests which are

unsuitable for sawmilling. It does not obtain supplies from other sources mentioned in the question. Sawmillers Woodchips (Queensland) Limited will be excluded from this source of supply under the existing approval in principle.

(1) (c) Nil.

(2) The Department of Forestry has no power to control woodchipping procedures on privately owned forests. It is pointed out that there is ample sawmill waste available to meet the quantities proposed for export by Sawmillers Woodchips (Queensland) Limited. There is thus a disincentive for the sawmillers concerned to manufacture woodchips other than from their own genuine sawmill waste.

(3) The provision of material for the manufacture of woodchips has not, and will not, under the approval in principle, involve clear-felling of State forests. The site will continue to carry a good stocking of trees and natural regeneration is assured. Normal management methods evolved over the last 40 years will be adopted. The regeneration of native forests after clear-felling has not been a subject of research by my Department of Forestry.

35. QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

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

(1) Has the Queensland Permanent Building Society issued a financial statement and balance sheet for the year ended 30 June 1977 and, if not, what are the reasons?

(2) Has the \$2,600,000 allegedly lost in the society's computer been located by the firm of public accountants retained at great expense?

(3) If not, will he give consideration to having the matter investigated by the Police Fraud Squad?

Answers:—

(1) No. I am given to understand that the accounts will be available to members on or about 15 August 1977 and that the annual general meeting will be held towards the end of this month.

(2 and 3) Accountants of the society and a consulting firm are continuing their examinations and I understand disclosure of the results to date of these activities will be contained in the above accounts and directors' report to be made available to members in about a fortnight's time.

36. EXTENSIONS TO MATER HOSPITAL

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Were the tenders for the new extensions to the Mater Hospital called through the Works Department?

(2) What was the name and address of the successful tenderer and what was the tender price?

(3) In view of the Government's oft-repeated plea for people to "Buy Queensland made", why was a Queensland construction firm not chosen?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The redevelopment of the Mater Public Hospital has not yet reached a stage where construction can commence. When this stage is reached tenders for construction will be called in the usual way.

37. POLICE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, MAKERSTON STREET

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) What was the purchase price of the police headquarters in Makerston Street, City, and from whom was it purchased?

(2) Did this building, at the time of purchase, conform to police requirements?

(3) If not, how much money has been spent since purchase to bring the building up to required police standards?

(4) How many extra police officers has it been necessary to station permanently in the new headquarters to overcome the inadequacies of the building?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The transaction to acquire Forbes House, Makerston Street, City, from Millaquin Sugar Co. Limited for police purposes is still to be finalised.

38. SEPTIC SYSTEM FOR CARBROOK SCHOOL

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

When will a septic system be installed at the Carbrook School?

Answer:—

Confirmation of the existence of a suitable water supply has recently been received from the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. Action is in train for preparation of the necessary site, drainage and building plans for a septic system. Indication of a date for the installation cannot be stated at this stage.

39. CABOOLTURE RAILWAY STATION

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

Does his department plan to erect a new railway station at Caboolture?

Answer:—

The Railway Department has no plans for the provision of a new railway station at Caboolture.

However, the provision of new railway stations is constantly under review and Caboolture is being considered along with a number of other railway facilities as finance becomes available.

#### 40. HAZARDS OF ROAD TANKERS

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

(1) Is it true that recently in the Brisbane area, four bulk-liquid tankers were involved in accidents or fires and that 12 other semi-trailers, some carrying dangerous commodities, were also involved in collisions?

(2) Is he aware that insurance companies want road tankers carrying explosives and flammable loads stopped from travelling through inner-city suburbs?

(3) Is he aware of comments made on 18 January by the Insurance Council of Australia's regional director that there was a risk of tragedy if these trucks continued to use minor streets in heavily populated areas?

(4) What restrictions are placed on the drivers of high-risk vehicles in travelling through heavily populated areas?

(5) Will he consider bringing in regulations to ensure that tanker drivers use major roads or freeways only, except when they have to enter built-up areas to reach supply or service outlets?

(6) Are operators of trucks or tankers carrying flammable liquids being hampered in the issue of vehicle licences because they have been unable to get insurance cover before the licences can be issued?

(7) Is he aware that in the United States, following several bad accidents with a high loss of life, hazardous loads are restricted to main roads and to off-peak times?

(8) Has he received any submissions from the Brisbane Fire Chief expressing concern for a number of years about the problem of flammable, explosive liquids?

(9) Is he aware that, in November last year, toxic fumes leaked from an overturned tanker which was carrying aqua-ammonia after it capsized on the Burleigh Heads to Mudgeeraba Road, causing two nearby homes to be evacuated for at least two days?

(10) When will he introduce legislation to protect people from these dangers?

Answer:—

(1 to 10) I am aware that there have been in recent times reports of accidents and fires involving vehicles carrying flammable, explosive or other dangerous products.

I am also aware that there have been suggestions from a number of sources that the routes travelled by vehicles carrying flammable and other dangerous products should be restricted.

The imposition of such restrictions would be difficult since premises using large quantities of petroleum products, for example, service stations, are often located on sites that are not adjacent to major roads.

Whilst local authorities have certain powers under the Local Government Act 1936-1977 to restrict the use of specified roads by extraordinary traffic and to temporarily divert traffic from certain roads, I am doubtful whether these powers would be exercisable in the circumstances mentioned by the honourable member.

I am informed that, as a matter of transport policy, there is some control by the Transport Department on long-distance transport of petroleum products by road.

There are also regulations made under the Construction Safety Act which deal with the construction standards of tankers used for the transport of flammable liquids, so as to avoid spillages.

The question of the introduction of legislation in the matter is one involving a number of departments and is being considered in collaboration with the departments concerned.

#### 41. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, ROCKHAMPTON NORTH

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

(1) What land does the Housing Commission hold in Rockhampton North?

(2) Where is the land situated?

(3) What proportion of the land is for home construction and pensioner units?

(4) Is all available land completely serviced and, if not, what are the reasons?

(5) What funds are available for home unit construction in Rockhampton North?

(6) What contracts are presently uncompleted and when are further tenders to be called for such work?

Answers:—

(1) 64 developed sites; 18 sites being developed.

(2) Wiltshire, Summer, Saunders, Roselt, Goldston, Cahill, Macarthur, Hammond and Blanchfield Streets; Richardson and Webber Roads and Stenlake Avenue.

(3) 3 adjacent sites in Saunders Street are for possible pensioner units.

(4) 6 sites under sewered. This 6 adjoins 18 under development, and service will be available when 18 are developed.

(5) 1977-78 funds are not yet known.

(6) Three uncompleted contracts have 10 houses under construction. Further tenders will follow to the extent that funds allow.

#### 42. REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIP INQUIRY

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

When will the report of the Apprenticeship Inquiry conducted by Commissioner Anderson be made available to Parliament and the public?

Answer:—

In accordance with a decision of Cabinet I propose to make a statement to this House during this session as to the Government's intentions in respect of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Apprenticeship and at the same time request that the report be ordered to be printed. Such report will then be made public.

#### 43. BAN ON LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS

**Mr. Elliott**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

In view of Mr. Sinclair's assurance at the opening of the Agricultural Council that the Commonwealth Government would continue to support unrestricted export of live sheep for slaughter, will he give the House an indication of his attitude to the present ban in Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania on live sheep exports?

Answer:—

I would like to make it quite clear that my Government will not tolerate any dictation by unions as to whether or not sheep or cattle will be exported from Queensland.

I have given exporters an assurance that if they have animals to export, my Government will make sure they will be loaded on ships.

#### 44. TRUCKING YARDS AT LYNBROOK SIDING

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

What decision has been made regarding new trucking yards at Lyndbrook Siding on the Etheridge line?

Answer:—

The position in regard to the trucking yards at Lyndbrook is being investigated at present.

Inquiries made several months ago showed that little use was made of the existing private yards and any expenditure by the Railway Department in maintaining or providing such facilities could not be justified.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! All questions remaining unanswered will appear on tomorrow's Business Paper.

At 12 noon,

*In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.*

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIRST ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 3 August (see p. 26) on Mr. Turner's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton)—Leader of the Opposition (12.1 p.m.): Once again I pledge the loyalty of the Opposition to Her Majesty, Queen of Australia, and on this occasion welcome her new viceregal representative (Sir James Ramsay) to our State of Queensland.

Today I intend to concentrate on the question of Government responsibility in the creation of employment.

At this stage I move the following amendment:—

“Add to the Address the following words:—

‘However, it is the opinion of the Legislature that your advisers have lost the confidence of this House and the citizens of Queensland because of their failure to grasp the human problem of growing hard-core unemployment in the nation's richest State whose boundless mineral and rural wealth has provided the Government with the opportunity to marshal Queensland resources and economic strength so as to ensure job security, business prosperity, rural growth and increased living standards for Queensland families.’”

Since this debate 12 months ago, the unemployment crisis has deepened in Queensland without visible concern or corrective initiatives from either the Federal or State Liberal-National Party Governments. Unemployment

in June was the highest since World War II, 30 per cent above the figure the Premier found totally unacceptable two years ago in the days of the Whitlam Government. Almost 49,000 Queenslanders, 2,821 of them school-leavers, are looking for jobs. Imagine the frustration, the disillusionment, of a young Queenslanders who, seven months after the end of the school year, still waits to start his or her working career. Our under 21-year-olds form only 12 per cent of the workforce but account for 40 per cent of the unemployment. For 33 consecutive months the ratio between job seekers and job opportunities in Queensland has been the worst in Australia. In simple terms, for over 2½ years we have had more people competing for fewer jobs than any other Australian State.

There is not a city, not a town, not a district throughout Queensland untouched by the agony of unemployment. It is a tragic situation, a situation that deteriorates seasonally month by month amid forecasts that jobless figures will top 7 per cent early next year.

As this Parliament meets the Fraser Liberal-National Country Party Government considers a report of its Industries Assistance Commission which, if adopted, will shut down our textile, clothing and footwear industries. Under this report, another 130,000 Australians, many of them women, are condemned to the unemployment stockpile while their jobs are deported overseas to cheap-labour countries. As I said last year, I believe the Industries Assistance Commission has become so economically abstract that it no longer serves any beneficial purpose and should be disbanded.

Emphasis in Government planning must, I submit, shift from unemployment relief to generation of employment. In Queensland we must examine why a rich State with relatively low population and record mineral investment is unable in 1977 to produce anywhere near sufficient jobs to absorb its own work-force.

The late Ben Chifley (then Prime Minister of Australia) said on 13 May 1947—

“The only real test of prosperity in a country is the employment of everybody who wants to be employed and earning money.”

That same principle of economic assistance applies today.

We cannot pretend prosperity while over 5 per cent of Queenslanders who want to work cannot find jobs, while students, after completing their education, begin their working careers at the tail-end of the dole queues. The State Government must acknowledge its responsibility towards the production of employment rather than shelter behind criticism of Canberra and manufactured industrial confrontation.

For the past few months a special Labor Party committee has met regularly to study the unemployment problems and job inadequacies of Queensland. Today, as a result of those deliberations, I present a 20-point plan designed to stimulate employment in both public and private sectors through State Government initiative.

Point No. 1—Voluntary retirement for State public servants on full superannuation benefits at 62 years of age.

I start with this recommendation and dismiss it briefly as details were released publicly on Monday. This scheme, which could produce 1,000 job openings within Government departments, is moderately costed and recognises a growing trend towards early retirement already evident within the Public Service.

Point No. 2—Controlled release of State Government funds for essential high-labour-intensive projects and private contracts.

I do not propose here non-productive, short-term activities based on temporary unemployment relief. Rather I refer to the example of the Forgan Smith Labor Government during times of similar economic recession in the 1930s after the Liberal and National Parties of that day had got us into immeasurable problems. That Labor Government utilised the employment surplus of those days to start long-term projects of lasting benefit to the State, such as the Story Bridge, Somerset Dam, Mackay Harbour and the first stage of the Queensland University. These works created employment for skilled workers, labourers, clerical staff and apprentices, many of whom learned their trade in this manner.

A State Government using the Co-ordinator-General's Department to promote similar works in 1977 would recover the money spent in future years. There are essential projects such as the Gateway Bridge, community health centres, sewerage works, the Burdekin scheme, conservation and reforestation (to name but a few) that could be advanced with the foresight of Forgan Smith in the thirties.

The late President Roosevelt employed excess labour to plant trees in soil-erosion areas, rewarding the United States in later years with sufficient timber for building and paper production. In America, at the moment, President Carter is releasing \$30 billion over two years to provide worthwhile jobs for that country's 8 per cent unemployed.

The Queensland Government enjoys Budget advantages from increased mineral royalties following devaluation, the Commonwealth windfall from population adjustment and unexpected savings through reduced wages demands. These total many millions of dollars. Surely, in present economic circumstances, a sizeable portion of this unforeseen

financial wealth could be directed into high-employment works and contracts that will repay themselves through their future contributions. There is no reason, except lack of vision, courage or enthusiasm, why the pioneering spirit of the Forgan Smiths and Roosevelts cannot be modernised in Queensland today.

Point No. 3—Queensland pressure on the Federal Government for special grants to supplement State spending on employment-producing developmental projects.

The State Government must with all the vigour and persuasion it can command, through every official channel available, force Canberra to relax financial policies that are sapping the recuperative strength of this nation. Remember, that is the Government that was put into office by members of this Queensland Government.

No Government should proceed with inflexible policies that depend on the harshness and hardship of unemployment as their by-product.

The Liberal-National Parties today are fascinated by digits, deficits and decimals to the exclusion of people. They spend more time fiddling unemployment figures than creating jobs.

I believe the Federal Government must realise that the Australian economy is a casualty of unemployment and that instead of collecting \$27 a week in tax from a single worker on a \$140 wage it contributed \$47 through benefits to his upkeep. That is a loss of \$74. If he had been previously employed in a large establishment the State Government sacrifices another \$7 a week in lost pay-roll tax. Productive capacity is lost and the community generally is deprived of spending demand.

Queensland has a plausible case for increased Federal assistance towards specific job-productive works. Our housing grant is 50 per cent below that of smaller-populated South Australia. Inflation in two years has stripped \$31,000,000 in real terms from our Loan Council share and the Main Roads Minister concedes dissatisfaction with our return for road development. Even the suburban rail electrification programme, guaranteed by the Whitlam Labor Government on two-thirds Federal subsidy, drags years behind since the economic entry of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's Prime Ministerial choice, Malcolm Fraser.

What I say is this: If the State Government initiates labour-creative works of continuing benefit to Queensland and the nation there is an impeccable, inescapable case for complementary Federal assistance. Other State Governments appear far more capable of monetary persuasion in Canberra than the Queensland one.

I wonder why the Queensland Government cannot receive from the Liberal-National Country Party Government in Canberra—its colleagues—co-operation and assistance. There must be some reason why it is not receiving such co-operation. It is time that this State Government looked behind the scenes for the reason.

Point No. 4—Establish an Employment Planning Commission (the E.P.C.) directly responsible to the Premier.

Labor allots high priority to the formation of an expert commission to urgently investigate the underlying problems of metropolitan, provincial and country unemployment and the reasons for it.

Such a commission would report directly to the Premier with recommendations designed to relieve the situation.

I believe Queenslanders are searching for a sign that people with experience and influence in the employment field can combine for the common benefit of the community. That is the objective of such a commission. I am flexible on its composition but envisage it would include a representative from each of the following:—North Queenslanders, business organisations, trade union movement, rural industries, country local authorities, the Brisbane City Council, and women's organisations. This is a first step towards uniting Governments, management and unions in the decision-making framework of the State instead of practising senseless division and defeatist confrontation.

The E.P.C. must not become a bureaucratic giant; it should have a relatively moderate research staff of no more than 20 and be granted a broad charter to liaise with Government departments. Initially the task must centre on the present unemployment crisis but in the long-term the objective would be to stabilise employment without accompanying manpower shortages. Let me stress that the E.P.C. would be a manpower advisory board. It would have no powers of employment directive, no powers to relocate labour, no bureaucratic control. I foresee a commission marshalling the State's expertise; a commission empowered to encourage new manufacturing industries and to recommend constructive avenues of job production.

Point No. 5—Increase the numerical strength of the Police Force by at least 350 as recently recommended by the Police Commissioner.

This is self-explanatory and requires little elaboration. But it is job production, the creation of work opportunities. We have police centres seriously undermanned, suburban stations compelled to observe what could be termed "office hours" because of staff restrictions, yet many police staff are overworked.

The objective must be a force of adequate size to ensure personal safety and protection of property on a 24-hour basis—protection, I might add, in not only the heart of our cities but also in our less accessible outposts.

Point No. 6—Involve local authorities throughout Queensland in the co-ordination of new projects on an area basis.

Here, again, I will be brief. Local authorities in every corner of the State possess projects of earning capacity—I stress “earning capacity”—that are gathering dust because of lack of funds. These include water supplies, sewerage projects, libraries, community halls and even medical centres, to mention just a few.

These are projects that not only generate immediate job demands but, after completion, more than repay their initial capital outlays. They are the type of works that deserve far greater sympathetic financial consideration from both State and Federal Governments.

Point No. 7—Reform the economic management of Queensland.

This State has enormous mineral and rural wealth but, at the same time, is suffering the worst unemployment in more than 30 years. Something is dramatically wrong when the only compensation for a significant percentage of the population from our natural assets is the dole.

I refer now to an article in “The Courier-Mail” newspaper of 11 July this year on the Canadian Province of Alberta, which is compared to Queensland. Populations are similar and both stretch over large areas blessed with mineral deposits and fertile farmland. Alberta enjoys the lowest income taxes in Canada and has no sales tax. A share of its vast royalty earnings from minerals is set aside in what is known as the Alberta Heritage Fund for Future Generations. I do not suggest we must emulate Alberta, but it indicates how States of comparable size, population and asset-backing can benefit from sound economic planning and sound government.

I turn now for a moment to mineral policy. The mining industry must be assured that the State Government will allow Australian companies the right of tender for major mineral developments. Secret, back-door deals that hand control of our natural assets to foreign companies, without the courtesy of tender for their Australian counterparts, must cease.

We must also ensure that the uncertainty aroused by the Liberal-National Parties decision on Fraser Island does not deny Australians finance for development of their own assets. Agreement must be reached by the Liberal-National Parties, both State and Federal, on a common environmental study procedure, because it is their problem; they are creating the problem in the mining

industry. Labor believes (and the unemployment figures confirm it) that Queensland's growth in the mining area is straggling behind its natural earning and productive ability.

Point No. 8—Encouragement of new manufacturing industries to process Queensland assets in Queensland.

Interstate and overseas trade figures show, in many instances, that we are a distribution bureau for the refined products of our own primary assets. In more simplified terms, we are exporting employment for our domestic consumption.

Statistics disclose that in 1975-76 we had a trade deficit in the manufacturing field—interstate and overseas—approaching \$1,000 million.

Almost every election year we are reminded of that elusive alumina smelter at Gladstone; but the majority of our bauxite is still processed in Tasmania.

Queensland is the home of Australia's sugar industry; but there is no major confectionery plant in the State.

Again, in Bowen, I am told that an estimated 20 per cent of the tomato crop is lost because there is no local tomato sauce or tomato paste factory. It is time, also, that the Government conducted a fair dinkum “buy Queensland made” campaign, not one that is conveniently intensified through extra television and radio advertising on the eve of an election campaign.

A moment ago someone was talking about Norwich Park and the 1,500 jobs there. The other day the Premier of New South Wales announced a new Ford plant, which will create 3,700 jobs in one go. Manufacturing industry can provide a lot of work for Queenslanders. The Government does little or nothing to induce those companies here. Secondary industries not only provide jobs. In many cases they are naturally aligned to our primary production and must be invited and assisted to establish here. Why is there not a meatworks in the North-west, a bagasse-pulp industry in the North and wool-pressing in the West? Why are there not these things? The Government has been in power for 20 years. The Liberal and National Parties—the Country Party as it used to be called—have been in power for 20 years and they have dumped the rural industries. These days they are after the black-coal men. They have forgotten about the farmers and the people who live in the West and the North.

