

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 1977

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

to regulate the admission of certain evidence in proceedings relating to sexual offences and the mode of taking evidence in such proceedings, to protect persons concerned in the commission of sexual offences from identification, and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Newbery, read a third time.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. CAMBRIDGE CREDIT CORPORATION LTD.

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

(1) Is he aware of the report by the New South Wales Corporate Affairs Commission that directors of Cambridge Credit Corporation Ltd. published a series of false statements about the company's financial position just before it collapsed and that the managing director channelled \$1,440,000 into his family companies just before the crash?

(2) Did the report state that the auditors were negligent?

(3) What action has his Government taken to see that the stated "false net profits", "overstated pre-tax profits", "overstated liquid asset reports", etc., are not used by unscrupulous land developers and white-collar crooks to defraud or deceive Queenslanders?

(4) What areas of land in what locations were owned by Cambridge Credit or its subsidiaries and nominee companies in Queensland?

(5) What are the names of Cambridge Credit nominee companies, etc., in Queensland?

(6) As a result of this business failure, what is the estimated loss to the public of (a) Queensland and (b) Australia?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) I am aware that a report has been made to the New South Wales Attorney-General concerning the operations of Cambridge Credit Corporation Ltd. A copy of this report has not been received by my Government.

(3) I am not clear as to what is intended by the honourable member by this question, and it would be helpful if he could rephrase the question to allow me to provide a more meaningful response.

(4) Information concerning land owned by Cambridge Credit and its subsidiaries in Queensland would be obtainable by public

WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 1977

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

PAPERS

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

Report (1977) of the Local Government Grants Commission, Queensland, on financial assistance for local government.

Report of the Manager, Golden Casket Art Union, for the year 1976-77.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Allocation 1977-78 of funds provided by the Commonwealth pursuant to the Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act 1976.

Statutes under the James Cook University of North Queensland Act 1970-1977.

CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. D. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill

search through the Office of the Registrar of Titles and the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. A detailed investigation would be required to determine what companies held land in Queensland as nominees for Cambridge Credit Corporation Ltd. Such an investigation would take considerable time to complete and would involve extensive inquiries in other States.

(5) It would not be possible, without a detailed study of the records of Cambridge Credit Corporation Ltd. (many of which are held in New South Wales), to determine which companies could have been nominee companies for the purpose of Cambridge Credit's operations in Queensland.

(6) Until such time as the affairs of the receivership of Cambridge Credit Corporation Ltd. are finalised, it would not be possible to provide details of the estimated loss to the public of Queensland and Australia resulting from this business failure.

2. GROCERY STORES TO SELL FROZEN BEEF PACKS

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

(1) With reference to his statement released in mid-July asking for State health regulations to be eased to allow some frozen beef packs to be sold in grocery stores, has any further decision been made on this matter?

(2) Is he aware of the opposition of the Meat and Allied Trades' Federation of Australia and many small butchers to this proposal?

(3) Have any discussions been held with butchers in this regard?

(4) Does his attitude, as expressed in this statement, conflict with his decision in relation to requests by the Karumba Progress Association for the temporary waiving of meat industry regulations so that residents of Karumba can purchase frozen meat in the local store, as there is no butcher available in that town?

Answers:—

(1) The statement to which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition refers was a report of recommendations by the Beef Industry Committee. The committee is required to report its recommendations to Cabinet, which at this point has not fully considered the matter.

(2) Yes.

(3) In the formulation of its recommendation, a working group of the committee consulted with the Meat and Allied Trades Federation, which has expressed disagreement with the proposal.

(4) My attitude to the Karumba Progress Association is consistent with the current merchandising requirements for beef.

3. CABOOLTURE SHIRE COUNCIL
LOAN-RAISING PROGRAMME

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

(1) What are the reasons for cutting back the request by the Caboolture Shire Council for permission to borrow \$2,800,000 to an amount of \$1,750,000 for its proposed loan-raising programme?

(2) Is he aware that the Caboolture Shire Council will have to set back major water supply, sewerage and road-works programmes for at least one year?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Overall, the initial requests for loan funds by local authorities are for far more than the available funds. The \$2,800,000 referred to is Caboolture's initial request for loan funds for 1977-78.

Last year Caboolture Shire Council was initially allocated \$1,650,000. Later in the year, further sums of \$233,000 were provided. This year its initial programme has been set at an effective \$1,750,000.

Having regard to the restriction of debenture loan funds approved by the Australian Loan Council for the current year, the council's allocation is in reasonable balance with that given last year. The Co-ordinator-General has assured the Treasury that every endeavour has been made to provide funds for all works in progress and for new works the council regards as being of top priority.

4. DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA

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

(1) Is he aware that a recent survey conducted in the United States of America of the results of 700 accidents showed that 32 per cent of drivers were under the influence of marijuana and that a similar result was obtained in a Canadian survey?

(2) What steps are being taken by his department to devise some test which could be given to drivers involved in serious accidents to determine if they are under the influence of marijuana?

(3) What methods are now used to detect whether a driver involved in an accident is under the influence of marijuana?

Answers:—

(1) I have read the reports of various surveys suggesting that drivers involved in accidents are under the influence of marijuana and various drugs.

(2) The Government Chemical Laboratory has recently taken delivery of a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer, which

will be used to determine whether individuals have recently been smoking marijuana.

(3) At the present time dependence is placed on clinical signs and evidence of possession of marijuana and the individual's admission.

5. RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIDAL FORESHORES

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

(1) In regard to tidal foreshores, is he aware that there is a degree of uncertainty as to where the control and responsibility by local government stop and become the control and responsibility of his department?

(2) Where is the line of demarcation of responsibility for the foreshores of Moreton Bay and estuaries of the bay which fringe or border the Greater Brisbane area?

Answers:—

(1) I am not aware of any uncertainties in the control of foreshores. Generally, foreshores of the sea are placed under the control of local authorities pursuant to the Local Government Act. However, such control is for the purpose of controlling public behaviour and does not extend to such matters as the erection of structures or the removal of materials, which are subject to necessary approvals being obtained under the Harbours Act.

(2) The mainland foreshores of Moreton Bay contiguous to Greater Brisbane are under the control of the Brisbane City Council. However, the Port of Brisbane Authority may permit the use of these foreshores for works related to the Harbours Act.

6. PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS, BAY TERRACE, WYNNUM

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

(1) Does he recall that, as a result of my representations to him last year, funds were made available by his department to the Brisbane City Council to assist in a major degree in the installing of pedestrian lights at schools in the electorate of Wynnum and these have been installed at some schools?

(2) Does he realise that at that time there was and there still exists a great and urgent need for the installing of pedestrian lights in Bay Terrace, Wynnum, to service the children attending Guardian Angels Convent and Mt. Carmel College?

(3) In view of the urgency of this need in the interests of the safety of children, will he use his influence to have these lights installed?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I commend the honourable member for Wynnum for his very responsible concern for the welfare and safety of students attending schools in his electorate. Honourable members would recall, as I outlined to this House previously, that it was largely due to his initiative and his strong representations to me that arrangements were made, following agreement between myself and the Lord Mayor, for a special effort to have pedestrian-actuated signals installed at hazardous school crossings in the Wynnum electorate last financial year. A special allocation, over and above the original allocation of \$300,000 from the Traffic Engineering Trust Fund, was made to the Brisbane City Council—the responsible authority in this matter—to assist in financing installations sought by the honourable member at that time.

This year I have approved an allocation of \$327,000 from the fund to the council, and would expect that the council will consider the signals now suggested by the honourable member in the allocation of its priorities. The installations which the honourable member is now seeking are not located on roads declared under the Main Roads Act, and in this situation it would be realised that the Brisbane City Council has the say on whether the lights are installed or not. It is a basic City Council responsibility—and I understand that some approaches have been made in this respect through the council member for the area, so far without success. Notwithstanding this, I appreciate—as I said before—the honourable member's very commendable interest in the welfare of students attending schools in his area, and of course I will do all I can to support representations from him in this regard.

7. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE AT WONDALL HEIGHTS SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware of my prolonged and extensive submissions concerning the establishing of a pre-school centre at the Wondall Heights School?

(2) As a need exists and adequate land with suitable access is available for the building of this centre and as there now appears to be no reason why this project should not commence, when will work start on this centre?

Answers:—

(1) Yes, I am aware that the honourable member has previously sought the establishment of a State pre-school centre at the Wondall Heights School.

(2) Construction of this centre is provisionally planned as part of the 1978-79 loan works programme.

8. DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS

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

(1) What criteria are used when designating a school as being disadvantaged?

(2) Is it the responsibility of the school or the parents and citizens' committee to present arguments to have a school designated in this category?

(3) When arriving at priorities in regard to new buildings or improvements to State schools, are the principals and the parents and citizens' committees consulted as to their opinions on their priorities and, if not, what are the reasons?

(4) Does his department consult with the Works Department when deciding on priorities?