Point No. 9—Removal of rail freight discriminations against goods processed outside Brisbane.

I feel that even many Government members, particularly those from provincial and country electorates, will concede that our freight system is crawling with anomalies.

Such inequalities must inevitably retard genuine decentralisation and act as a deterrent to job-creative industries in non-metropolitan areas.

Frequently it is cheaper to rail goods, sometimes from interstate, from Brisbane to point "A" than to transport a local product back from point "A" to the capital. We all know about that. We have had examples shown to us time and time again. If the Government will not do it, Labor will undertake a thorough review of the rail freight structure, eliminating anomalies that mitigate against non-metropolitan areas and restrict decentralisation. We will have a look at some of the secret contracts that are now operating within the Railway Department.

**Mr. Lester:** That will lead to closing down some of the railway lines.

**Mr. BURNS:** The last railway line that was sold in this State was flogged by the Government up in Innisfail. The Government will live to rue the day in the Innisfail area. It was given away for nothing after thousands of dollars had been spent doing it up. That happened during the period the honourable member has been in the House and he said nothing about it.

Point No. 10—Letting of small Housing Commission contracts to local builders in country areas.

There are numerous complaints in country areas of Commission contracts being awarded to large metropolitan construction firms while small local builders are unable to find work. The size of such contracts is usually beyond the capacity of the local builder to compete by tender. In these instances both the bulk of the work-force and building materials are frequently imported into the centre concerned.

I believe the Housing Commission must play its part in decentralised employment. It should be directed to give consideration within sizeable country projects to letting smaller contracts of, say, one, two or three homes to local builders. This would ensure that the local work-force, unable to match the demands of the overall project, still benefits from local development through job creation.

**Mr. Jones:** Maintenance and painting, too.

**Mr. BURNS:** Yes. In Brisbane at present three or four contractors are getting all the work and they are bludging on a lot of little subcontractors by the prices they are paying them. They are doing the same thing to painters on the jobs here in this city as was being done to transport operators trying to get into Darwin, where contracts were being let for \$80 and \$90 a tonne and being contracted out at \$30 and \$40 a tonne.

Another point that should be made about the local work-force is that preference should be given to local builders and contractors.

We should be examining local regional preferences, just as today we hear about preference being given to tenders from businesses within the State against those from interstate and overseas. We might have to start looking at allowing a preference to be given in a percentage of contracts to people in the local area. I think it is a good idea.

Point No. 11—An immediate survey of education needs in newly developed areas of Brisbane, provincial cities and country centres, with a view to building or improving schools, pre-school facilities and boarding-school accommodation.

I heard the Minister for Housing say yesterday, "Everything is changing in the construction of schools from day to day. We just have to take the money out of one school and put it towards another." What sort of system is that? How does he know where the work-force is going to be and where jobs are going to be? The Minister says, "I have to steal a bit of money out of a Labor electorate and hand it to the next-door National Party electorate for one reason or another." That "it is changing all the time" is his justification. There is no planning. There is no idea of planning whatsoever.

**Dr. Lockwood:** He has never done that.

**Mr. BURNS:** Is the honourable member for Toowoomba North back in the House again? It's the first time I have seen him round for a while. In many parts of Queensland population has streaked ahead of educational amenities. Dozens of schools are either overcrowded or substandard. Through an accelerated building programme the State Government can both generate new jobs and establish facilities of continuing benefit to the entire community. Labor will also consult with church and other organisations, often with slender means, on assistance towards improvement of boarding schools, particularly those catering for country students in country and provincial city areas.

Point No. 12—Pay-roll tax exemption for the first year to firms for each new additional employee.

Since September 1971, when this tax was passed from the Commonwealth to the States, the rate in Queensland has doubled from 2.5 to 5 per cent. Revenue collections in the past four years alone have risen by 210 per cent.

I realise that in last year's Budget the Treasurer announced the progressive elevation of the exemption limit in regard to this tax. Unfortunately this does little more than recognise the effects of inflation and in most small businesses will only help to sustain existing employment levels rather than inspire new job opportunities.

Labor's proposal to exempt each new, additional employee for a year is far more imaginative, far more expansive. It will, I believe, be an incentive—particularly in the region of small business—for firms to enlarge their work-force without fear of immediate pay-roll tax repercussions.

Point No. 13—Increased preference in State Government contracts to Queensland industries.

In the metal industry, 1,000 jobs in Brisbane alone have vanished during the six months to the end of June. Recently, as 40 workers were being dismissed from one firm in Brisbane, I am told a Government contract for 1,000 rail wagon wheels was sublet across the border to a company in Newcastle, N.S.W. While the metal industry struggles in recession, Quilpie cattle sales were cancelled because the Government could not provide sufficient rail wagons. It is essential that contracts such as this—contracts that create their own repayment capacity—should be brought forward with clear preference to Queensland companies.

Point No. 14—State Government assistance to local authorities for the physical control of rural pests such as noogoora burr and parthenium weed.

Pests such as the two I mentioned rob our pastoral industry of millions of dollars each year. The loss continues to rise.

Not so very long ago I was in Cunnamulla where this matter was being discussed. A large proportion of the Aboriginal population in that town were out of work and on the dole. Those people could have been occupied, as I pointed out before, for \$140, out of which we would have received \$27 in tax and, instead of paying \$47 in dole, something more than half of the money out-layed would be returned to us immediately. Those people could be used in that area alone. A major company forwarded a submission to the Premier on this issue.

Noogoora burr alone, according to an expert report, cost wool-growers an estimated \$2,250,000 last year. I am told that it is so thick in some parts of the State that it is impossible to ride a horse through it.

There are local authorities throughout Queensland with ready-made unskilled work-forces available that would eagerly undertake clearance campaigns against these pests if finance permitted. Here again, we have projects that not only are job-generating but carry with them long-term advantages for the community as a whole. It seems to me that they would be easy to finance.

Point No. 15—The Federal Government should be pressured to recognise the importance of our roads and railways for defence, tourism and export purposes.

I issued a statement on the road issue a fortnight ago so I will not pursue it here at length today.

Everyone who lived along the coastal rail strip will remember the role that our railway system played during World War II in the conveyance of troops and defence equipment.

We have major roads, including the Bruce Highway from Brisbane to Cairns, that are flood bound at well-identified points following little more than a drizzle of rain. There are towns of strategic importance that are often isolated for up to four months during the wet season. The recurring loss to industry and the community must be astronomical. The potential defence risk is frightening. Imagine if someone decides to attack us during the rainy season! We could not get our tanks up the road. I am informed that to transport some of our larger tanks to the North in the event of defence emergency it would be necessary to remove posts along the side of our roads and we would have major difficulties with railway tunnels.

Northern centres lose millions of dollars annually because motoring tourists fear they could be stranded by rain along the way. In the 1960s the Federal Government gave financial priority to the beef roads scheme. I believe that similar priority should be awarded now to projects that are self-earning, job creative and increase the defence preparedness of the nation. They should be added to the Defence Vote so that some money can be spent in that area.

While on the subject of defence I refer to the unprotected isolation of the Gulf, where fleets of Taiwanese trawlers can roam through our prawning grounds with alarming immunity. The only inhibition is a few naval patrol boats stationed on the other side of the Cape in faraway Cairns. Fifteen new patrol boats should be built in Australia, preferably in Queensland. I understand they are likely to be built in Germany.

I believe when Vietnamese refugees, some suffering from tuberculosis, can land unchallenged on our shores, defence authorities should acknowledge the vulnerability of the Gulf as a point of entry for invasion, drugs or disease and construct a defence base at either Weipa or Karumba. It has been needed for years and the Government has run away from providing it.

Point No. 16—Complete review of the training of apprentices.

While more than 80 per cent of Queensland's unemployment falls in the unskilled category, there are corresponding shortages in some areas of skilled tradesmen. It is a Government responsibility to ensure that this State has ample trained employees to meet future developmental demands and, in doing so, reduce the level of unskilled persons out of work. A Labor Government

will initiate a searching review of the present system in conjunction with employers, trade unions and education authorities. In particular, we will look at the block-release training system that takes apprentices from their place of work for weeks at a time and influences many businessmen against their engagement.

The State Government itself is guilty of winding down its apprenticeship intake. I have here statistics from the Industrial Development Minister that show this year's estimated intake at 247 compared with 443 in 1975. In the Works Department the numbers in the two-year period have been cut back from 252 to 47. At a time of record junior unemployment when over 19,000 Queenslanders under 21 are looking for jobs, the Government plans to enlist 42 fewer new apprentices than those completing their training.

The Employment Planning Commission would be asked to consider—

- (a) a pool apprenticeship system with young workers indentured to the industry;
- (b) training schemes in educational establishments;
- (c) pre-apprenticeship courses;
- (d) special provision for country trainees;
- (e) the encouragement, with the agreement of trade unions, of adult apprenticeships.

Point No. 17—During seasonal downturns work should be undertaken in national parks on walking tracks and camping facilities used for both educational and tourist purposes.

It is worth recalling that many of our walking paths enjoyed by thousands in national parks such as Binna Burra are, in fact, a legacy of Government initiative during the depression of the 1930s. A similar programme in the current recession would retain displaced work components in areas concerned, reduce the drift to the cities and establish facilities for the reasonably priced recreational benefit of the community. Families would have amenities for holidays that may otherwise be outside their financial reach.

Point No. 18—Easing of excessive interest rates and credit restrictions.

Perhaps this may appear unrelated to the direct question of unemployment but the two are, in practice, indivisibly associated. When purchasing power or home construction diminishes through the upward fluctuation of interest charges, there must be an accompanying loss of jobs. In Queensland last year, interest rates, which the Liberal-National Parties in 1975 promised to reduce, rose three times, compelling a couple with a \$25,000 home loan to repay an extra \$7 a week in interest.

Likewise, rigid credit restraints enforced by the Federal Government through Reserve Bank call-ups can only have a negative effect on employment growth. There are small businesses tottering on the fringe of collapse, unable to secure credit necessary for their survival.

Point No. 19—State trade offices in Tokyo and other Asian centres.

As far back as the 1969 election campaign the State Government endorsed the need for a trade office in Tokyo. Eight years later, as our primary production markets wane in Europe and shudder uncertainly in Japan and the United States, that commitment has still not been honoured.

Year after year the Government has neglected its responsibilities to Queensland exporters. To maintain employment and produce new jobs—indeed, in too many instances to retrieve lost ones—it is essential that we establish an expert marketing mechanism. We must have highly qualified officers on the spot in Asia to discover and exploit available trade outlets.

I digress for a moment to emphasise the competitiveness of international trade. Several years ago, at the Democratic Party conference in America I was seated beside a delegate who was an executive of a major grain firm. Although it took four days at that time to receive a letter from Queensland, he was able to tell me it had rained a day or two earlier in Emerald. Later that same delegate informed me that his company maintained a world-wide monitoring service to learn where to buy grain cheaply as a result of gluts and sell profitably because of shortages. That is the type of export challenge we must accept and meet.

Labor will establish the trade office in Tokyo that the Government promised but failed to deliver. We will also open offices in other Asian centres—for a start, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Point No. 20—Investigate means of assistance to small businesses and rural industries.

To a degree this aspect has been covered by some of my previous suggestions. But I believe it must be stressed that 42 per cent of employed Queenslanders are dependent on small business and that townships scattered throughout the State rely on rural prosperity for their existence. Governments must recognise that, when small business and primary industries flounder, the entire community suffers the side-effects.

Only recently, for instance, in the North local tobacco quotas were cut—threatening the livelihood of many districts—while imported leaf, a lot of it from America, streams into the country.

Labor will consult on a regular basis with small business and rural industries to determine ways in which we can help each other. Jobs lost through temporary recession, particularly in country areas, are often never retrieved.

I put forward the 20 points I have outlined as a series of suggestions to the Government in the present employment crisis. Many people with an intimate knowledge of employment trends and a desire for a prosperous Queensland have contributed long hours of study and thought towards their preparation.

I return once more to the late Ben Chifley and quote from a campaign speech of 5 October, 1949. Mr. Chifley said—

“Before the war—and for as many years back as we care to go—it was the usual thing to have 8 or 10 per cent of unemployment in Australia.

“That means want and degradation for the unemployed and their families. For those in work it meant ceaseless fear of losing a job. For business people it meant slack demand, low return and unsaleable stocks. For the farmer it meant low prices, unpayable debts and foreclosure on his property. For the community as a whole, it meant wasted wealth, a falling birth rate, frustration and bitterness.”

How closely those words of Ben Chifley's 28 years ago resemble the situation confronting us today. We have our highest unemployment since that speech in 1949, an unemployment level that, according to predictions, may pass the 7 per cent mark. And already in our schools there is a backlog of frustrated students from last year soon to be supplemented by a fresh batch of young job hopefuls.

I believe people of community influence must strive together for a satisfactory solution, and this 20-point plan is presented in that spirit of co-operation.

It is no comfort for the unemployed for the Liberal-National Parties which promised employment recovery 19 months ago, to now look backwards and blame Gough Whitlam.

I note that in his Speech of Tuesday to this Parliament the Governor said—

“There is reason for confidence that the employment position in Queensland will improve in the months ahead particularly in comparison with the rest of Australia.”

I hope this prophesy proves correct but can't avoid suspecting that it is window-dressing by the Government to conceal its failures in the shadow of an election.

Yesterday's “Courier-Mail” newspaper, under a very misleading banner headline hinting at job recovery, reported in a few paragraphs that unemployment is worse than last year and far worse than the year before

when the Liberal-National Parties found it fashionable to blame the Federal Labor Government.

The figures upon which the article was based reveal, in fact, a far slower rate of job recovery than normal between January and June—11.9 per cent compared with 29.9 per cent in the same period 12 months ago. This always happens between January and June. Anyone looking at the figures for the past three years will see that. More and more Queenslanders are staying unemployed for longer and longer periods. The truth is that as Australia experiences its worst unemployment in over 30 years the Queensland figure month after month remains above the national average.

There are students in our schools who would prefer to be in jobs; others in occupations not of their choice; women at home who would rather be at work if only jobs were available; and metal workers dismissed from positions they had held, in some instances, for 20 years. Small business is depressed; the beef industry on its knees; and sugar growers are struggling against the aggression of Japanese refiners to retain a contract not due to expire until 1980. It is a time when politicians, management and industrial leaders should be able to co-operate and consult instead of being forced into rival camps by manufactured political confrontation.

Only a few weeks ago on radio I heard the Premier describing as “stable” unemployment levels that are 30 per cent higher than they were two years ago. I can only imagine with this type of illogical reasoning he will find them favourable if they rise a further 30 per cent and soar beyond the 7 per cent point in January. Perhaps he is an adherent of the theory that it is a comfort to have 6 to 8 per cent of the workforce out of jobs to keep the fear of the sack in the minds of the remainder. That was another point Chifley made in his 1949 speech—that there are a lot of people in the community who believe—

**Mr. Lowes:** People didn't accept the Chifley speech in 1949.

**Mr. BURNS:** The fact is that he was pointing to the philosophy of the honourable member's party and the honourable member is espousing that philosophy today. I have never heard of his doing one thing about unemployment. I have not heard him say one word in this Parliament on behalf of the unemployed.

**Mr. Lowes:** I have employed people and I have paid them award wages.

**Mr. BURNS:** The Premier's lack of interest in the employment situation and his relentless pursuit of industrial disruption instead of industrial calm make me realise that he is not interested in the workers. There are thousands of Queenslanders out of work today.

There are thousands of Queenslanders today—more than at any time since the war—who would welcome the opportunity of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, but they don't get that opportunity. In 1975 before the federal election the National-Liberal Parties promised to reduce unemployment. They have not only failed to honour that undertaking but, in the process, have thrown thousands more onto the job scrap-heap, and now they seem content to leave them there.

I thank the House for its tolerance, and hope sincerely that some of the suggestions submitted on behalf of the Opposition will help retrieve a situation that, under Liberal-National Party Governments in both Canberra and Queensland, has rocketed wildly out of control in the past 19 months.

**Mr. YEWDALE** (Rockhampton North) (12.36 p.m.): I have pleasure in seconding the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I believe that the scheme placed before the House this morning by my leader merits a great deal of consideration because a lot of work was put into arriving at those conclusions. Over the past 12 to 18 months the Government has done very little about unemployment. Certainly the scheme proposed by the Opposition should be given serious consideration.

One of the proposals put forward in the last few days relates to the voluntary retirement plan for public servants. The proposed scheme, which is worthy of further mention by me now, would create 1,000 jobs and cost the Government about \$3,400,000. At the present time there are about 50,000 public servants in the superannuation scheme. Under the proposed scheme some 1,500 public servants between the ages of 60 and 65 years would be able to retire early. It is obvious that people in all avenues of employment are looking for early retirement. The trend towards early retirement from the Public Service is indicated by the fact that in 1975-76 early retirements rose from 104 to 144, and it is estimated that the number will reach 180 in 1977-78. The Opposition scheme is for optional retirement, and it is a pertinent point that early retirement would not be compulsory. With 49,000 men, women and young persons out of work in Queensland, this would be a good way to open the door for many young people to enter the Public Service. I trust that after the election when we become the Government we will be able to implement the scheme.

When one looks further into the problem of unemployment one finds that 70 per cent of unemployed persons in Queensland are receiving unemployment benefits. With the creation of 1,000 jobs, 700 persons could be taken off the dole. That would mean that the Federal Government would save \$45,500 a week in unemployment benefits, which represents \$2,400,000 annually. Taxation benefits to the Federal Government from those 1,000

jobs would amount to \$39,000 a week or about \$2,000,000 a year. Overall, with the creation of 1,000 jobs, the return to the Federal Government would be worth \$4,400,000.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the manufacturing industries and their plight in Queensland. In 1975-76 Queensland imported from interstate \$1,310 million worth of goods. Our interstate exports totalled \$430,000,000. In interstate trade, therefore, Queensland had a deficit of \$880,000,000. Such a situation is a drastic one particularly for the manufacturing industries. Our total overseas trade deficit stood at \$110,600,000. Our total overseas and interstate exports stood at \$813,100,000. Our total overseas and interstate imports amounted to \$1,803.7 million. Our total overseas and interstate trade deficit stood at \$990,600,000.

For quite some time unemployment has been a topic of discussion in the Commonwealth and in Queensland. In fact, yesterday's "Courier-Mail", on its front page, carried the headline "11.9 p.c. drop in Queensland jobless". However, in the article the following statement is made—

"The figures show that the State's unemployment in June was 29.6 per cent higher than in June, 1975, and 25.9 per cent higher than in June, 1976."

I suggest that the headline was presented in that form deliberately by "The Courier-Mail", and that the figure of 11.9 per cent is only a factitious one. In fact the unemployment position in Queensland is not improving but is quite static. I suggest that over the next few months, with the end of the school year, the situation will become worse.

Prior to the election of the Fraser Federal Government the matters of unemployment and inflation were ones on which the Queensland Government went to the people. It suggested that these problems were pre-eminent in the minds of the Liberal and National Country Parties, and in fact Mr. Fraser's policy speech was riddled with that sort of attitude. The justification put forward for the Fraser grab for power, supported and engineered by the Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, was that it was the only means by which unemployment and inflation could be reduced. History shows, however, that the Federal Government has done little to relieve unemployment in the Commonwealth. Similarly, the Premier and his State Government have done very little to relieve the problem.

Within the last couple of weeks the Premier decided to have three of his Ministers look into the problem of unemployment in Queensland and come forward with some sort of analysis and suggestions to overcome it. Those Ministers are the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Campbell), the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and

Minister for Sport (Mr. Herbert), and the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities (Mr. Bird). The emphasis is to be placed on unemployment among our youth. The Government has taken a long while to get around to taking such action. I commend this action, but I have grave doubts about the reasons for it. I suggest that the Government has ulterior motives in calling for this analysis at a time a few months prior to a State election. I suggest this is only a cosmetic operation carried out by the Government at a time when unemployment will become a public issue during the election campaign. Unemployment, particularly among young people, is a matter for grave concern not only to the individuals affected but also to their families and the community at large.

The effects of unemployment are extremely widespread. First of all, there is the simple monetary cost of providing unemployment benefits. It is necessary to appoint supporting staff to provide these benefits. Unemployment costs money in the sense that it has to be administered. People are appointed to administer it, but all they are doing is perpetuating the problem. Something should be done to take unemployed persons off the dole and provide them with work.

Further indirect costs are incurred in the return to school of young persons who experience difficulty in finding employment. Many school-leavers who are unable to obtain employment are forced to return to school. All they are doing is draining the resources of the Education Department. Young people who go back to school simply because their parents do not wish to see them walking the streets or because they find it difficult to prove that they have been looking for work and that it is not available are faced with a dead-end situation. I believe that the young people in the community who are walking the streets contribute to the increased crime rate. When they do this, delinquency develops because they are frustrated and demoralised. The position cannot improve when children who left school six, 12 or 18 months ago cannot find work.

As I said earlier, it seems that the Government has been hiding its head under a bushel for a long time while the Opposition has been suggesting many proposals to develop labour-intensive work in the community which would give a fairly quick return to the Government. We have referred to the lack of sewerage in Ipswich and Townsville, the need for road-works in the North and the Mt. Isa area, and to the irrigation schemes at Bundaberg and Mackay that are being funded with only nominal amounts of money and have been delayed for years and years through lack of funds. Last year the Treasurer boasted proudly that he was able to balance his books. He had budgeted for a deficit of \$5,000,000 but because the wage

structure did not move as anticipated he gained a prize or a present of \$5,000,000. Apparently devaluation also gave the Government a windfall through the mining industry. But none of this money was put to use to create jobs in the community.

During the last recess I moved through some country areas, particularly in the Wide Bay district. I spoke to local authority people, regional directors and others in the area who told me that they would dearly love to get finance to carry out vital local government work. They spoke of the R.E.D. scheme, and one local authority chairman said very frankly and openly, "I don't care what title is given to money for the local authority; they can call it red, blue, brindle or black. I would like some money to finish off some of the works that have stopped because of lack of money provided under the R.E.D. scheme."

**Mr. Powell:** Which local authority chairman was that?

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I correct that. He was the mayor of Bundaberg. He made that statement publicly—in front of two other people with me, and about three or four of his aldermen.

**Mr. Powell:** I will verify that.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** The honourable member may go ahead and verify it. It is a fact of life that he said he would welcome money for works that remain unfinished within his city boundaries. That is the position in most other areas.

I spoke recently to the shire clerk of Burketown about money that was supposedly forthcoming for the damage done by the cyclone. He said that the red-tape delays in supplying the money were causing grave concern, that in Burketown the Housing Commission had placed stumps in the ground for the erection of houses and that they were still there but nothing further had been done although people were crying out for accommodation.

**Mr. Newbery:** How long ago was that?

**Mr. YEWDAL:** That was only a few weeks ago. The shire clerk was concerned because it is a fact of life that men will not stay in the shire to work when there is no accommodation for them in Burketown. Because the Government has not seen fit to provide accommodation it is very difficult to get the right type of people to stay in Burketown. The cyclone relief money has not been forthcoming.

When I was in Mt. Isa I made a comment to the media which, initially, the shire clerk denied. Later, the phones were buzzing, and they got onto the Treasurer (Mr. Knox). The only answer the Treasurer had for the shire clerk was that the shire had been approaching the wrong department—that it had got

its wires crossed. That was a complete cover-up. I feel sure that the department was to blame for the money not being provided.

The term "dole bludgers" has become a catchcry in these days of unemployment. But almost daily people come to us in our electorates complaining about the functioning of the Social Security Department and its requirements for qualifying for the dole. In Rockhampton, an organisation called S.L.U.M.P.—standing for School-leavers Unemployment Mobilisation Plan—was established. It is now in its second year. It has done a marvellous job in getting young people together to explain to them how they should approach employers for jobs, how to present themselves and keep themselves in a proper, tidy fashion, but no jobs are available and these kids pound the pavement throughout the city, day in and day out, only to get the same answer. We were told by the Premier and by the Prime Minister that if the coalition parties regained the Treasury benches everything would be right because they would restore incentive to the private sector. To my mind, that incentive has not been provided. All the talk about what is going to happen in the employment of people relies predominantly on activity within the private sector. However, if the private sector is not prepared to provide employment—if it does not have confidence in this or the Federal Government—we will not see any improvement.

I turn now to the matter of apprenticeships. It seems to me that the Government is depleting the number of apprenticeships being offered. The relevant figures, which were referred to by the Leader of the Opposition a few minutes ago, show that the intake has dropped alarmingly. They are the Government's own figures—and I expect the number to drop even further. In the Main Roads Department maintenance shop in Rockhampton, which has quite a substantial labour force of tradesmen, not one motor mechanic apprentice has been taken on in the last seven years. That is in spite of the fact that several tradesmen are continually on maintenance and repairs. On the one hand the Government tells us it is time to do something about unemployment, but on the other hand kids available and willing at all times to take up apprenticeships are being denied the opportunity. The Government is not taking on the number of apprentices that it should.

In recent times the Minister for Works and Housing has seen fit to deplete his departmental work-force—and for his own obvious reasons. If tradesmen are not working, apprentices cannot be employed, because there must be a proportion of tradesmen to apprentices. So the public sector in Queensland, like the public sector federally (where, because of the Fraser Government's policy

of federalism, funds have been withdrawn), is being allowed to wither. If those policies continue, there will be no improvement in employment.

It is not much good "The Courier-Mail" producing false headlines about an 11.9 per cent drop in unemployment in Queensland when that is not factual. To my mind that is being used to favour the present Government. That newspaper would be better advised to propose schemes such as those that have been put forward by the Opposition to try to alleviate unemployment. If the Government does not do that, it will be answerable to the electorate.

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (12.53 p.m.): Naturally, I rise to oppose the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Lee:** It's laughable.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I agree that it is a laughable amendment. It is quite obvious that the Leader of the Opposition got his idea from the "Telegraph", which says—

"A campaign should centre around calling on Mr. Bjelke-Petersen to stop blaming Canberra, display unemployment as a State responsibility and evolve a positive Labor master-plan for recovery".

Apart from the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has taken this as a clue for his address today, it is interesting to note that that article sets out very clearly that Labor has no hope and that the people have no confidence in the Labor Party. They have no confidence whatsoever, as is demonstrated very clearly in this article.

However, let us get to the crux of the matter. Where did this whole problem of unemployment start? Who created it and perpetuated it? I remember very well that, when Mr. Whitlam assumed the office of Prime Minister, the inflation rate was 4 per cent and there was practically no unemployment. He did a tour around the world in a jet and, when he came back, it was 6 per cent. He called us all together in Canberra, as he did when it was 4 per cent, and we sat all day talking about unemployment and rising inflation. Then he did another trip around the world and, when he came back, it was 8 per cent. He called us all down to Canberra again and he said, "What are we going to do about this unemployment and rising inflation?" He said, "You in the States do it." Mr. Crean, who I think is a very likeable man, said, "It's your problem in the States. You fix it up." I said, "You said you could run the States because you controlled the economy. How can we do it in the wings when you are throwing money around like this?"

The Prime Minister then flew around the world again in a jet, looking at the ruins in Greece and Peru. He returned to Australia and inflation was running at 10

per cent and the unemployment figure had risen astronomically. He again called us together in Canberra. Again we sat for a whole day. He said, "I can't do anything about it. You will have to give me special powers. You will have to transfer all State powers to the Commonwealth. Then I might be able to do it."

We know that the people of Australia tossed out the Labor Party in Canberra lock, stock and barrel. The Labor Party in Queensland suffered the same fate. Many of its members were tossed out, and only a handful remain. This happened because the Queensland people knew very well that the A.L.P. members in Queensland had the same ideas and the same policies as those that had wrecked the Australian economy and created unemployment.

It was members of the A.L.P. in both Queensland and Canberra, when Labor was in office in Canberra, who encouraged the unions to go all out for higher and higher wages. Mr. Cameron said to the unions, "Get all you can get. Go for your life." And my word they did! The more that wages went up, the more people were put out of work. As industry was confronted with higher costs, all it could do was what it is doing today—put more people out of work. So today it is almost impossible, under the conditions of strikes and what-not, to provide employment.

Do you, Mr. Speaker, ever hear Opposition members, including the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy, saying one word on behalf of the men put out of work at Norwich Park and the other places?

**Mr. Houston:** They haven't been employed, so how could they be put out of work?

**Mr. Burns:** How many have been sacked?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The honourable member is trying to draw a red herring across the trail.

**Mr. Burns:** I rise to a point of order. I challenge the Premier to state how many people were sacked at Norwich Park.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The simple fact is that Utah announced publicly that it would cancel its operations.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Not once has any Opposition member said anything about the Seamen's Union and how it created this problem. Opposition members have encouraged the seamen. They have supported them and urged them to go ahead.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I have warned all honourable members that I will not tolerate persistent interjections from either side

of the House. I do not mind ordinary interjections but honourable members will not cross-fire as they have been doing, or I will deal with them.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Utah suspended the calling of all contracts which would have provided employment for 500 people. That was announced publicly. The honourable member knows that and has never said one word about it.

How can we provide employment when the Labor Party has adopted policies to create higher taxes? The honourable member was in Perth and did not say one word against that proposal. The Labor Party stands behind sales tax and capital gains tax. Of course the A.L.P. won't gain office, but if ever it did, how could it provide employment when it has policies like that? The A.L.P. is committed to those taxes and not one word has been said about them. Did A.L.P. members ever say anything about Fraser Island when they set up a committee that came up with a recommendation that destroyed the jobs of 400 or 500 people directly employed and hundreds of other people indirectly employed? Of course they didn't. They are the people who supported it and set up the committee that made the recommendation.

**Mr. Burns:** I rise to a point of order. I did not set up any committee on Fraser Island. I was the first member of this Parliament to go to Fraser Island when the men were sacked. Government members were sitting here, together with the honourable member for Maryborough, when I was in the town that night.

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

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Everybody knows Labor's record in this regard. Labor members turned a complete somersault the other day because an election was coming up. They were trying to hoodwink some people.

Labor members have gone along with all of the militant unions that are run by their Commo friends. They have backed those people and have never criticised or condemned them.

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

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (2.15 p.m.): The present debate deals with an amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition which expresses a lack of confidence in the Government. The Premier has replied and I intend to support his remarks to ensure that the people of Queensland know and understand who is responsible for any lack

of confidence that there may be in the community over the way in which the State is moving.

I want to say that the majority of the people of Queensland have great confidence in the Government of this State, as was revealed by the Labor Party's own survey. They wanted to find out whether they could win back seats that they lost at the last State election. They spent an enormous sum of money to discover that not only could they not win the election but they would not win back the seats lost on the last occasion. That, of course, is an indication that the people of this State have great confidence in the Government and approve of the way in which the State is being governed. That survey showed that even Labor voters thought that there was very little wrong with the way in which the Government is managing the affairs of the State. That is what the Labor Party discovered from their studies and I assure you, Mr. Speaker, and you may assure His Excellency, that his advisers enjoy not only the confidence of the House but also the confidence of the people.

**Mr. Ahern:** They'll have to bring back Jack, I think.

**Mr. KNOX:** I think there have been attempts to bring back Jack, but, with the honourable member for Mackay looming large on the scene, there is little opportunity to bring Jack back. He is being squeezed out of his seat almost every day. There is more concerning the honourable member for Mackay which will be told later in the debate.

So far as unemployment, which is the gravamen of the argument presented by the Leader of the Opposition, is concerned, at the conference of the Labor Party in Perth, which the Leader of the Opposition attended, that party established as policy, led in this matter by Mr. Hurford, the Opposition spokesman on these matters in the Federal House, that a high level of unemployment would continue in this country regardless of the Government in office.

**Mr. BURNS:** I rise to a point of order. I do not like to hear misquotations. What the Treasurer said is not true. That was rejected by the conference. I think the Treasurer ought to stick to the truth.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Treasurer to accept the explanation of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. KNOX:** I accept the explanation of the Leader of the Opposition, who, I presume, was present at the debate and voted one way or the other on this subject. What is amazing is that the Labor Party conference would consider such a matter at all.

**Mr. Burns:** It rejected it.

**Mr. KNOX:** The conference also carried by a majority of one vote a motion to allow the establishment of an Omega base in this country. One vote! I wonder if that was the vote of the Leader of the Opposition?

**Mr. Burns:** They carried it.

**Mr. KNOX:** It was not the vote of the Leader of the Opposition because he voted against it.

**Mr. BURNS:** Again I rise to a point of order. That is another untruth. If the Deputy Premier cannot talk about unemployment and the other problems of Queensland, he should at least stick to the truth. I voted in favour of the Omega base.

**Mr. KNOX:** It is now a matter of record that the Leader of the Opposition voted for the motion. Apparently I was misinformed. We still have to see the records of the Labor Party conference in Perth which will no doubt show whether the Leader of the Opposition is right or wrong in what he says.

There is one issue that the Leader of the Opposition claimed in his speech that he championed, that being the continuation of mining on Fraser Island. We all know, and the records are available in the Parliamentary Library to be consulted, that the Leader of the Opposition was the spokesman on behalf of the A.L.P. who appeared before an inquiry to recommend that mining on Fraser Island cease forthwith regardless of what restrictions were imposed.

**Mr. BURNS:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr. KNOX:** The Leader of the Opposition cannot deny that; the records can be produced.

**Mr. BURNS:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I did not appear before any inquiry to ask that mining cease forthwith. I went before the warden's inquiry prior to any mining being started. It was the Liberal-National Party that closed the mining on Fraser Island.

**Mr. KNOX:** The Leader of the Opposition is playing with words. I did not say it was a Royal Commission, I said it was an inquiry.

It was a warden's inquiry and the Leader of the Opposition appeared before it. The transcript shows that the Leader of the Opposition pleaded with the warden to stop the mining on Fraser Island.

**Mr. BURNS:** I rise to a point of order. I did not appear and plead that the mining be stopped. There was then no mining on Fraser Island.

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

**Mr. KNOX:** We are being treated to a lot of opinions from the Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps he would care to give us his opinion about the export of uranium. I understand he is opposed—

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I have said before that honourable members on my left will cease their persistent interjections. If they do not, I shall have to deal with them. They will have their opportunity to speak, as will everybody else. I ask for the co-operation of all members, or I shall have to deal with them.

**Mr. Marginson:** What about unemployment?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Wolston knows the rules of the game, and he will be the first one to leave the Chamber if he does not behave himself.

**Mr. KNOX:** No doubt the Leader of the Opposition will tell us where he stands with regard to the export of uranium from this State. I understand he is opposed to it. Perhaps he will be able to quote some record which shows I am wrong on that issue, too. Apparently not, because as we all suspect, he and the party which he leads are dedicated to disruption. The A.L.P. is not genuinely interested in the welfare of the people. It used to be a party that was concerned about the welfare of people, but it is no longer interested in this subject. It is more interested in trying to make political points and in obeying the rules and dictates of people outside Parliament. When the Leader of the Opposition put up his list of candidates the other day to try to improve the image of the Labor Party in this State, they were completely rejected. So this is the situation in which he now finds himself, a prisoner of the Left Wing of his party, unable to move and unable to make decisions in his own right.

**Mr. Burns:** Your story has touched my heart.

**Mr. KNOX:** I am sure it has. I do not know what the Leader of the Opposition intends to do about his problems but one thing is absolutely certain: at the next State election it will be shown that the people of Queensland have no confidence whatsoever in his party. In fact, there is every prospect that he is going to lose some of his colleagues.

Let us have a look at what his party is now espousing. It is now prepared to sell itself out to the Left Wing. It is prepared, as it was three years ago, to go along with Whitlam and his policies; policies which cost them dearly in the electorate. They are prepared to allow the welfare of Queensland to come second and they are prepared in many ways to betray their own colleagues if this is necessary in order to save their own political

skins. This is the sort of party that the Labor Party has now become. The Leader of the Opposition is a nonentity, a non-thing in the community, because the people no longer regard the Labor Party as the party of reform and social progress. That, of course, has been revealed in all the studies conducted by the Labor Party.

**Mr. Burns:** 11 per cent Bill!

**Mr. KNOX:** I do not care if my rating goes down to zero. The Leader of our Government is Joh Bjelke-Petersen. He is the leader of our Government and he has the faith and unanimous support of every single member of the Liberal Party. The Government which the Premier leads, the Government which I support, and the Government of which I am the Deputy Leader is going to win the next election handsomely. The interests of the people of this State, even the interests of the people who do not vote for us, will be benefited by the decision that the electorate makes about the continuance in office of this Government. That will be the decision made by the people of this State, and the Leader of the Opposition will be fighting for his survival in his own party. He is expendable, just as his predecessor and his predecessor's predecessor were expendable to the people who manipulate the party from behind the scenes. That is the way it operates for him. The people of this State don't want to see a Government that is answerable to people outside Parliament. The people of this State want a Government that is prepared to accept responsibility for governing and a Government that is prepared to answer for itself in this House or any other forum that is provided. That is what we are prepared to do.

Queensland is one of the States where the people of Australia wish to come and live permanently. For the last 16 years people have been drifting to Queensland to live. Why is that? Because of the sort of government provided, the sort of philosophy that comes from the Government that runs this State. We are the lowest-taxed people in Australia; we have the lowest level of unemployment in the country. In New South Wales the colleagues of honourable members opposite are just about wrecking the place with their policies. About one-quarter of the export income of this nation is earned in Queensland. Queensland's contribution to the welfare and development of the nation is quite outstanding. This has come about as a result of our direct Government decisions to encourage private enterprise and the development of our State—something that an A.L.P. Government would never have done.

What did we find when we took office in 1957? We found the Weipa agreement that had been shelved. Why was the Weipa agreement shelved? Because it was not a nationalised operation. No Government could have afforded to develop Weipa in

the way in which the A.L.P. Government wanted to develop Weipa, so the agreement was shelved. We got the thing going. Gladstone and all these other developments came out of it. They all came out of it because we had a different philosophical approach. That is the way the State has developed, and that is why Australians want to come and live here. That is why it is a good State to live in, and it will continue to be while this Government is in office. There is no way in the world that the philosophies of the A.L.P. will be acceptable to the people of this State.

Question—That the words proposed to be added to the Address (Mr. Burns's amendment) be so added—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 10

Burns  
Casey  
Dean  
Houston  
Jones  
Marginson

Wright  
Yewdale

Tellers:  
Hooper, K. J.  
Prest

NOES, 49

Ahern  
Akers  
Alison  
Armstrong  
Bertoni  
Bird  
Bjelke-Petersen  
Byrne  
Camm  
Campbell  
Chinchen  
Deeral  
Edwards  
Elliott  
Frawley  
Gibbs  
Goleby  
Greenwood  
Gunn  
Gygar  
Hales  
Hewitt, W. D.  
Hodges  
Hooper, K. W.  
Hooper, M. D.  
Kippin

Knox  
Kyburz  
Lee  
Lickiss  
Lockwood  
Lowes  
Miller  
Moore  
Muller  
Neal  
Newbery  
Porter  
Powell  
Row  
Scott-Young  
Simpson  
Small  
Tenni  
Turner  
Warner  
Wharton

Tellers:  
Doumany  
McKechnie

PAIR:

Melloy

Tomkins

Resolved in the negative.

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (2.40 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, now that we have dismissed that rather childish bit of nonsense, we can get back to the real business before the House. It gives me a great deal of pleasure and a very deep satisfaction at this stage to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, to pay our homage to the new Governor and to his lady—I am sure they will be a very real success in the State—and at the same time to pay a tribute to Sir Colin and Lady Hannah, because they were indeed ornaments for the State, they did a wonderful job and were much liked and appreciated by everybody in the State from one end of it to the other.