Answers:—

(1) The criteria used to determine disadvantaged status are: socio-economic level of the area in which the school is situated; the number of migrants or children of migrants in the school; the number of indigenous pupils in the school; and the degree of isolation of the school. Approximately equal weighting is given to each of these attributes, but it is necessary that the socio-economic level be below the State average.

(2) Each year principals are asked to furnish returns detailing conditions in the school and its locality. It is usual for the staff and the parents and citizens' association to be consulted in compiling the return.

(3) Where it is feasible, consultations about major proposed works are held with principals and in some cases parents and citizens' associations. It is not, however, practicable to consult on all matters, nor is it always desirable to vary State-wide standards or procedures because of local preferences.

(4) The Works Department is provided with a complete listing of priorities for new schools and major improvements to existing schools on a rolling five-year basis. These programmes are fully discussed with appropriate officers of the Works Department.

9. TRANSFER OF FUNDING FROM BERSERKER ST. STATE SCHOOL LIBRARY TO CHINCHILLA

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

As his department reallocated building funds throughout Queensland earlier this year, why were funds which were allocated for a new library at Berserker Street State School transferred to Chinchilla?

Answer:—

There is no relevance in the question.

10. HOMOGENISING OF MILK

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

(1) What is involved in the homogenising of milk, and is this process more expensive than pasteurising?

(2) Is any goodness or food value in the milk lost through homogenising and what is the comparative result in both processes?

Answers:—

(1) Homogenisation is a process whereby milk is forced at high pressure through a specially designed valve which breaks up the fat globules. This results in a large number of very small fat globules which remain evenly distributed through the milk and will not rise to form cream. The process is carried out immediately before pasteurisation. It slightly increases the costs of processing.

(2) Homogenisation has no effect on the food value of milk and consequently the very slight loss in food value on pasteurisation remains unchanged.

11. TIMBER-CUTTING ON FRASER ISLAND

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement by a Mr. Graham Pizzey in "The Herald" of 30 July to the effect that Fraser Island faces problems from plans to remove larger amounts of timber?

(2) Is there any change in the Government's plan of allowing timber-cutting on Fraser Island within a sustained yield basis?

(3) How much timber was cut and what was the estimated growth on Fraser Island over the last 10 years, and what is the allowable cut for the current year?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) There is no change in the Government's plan of allowing timber-cutting on Fraser Island within the sustainable yield for the State forest area.

(3) Timber cut from Fraser Island during the past ten years has been:—

Year	Total Timber Cut
1967-68	23 790 m ³
1968-69	18 295 m ³
1969-70	18 088 m ³
1970-71	16 203 m ³
1971-72	18 227 m ³
1972-73	18 632 m ³
1973-74	20 652 m ³
1974-75	15 286 m ³
1975-76	18 931 m ³
1976-77	11 062 m ³

The growth rate of the hardwood forest areas has been estimated as at least 21 000 m³ per annum. This figure has been used to set the allowable cut for the current year at 21 000 m³.

12. FUNDING OF ROAD-WORKS, TOWNSVILLE

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

As the Townsville City Council is assiduously creating the impression that all work done and being done on the city's roads and streets is funded by the council out of ratepayer revenue, how much has the Main Roads Department spent in Townsville in the last two years on roads, bridges and similar jobs and how much is planned to be spent?

Answer:—

Of course the answer is much different from the picture that the Federal Leader of the Opposition tried to paint when he was in North Queensland recently. The honourable member for Townsville South will be pleased to learn that in the financial year ended 30 June 1976, expenditure by the Main Roads Department in the Townsville city area totalled \$1,135,289. Of this amount, \$889,602 was spent on permanent works, \$221,497 on ordinary maintenance and \$24,190 on special maintenance.

In the financial year ended 30 June 1977, expenditure by the Main Roads Department in the Townsville city area totalled \$2,245,610. Of this amount \$1,913,278 was spent on permanent works, \$244,078 on ordinary maintenance and \$88,254 on special maintenance.

The Main Roads Department has programmed expenditure totalling \$1,726,000 for permanent works in the Townsville city area for the 1977-78 financial year, which figure includes \$425,000 for commitments on the South Townsville Road, a further \$500,000 for additional works on the

South Townsville Road, which include the railway overbridge, and \$800,000 for continuing works on the Ross River Road.

The honourable member for Townsville South has approached me on numerous occasions about a start being made on the road-works near the rail crossing. I think that the honourable member would be pleased to convey to his electors the information I have just given him.

13. UPDATING OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

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

Will any provision be made to bring all electoral rolls up to date before the writs are issued for the coming election and, if so, by what means will this be done?

Answer:—

A check of all electoral rolls was conducted by civilian canvassers throughout Queensland in late 1976 and the results of this canvass have been processed.