The Address-in-Reply debate, with its formalised type of motion suggesting our belief in the institution of the Crown and its proper

place in the government of this State, is a rather fitting time to reflect on the fact that the A.L.P. has a peculiar and fond belief that our community is ready for the overthrow of the system of constitutional monarchy that has served us so well for so long. The A.L.P., white-anted and riddled as it is by Communists, seems to believe that we are moving towards a republican system of government. There is no survey, no poll, no election, no event which can possibly sustain it in that belief; but in some strange way its members have it firmly fixed in their minds that this will happen.

All I want to say to the Opposition is to watch what happens at the election later this year, because we on this side of the House are firmly and irrevocably committed to the system of constitutional monarchy, with the Queen as Queen of Queensland as well as of Australia. If our aspirations and our beliefs have any validity, it should show up in the election. If it does, I hope they will be good enough when they come back in their tattered numbers to this House after the election to admit that they have been wrong once again.

I want to say, too, how much I enjoyed the speeches of the mover and the seconder of the motion, the members for Warrego and for Belmont. It is another source of great satisfaction, certainly to people like me—I am not as young as I used to be by a long chalk—to hear such splendid speeches by our young members, who are eloquent and intelligent and speak with an impulsion from sincerity and deep conviction. These are factors and attributes that are very much needed in this Parliament and it augurs well for our future that we have young members who can speak in this way.

The Opposition's attack has been dealt with summarily by the House—and that was all it deserved. It is a strange thing to me that always, in order to secure political capital, the Opposition believe that they have to denigrate the State. I cannot for the life of me conceive how they believe that is going to win them friends or influence people—or get them any votes. Indeed, the Leader of the Opposition is a tremendous crier of doom. He is always saying, "Woe is us. Woe is us." As a matter of fact, it is time he called "Whoa" to this sort of propaganda, because the facts are quite the reverse of what he tries to suggest they are.

He talks of unemployment. The plain fact of the matter, of course, is that unemployment is one of those issues that, once certain forces are set in motion, are very difficult to arrest. It is easy to get on top of the slippery-slide and start your way down, but it is very hard indeed to arrest the slide somewhere in the middle and clamber back. The Federal Labor Government set about deliberately to destroy the economy once it got in in 1972. It did the bull-in-the-china-shop act with great magnificence and, if

anybody believes all the pieces can be picked up and put together again in one year, two years, three years or even five years, obviously he does not know very much about economics.

There is no shadow of a doubt that the Whitlam Government sowed the wind when it was in office, and the whole of the Australian community is reaping the whirlwind. We will continue to reap the whirlwind until the main forces of inflation are curbed, controlled and contained. That is not going to be any easy task.

For the record, I think it is important to make the point that Queensland, far from being in a parlous state, far from being so downtrodden, so impoverished and so subjugated that people should be leaving here in droves and going to the other States, is in fact the strongest State in economic terms of all the Australian States. This is well shown in statistics, which are available in the Parliamentary Library. We have the fastest-growing export earnings in Australia. We have the fastest-growing population in Australia. We have the lowest State and local government charges. No other State touches us in this. We have the lowest public debt per capita. Are these signs of bankruptcy and impoverishment? Queensland is one of the few States able to accomplish all of this and present what is a reasonably balanced Budget.

In sharp contradistinction to the picture of doom that the Leader of the Opposition and his supporters like to paint, the picture in Queensland is very good indeed. To concentrate on unemployment alone is to ignore the fact that this State, until the advent of this Government, was plagued with recurrent seasonal unemployment of very high proportions. We have markedly enlarged the area of industrial and service production in this State to the extent that we now have a very large sector of our work-force involved in these areas, and we have the stability that goes with this. So the picture is very different from the one the Leader of the Opposition wants to paint.

In an election year, one must look at the speeches made by the Opposition. There can be little doubt that what is said in this House is really what will be presented to the people as an electoral platform, a reason why people should vote against the Government and vote for the Opposition. When the Leader of the Opposition attacks us in economic terms (and attacks us quite falsely, as I pointed out, because the facts are there to be seen), we wonder what would be his remedy for all of the ills that he alleges—only alleges, but does not prove. His remedy sticks out a mile. It is the old tried and trusted one for the socialists—more Government spending, more jobs in the public sector. What does that mean? More taxation, more inflation, greater pressure causing more collapse of the private

sector, more intolerable burdens for the small businessman—all of them ending inevitably in fewer jobs. An Opposition is totally bankrupt of ability when it believes that economic salvation lies in everybody taking in everybody else's washing. There is no future in it at all.

Of course, one recognises that the A.L.P. leader—the Leader of the Opposition—is totally hidebound and constrained by the determinations of his party. It is only a very short time ago that the A.L.P. met in its annual conference at Perth and wrestled with mighty problems. I should like to say that the mountain laboured and brought forth a mouse. The A.L.P. these days is only a hillock and it was certainly a very little mouse that it brought out.

What was the net result of the Perth A.L.P. conference? It showed that the A.L.P. had learned nothing whatever from past history—nothing at all—because the panacea that it produced in a series of interlocking resolutions about the Australian system and the Australian economy was, "When we get into office we will give you socialism as before. The only change will be that we will not rush into it quite as fast as we did last time, because we know that we alarmed you. So we will give it to you in slightly easier and slower doses and maybe you will take it better." There was absolutely nothing new. It was merely an attempt to allay fears by saying, "We will not club you over the head overnight. We will give you a bit of poison every second day." There is no real change.

**Mr. W. D. Hewitt:** Their shadow Treasurer said that full employment is no longer their policy.

**Mr. PORTER:** They recognise, of course, that they have created a situation in which reliance on Government spending makes the prospect of bringing unemployment back to acceptable levels a complete impossibility for them. But it is not an impossibility for us. Once we get inflation under control, the prospect of bringing unemployment back to its level prior to 1972 is very real.

Having presented this picture of a totally committed socialist and centralist Labor Party, the only change being in tempo ("We'll do it a little slower but we'll still do it"), they capped it on the last day of the conference by deciding to ban the production and transport of uranium and its export from this country. Mr. Hawke and Mr. Whitlam have since tried to soften that blow by saying, "No, we haven't really banned it; we've only deferred it for two years." Two years is a long time in world events and already the market for uranium is not what it was, as more and more countries move into the stage of using fast breeder reactors and fissile elements to produce plutonium which in its turn produces nuclear power with less nuclear fuel such as uranium.

The market for uranium will not then remain as it is now. Australia's putting itself out of this market is one of the great nonsenses of this age.

All the people who talk about the dangers of the production and export of uranium are people who are whistling against the wind. Of course there are dangers in the production and use of uranium, but there are dangers in the use and production of everything that changes the course of human progress. The arguments adduced against uranium were undoubtedly those used when someone discovered the wheel or when somebody discovered the bow and arrow which outstripped the spear. No doubt they were advanced when gunpowder was discovered and when looms were invented. Indeed, one might fairly say that the Labor Party, the Left Wing and all those who are against the production of uranium are the Luddites of the 20th Century.

The A.L.P., so riddled and white-anted by Communists and the extreme Left Wing, makes great play with the Left-wing unions of wanting Australia out of the production of uranium. It does not want the production of any nuclear power at all in this country. But, of course, it says nothing at all at any time about the enormous surge forward in the use of nuclear power, uranium reactors and fast breeder reactors in countries such as Russia and satellite countries under Russian control. The theory is that we should get out of this field and allow Russia and its allies to have absolute supremacy in it.

Not for me! I am totally for the concept that uranium should be produced and exported and that there should be a movement into the production of nuclear power in this country.

I have used the Address-in-Reply debate on each occasion in the last 11-odd years to speak about the problems of operating a federal system because in all the years in which I have been in politics, markedly in the years in which I have been on the parliamentary side, I have seen a tremendous and most distressing erosion of the federal system. I have witnessed a growing imbalance between the Parliament in Canberra and the Parliaments in the various States. I have seen developing a quite intolerable use of what I call the exotic constitutional powers of the Commonwealth. I refer to such matters as the use of tied grants, the use of treaty-making powers and so on to transform the federal system into a unitary system. I do not deny that this happened before Labor assumed office and it is happening after Labor has left office.

Mr. Casey: It was started by John Gorton.

Mr. PORTER: I readily accept that and I am on record as speaking about it at the time. What I want to point out is that what was a trickle up to 1972 has become a flood.

Let it be remembered that up to the time of his retirement Sir Robert Menzies made two very notable efforts to return real sovereign powers to the States by giving them back their taxing powers. But they would not take them. His attempt to halt the progression of power from the periphery to the centre was not entirely because he wanted it to be so. But certainly after his attempt there has been a marked tendency for whoever controls Canberra to want to put the power into Canberra, and what was, as I say, a trickle up to 1972 became a torrent or a tidal wave over the ensuing three years.

In Mr. Whitlam's time Big Brother Canberra was to reign supreme. Fortunately for us all his Government overreached itself and the people became so appalled, so frightened and so outraged that they rejected the A.L.P. centralists totally; they tossed them out neck and crop. They were annihilated at the 1975 election to an extent that their defeat was infinitely more humiliating than any other party has suffered in any other election in the whole of our national history. The people of Australia just do not believe that all wisdom resides in Canberra, although the people in Canberra seem to believe that this is so and that therefore, with all wisdom residing in Canberra, all real power should also reside in Canberra. Well, the people of Australia do not accept that, and most certainly the people of Queensland do not.

Believe me, Mr. Speaker, to those of us not only here but throughout Australia who thought that with the advent of the Fraser Government in 1975 a new day would dawn for federalism in Australia, it was a matter of very deep distress to discover that in fact in many important areas this is not happening. An alarming tendency has been developing over recent times, culminating in the recent referendums, for our people in Canberra to be touched with the Whitlam mania, believing that anything Canberra does must be better and therefore that they should be permitted to do it; that any opinions and policies that Canberra produce must be produced by cleverer people than one can find in any of the States and therefore they should supersede and take precedence over any of the programmes and policies initiated by the States.

We have had a whole series of incidents where matters which properly should belong to the States have been taken over by arbitrary, unilateral action by a Federal Government. Take, for instance, the Torres Strait border dispute. Now, what was this? No more than a crude attempt by the Federal Government to give away part of Queensland. And why? In my view, the total reason for this was to try to help Mr. Somare make certain he would win his election. In the event it probably would not have meant anything, but in fact there

was no consultation with Queensland on this; there was no attempt to discover the extent of Queensland's feeling and there was no real consideration of the issues or the people in the area who are to be handed over to the people of New Guinea like so many counters in a game of draughts—none at all! It was completely arbitrary, completely unilateral and unutterably stupid because this will never come about. The Torres Strait border will not be shifted.

We had another instance with a body which was set up in order to assist with the problems that inevitably grow when we try to return to some aspects of a federal system with sovereign taxing powers for the States. There was set up by agreement between the State Governments and the Federal Government in early 1976 a council for intergovernmental relationships. When it was first set up it was going to be a body of 27 people and the States would have 12 members. In other words, they would have 44½ per cent of the total membership.

That was very reasonable; that looked like a body which might help. What happened? A conference of Ministers was held two or three months later and the Federal boys at this conference suddenly plonked down a new scheme for restructuring this body. Under this scheme the States' share of membership went down to 31.5 per cent, less than one-third of a body that was supposed to assist the smooth working in a federal scheme of the partner States with the Federal Government.

But that was not the end of it. Only about a month after that the Prime Minister suddenly announced that it was to be restructured again. This time the States' share went down to 26 per cent. So six States were to be represented by 26 per cent of the members, but the members to be appointed by the Federal Government, in terms of its own direct representation and the citizens' representatives that it would appoint, went up to 48 per cent. That sort of nonsense of pretending that the federal system is going to be made to work, and at the very moment of talking about it providing machinery to make sure that it won't work, because there will be arbitrary control from Canberra, is not only mischievous but stupid. It achieves nothing.

All of us will remember the Fraser Island situation. Whatever one believes about the requirements of conservation, no-one in his right senses can accept that the Federal Government has the right to use, again without any consultation with the States, an entirely different power in the Commonwealth Constitution—its power to grant or withhold export licences—to achieve a conservation end. Conservation is totally within the State's province. This was Federal domination at its rudest and crudest. Again what appals me is the unutterable stupidity of it

all. The Federal Government evoked a reaction which to this day has not abated very much at all.

There are other factors, too. Take the Grants Commission role. We had an announcement made about two months ago. Again this was a totally unilateral move, forcing on the smaller States a tax-sharing determination which, in view of the Grants Commission's role in adjudicating on disabilities, must favour the bigger States and disfavour the smaller States. But the Federal Government went ahead with its proposition, despite the fact that the four Premiers of the smaller States, including two Labor Premiers, were violently opposed to it at the Premiers' Conference preceding the last one. So the Grants Commission's role is again to be that of a body which is designed to ensure that in a so-called federal system the Federal Government will be supreme.

Then, of course, we had the case of the recent referendums, which were all aimed at large-scale changes in the powers of and the relationships between the Commonwealth and State Governments. The holding of such referendums was never discussed by the Federal Government with the States—certainly it was never discussed by Mr. Fraser with his colleague Premiers. The result was that the Fraser Government went ahead with its referendum proposals and sowed the seeds for deep and lasting interparty dissensions. And they did exist. It also marched on to what in my view—and I said it in this House—was an inevitable defeat. Mr. Fraser won three minor questions, one of them dealing with the filling of a casual Senate vacancy being couched in such gobbledegook that if ever a case got to the High Court I believe the bench would laugh itself down to the nearest club or bar and forget all about it. But the major question to which an affirmative vote would have made the Senate a vassal of the House of Representatives was defeated.

In this Parliament, as the State campaign director for the "No" campaign, let me acknowledge the tremendous work done by my colleagues, particularly the Premier and the Deputy Premier, and by our Federal colleagues who stood manfully by the States, especially Senator Kathy Martin, who turned out to be an enormous fighter in a proper cause. But for the role we played here, I believe there would have been a prospect of its being carried. So let us congratulate ourselves that we turned a tide.

I mentioned these referendum results because I am enormously perturbed about the way in which that referendum was held. Of course it followed a pattern for conducting referendums, which seem to have grown apace over the last decade or so. That pattern is to present on the ballot-paper some slick writer's potted version of what the constitutional change is. In real

fact what appears on the ballot-paper is at best an extraordinarily incomplete representation of what the proposed constitutional change is. In the case of the last referendum, with four questions, it was a complete misstatement. Indeed, if any private company had put out a prospectus so deliberately misleading as the questions on the ballot-paper in this referendum it would have been prosecuted. Our Federal Government, and any Federal Government, should have the decency, the courage and the honesty to ensure that if it seeks a vote on referendum issues the voter is told what the constitutional changes propose.

The simultaneous election proposal, for example, was a patent fraud. Within 48 hours of its being decided I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Whitlam on a T.V. programme blithely demanding of the Prime Minister that he forthwith hold a simultaneous election. Only 48 hours before, he was in the zenith of declaring that we cannot do this unless we change the Constitution, that common sense, economy and everything else dictate that in order to get the two polls for the Reps and the Senate together the Constitution has to be changed. But as I say, within 48 hours all that nonsense and misleading propaganda had been put aside.

Mr. Whitlam was saying, in fact, "Look, Mr. Fraser, you have lost this. Now, have an election for the Reps and the Senate on the same day." The Prime Minister, who for his part had initiated the referendum and said that he simply must have this change, did what? Did he reject the demand on a matter of principle? No. He admitted that he could have such an election but he said, "I will make up my mind when I am going to have an election." There was no suggestion and no admission of the colossal amount of deceit and fraud that was practised with that referendum proposal.

The next question concerned the Senate casual vacancy. Anyone who took the trouble to read the proposed constitutional amendment would find that it did not, as the proposal on the ballot-paper said, guarantee that a party nominee must be endorsed by a Parliament to fill a vacancy. It just does not do that. The endorsement of a nominee is not mentioned in the jolly thing. There is nothing in the amendment to stop this Parliament if it wishes from doing not necessarily another "Albert Field" (let's be kind to friend Albert) but from putting in whomever it wishes if it receives an unsatisfactory nominee from a political party. This may now be challenged in the High Court and I would love to see it happen. I would hate to forecast what might be the result of it, but if the High Court says, "No, you cannot have him" we can go through the process *ad infinitum* and keep it going for from 3 to 6 years if we want to. There is nothing in the constitutional

change that will achieve the result that it was suggested it would achieve in the words on the ballot-paper.

The question on the territorians' voting rights carefully did not mention what in fact is a very significant aspect of the Bill, namely, that the number of voters in the territories will be taken into account in determining the number of voters which will appear in each State of the Commonwealth and the quota into which those numbers of voters in each State will be divided into seats. Anyone who knows anything at all about electoral redistribution—I flatter myself that I know a little—will recognise that that factor is a very potent one in determining how seats are likely to fall out.

The retiring age for High Court judges was touted widely. It was said, "Look, 70 years is a good retiring age for anybody. Why shouldn't judges be retired at 70 like everybody else in the community?" There is not one word in the constitutional amendment about a 70-year retiring age. After being misled by the propaganda, all that the people have done is to give a Federal Government of the day the power to determine at any time a retiring age for judges—any age. A future centralist, Left-wing political party could, if it wished, decide that the retiring age for High Court judges should be 55. It could toss the lot out in one fell swoop and put in its own nominees in order to get a High Court judgment that would suit some particularly fell purpose it had in mind. Indeed, I believe that Mr. Whitlam would have dearly loved to have had that power in the closing 12 months of his term of office.

The point I wish to make is that future referendums should be so handled that people know what they are voting for. If they voted for it then, that would be good enough. But to be diddled, to be tricked, or to be misled is a dreadful thing. And it does not matter which Government does it; it is to be condemned.

In the same tone, I hope that at the Constitutional Convention which the Prime Minister has indicated he will hold in Perth early in the new year, we in Queensland (perhaps through this Parliament) will put propositions before the convention that will affirm our faith on behalf of Australian and Queensland people in a positive way—by a positive series of amendments to protect the federal system.

I could say a great deal on the industrial situation but I will save most of it for another occasion. However, I will say to the House—and I do not think I am breaching any party-room secrecy—that yesterday the joint Government parties unanimously gave the Premier a resounding vote of confidence and support of his attitude to dealing with Mr. Hawke. He emerged—and I pay him full homage for it—as the one leader in Australia who has dealt with Mr. Hawke as

he should be dealt with. He just cut him down to size. He refused to see him in the role Mr. Hawke so fancies for himself, that is, as the monarch of a neighbouring kingdom who comes prepared to parley on his terms. Who is this Hawke? If honourable members are not sure, they should ask David Frost. I am sure he could tell them.

Finally, on the A.L.P.'s much vaunted poll, which the Deputy Premier so effectively commented on, I point out that it was an Australian Public Opinion Poll, which has been notorious throughout Australia over the years for over-valuing Labor's vote and under-valuing ours. It is not coincidence that, when the Labor Party seeks a poll, it employs this body. I remind honourable members that this body, when talking of the coming vote in the referendums, suggested that the "Yes" vote in Queensland for simultaneous elections would be carried by 62 per cent, and in fact it was only 47.6, and that the "No" vote would be only 38 per cent, when it was 52.3 per cent. So that, as recently as a few months ago, A.P.O.P. undervalued our side of politics by nearly 30 per cent and over-valued the A.L.P. side by a corresponding per cent. Honourable members can guess just what value should be attached to the propositions and findings it has produced concerning the coming State election.

**Mr. TENNI** (Barron River) (3.14 p.m.): I rise to support the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply. In doing so I congratulate both honourable members on the excellent way in which they moved and seconded the motion. I take this opportunity also to pledge my loyalty and that of the constituents of Barron River, whom I have the pleasure of representing, to Her Majesty the Queen. I congratulate our Governor on the splendid way in which he performed his duties in opening Parliament and letting the people of the State know exactly how this Government handles the affairs of the State. I wish him a very pleasant and exciting time in his new position. I also congratulate Sir Colin Hannah on the magnificent way in which he performed his duties while Governor of the State. I look forward to seeing Sir James in the Far North and particularly in that area which I represent.

**Mr. W. D. Hewitt:** God's own.

**Mr. TENNI:** It certainly is. It is one of the best parts of Queensland, and it is very fortunate to have members such as Roy Armstrong, Vicki Kippin, Eric Deeral and me representing it.

**Mr. Marginson:** And Ray Jones. He is up there, too, you know.

**Mr. TENNI:** Who is he?

The electorate of Barron River needed many important things when I won the election in December 1974. I am pleased to say that most of those have either been attended to or are presently being attended

to through construction or money being made available for work in the not too distant future. Later in my speech I will endeavour to list the achievements and to point to future requirements for that magnificent electorate and the wonderful people I represent.

The Barron River electorate is noted for its sugar-cane on the coastal belt and tobacco in the Mareeba area. My colleague the honourable member for Cook is responsible in the adjoining electorate for the area of Dimbulah. There is also a fairly large cattle population in my electorate, and we all know the problems associated with that industry. Mining, fishing, prawning, small crops and tourism make up the balance of the industries in my electorate, the coastline of which extends from Cairns to the Bloomfield River, where it joins the Cook electorate. The electorate covers approximately 1,810 square miles and is one of the prettiest electorates along the coast. It is just glorious, with the reef following the coastline. I know, Mr. Speaker, that you are a keen fisherman. I hope that one day I will have the pleasure of enjoying your company when fishing on the Great Barrier Reef. You will really enjoy it. In fact, you will never want to come back to Brisbane.

**Mr. Frawley:** He doesn't want to come here now. He wants to stay in Redcliffe.

**Mr. TENNI:** Of course. You represent your electorate of Redcliffe very well, Mr. Speaker. You are an excellent member of this House. It would just be a waste of time and money for a member of the Labor Party or anyone else to try to unseat you. However, Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will be in my electorate one day and that we will do some fishing together.

**Mr. Aikens:** He will cut up De Lacey and use him for bait.

**Mr. TENNI:** I don't think the fish would eat him.

We still have a few problems in Barron River. One of those is roads. However, they are not as bad as some of the Laborites make out, particularly since it has had the type of representation it has enjoyed for nearly three years. It was interesting to hear the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Tom Burns, make statements——

**Mr. Frawley:** You made a mistake there when you called him "Honourable".

**Mr. TENNI:** I did make a mistake. He is dishonourable, because he made dishonourable statements. He said that the National Party, or the old Country Party as it was known, does not look after the people of the country. He should read the little booklets sent to him by the Government and then he will see exactly where public money is being

spent on capital works in Queensland. I will quote some of those figures so that members of the Labor Party will know what is going on. In North Queensland \$1,407 was spent per head of population. In Central Queensland it was \$4,343; in South Queensland, \$1,296; and in Brisbane, \$1,290. The State average was \$1,633. Ignoring the Central Queensland figure the State average is \$1,300. I repeat that the figure for North Queensland is \$1,407. The higher amount for Central Queensland no doubt results from the mining development in that area, which calls for greatly increased spending in the public sector to provide for education (which this Government really supports), transport and hospital facilities for the increased population.

It is interesting to note the claim by the Opposition—as the previous speaker said, the white-ant-eaten, Communist-infiltrated Opposition—that the northern division is neglected by the present Government. If it is, let the Labor Party—the socialist party—try to prove that the figures I have quoted are wrong. They are true figures, which have been presented by the department. They are not wrong. They prove that the people of North Queensland and Central Queensland are getting a fair share of the money spent in this State. So the Leader of the Opposition has made statements that are far from the truth. The figures prove it.

The tobacco industry in my electorate is faced with a fairly large problem. The Labor Party, once again, has claimed how it would overcome the tobacco problem, if ever Labor were elected to power. I was informed by phone only this morning that the growers have received advice from the quota committee that there will be a 9.6 per cent short sell of the present crop. The figure for last year was 6.3 per cent. I am far from happy about that.

**Mr. Casey:** They promised it would be 8 per cent. Have they bumped it up again?

**Mr. TENNI:** No. That shows how much the honourable knows about the tobacco industry and quotas. One day I will sit down with him and show him. As a matter of fact, he knows very little about the cane industry. He makes all sorts of statements and doesn't know what he is talking about. If he listens, he might learn something today. That is the sort of blathering they go on with. He and the honourable member for Cairns ran all round the countryside making all sorts of statements. I could cut them to pieces. I could make them look like little boys. But I do not want to do that to the poor little fellows. There are only 11 of them. We have to have some sort of Opposition here. But the way they are going, they are getting rid of themselves. The honourable member has shown how much he knows about the tobacco industry. He made a silly statement again. If he

will listen for a while, I will tell him something about it. I would not like to listen to the comments that were made at the A.L.P. conference in Perth. What they said in Perth about what they want to do is worse than we are doing at present.

For the information of the honourable member for Cairns, I am not happy with Mr. Sinclair. I am not one of the people who hide behind trees or bushes. I come out into the open. I make it quite clear that I am very dissatisfied with the Federal Minister for Primary Industries (Mr. Sinclair). He will know about it because when he was in Mareeba at the invitation of the Federal member for Leichhardt, he made certain promises and he has not honoured those promises. I will cut him to ribbons just as I have cut A.L.P. members to ribbons when anything wrong is done in my area. They came up there spouting like a pair of barking puppy dogs, not knowing what they were talking about. Mr. Sinclair does not know much better. Perhaps in the near future we will have a new Minister in that portfolio who will do something for the people.

**Mr. Aikens:** They don't know the difference between sugar-cane and lawyer cane.

**Mr. TENNI:** That is right. That is probably why I saw the honourable member for Mackay sucking a piece of lawyer cane.

Let me make it quite clear that it is very difficult to sort out the problems in the tobacco industry. The only way to do so is to have a strong, solid Federal Minister for Primary Industry who will go to the manufacturers and say, "You will use 5 per cent more Australian tobacco in your cigarettes."

**Mr. Jones:** We told you to say that.

**Mr. TENNI:** I will quote what was said at the Perth conference. The honourable member does not know what his party is doing. He asked for it and now I shall tell him.

At the Perth conference the so-called famous A.L.P. members said that if they were elected to the Federal House they would decrease the import duty on imitation cigarettes (those with a wood content or something of that nature; I do not know whether they are made from the lawyer cane that the honourable member for Mackay was talking about a while ago!) and increase the excise on Australian-manufactured tobacco products in accordance with their tar content. We all know that when the Labor Party was in power in Canberra, they caused the present high prices of cigarettes and tobacco. I will admit that some States tax tobacco products but this State does not tax them at all. This Government looks after the people on the land.

I am telling the House about the tobacco industry. The honourable members for Cairns and Mackay know nothing about it so they should listen instead of yapping like puppy dogs. This Government does not impose State taxes on tobacco farmers; we look after them.

We do, however, have to do something in the Federal sphere to reduce the amount of imported leaf now used. I appreciate the necessity to look forward to another stabilisation scheme. That is most important. Something must be done to help the tobacco farmers in my electorate and in the electorate of the honourable member for Cook. He, too, is worried about them. As a matter of fact, we spoke about them today for quite a long time.

We know that at their conference in Perth the A.L.P. virtually pledged themselves to the destruction of the tobacco industry. There is certainly no hope for growers in the policies of the A.L.P. At that conference the A.L.P. said that they would place a total ban on all forms of advertising of cigarettes and tobacco if elected to government in Canberra. Such a ban would affect many more than those concerned directly in the tobacco industry. It is bad enough that such advertising has been lost to television and radio stations. A complete ban on advertising would hit every sporting organisation in this country.

Tobacco manufacturers give a great deal of money to sporting bodies. At the Mareeba rodeo three weeks ago a large sum of money—I am not sure of the figure but I think it was \$5,000—was given to increase the prize-money available. Football, cricket and tennis clubs have obtained money from tobacco manufacturers. By imposing a complete ban on the advertising of tobacco products the Labor Party would hit both the young and the old. Money would be taken out of the pockets of the youth of the nation by such a ban. A.L.P. members are asking people in their electorates to support them. The people are not so stupid that they do not know that their sons and daughters would be hit through their sporting activities by a decision of the A.L.P.

I must also point out that the A.L.P. Government closed down the C.S.I.R.O. establishment in Mareeba which was at that stage trying to develop a tobacco that had no effect at all on health. But the A.L.P. Government closed it down! That was another kick in the backside for the tobacco farmers whom the honourable member for Cook and I represent. So the A.L.P. should not come up to Mareeba spreading lies and untruths about what they are going to do for the tobacco industry. They have done nothing but kick it all the way. These are the sort of people who claim they represent the man on the land. Today the Leader of the Opposition tried to say we were not

looking after those on the land, but they are in real trouble if they have to rely on the Labor Party.

At the moment this Government is constructing a \$6,000,000 research station for the Department of Primary Industries in Mareeba. A contract has been let and stage 1, which is worth nearly \$2,500,000, is now under construction. It will cater not only for the tobacco industry but for all primary industries throughout the Far North. This also proves how untruthful the Leader of the Opposition was in saying that the Liberal and National Parties do not look after the man on the land. What a lot of rot!

**Mr. Frawley:** They couldn't lie straight in bed.

**Mr. TENNI:** They could not lie straight in bed if they tried.

Let me also point out that on the primary industry side in Mareeba a firm called Smorgens have bought what was once known as the Mareeba bacon factory. From the time they decided to take it over I have helped them to the stage where today where they are employing nearly 200 people instead of the 36 that were previously employed and are killing not 50 head per day but 395 to 400 head per day, which is a good thing for the people I represent. They are employing a fantastic number of people, paying them very high wages and giving them very good conditions.

On the mining side in my electorate we find tin and wolfram. From the beginning I helped R.B. Mining at Mt. Carbine to develop their mine. The population of Mt. Carbine has increased from 30 people to about 300 and the company intends to invest about \$12,000,000 in the mine and a mill to process the wolfram. It will be a computerised mill and will cost \$5,000,000. When it is completed early next year the Premier will perform the official opening. I am very proud of the way that this company has gone ahead. It employs a lot of people in my electorate and because of this I worked like hell to get the road to Mt. Carbine bituminised. The road was in a shocking condition but about nine months ago the remaining seven miles of road were sealed and it is now bitumen all the way. I must admit that R.B. Mining actually supplied the screenings and gravel to do the job. That is how good they were and how much they think of this Government.

This Government has seen fit to purchase the C.S.I.R.O. buildings in Mareeba to which I referred earlier. The Education Department now intends to use them for rural training and many other projects such as technical training and apprenticeship training. This also shows what this Government and the Minister for Education are doing for people in country areas. Yet we have

the Leader of the Opposition making all sorts of silly statements about the way this Government treats people in country areas.

I now want to discuss the schools in my electorate. I appreciate the fact that extra school accommodation is required in many electorates and there are some, as in my electorate, which are required urgently. But we all know there is only so much money to go around and that the most important jobs have to be done first. In my electorate a State school at Yorkey's Knob is required urgently. The beaches north of Cairns now have a permanent population of 7,000 people plus a floating population of caravanners and other tourists of 2,500 people. They need a pre-school and a primary school and we will get them. We are looking at land at the present time. Holloway Beach, with a present population of 2,500 persons, will develop with the construction of the new bridge across the Barron River, and that area will urgently need a school.

We now have approval for a free-standing library at the Mareeba Primary School, plus an office block for the teachers and four extra open-area teaching spaces. The Mareeba High School has had many new buildings provided over the last 2½ years. It is an excellent school.

In the near future with the development of the coastal part of my electorate at Port Douglas, consideration will have to be given to the provision of a school in that area. In its day the Labor Party got rid of the old one which used to be there. I congratulate the Ministers concerned, namely the Honourable Val Bird, Minister for Education and Cultural Activities, and the Honourable Norm Lee, Minister for Works and Housing.

We now have a new school out at Mt. Molloy. When I entered Parliament I was told that I would never get a new school for Mt. Molloy. But it is finished, and it is operating. It is a beautiful little school.

Mossman Primary School has just had a free-standing library provided. The Mossman High School will shortly be having an official opening of its home economics block, worth nearly \$750,000. That is just about completed.

Large alterations, extensions, libraries and what have you have been completed at schools at Myola, Rocky Point, Daintree, Bushy Creek and Freshwater.

This work has been carried out because I have been pushing for it. The teachers and the p. and c. associations have worked in with me, and we have got what the people want. A new pre-school has just been constructed at North Cairns. It is one of the most modern pre-schools in the area. Work has been carried out at Kuranda and Machan's Beach.

**Mr. Frawley:** They couldn't call you the barren member for Barron River as they did your predecessor.

**Mr. TENNI:** No way in the world. I am not barren for a start. I have been working like hell since I have been in politics.

What about police stations throughout the area? Mareeba has a problem because it is now the centre of a district. The police station there needs another floor. We will get it; it will come, but it can't come overnight because finance has to be considered. We had a deplorable state of affairs at the Mossman Police Station. I don't know what happened to representation in the past. I don't mean only in the last three, six or eight years. It was shocking. But that building has all been extended and done up. It is a beautiful little station now.

**Mr. Frawley:** He was too busy with real estate.

**Mr. TENNI:** It could be that. Approval has been given for an extension to the Kuranda Police Station. Two homes have been purchased in Mareeba for police accommodation. We urgently require more men for the Mossman Police Station. We need a detective and another constable. We need a four-wheel drive vehicle there so that we can handle the problems with drugs in that area. The Labor Party fellows wouldn't worry about that because they go along with drugs, pornography and all that type of thing. But we know that we have to control these things, and we know what we need to control them. The Minister for Police is looking forward to an increased Vote this year so that I for one can have extra men provided at the Mossman Police Station.

**Mr. Prest:** You must have a bad area up there.

**Mr. TENNI:** It was let go for so long because of the bad representation in the past. Which electorate does the honourable member represent? I hardly ever hear him in the House.

**Mr. Frawley:** Port Curtis.

**Mr. TENNI:** That's right. The previous member for that area was a real live wire, but I have never heard the present honourable member before. It is very nice of him to come out like that.

Let me talk about roads and bridges in my area. A new bridge over the Barron River is just about completed. New approaches on the north and south side are just about finished. We have a darn good engineer up there with the Main Roads Department. I went out with Dick Wharton, the district engineer for the Main Roads

Department, and the Northern District Commissioner, Doug Morton, and we chose a site for a new bridge over the Barron River further north which will be known as Kamerunga Bridge. That will be another new bridge in conjunction with the bridge over Avondale Creek, which will give the people from Mossman, the Tableland and the northern beaches an all-weather road. It will be a Q50 road, that is, one-in-50-years flooding. That is something that the previous Labor representative for the electorate tried to get but was unsuccessful. He could not get his story across. At least I got mine across. It is good to have the co-operation of the Minister, the district engineer and the northern and district commissioner.

The Rex Range road is another one that has been a disgrace. It is now under reconstruction. The narrow cuttings between Kuranda and Mareeba have been widened so that two vehicles can now pass there. Previously, trucks approaching one another could not pass in those cuttings.

Admittedly I want to see more work done on the road between Kuranda and Mareeba. I would like to see bitumen laid on the road. And I know that this will come because I will keep putting pressure on the Minister in my endeavour to represent the people of the Barron River electorate in the way they should be represented, not in the way they have been represented in the past. They will get what they want. They will get whatever they put forward to me and whatever I think is reasonable and warranted.

A little out-of-the-way and pretty place which the Premier has told me he would like to visit is the Daintree area. It has had an old dirt road since the year one. But now a new bitumen road is being constructed at a cost of \$750,000. Construction will be spread over the next couple of years. I have made sure that the Douglas Shire Council will be the constructing body so that the wages will be kept within that area. This is what should be done.

I have spoken to the Minister and the engineer concerning a problem associated with the road between Mareeba and the drive-in theatre on the Atherton road. I hope that this road will receive an allocation in the next Budget. It is old and has sagged and warped. Something must be done about it and there is no way in the world that I will let up until something is done.

Let me deal with the hospitals in my area. A total of \$5,000,000 is about to be spent on a new hospital at Mareeba. This expenditure has been approved. This shows what this Government thinks of the country. As well, a lot of work has been done at Mossman.

Some metropolitan members, particularly those on the Labor side, would not realise the problems associated with trying to keep

a dentist in a country hospital. This Government gave approval for the Mossman Hospitals Board to buy a house for the dentist there. He is happy, we are happy and the people of Mossman are happy. There is nothing worse than having an aching tooth and no dentist to attend to it. Thanks to this Government, we now have a dentist in Mossman. When the Labor Party was in power 20 years ago it did nothing like that.

When Labor was in power I frequently drove over the roads between Townsville and Cairns and I used to get bogged in black sand on the southern side of Cardwell. Anyone who has lived in the North for a long time would recall that. There was very little bitumen between Brisbane and Cairns but now bitumen stretches all the way. Certainly some sections of the road need widening or replacing, but at least motorists do not get bogged on that road as they used to when the socialist, communist-infiltrated Labor Party controlled this State.

I could talk about many things in North Queensland. However the very strong member for Townsville West wishes to participate in this debate, so I shall not occupy the whole of the time allotted to me. He and I, together with Eric Deeral, Vicky Kippin and Roy Armstrong, represent North Queensland. We are the North Queensland party. There's no need to talk about a new party in North Queensland. We already represent that area very strongly.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity of participating in this debate and of getting across to the member for Mackay some facts about the tobacco industry. He knew absolutely nothing about it until I mentioned it. He was sucking on a piece of sugar cane or bamboo or something. I look forward to having a similar opportunity of speaking to the Address in Reply in 12 months' time.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER** (Townsville West) (3.45 p.m.): In supporting the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I firstly assure Her Majesty of the continuing loyalty and support she will receive from the people of Townsville West whom I represent. At this stage I wish to congratulate Her Majesty on the appointment of our new Governor and his Lady (Sir James and Lady Ramsay). About three weeks ago it was our pleasure to have them in Townsville for the opening of the Townsville Show. In their two days there they met hundreds of local people. Sir James rubbed shoulders with men from all walks of life at the showground while Lady Ramsay endeared herself to hundreds of ladies whom she met at a morning tea and civic function. They were very well received in our area and we look forward to having them back in Townsville again in the not distant future.

Now that the Federal Government has achieved some measure of success in reducing inflation in Australia, the most urgent problem facing all governments is to reduce the high level of unemployment in our country. The time has passed for talking about the causes of the high unemployment level. Positive and constructive steps should now be taken to get Australians back to work. In fact, they are long overdue.

One of the greatest generators of employment is the building industry, which is sadly depressed in Queensland and the rest of Australia. If jobs can be found for carpenters and bricklayers, jobs will naturally follow for people in other industries such as labourers, plumbers, electricians and the thousands of men in factories who will manufacture the hardware and electrical equipment required for homes.

The most severely hit section of the building industry is the home-building industry—the cottage-building contractors. With rising costs and high interest rates, thousands of young families seem to have given up hope of ever being able to pay off their own homes. In Townsville, it is fair to say that the average worker's home, including land, would cost \$30,000. With the necessary deposit of \$5,000 for a building society, a young family has to pay about \$300 a month to meet instalment and interest payments. In recent months our State Housing Minister released \$7,000,000 at the reduced rate of interest of 7½ per cent for the purchase of new homes, with a maximum loan of \$18,000. In cases where applicants have had to arrange a second mortgage to bridge the gap between \$18,000 and the cost price of \$30,000, the total monthly repayments are still about \$300 a month.

**Mr. Jones:** That money has dried up now.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** It has temporarily, but more is to be made available.