The Electoral Office is also continually updating rolls in accordance with notifications received by the office and from State electoral registrars. The names of all electors in Queensland are computerised.

In accordance with the usual practice it is proposed to insert advertisements in the newspapers prior to the issue of the writs informing electors of the need to enrol before the issue of the writs.

These arrangements should ensure that the electoral rolls will be up to date for the coming election.

14. PENSIONER RATE CONCESSIONS, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Do the activities of local authorities in Queensland come under the provisions of the Trade Practices Act, which provides for prosecution and heavy penalties for false and misleading advertisements?

(2) If so, will he initiate inquiries to see if he can launch a prosecution against the Townsville City Council for, inter alia, inserting an advertisement in the "Townsville Daily Bulletin" to create the impression that pensioners will, because of a piffling general rate concession, pay less this year than they did last year, whereas they will in fact pay substantially more in their overall rates and charges than they did last year?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The Trade Practices Act 1974 is a Commonwealth Act and any prosecution under that Act is a matter for Commonwealth authorities. However, the Act

has no application to local authorities which do not come within the scope of "corporations" to which the Act applies.

15. REMOVAL OF CARCASSES FROM HIGHWAYS

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

What authority is responsible for the removal or destruction of carcasses of animals killed by motor vehicles on the State's highways, and what action can be taken where it is apparent that these carcasses are not being disposed of?

Answer:—

Fundamentally the responsibility for removal or destruction of the carcasses of animals killed by motor vehicles on the State's highways would lie with the local authority concerned. However, from a practical point of view, it is important that these carcasses be moved or destroyed without delay. Consequently the Main Roads Department, if advised of the existence of such carcasses on roads declared under the Main Roads Act, has in the past arranged for the removal or destruction thereof, and will continue to do so in the future. Any necessary contact with the department in such a matter should be made with the local district office of the department.

16. SMALL-BOAT HARBOUR, LUCINDA POINT

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

Is he aware of the urgent need for the establishment of the already proposed small-boat harbour to be constructed in conjunction with the new bulk-sugar loading facility at Lucinda Point, and will he take the necessary action to ensure the proper progress of this facility, as it is most urgently required by the tourist industry and the boating public?

Answer:—

I am aware of the need for the establishment of a small-boat harbour at Lucinda. In view of certain ancillary works which have been provided to enable the construction of the bulk-sugar loading facility, I have instructed that an investigation be carried out into the provision of a small-boat harbour which could incorporate the facilities mentioned previously. Upon receipt of the report the matter will be considered by Cabinet.

17. CAMPING RESERVE, CAPTAIN COOK'S DRIVE, SEVENTEEN SEVENTY

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

(1) What investigations have been carried out by his department in relation to the proposed camping reserve on Captain Cook's Drive at the town of Seventeen Seventy?

(2) Is he aware of claims that citizens in the area are concerned that the area could be ruined by the Miriam Vale Shire Council's desire to establish a camping reserve?

(3) Have representations been made to him by local residents with a view to retaining this land in its natural state?

(4) Has he had discussions with the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement concerning this matter?

(5) Has Mr. Wharton expressed his disapproval of the proposed camping reserve?

(6) Is he aware that four years ago the Miriam Vale Shire Council rejected an application to build a private caravan park on the present site on the grounds that it was historic and that any development was bound to cause erosion of the area?

Answers:—

(1) At the request of the Miriam Vale Shire Council and at the instance of the Department of Health, approval has been given to establish a new camping reserve in the town of Seventeen Seventy. The area comprises part of a recreation reserve. The shire council's request for establishment of a new camping area stemmed from the indiscriminate camping that was taking place and health problems that were arising therefrom.

The present camping and recreation reserve at Round Hill Head is unsuitable for camping purposes. The late Mr Hanson, M.L.A., presented a petition to me in 1975 supporting the establishment of a new camping reserve at Seventeen Seventy.

(2 and 3) Several residents in the locality have expressed opposition to the proposal.

(4 and 5) The Honourable the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement has supported the concept on behalf of the Miriam Vale Shire Council.

(6) No.

18. FULL MEDIBANK REFUNDS OF DOCTORS' FEES

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

(1) Is he aware that doctors charge patients fees well above those refundable by Medibank as the recommended Department of Health fee? For instance, a barium

meal rebate is \$32 as recommended by the department, yet the A.M.A. fee charged is \$47.50?

(2) If so, what action has been taken to have the full fee charged refunded to patients fully covered by Medibank?