The present level of home-building in the city of Townsville and the shire of Thuringowa, which I will refer to as the Greater Townsville Area, provides about 40 per cent of the acceptable level of employment in the cottage-building industry. The established growth rate of the Townsville area is 3.5 per cent a year. Based on a population of approximately 96,000 in the Greater Townsville Area, we will have to provide housing in the coming year for an extra 3,360 people. It is estimated that 960 homes or units of accommodation will be required to cope with the additional growth. Of this number of new units required, it is expected that the private sector will be called upon to provide about 860 houses or units, but the present rate of building is not higher than 300 units a year. Quite obviously the home-building industry in the Townsville area needs an injection of at least \$10,000,000 in the next year over

and above the present rate of lending if the private sector is to survive and a housing crisis in our city is to be averted.

I believe that the State Government could do more to help young families purchase their first homes. While I am not one who openly knocks the S.G.I.O. for investing in real estate, I believe that more of its funds should be channelled into co-operative building societies at a lending rate of not more than 10 per cent. This would still give an investment return higher than normally netted on real estate investments to satisfy shareholders. It would provide a much-needed stimulus for the building industry while at the same time reducing the level of unemployment in Queensland.

I am very impressed by the initiative shown by some city and shire councils in New South Wales. Under section 496 (a) of the Local Government Act in that State, local authorities are empowered to borrow money from banks and insurance companies purely for the purpose of advancing loans to citizens residing in the council areas. The money is borrowed at the current rate of 10.8 per cent and re-lent at the same rate to home builders. The scheme works on much the same basis as that of the co-operative building societies. If, for example, a council borrows \$200,000 from a bank and makes loans of \$25,000 to each of eight people, when that group finishes a new one starts. Provided an applicant owns his own block of land the councils are prepared to make 100 per cent advances to home buyers. I know one country area in New South Wales with a population of about 3,500 people in which no fewer than 350 houses have been financed by the local authority. It is a scheme very worthy of consideration and one which should be looked at by the Local Government Association in Queensland to help create employment in the home-building industry throughout the State.

In the last 20 years Queensland has become widely known as the most decentralised State in Australia, having more cities with a population above 50,000 than any other State, more coastal ports and more rail lines. Although the State Government has given some assistance in promoting decentralisation, most of the risk capital and initiative have been provided by private enterprise, mainly because of the geographical location of our remote northern areas. Much to the surprise of people in southern States, more and more people are deciding to migrate to North Queensland, having found it a pleasant place to live, and the Queensland Government must face up to reality and spend more money in the northern parts of this State to provide the infrastructures necessary to make the living standards equal to those already available in the south-eastern part of Queensland.

The latest figures released by the Coordinator General's Department show that the Australian population increased by 1.2 per cent in the five-year period from 1971 to 1976. On the other hand, the population of Queensland increased by 2.2 per cent. More significantly, though, the increase in population for that part of Australia north of the 22nd parallel was 3 per cent. Townsville experienced the greatest increase of all major country centres, whilst the Cairns and Toowoomba districts grew at least as quickly as the forced growth areas of Albury-Wodonga and Bathurst-Orange, which are being stimulated by extensive public investment. Census figures also reveal that—

- (a) Much more of the work-force in northern Australia is engaged in agriculture, mining and construction, and a higher proportion lives in rural areas;
- (b) The population of the North is slightly younger than the Australian average;
- (c) Education levels are below the Australian average; and
- (d) Males outnumber females.

The problems of isolation are compounded by limited education and job opportunities, particularly for unskilled women, distance from medical and dental facilities, lack of entertainment and limited opportunities for social and group activity. Let us look at a few statistics. About 54 per cent of the Australian land mass—approximately 4 000 000 sq km in area—lies north of the 26th parallel. That area accounts for approximately 25 per cent of Australia's annual export income, but its population is only about 800,000 people, and I include the Northern Territory and the northern part of Western Australia in that figure. That represents approximately 6 per cent only of Australia's total population—yet it accounts for 25 per cent of our annual export income. That is a remarkable contribution from a small number of people. They are making a great contribution to the Australian economy.

What a challenge those figures present to this Government to develop further the northern part of Queensland, to exploit the growth of our natural resources, to further decentralise our population and industries and to provide better amenities and living standards for the people who are prepared to live and work in the northern and north-western parts of our State.

At the present time approximately 40 per cent of Queensland's export income is derived from minerals and mineral products. With such vast natural resources, including uranium, we have hardly scratched the surface. Our great primary industries—and I refer particularly to sugar and beef—can be expanded to feed a hungry world, provided we can be competitive on the world markets.

All of those industries require that people live and work in the areas of production, and those people—just like the industries themselves—need an assured and plentiful water supply. Fortunately the coastal area of Queensland north of Mackay, including the Cape York Peninsula, although comprising only 6 per cent of the Australian land mass, receives about 30 per cent of the total Australian rainfall. Unfortunately, however, most of it runs out to sea every wet season.

Having lived in North Queensland all my life, I can recall how over the years every political party has treated the issue of building a Burdekin dam as a political football.

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** I remind the honourable member for Cairns that the A.L.P. did it, too, as he himself should know. Whilst in Opposition, the parties have demanded that it be built; but when they are in Government the excuse is that the money cannot be found for such a project. Strangely enough, it is always too dear when persons are in Government. Another strange fact is that there is always plenty of money available to build dams in the southern part of Queensland.

Since 1973, Commonwealth and State Governments have jointly funded an investigation into the resources and potential of the Burdekin River Basin. At a cost of almost \$1,000,000 the investigation committee has looked at 17 possible dam sites and has looked at ground-water surveys, soils, land capacity, prospects for existing and new industries, power-generation possibilities and projections of water requirements for the Townsville urban region.

The Burdekin Delta produced 557 400 tonnes of raw sugar or about 17 per cent of the Australian production in 1976. On established growth rates it could be expected that by the year 2000 annual production will be between 1 000 000 and 1 400 000 tonnes per annum. With approximately 76 per cent of the production being exported at projected prices of between \$200 and \$250 a tonne, the export earnings from sugar alone could be between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000 a year from the Burdekin River Basin. The land is available but the surface-water storage is not. Including the demands of industry and people living in Townsville, it is estimated that the sugar and rice industries now absorb 90 per cent of the annual water storage of the entire region.

In 10 to 15 years' time, all expansion in Townsville and the Burdekin region will have to cease unless major water storages are now planned and constructed. Clearly this must happen immediately and a firm commitment must be given by the Federal and State Governments as to the funding and timing for construction to take place.

The building of the major dam at the Burdekin Falls site is of course expensive. It would impound more water than Sydney Harbour and would be greatly in excess of what will be required for projected agricultural and secondary industries and the urban population in the area in the year 2000.

One of the great features of the scheme is that the storage would make water available for a 1 000 MW hydroelectric power-station, which would be approximately the size of the existing power-station at Gladstone. It would cost less than another large thermal power-station, which will be required in the 1980s.

The Premier has announced that the State Government will set up a committee to investigate the economic feasibility of proceeding with the early construction of the Burdekin Dam. Let us hope that the committee will not adopt the purely academic approach of an accountant and say that the dam has to be paid for in 10 years. It is something that must be started without any further Government delay. The commitment to build the Burdekin Dam would herald the greatest burst of expansion ever seen in North Queensland and would be for the benefit of the State as a whole.

For many years I have actively supported the growth of the North Queensland tourist industry, particularly in my own city of Townsville. It concerns me that both Federal and State Governments give only token support and lip-service to its promotion and development. Like most businessmen in Australia today, tourist operators are experiencing a downturn in business. The Federal Government has set up an eight-man all-party committee to investigate industry problems and how they can be overcome.

The terms of reference require the committee to examine the potential of tourism and its significance in the Australian economy and whether it has special features in comparison with other industries, with particular reference to its effect on employment, balance-of-payments aspects, community knowledge of Australia and Australian heritage, community health and welfare, regional development and decentralisation.

After some 130 submissions from organisations throughout Australia, I recently discussed industry problems with the chairman (Mr. Duke Bonnett) and his deputy (Mr. Frank Stewart). The continuing complaints from travel agents and tourists are that air travel and hotel and motel costs are the main reasons for the downturn in internal tourism.

From time to time we hear Government statements that the Queensland tourist industry is the most buoyant in Australia. It employs one-tenth of the work-force. It is our third most important income earner in the State.

As far back as July 1971, the Australian National Travel Association published an appraisal of the North Queensland tourist industry. It projected that, with proper Government support, it could become the most important industry in that region by 1985. Some recommendations of a minor nature have been carried out, but the most important of all of the recommendations—construction of an international airport at Townsville—has been ignored by both Federal and State Governments.

Also in 1971 the Australian Tourist Commission engaged overseas experts (Messrs. Pannell, Kerr, Forster and Co.) to prepare a report on the promotion of overseas visitors to the Great Barrier Reef. That report also recommended the construction of an international airport at Townsville. These respective reports pointed out that Australia receives less than 1 per cent of the millions of tourists who travel the world each year. Is that surprising? In my opinion it is not when one considers the factors that motivate people to travel overseas to strange countries. Many of us have been to Singapore and Hong Kong and enjoyed the duty-free shopping in those cities and also their exotic Eastern cooking. In other respects those places have nothing better to show than we have in Queensland.

Not many of us would fly to America to see San Francisco and New York. Why then should we expect Americans to come to Australia to see Sydney and Melbourne? On the other hand, any visitor to America would hope to see Disneyland, and likewise Americans would like to see the Great Barrier Reef, tropical islands, historic towns such as Charters Towers and Ravenswood, the Aboriginal paintings in caves on Cape York and Ayers Rock in Central Australia. They would want to see such attractions because there is nothing like them in America. Unfortunately the added time and cost involved in seeing the natural beauty of Northern Australia is a deterrent and we do nothing to make it easier for visitors to go to North Queensland.

For some years now I have attended the annual conference of the Pacific Area Travel Association. In 1975 the conference was held in Sydney, with one of the workshop pre-conference sessions being held in Townsville, as arranged by the Australian Tourist Commission. Travel agents from all over the Pacific islands area, East Asia and America were thrilled with what they saw in North Queensland and wanted to know how soon we could have an international airport. Last year at Honolulu and this year again at Hong Kong the same travel agents, Thai International Airlines and Singapore Airlines could not believe that we had been so slow in bringing our airport in North Queensland to international standard.

Prior to the 1972 Federal election Gough Whitlam made some extravagant promises to Townsville. In the first place, we were to be given an extra battalion at the Lav-arack Army Barracks. In the second place, we were to be given grants of millions of dollars as one of his chosen three growth centres in Australia. In the third place, we were to get an international airport. One year later we lost an Army battalion instead of gaining one. Our priority as a growth centre had been forgotten—in fact, Townsville was not in the first 12 cities for consideration—and Whitlam side-stepped the international airport issue. In fairness to his Transport Minister Jones and Tourist Minister Stewart, I believe they still thought that this development should take place.

However, Whitlam brilliantly decided to instruct the Bureau of Transport Economics to evaluate this development and those academics did a marvellous job of putting the hatchet through the proposal. Mind you, their report was not published until September 1976, but they successfully convinced the present Federal Government that it was too costly and unnecessary and would not attract any great number of overseas tourists. Last of all, they reported that it would probably be 1985 before an effective instrument-landing system could be designed and installed. How do landing systems operate at the major airports of Sydney and Melbourne? They do not have to wait until 1985 and their weather conditions are worse than ours for most months of the year. The main opposition to the international airport seems to come from Qantas and the internal airlines Ansett and T.A.A. Qantas do not want another landing place in Australia; all they want are Melbourne and Sydney. They allowed British Airways to take the initiative with the introduction of a Boeing 747 Jumbo jet service between Brisbane and London. When Qantas saw that the service was quite successful, they followed suit with a Jumbo service between Brisbane and London.

How is it that Thai International, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific and major American operators want to use a North Queensland airport whilst Qantas do not? The Bureau of Transport Economics have assessed that the cost of improvements to the existing runway, new terminals, lighting, control towers, etc., would be approximately \$9,000,000, and that to build a new runway on a different compass bearing, with all the same extras, would be approximately \$20,000,000. They therefore say that the expense is not warranted because the extra volume of tourist traffic could not support the outlay.

The Bureau of Transport Economics conveniently make no mention of the fact that this is a R.A.A.F. base and that most of the expense should be a defence commitment for

the future defence of Northern Australia. The only expense to be met by the civil operators should be for new terminals and not construction of runways and instrument-landing equipment, where most of the outlays are.

All previous investigations by R.A.A.F. experts have indicated that a new runway must be built at the Townsville airport. It would be on a bearing approximately between the Townsville abattoir and Cape Cleveland. This bearing would be approximately in line with the normal prevailing winds, thus giving greater safety to aircraft than the direction of the existing runway does and also diverting the noise nuisance of aircraft movements away from the residential areas of Garbutt, Currajong, Vincent and Heatley. The new runway would have clear low-level approaches for about 12 miles at each end for greater safety to military and civil aircraft. It would make way for the declaration of Townsville as an international airport and, most importantly, it would remove a lot of noise nuisance to residents of Townsville, particularly those in the western suburbs, who have to put up with aircraft movements 24 hours a day because there is no curfew on aircraft movements at Townsville.

Finally, I would like to make some brief reference to the public concern recently expressed by thousands of Townsville residents about the current provisions of their town plan. Until the early 1960s there was no Townsville City Council Town Plan, and subject to moderate council restrictions a citizen could build flats or establish a business or industry almost anywhere he wished. About 12 years ago the first town plan was gazetted, and after the first few stormy years which it took for people to become accustomed to being told where certain developments could take place, the city developed in a more orderly fashion and our citizens knew where they could purchase land to build a private dwelling, a semi-detached dwelling, a block of flats, warehouse development or for future industrial expansion. This enabled businessmen to plan future expansion.

Town planning is not recognised as an exact science, and very few town planners think alike. I believe a town plan should be a simple set of maps and statement of facts which the ordinary citizens should be able to interpret and some documentation which spells out fairly clearly and concisely what an individual or a company can do completely as of right in a particular zoning, not as we now see it with almost total restrictions on what can be done as of right and with severe limitations on what can be done even with council consent. In some cases it even totally prohibits the council itself from considering any flexibility in its decision-making.

Under the Local Government Act the town plan has to be revised and updated from time to time. The current provision started a couple of years ago when I was mayor but the completed review is the total responsibility of the A.L.P. council and only went on public display on 12 March 1977 for a period of 90 days. During this period many businessmen and industry leaders complained bitterly to me about how they would be disadvantaged under the new town plan. For example, several thousand acres of land south of the Ross River had previously been zoned for future industrial development and are now shown as non-urban. Members can imagine the concern of large companies which had bought land for industrial expansion, which would have created job opportunities in Townsville, and the concern of the Townsville Harbour Board, which had bought nearly 1,000 acres to be developed for port users only to be told that their land as of right could be used only for agriculture, forestry or a plant nursery.

I was told by some local businessmen of how they had bought five to 10 acres of land in the suburbs to warehouse their bulk supplies, and in recent years had established retail outlets in conjunction with them only to be told that a retail outlet was now a non-conforming use and that they would not be allowed to expand it in the future. I was told that 84 per cent of the hotels in Townsville would be prohibited from rebuilding on their existing sites if the hotels were burned down or destroyed in a cyclone because their land was not large enough. The council, in its foolishness, had even prohibited itself from any flexibility in this respect.

To these numerous people and organisations my advice was to seek legal advice and lodge strong objections. However, when a large group of concerned citizens living in Mysterton Estate and Mundingburra protested to me that they did not want their land to be rezoned residential D, which means that up to seven home units can be erected on a 40-perch site, I decided that the council had not taken enough trouble to try to get the message across to the people about what they proposed to do in the revised town plan. It is not enough to have a plan on display at the town hall for 90 days. The greater proportion of the population cannot get to the town hall during working hours and they were not aware of how they were affected. They were not aware, for example, that the majority of corner stores operated in the older suburbs, now zoned commercial, were to be rezoned residential. This made them a non-conforming use and meant that they could not be redeveloped in the event of destruction by fire or act of God.

But by far the most ridiculous and almost incredible changes in the revised town plan are the manner in which the churches and

church schools have been treated. At first glance one could not be blamed for thinking that the A.L.P. council had declared war on the Roman Catholic population of Townsville. However, the council is not entirely partisan in this respect and has been equally harsh on the Church of England St. Anne's School and the Townsville Grammar School. Because the Catholic Church has so many schools in Townsville and plays an important part in the education system the injustices meted out are glaringly apparent.

In the town planning schedule church schools and colleges are defined as "educational establishments" and this type of development is expanded to read—

"Any land, building or other structure or any part thereof, used or intended to be used as a school, college, university, adult education centre, or other educational centre which in the opinion of the council should be treated as an educational establishment.

"The term includes ancillary uses such as offices, libraries, book shops, tuck shops, canteens, student union facilities, residential colleges and the like, and also the dwelling of a caretaker, headmaster or other persons associated with the principal use of the land, provided that any such uses are under the administration or direction of the appropriate educational authority on the site."

In general, the various church schools and colleges such as Ignatius Park College, The Holy Family Primary School and Church, St. Patrick's College on The Strand, St. John Fisher College and St. Anne's School, and Townsville Grammar School are indicated on the maps as being in a special purposes zone. However, the only uses "as of right" in a special purposes zone—it is "as of right" that I am speaking about—are as follows:—

"The use of any land, building or other structure or any part thereof for—

- (1) Cemeteries, Crematoria.
- (2) Local government purposes.
- (3) State Government purposes.
- (4) Australian Government purposes.
- (5) The activities of any statutory authority.
- (6) Any other public purpose not specifically included in any other definition in this town planning scheme."

Obviously church schools and colleges are not a local, State or Australian Government development, nor are they a statutory authority. They are clearly an educational establishment, and as such are not permitted "as of right" in a special purposes zone. In other words, they are now a "non-conforming use". In fact the only zone where an "educational establishment" is permitted "as of right" is in a commercial zone. How ridiculous that is! Similarly the Mater Hospital in Pimlico, the

Sacred Heart Cathedral in Stanley Street and St. Teresa's Parish Church of Garbutt are all in the residential D zones, and as such are non-conforming uses, with approval for any further building renovations or extensions being subject to council consent. Fortunately State Government schools do not have to comply with the town plan, and they can tell the council to go to blazes.

Quite clearly the town plan should be amended to read that in a special purposes zone the following establishments should be allowed to develop "as of right"—

- (1) Educational establishments.
- (2) Hospital or nursing institutions.
- (3) Churches or places of assembly.

In support of the town plan, since the review period was extended for 30 days at my public insistence, the mayor (Percy Tucker) has stated in the Press that the town plan was "the very best that can be done with a city with the growth rate of Townsville." Alderman Ted Lindsay said that the council had worked hard to make what they considered was the best long-term plan for the city. He added—

"The town plan was convened by the previous administration and this (A.L.P.'s) administration had the task of correcting the plan where inequities exist."

He also said—

"A town plan should take notice of the need for small businesses to enjoy stability of zoning and the need for small businesses to be allowed to develop without undue restrictive town planning laws."

They are the words of the A.L.P. aldermen, and they are proud of their town plan. I have pointed out some of its deficiencies. The fact remains that after the initial 90-day review period approximately 250 single objections had been lodged. After the 30-day extension period I demanded so that people could be more fully informed of the implications in the plan more than 1,000 objections had been lodged. Quite clearly the A.L.P. must give the town plan a thorough re-examination before it goes to the Minister for Local Government.

Those are some of the problems that are being experienced in my electorate and in the city of Townsville at the present time and about which I will be fighting in my future years in Parliament.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD** (Toowoomba North) (4.14 p.m.): First I pledge my loyalty and that of the constituents of the Toowoomba North electorate to His Excellency the Governor and, through him, to Her Majesty the Queen. In this the Queen's Jubilee Year we have been fortunate to have a visit by Her Majesty to Brisbane. On that occasion a great many Toowoomba people travelled to

Brisbane to see their Queen because of the attachment they feel for her and their loyalty to her despite the fact that republican moves have been started yet again in Australia. The celebration of the Queen's Jubilee Year in Britain has produced a great deal of interest in European countries that no longer have a monarch and also in the United States of America. Indeed, a great many Australians have taken the opportunity to travel to Britain to take part in the celebrations as the British honoured their Queen upon the completion of the first 25 years of her reign.

The new Governor, Sir James Ramsay, has already paid a visit to Toowoomba, where he was warmly received by the local authority and a great many citizens. During his short visit he took the opportunity to review the Toowoomba branch of the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association and open the new club. He has been invited back to Toowoomba to take part in the Carnival of Flowers, and on that week-end he will visit the Baillie Henderson Hospital, where he will open the first art show to be conducted by the sporting auxiliary at that hospital.

The Toowoomba electorate and district have been well served by health facilities. There have been great improvements at the Baillie Henderson Hospital. The Rockville Villas for the intellectually handicapped are completed and will soon be occupied.

The electorate has a few educational problems but they are rapidly being ironed out. The Newtown State School can look forward to having a pre-school established there. It is the only major State school in the electorate still to get a pre-school. The Education Department missed out on acquiring a property on the corner of Polo Street that would have been ideally suited to the establishment of a pre-school. However, it has bought another property in the vicinity of Polo Street, and I believe that we will soon be seeing something happening there.

The Wilsonton State School is about to be given a library. Its establishment is long overdue. I thank the Education Department for accepting and acting upon this month's figures, which confirm the belief that next year's enrolment at the school will be over 600. The department's action will allow the library to be planned and budgeted for a year earlier than would be possible under the normal procedure.

The day the Treasurer paid a visit to the school there were 12 Grade 1 boys, one of them being my son, squatting on the floor in an area no bigger than the top of a kitchen table. It took me a few minutes to realise that there were some children in that area, which represents the library. It is very small indeed. The teachers and staff have struggled for a long time with that little library as the school has grown

from a three-room school into a very big one. The foundations for the new library have been tested and I hope that it will be commenced in the very near future.

Toowoomba still is confronted with the problem of development occurring away to the south. This has prevented the construction of a fourth high school, at Wilsonton, where land has already been secured. The children of that area are out on the roads on cold mornings as early as 7.30, walking through frost to catch buses to take them 4 or 6 km to their school. One young chap has to ride his bike about 10 km to school, which is particularly unpleasant in very cold weather.

The problem is bound up in history and geography. The Mt. Lofty High School was the first one built in the district. The second, the Harristown School, was built to relieve the load placed on the Mt. Lofty High School. The third school, in south-east Toowoomba, was built to take some of the load from the first two. However, the first two schools were full in 1976, with the result that some pupils, particularly those who wished to repeat Grade 10, could not secure enrolment. Although the new school at Wilsonton is scheduled for completion in 1982, the Education Department is committed to further use of those schools built of solid timber and masonry and the new school will not be erected unless there is a slight increase in population in the north-western corner of Toowoomba. I compliment those students of the institute who are conducting a survey of parents in the Wilsonton/Rockville region. I have been pleased to help them with that survey and I pointed out to them that if ground had been available in Bridge Street in the vicinity of Gladstone Street the school would have been erected long ago. It could have attracted more than the 100 students required to establish a first-year high school.

I shall now refer to the Toowoomba activities and businesses of one Douglas John Bishopp, to whom I referred on 10 March 1976 in a speech about the Capricorn Insurance Company. I then dealt with a swindle in relation to Bishopp's activities as a cemetery owner and funeral director of Tweed Heads.

**Mr. Akers:** It is dead.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD:** Yes, it is dead, and there are some very nasty things about this. I advise the honourable member to listen. The point is that if Douglas John Bishopp heads in his direction, he would be well advised to keep him out of the shire.

My original speech was made in the public interest under parliamentary privilege because a great many people who gave me information had tried to confront Mr. Douglas John Bishopp with his misdemeanours in Tweed Heads but had been unable to do so because

his solicitors took out writs for defamation against them as soon as they opened their mouths. Many good men in the Tweed area, including a dozen or so clergymen, tackled the Tweed Shire Council and Mr. D. J. Bishopp concerning his despicable funeral business, complete lack of business ethics, and complete disregard for human feelings, as displayed in the day-to-day running of his business at Tweed Heads. I have a letter from the Reverend Ron Dyson of Tweed Heads commending me for my efforts to bring the matter to public notice.

This same Douglas John Bishopp has established four businesses in Toowoomba, all associated with the funeral industry, and is seeking to expand in a ring around Brisbane. People in Toowoomba, Gatton, Laidley, Caboolture and Petrie should take particular note of this man and how he operates on the fringe of the law, but beyond the endurance of ethical and decent men. Local authorities, in particular, must watch him lest he repeat his Tweed Heads activities in their areas. I believe that, following a visit to Bundaberg, he was prevented from engaging in an activity there. His aim is to promote the high cost of dying. He hopes to become a monopoly.

In Toowoomba he secured a large tract of land and established an operating company, which he heads. It is called the Toowoomba District Memorial Park, and it sold funeral plots as a high-pressure business venture on the immediate-need and future-need, or pre-need, plan. This gave Toowoomba District Memorial Park a rapid return on its money because many of the plots sold would not be required for some time. Salesmen were paid a commission, but not before they extracted from purchasers the names of three or four more prospective clients. This was in effect a pyramid type of selling plan which has since been outlawed.

The present owners of Toowoomba District Memorial Park are Mr. Douglas John Bishopp, the same scoundrel I mentioned in my Capricorn-Tweed Heads funeral speech, Mr. Julian Barry, a solicitor in the firm of Pattison & Barry, solicitors in Brisbane, and Mrs. Sheryl Joy Bishopp—Mrs. Bishopp the third—who on 5 July 1974 took the place of Mrs. Joan Phyllis Bishopp, deceased, of Surfers Paradise, as one of the shareholders in Toowoomba District Memorial Park. These three are the only real beneficiaries from Mr. Bishopp's activities in the funeral business.

A company called the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust—it is a company, not a trust—was established. Bishopp cunningly stacked this company with public figures—businessmen and charitable and religious identities in Toowoomba—and gave them the almost impossible task of running the cemetery on Bishopp's terms. The first half of any money from the sale of plots went to Bishopp, and the remaining 50 per cent was not sufficient to pay for the development of the cemetery and run the business affairs of the trust.

Several prominent persons originally associated with the project resigned. In 1972 the majority of the trustees resigned, including one extremely prominent town identity. I have the names of all these people but, to save them embarrassment, I do not intend to name them.

I emphasise that I have all the names. Anyone, including members of the Press, who doubts that can come and see me. They include members of the clergy and other people in Toowoomba. I have a big file about four inches thick. I believe that those men resigned to protect their own good names. They saw the futility of continuing to attend meetings when the real power and the financial control of the business resided in the hands of Mr. Douglas Bishopp through the Toowoomba District Memorial Park part of the company. In effect, six of Toowoomba's best business brains met to discuss only such trivia as mowing the lawns, painting, planting and minor repairs. They were denied access to salaried employees who could have told them how the moneys of the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust, which the public thought were being held in perpetuity, were in fact being used and misused by Douglas Bishopp. No person who was an employee of either organisation was allowed to meet those men at their regular business meetings.

Those men, who included two senior ministers of religion, continued to fight the good fight in the public's interest. They tried to make the best of an extremely bad deal and to limit the greed and ambition of Bishopp and his associates, who had an inhumane but legal agreement allowing them to plunder the cash from the cemetery sales, which have now amounted to somewhere in the vicinity of \$2,000,000, as nearly as I can estimate. That means that, under the agreement, Bishopp and his partners in Toowoomba District Memorial Park have received the best part of \$1,000,000 for their land.

The Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust should have a very large six-figure amount invested to ensure that the cemetery is maintained in perpetuity, but the purchasers of the plots have no real way of knowing just how the trust is proceeding. They are not entitled to inspect the books of account of Toowoomba District Memorial Park or Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust. As far as I can discover, as purchasers they are not like shareholders who can elect persons to a board to supervise their interests and to warn them if anything is astray in the management of their asset.

For eight years now a crematorium has been one of Bishopp's interests, in association with the Toowoomba District Memorial Park and the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust. The crematorium was saddled with unreal costs. It had to pay most of the

advertising costs that rightly belonged to the Toowoomba District Memorial Park and its sales of funeral plots. It had to pay for petrol that was used and motor-vehicle running expenses, when of course the crematorium has very little need to run a car. All of its business comes to it. Once again, the men appointed to the South Queensland Crematorium Association found they had accepted an unenviable task. Their problem was how to maintain a business proposition out of an agreement stacked in favour of Douglas Bishopp.

In September 1975 Douglas John Bishopp began approaching Toowoomba undertakers seeking to purchase an existing funeral director's business. At the very time that he had the chairman issue a letter to one of the Toowoomba funeral directors denying that the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust intended to enter the funeral business, he began negotiations for the purchase of Toowoomba Funeral Services from Robert Skinner. I claim—and I think the evidence supports me—that he deliberately deceived his own chairman. The sale was completed by 12 October 1975. Douglas Bishopp then had a cemetery, an organisation selling plots, a crematorium and a funeral business.

His monopoly as such enabled him to put pressure on other undertakers. Although the funeral business was purchased in the name of Peter Chappell, in fact it is run by Peter Bishopp, a son of Douglas John Bishopp. The practices about which the people of Toowoomba objected to me are the pyramid selling of the plots, salesmen referring to the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust as a public trust when it is not, salesmen mingling with mourners to sell funeral plots when funeral services are in progress and the soliciting of funerals from convalescent homes and from relatives of patients who are dying in hospitals or at home. Recent instances include an attempt to sell funeral services and a plot to a young woman two weeks before her husband died of a malignancy. The people object to their soliciting funerals from owners of Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust plots who have made arrangements with other undertakers.

He has also asked persons to reveal on a form the locations of their money and jewellery. In the Tweed area, one of his unscrupulous employees or agents used that form to go through a house. That is one of the things that have extremely irritated the 12 good clergymen at the Tweed. It is not that the form is without its uses, but I doubt whether it should ever be entrusted to one of Douglas John Bishopp's associates.

They objected to his operating a funeral business from a cemetery in the daytime and at night. They objected to his using Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust and South Queensland Crematorium Association funds to promote his own funeral business.

The Toowoomba City Council has joined in the battle by ensuring that the Drayton Lawn Cemetery remains open as an alternative choice. The council has also prevented the incorporation of Toowoomba Funeral Services in the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust. It has done this by opposing any business house operating from the consecrated ground of the cemetery and, as a Christian ethic, has invoked it, and by using the zoning provisions of the Toowoomba Town Plan it has objected to Toowoomba Funeral Services operating from that ground. The Toowoomba City Council, for its part, does not want to see cemeteries become places for money-changers or places of business.

The Toowoomba City Council charges a very reasonable \$65.50 to open a grave when a plot of ground has been bought by a person and set aside for a family funeral. Recently in Toowoomba a businessman in my electorate was charged the tremendous sum of \$530 to open a plot for one of his relatives even though the land had already been purchased. The plot had been acquired so that his mother, I think it was, could be located near his father. This is the sort of rampant overcharging that this organisation has gone on with whenever it thought it could get away with it.

I have mentioned that persons should be careful when dealing with Douglas Bishopp and his associates, because when he was in the funeral business in the Tweed he was a person never to be trusted. The same still applies in Toowoomba.

A businessman who was used to making all sorts of business agreements was completely disgusted when he received an account from Mr. Bishopp's associates for a plot of land purchased in the Toowoomba Cemetery. The word of the people whom he dealt with was not good enough. They could not be trusted at all. When the account came through, the verbal agreement was not in any way honoured. As is typical in the Tweed, the account was for a great deal more, added as extras. This businessman is quite a respected man in Toowoomba. He is quite an honest, upright churchman. He has no reason to tell lies. He was sickened and disgusted by the way the business was conducted at the time of his bereavement.

The daughter of a former Labor member of this Parliament has come to me terrified that Mr. Bishopp will take some form of vengeance on her for the changes she had made in her funeral arrangements. This is typical of the way Bishopp operates. He always leaves people in fear of being sued. This lady who came to me is yet another person who is terrified of what might happen to her because she has dared to change her funeral arrangements.

These men have long realised that persons in a state of shock and grief at a time of bereavement can be confused. They confuse people deliberately, to their own advantage. The businessman friend I have mentioned was not confused. He remembers clearly. He was swindled and he will say he was swindled in what must be the lowest type of confidence trick operating in Australia. He lacked what customers lack and must have if they wish to get any satisfaction. They must have a written and signed agreement covering every service agreed to. Anyone dealing with any of these four groups of companies must obtain a written agreement. Without it, even the best solicitor cannot obtain satisfaction for his client at common law.

I believe that the State Government must bring down measures to ensure proper and adequate control of all cemeteries, be they under trusts or private cemeteries. Control must also be imposed on funeral benefit funds to see that they are properly administered and that every cent is accounted for. Funeral benefits insurance must also be rigidly controlled and so must trusts. Every trust set up must be a registered trust and the people who put their money into trusts must know that their spending is strictly controlled. They must have the same strong and strict control as that exercised over building societies, with a certain amount of money in use and a certain amount in reserve.

The Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust is not a registered trust as far as I can discover. It is not a trust similar to solicitors' trusts that are audited twice a year. It is not a trust such as the trust that is required for charitable bodies. From what I can discover, there is simply the name of a company and the only trust that the people have in it is trusting to luck.

Funeral benefits insurances were sold by Douglas Bishopp, as I have mentioned, to persons who were already known to be dying. After making one or two payments these people died and in this way Capricorn was swindled out of what should have been a normal life expectancy and recovery of normal premiums on the insurance type of business. Mr. Bishopp is still involved in this sort of business and I only hope that the companies that have underwritten him this time are aware of his record and will watch and scrutinise very carefully the deals and proposals that he puts before them.

I think all trusts should be registered and, like solicitors' accounts, they should be submitted to six-monthly audit. A report should then issue so that all who are plot holders can receive advice. Similarly, they must know that the moneys held in trust are invested and not used to promote private business ventures that will profit only a few.

Inurnment sites have been established by some churches to enable relatives to reduce the cost of cremation and their remains can be inurned in an inurnment wall for as little as \$10. Mr. Bishopp in some of his plots has been charging as much as \$500 for the storing of ashes. I am concerned that one day the Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance Trust will be so impoverished by the greed of Douglas John Bishopp and his family, and Julian Barry, that the trustees will be forced to hand over its administration to the Toowoomba City Council. I certainly hope that the trustees have been able to salvage something from the almost impossible state of affairs given to them. They are all good men but they are battling almost impossible odds.

I should now like to turn my attention to something of a more cheerful nature and one of the more positive things that are happening in Toowoomba. I refer to the establishment of a trial in what is known as the Work Education Programme. This has been going on through the Centenary Heights State High School. It is a plan under which students can learn something of the nature of occupations available and discover how well suited they are to various types of jobs. I and others believe that this plan will go a long way towards establishing in the minds of young people a firm idea of what employment is all about. We believe that this will be one of the great developments in this country and that it will remove much of the discontent engendered in young people by unemployment.

**Mr. Lamont:** Did you know that the education hierarchy in their so-called wisdom are trying to withdraw that very useful scheme from the schools?

**Dr. LOCKWOOD:** I do not agree with that. I know that there has been opposition to some plans and that some people are not in favour of schemes under which students go out willy-nilly and are paid. The plan to which I am referring is completely different from that sort of scheme. It is modelled, I believe, on a scheme that functions quite well in Canada. I have heard that there is opposition to it, but I do not believe this and I appeal to the Minister for Education, the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs, and the Treasurer to each do his part in ensuring that this plan comes to fruition.

It involves training for the benefit of the student. The training is part of his education and is therefore best handled in the schools. There must be suitable work stations in the community for the student so that he can proceed from school with some confidence and certainty about what he is going to meet outside. On the other hand, there have to be employers who are willing to set up the training situation for the student. The employer has to agree to there being supervision from the schools.

The local Trades and Labor Council has been very interested in this aspect and it also sees it as a very good opportunity to reduce some of the shock students suffer when they leave school and find that they are not adequately prepared for the only jobs that may be available to them. I believe that the Minister for Industrial Development has done a good job in liaising with the Queensland Trades and Labor Council and that the Trades and Labor Council has co-operated fully.

There needs to be an acceptance by workmen of a student coming in and working alongside them without pay. It is not a threat to their jobs. On completion of the two-week tour in the work situation, whether it be a factory, an office, a laboratory or a hospital, the student returns to school. He is not guaranteed employment at that site. A new student then takes his place.

There has to be some protection against injury and compensation if students are injured. The schools in Toowoomba took out their own students' insurance policies similar to ordinary workers' compensation policies. This insured the students against injuries sustained while travelling to and from work or at work. There had to be a guarantee, of course, that the student would not displace a regular employee and he was not to be regarded as slave labour. Students, employers and unions have readily recognised this.

This scheme has been working quite well in Toowoomba and 16 or more employers have taken students in to the work situation. All that is required to set it up in a town the size of Toowoomba is the co-operation of two or three teachers and the students. The teachers prepare the material to explain work education to students, parents, employees, school staff and the community in general. Having done this, they then survey the business community to find out the possible work stations into which students with no previous knowledge or expertise can fit.

The work programme required of the school staff can be carried on in the school and it requires only one or two periods a week for a term to make the students familiar with what the programme will involve. This has been done both before and after school, and so has not really interfered with studies. Students, teachers and even employers are encouraged to re-evaluate safety practices for students.

Student counselling is carried out as well as student evaluation. Students are asked to evaluate the work, the employer is asked to evaluate the student and then the student is asked to evaluate himself. This way the students become not only interested in the work but very critical of what is required in the work and what is required to satisfy

an employer. The students are aware that it is not just necessary to attend but that they have to perform certain functions in order to satisfy the employer, and I think this helps them greatly when they go forth into the wide, wide world seeking full-time employment. Information on the evaluation and follow-up of each student's work and experience in various situations is made available to other students.

I hope this plan is put into effect in Queensland this year and implemented not only in Toowoomba but throughout the State. Each region knows its needs best. I believe this scheme will stop the drift from the country towns to the cities. It is something that is worthwhile and is a progressive measure taken by Queensland to help ease school-leavers into the work-force.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to speak in this debate and once again I wish to pledge the loyalty of my electorate to Her Majesty the Queen and to His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (4.45 p.m.):** I rise to support the motion before the House. Naturally I express my own personal loyalty and that of the constituents of Carnarvon to Her Majesty the Queen and our new Governor. We wish our retiring Governor good health and everything else we could possibly wish him in his retirement.

I was very pleased to listen to the speeches made by the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. The honourable member for Warrego and the honourable member for Belmont are new young members who have displayed great interest in their electorates and in the Parliament of Queensland. I am sure that at the next election when people have an opportunity to express their views by their votes, they will try very hard to get them back into this Chamber.

I listened with some interest to the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition, although I did not really take a lot of notice of it. I plan to be constructive in my speech today rather than to rubbish the A.L.P. Most people know that its policies are rubbish, anyhow, and I would only be wasting time in rubbishing them. The people of Western Queensland in particular should be made very much aware of how much parliamentary leaders of the A.L.P. rely on unions for endorsement. The dictation that the Leader of the Opposition would have to be prepared to take from unions, particularly militant unions, if ever by any fluke he became Premier of the State, is something that people throughout Queensland should be very worried about.

Probably the greatest problems facing Queensland today, and therefore my electorate, are unemployment and the lack of prosperity of businesses. We must face the problems of unemployment and lack of business profits with reality instead of acting in the way the Opposition would like us to go about it. Country people must realise that the prosperity of country towns depends very much on the prosperity of rural industries around those towns. Queenslanders and Australians generally must realise that the only real wealth produced in Australia is new wealth—new wool, new wheat, new manufactured goods. That is what wealth is all about. The other things are only secondary in the improvement of our living. They come about because of the production of real wealth. So much of the real wealth of Australia is produced by primary industries that it is about time that some people living in the cities, particularly people living in Sydney and Melbourne, woke up to just how much they rely on the production and prosperity of those in primary industry for their standard of living.

If leaders of primary industry and rural politicians are going to be successful in their efforts to overcome many of the problems faced by those on the land, they need a very strong voice in Parliament. So much nonsense is spoken about one vote one value, including the nonsense spoken by Opposition members about allowing just a few seats to have more than one vote one value. If that were ever brought about, it would be the most serious thing that could happen to people in rural industries.

It is a fact of life that a political party needs the numbers in Parliament if it is going to achieve worthwhile things for the people whom it represents. Most of the problems confronting the people of western Queensland are caused, firstly, by a lack of overseas markets and, secondly, by tariff protection, which is brought about by successive Federal Governments in such a way as to deprive the State Governments of control over it. The need to maintain the balance in favour of rural electorates, both federally and on a State basis, is of vital importance to the prosperity of rural areas.

I was very pleased to read of the Industries Assistance Commission's inquiry into the footwear, clothing and textile industries. Its recommendation was quite realistic. It did not demand the immediate cessation of protection for those industries. Rather it recommended that protection for textiles, clothing and footwear be reduced progressively at the fastest rate that could be sustained by the economy without creating undue hardship for the people, regions and firms that are affected. That is fair enough. However, politicians in Canberra, particularly city politicians, should realise that for too long the people in rural areas have suffered a great deal of the very hardship that those

politicians do not want to inflict on the clothing industry. It is about time that Federal politicians realised the need to come to their aid even if it means sacrificing some of the inefficient secondary industries that are draining the life-blood of this nation.

**Mr. Houston:** You are making the policy speech for the National Party now. The city people would love to hear your policy.

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** It is a fact of life that protection is the order of the day. But the primary industries also need some protection. They need it because of the high cost of goods and services brought about by the unnecessary protection of certain industries, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne and to a lesser extent in Brisbane. I say that for the benefit of the Opposition member who is trying to be funny on the sideline.

**Mr. Houston:** Do you think you are going to sell your goods if you have no-one in the cities to buy them from you?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** If the honourable member will be patient, I shall deal with that later. However, I do not think patience is one of his virtues.

For rural production to recover, it is essential that we come back to free trade on the world markets. When I was in Korea I was interested to learn that each year we export to Korea goods worth \$U.S.215,000,000 whereas we import goods worth only \$U.S.99,000,000. How can we expect to increase our exports when we will not import a reasonable quantity of goods from countries such as Korea? It has been argued that a balance is obtained in other ways. Each year Korea imports goods worth a total of \$U.S.8,774 million and exports goods worth \$U.S.1,000 million less. Korea is looking to us to import more of its goods. I am sure that if we do that it will take more exports from us. If we were allowed to trade freely, we would become the food bowl of Asia. However, we have been prevented from doing that by the protectionist policies of successive Federal Governments. I will say that at least the non-Labor Governments treated us a little better than the Labor ones.

One of the problems that city politicians in Sydney and Canberra have to wake up to is that people overseas know that Australia is an under-populated country and that we are wasting Australia's assets. We spend hundreds of millions of dollars on defence, yet people in the Defence Forces are not satisfied that we have an adequate defence force. I wonder how much more secure we would be if we spent some of the hundreds of millions of dollars of defence expenditure to encourage an increase in Australia's population. It is up to Australians to make up

their minds whether this country will be populated by Australians, by selected immigrants or by immigrants forced on us by war. This is the very real possibility Australia may face unless we settle some of our industrial problems and thus give the world the impression that we are trying to do something worth while with Australia. There is an old saying that we should populate or perish, which is no longer fashionable. But it should be.

Some time ago an Opposition member interjected and asked, "What are we going to do for jobs if we wipe out some of these inefficient secondary industries?" Many people on the land would provide employment for literally hundreds of thousands of workers if they could afford to do so, but the protectionist policy is choking them. It is interesting to note that about 120,000 jobs in the clothing industry could be affected. If this I.A.C. report is adopted progressively, the lowering of the Consumer Price Index as a result of the cheaper clothing component would go a long way towards beating inflation. If primary industry were made profitable, the jobs that would be lost would be available in primary industry.

**Mr. Houston:** You cannot sell the products you produce now.

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** Naturally the same people would not be involved; there would have to be a change-over period.

An Opposition member said that we cannot sell the products that we produce now. One reason for our not selling some of the products is that overseas countries no longer feel that we are a reliable exporter. Cost is another problem which the Labor Party, through its association with the union movement, foisted on the Australian people, particularly during the period when Mr. Whitlam was Prime Minister of Australia.

**Mr. Houston:** You are still living in the past. What about coming up to the future?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** I don't want to be troubled with yesterday's men.

Another problem facing Australia today is the terrific burden of taxes. Recently, when I was in Hong Kong, I took out figures on taxes applying there. I found that a person earning \$A100—which is a big income over there—and supporting a wife and three children does not pay any income tax. If he earns an additional \$5,000 a year, which puts him in the \$200 a week bracket, he pays only a little bit over \$2 a week in tax. Why are we paying so much tax in Australia? This is something we must all face up to as legislators.

Over the years too many politicians have tried to win elections by promising the world without pointing out to the electorate what the cost will be.

**Mr. Houston:** It is your Government that has kept increasing the number of members and the size of the Cabinet.

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** We are quite happy to stand up and say that it is necessary to have a few more politicians instead of a whole host of senior public servants. People are demanding that their elected representatives take upon their shoulders some of the decisions that are now being made by senior public servants. I was interested to note recently when I was in Hawaii, where I had a look at the American system, that the top public servants are political appointments and that they are quite happy with that situation. I said, "But would you get good men to apply for the job when they do not have security of employment?" The chap I spoke to said, "Boy, oh boy. All the Governor has to do is ring me up and I am gone—and don't I perform!" I said, "But what happens when there is a change of Government and you have to be replaced?" He said, "Boy, oh boy. It's such a prestigious job and there are so many people of ability who want it that I make sure I do my job very well."

I am not saying for one moment that our senior public servants are not good chaps and that they are not good administrators.

**Mr. Houston:** Well, what are you saying?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** What I am saying is that there is a feeling in the Public Service that Ministers come and go but that the senior heads are there for ever. I think that detracts from the power this Parliament has over senior public servants.

Another reason why we in Australia have high taxes is that we tend to be encouraged, particularly by people of a socialist philosophy, to overlegislate. For instance, I know that seat belts can be justified. They are very good. They save lives. Similar remarks could be applied to the collapsible steering wheel. We have literally hundreds of regulations such as those which individually can be substantiated. But I wonder how many people suffer from undue mental stress and how many contract various diseases through worry because they are concerned about their cost of living. It is not possible to measure the effect on the cost of living of legislating for everything. I believe the fact that we are paying three or four dollars a week in tax more than we would need to if there were not as many rules and regulations governing our lives has a very great effect on the medical condition of some people.

Of great concern also in the basic necessities of life is housing. I am very pleased that my electorate has received its share of Housing Commission homes since my election. I will always advocate in Parliament that a greater share of our revenue

should be directed towards housing. It is something basic. This gets back to what I was saying at the beginning of my speech: by building something new we are creating real wealth and fundamentally increasing our standard of living.

Probably the greatest problem we in Queensland are facing today is industrial unrest. I think the people of Queensland are demanding that Governments take a strong stand on this aspect. It is fair enough to say that most unions registered in Queensland are reasonably moderate. Their performance in strikes is something that not many people appreciate or realise. I should like to congratulate those unions, and their members who fall into this category, on adopting a responsible attitude over recent years.

Many of our militant unions are federal unions. Therefore, to a large degree, they are out of our control. I want it known in my electorate that I am urging the Federal Government to be as tough as possible with people like Elliott V. Elliott, who says that he does not believe in the system and is doing everything he can to destroy it while he is holding the position of an official in a union. People like him and Carmichael are interested only in foisting strikes upon Australia and they should have the toughest measures possible taken against them.

But what about the responsible union member? Quite often, Opposition members accuse Government members of union-bashing. The Premier has stated quite clearly and firmly that the average union member is a jolly good bloke. The average union member deserves the support of this and other Governments. I hope that during this session it will be possible to consider bringing down legislation to give him the right to work. It is time that our total industrial scene was looked at in depth. Perhaps we should investigate more fully the Japanese system of enterprise unions.

Unfortunately, trade unions have let Australia down. They were necessary when they were formed. Because of the irresponsibility of some union leaders and because of the lack of fortitude of some members of those militant unions to stand up to their leaders, some of the unions have become unnecessary. Again, it is easy to talk. We in this Parliament do not face the victimisation practised on some of the union members if they stand up to the militant union leaders.

We are wrong in taking too much notice of airy-fairy academics. Recently I was talking to a university professor who questioned me about the Torres Strait border dispute. He said that he could understand that Torres Strait Islanders should be allowed to remain

as Australians, but did not know whether they should be allowed to stay on their islands or not. That indicates the sort of airy-fairy world that academics live in. He could not understand a person's having a love of the land where he was born. He is of the opinion that a person can give that away and that it does not matter.

Academics think that way because they are all on high salaries and flit from one country to another on sabbatical leave or take up an appointment in another country for a couple of years. They have their degrees and do not have to worry about tomorrow. That is all the insurance they need.

In order to help our people, we must look at this matter realistically and urge the Federal Government and the State Minister to take away some of the money being given for some of the airy-fairy courses, such as the bachelor of arts degree, and get down to the basics of life and help people to find apprenticeships. This country is short of tradesmen. There is no way in the world that we can tax our people any more heavily than they are taxed today. We must have people with bachelor of arts degrees—nobody denies that—but we do not need as many.

**An Honourable Member:** You must have drones in every beehive.

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** They are not all drones. That is a long way from the point. Most holders of B.A. degrees are probably very nice people and many of their skills are needed in this country. However, the point I am trying to make is that priorities must be changed so that there are fewer with B.A. degrees and more with technical education qualifications.

**Mr. Houston:** How do you select them?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** The way to do that is to give a little less money to the universities for this type of education and more to colleges of technical education.

I am endeavouring to speak about some of the broader problems facing the State. That, however, does not mean to say that I am not very much concerned with the little everyday problems that I face in my electorate. The people of Carnarvon know what a diversified electorate I have to service and how hard I work on behalf of the various industries in it. The wine industry is a new industry that is now getting off the ground. It deserves a lot of attention, as does tourism. There is also the production of deciduous fruit, vegetables, cattle, sheep, grain, pecan nuts and tobacco, all of which have great problems to which I am constantly trying to find solutions and on which I am constantly making representations.

Politicians should never forget that they are the one bulwark between the odd mistake made by public servants and the person in the street. I think all of us here try as hard as we can to help those who come to us with their little problems and to see that they get satisfaction. For my electorate I pledge myself to continue to do that. Irrespective of political colour, religion or anything else, all receive the same treatment when they come to my door. That will continue.

**Mr. Houston.** Do you ask if they are Communists?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** No, I do not. There are not many Communists in my electorate; in fact, there are not many in Australia. It is time the A.L.P. stopped mucking around and joining hands with unions that are Communist-dominated and controlled. If the A.L.P. wants to return to Government in this State—in 100 years' time or something like that—it must divorce itself from the union movement. The problem of industrial relations is aggravated because the union movement allies itself with one party. Its leaders, at least, do not want to ally themselves with any other party.

The sooner unionism is removed from the field of party politics and union members are given the right to change their allegiance from time to time as they want to without fear of victimisation by militant Left-wing unions, the sooner there will be a sensible industrial relations policy in Australia. The people of my electorate are very much aware that Left-wing union militancy is causing more problems than anything else in Australia. Not one A.L.P. member ever gets up and really gets stuck into militant unions and stands up for moderate Right-wing unions.

I am pleased to have been given the time to point out some of the problems that are facing this great State of ours. I am sure the people of my electorate realise that they have a Government that, despite unemployment and other great problems which everyone knows originated with Gough Whitlam, will always do the best it can to see that Queensland continues as the best State in the Commonwealth.

**Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) (5.15 p.m.):** I would like to join with other members in congratulating Sir James Ramsay on his appointment as Governor of this fine State and also to pledge the loyalty not only of myself but the constituents I represent to Her Majesty the Queen.

Recently this State has seen an electoral redistribution and in future the shire of Redland will constitute the whole of the new electorate of Redlands. This is one of the fastest-growing areas in Queensland and, indeed, Australia and in the redistribution the commission saw fit to maintain

the community of interest of this area in one electorate. It is the smallest shire in Queensland and, I understand, the most closely settled. The shire consists of a mainland area and seven inhabited islands in Moreton Bay. I believe that this is the first occasion that an electorate has been made up entirely of just one shire. Despite what many people think, the major industry in the electorate, at least on the mainland, is horticulture. Arguments have been put forward in favour of the retention of this area as farmland—a salad bowl—so that it remains the vegetable-producing centre of Brisbane for all time, but I would point out that this is not possible. Large areas of the electorate were subdivided way back in the 1890s and many of the farms there today are an aggregation of 16 and 20-perch allotments which are now set for residential development. The whole area is subject to a town plan and a residential water supply is reticulated throughout the whole shire. There is little doubt that within the next 20 years the balance of this once-rich vegetable-growing area will be rather high-class residential land lying close to metropolitan Brisbane.

One of the other major industries in the electorate is sand-mining. Indeed, I understand that the sand-mining industry on North Stradbroke Island is the largest such operation in Australia. The sand miners have done a first-class job of rehabilitation. They have done a job that is second to none as will be seen by anyone who is lucky enough to be taken on a tour of the rehabilitated areas. Contrary to the image which has been created by a lot of the conservationists throughout the country, the mining company is doing a first-class job of showing the public just what can be done after mining. I am sure that if many of the people who were hostile to sand-mining on Fraser Island had gone to Stradbroke and seen the wonderful job of rehabilitation that has been done there, we would have seen sand-mining on Fraser Island today. In many of the rehabilitated areas the vegetation is far superior to that originally provided by nature.

Whilst on the subject of sand-mining I must mention the work that the sand miners are prepared to do at Amity Point. As many members would know, Amity Point is a small fishing and tourist township on the extreme end of North Stradbroke Island, and the mining company is prepared to supply and spread in position over 1 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> of sand to provide a camping area and sport and recreation grounds. The area proposed to be filled is low, swampy land with a few mangroves. The presence of a few mangroves draws the attention of the conservationists and every effort has been made to prevent the mining company depositing the sand in the area. If these efforts to prevent the reclamation are successful, gen-

erations to come will be deprived of a large camping area as well as extensive sporting and recreation grounds.

I do not suppose that we should call the people I have referred to "conservationists" because I believe that each and every member of this House would consider himself or herself a conservationist. The people I am talking about are obstructionists and preservationists, without having a thought for any other person in the community. Many of them object merely for the sake of objecting and do not even come from the area concerned and, in many cases, as we saw with Fraser Island, have never been there. Just because it is the popular thing to do they jump on the bandwagon and object. In so doing they put the local authority concerned and, in many cases, industry and the State Government to the expense of countless thousands of dollars to fight a case through the courts. Meanwhile industry is held up and people are deprived of their jobs.

I mentioned Amity Point. This fast-developing bayside township is in need of a jetty. It was serviced by private enterprise for many years but private enterprise can no longer continue to service the area as people now do not come by ferry but prefer to bring their cars over on the barge. The boating fraternity who use that part of the bay look upon Amity Point as a refuelling station to pick up supplies, water, etc., but they cannot land without the provision of a jetty. I urge that in the coming Budget the Government pay particular attention to the urgent need for this facility.

Stradbroke Island has unlimited tourist potential. Access is proving a problem. I mentioned earlier that all visitors to the island travelled by barge, but the barge companies are finding it increasingly difficult to provide a service for the convenience of the public. In a previous speech in this House I said that I believed that the vast tourist potential of Stradbroke Island should be made available to the fullest extent to the population of the metropolitan area of Brisbane.

Following that speech an industrial firm and an engineering firm have taken up the proposal and investigations have been made. Only today, together with some of our Cabinet Ministers, we had discussions along these lines. I do urge the Government, the Lands Department and the various authorities concerned to put no hindrance in the way of this project. Here we have a local authority, investors, a mining company and engineering firms working closely together to try to provide this very important link with Stradbroke Island. That would make the area accessible to many hundreds of thousands of people in South-east Queensland. At the same time vehicular access would be provided to some of the Moreton Bay islands such as Russell Island, where over 10,000 blocks are waiting to be developed.

As I mentioned before, Redlands is a growth centre, one of the fastest-growing centres in the State. In a growth centre lying as close to the metropolitan area as Redlands does, fast transport is required. I refer to the urgent necessity for a four-lane highway from Capalaba into Brisbane. Capalaba is only 12 miles from the city and approximately 20,000 vehicles a day pass along that single carriageway. The road is far from adequate to transport the large numbers of people who wish to commute to the city daily.

The Cleveland railway line is an urgent necessity. I understand that the proposal put forward by me in this House has led to this particular venture being included in the Metropolitan Transit Study. We are very fortunate in this regard because the route the line will traverse is still available in its entirety. The Redland Shire Council saw fit in 1961 to make sure that the area was placed under council control so now the whole of the railway reserve from Lota Station right through to Cleveland Point is still available, and no resumptions will be required to re-lay the line. I thank the Minister for Transport for the efforts he has made on my behalf, and also people in the electorate who have made every effort to have this project included in the Metropolitan Transit Study. I hope that in the very near future, with the electrification of the Wynnum line, this extension will be laid into that very fast-growing area of my electorate.

Unfortunately police strength in the shire and the electorate has not grown with the population. The Minister for Police, who is in the House, is well aware of the problem. I certainly hope that in the Budget provision will be made for the appointment of more police throughout the State. But besides needing more police we need more facilities for police officers.

Some of the police stations throughout Queensland provide very cramped and inadequate working conditions for police officers. At the Cleveland Police Station, for example, the waiting room is so small that if it is occupied by two persons a third person waiting for attention is forced to remain outside on the street. Sometimes I wonder what would be the reaction of school-teachers if they were required to work under the very cramped conditions under which police officers work. Although the police provide a service day in and day out seven days a week and during holidays, they are forced to work under severely cramped conditions. I sincerely hope that the Budget will make provision for the relief of some of the inadequacies of accommodation at police stations not only in my electorate but in many other electorates as well.

The State Government Insurance Office has a monopoly over workers' compensation insurance in Queensland. I am not going to

discuss the pros and cons of that. However, I am gravely concerned at the general policy of the State Government Insurance Office of setting itself up as final arbiter and of refusing to enter into further correspondence in connection with claims.

Some of my electors have shown me papers from the State Government Insurance Office stamped "Claim fully paid. No right of appeal." What right does any insurance organisation have to deprive anyone of his right of appeal? Some people are permanently disabled, yet because of the State Government Insurance Office's policy they may not receive just compensation. This matter calls for investigation. If the State Government Insurance Office is not prepared to adopt a more tolerant attitude towards genuine claims, the Government should look at the possibility of allowing other insurance companies to enter the workers' compensation field.

I would be the first to admit that some persons flout the law and trade on the Workers' Compensation Act. I know that many bogus claims are made. The inspectors have the job of sorting those claims out. However, some persons who make genuine claims are not receiving adequate compensation for their injuries.

Finally—today we heard once again the hollow promises of the Leader of the Opposition—the great Dr. Fix-em or Mr. Fiction. As has been said, an empty vessel makes the most sound. The Leader of the Opposition recently conducted a survey in this State only to find that things were not as he thought they were or as he had been led to believe they were by the Left-wing unions that dominate him and his party today.

This Government has been in office for 20 years and the people of Queensland have just as much confidence in it today as they had in it 20 years ago. They are happy to have the Premier and his Ministers continue as leaders of this great State. Queensland leads Australia in growth and population expansion. As I have said in this House on earlier occasions, the export earnings of New South Wales and Victoria combined do not equal those of our fine State. While this Government is in power we can rest assured that the expansion of our mining and primary industries will continue.

**Mr. Houston:** Our primary industries are not expanding.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** Our primary industries are expanding.

*Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the debate stood adjourned.*

The House adjourned at 5.31 p.m.