Answers:—

(1) Fees charged by private medical practitioners for services rendered to private patients vary, and in some cases exceed the amount repayable by the registered health insurance organisations.

(2) Control of this situation is not within the scope or authority of the State Department of Health. The level of payment from the registered health insurance organisations is a matter that involves the Commonwealth Government and not the State Government.

19. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, GLADSTONE

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

(1) As the Gladstone City Council has banned the use of caravans in private yards and as there are no vacancies in caravan parks in Gladstone, will he give urgent consideration to the building of additional Housing Commission accommodation to meet the needs of a long list of genuine home seekers presently in need of suitable accommodation?

(2) Can the guaranteed rental houses, or other Commission houses presently unoccupied, be released for rental to relieve the shortage of accommodation of the genuine home seeker?

(3) How many Housing Commission houses were built in Gladstone during 1976-77?

Answers:—

(1) On figures available to me I cannot agree that Gladstone has as serious a housing shortage as other large provincial cities. Family rental applications with priority rating dropped from 13 at June 1976 to nil by August 1977, and total numbers of applicants did not change. Normal vacancy turnover accounted for seven families being placed in the past month. A large project builder earlier this year offered the commission 28 houses he could not dispose of.

From \$20,000,000 made available at low interest rates by the State Government to assist home seekers to acquire their own homes, the response from Gladstone was only two out of 1,100 applications in the State.

A wait list of 69 with none on priority in a centre where 1,155 have already been provided is not as pressing a problem as

faced by other towns and cities; nor do two applications for low-interest loans support the honourable member's statements of long lists of genuine home seekers. The position will be kept under review in future programmes.

(2) The commission is contractually bound to the employer-lessee, but I might mention that it recently took back 40 houses from a large employer and released them onto the general market.

(3) Eight plus 40 taken back from employer tenancy. Another 34 were financed by the commission through a co-operative society. The figures show that not only has Gladstone been very well treated in respect of housing, but that it is one of the best-treated centres in the State.

20. SENTENCE OF ANTHONY WILLIAM MELROSE FOR RAPE

Mrs. Kyburz, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Is he aware that Anthony William Melrose was released on \$1,500 bail by Mr. Rutherford, S.M., on a charge of rape, the bail being proposed by the police?

(2) Is this man the same person who was tried at Maroochydore Court on 28 July, what were the charges against him and what was the sentence?

(3) Under the maximum sentences laid down in the Criminal Code, was this sentence commensurate with the crimes committed?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am informed that Anthony William Melrose has been committed to the current sittings of the Supreme Court, Brisbane, on a charge of rape. An indictment has not yet been presented. The bail granted by the magistrate was a recognizance of \$1,500 with one surety of \$1,500 or two sureties in the sum of \$750 each. I am further informed that he is identical with the man who was committed for trial at the Magistrates Court at Maroochydore on 28 July 1977 to the Criminal Sittings of the District Court, Brisbane, commencing on 10 October 1977. The charges in this connection were ones of attempted abuse of a girl under 10 years of age, sodomy and indecent treatment of a girl under 14 years of age. On each charge he was admitted to bail on his own recognizance in the sum of \$2,000. In each case, of course, there has not as yet been a trial and, accordingly, no question of sentences will arise unless and until he is convicted by the appropriate court of any offence. The amount of bail is a matter for a court and I have no power to intervene.

I am advised further that an indictment will be presented against him in the Supreme Court, Brisbane, on Friday next and if he does not appear a bench warrant will be sought to have him arrested.

21. SCENIC RIM NATIONAL PARK

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

When will the Scenic Rim National Park be gazetted?

Answer:—

A major proportion of the Scenic Rim proposal is already national park or is State forest in the process of revocation and re-gazetted as national park. Where it has been decided that State forest tenure will remain, a strip no less than 300 m, but much wider in places, along the Scenic Rim trail will be gazetted national park. The final result will be a national park extending about 200 km along the Scenic Rim from Rocky Peak to Point Danger.

My Forestry and National Parks and Wildlife Service departments are giving this proposal their urgent consideration. Each State forest has to be dealt with separately, and this will be a staging process. The revocations can be dealt with only while Parliament is sitting. The first revocations and national park gazettals should commence within four weeks.

22. THE BAILEY REPORT

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

Will he dispel rumours by some health agencies that any agency is going to suffer by the implementation of the Bailey Report?

Answer:—

I am not aware of any proposal for immediate implementation of the recommendations in the report referred to by the honourable member.

She has my assurance that I will use my best endeavours to ensure that health agencies are not disadvantaged should any of the recommendations be accepted for implementation.

23. HEALTH HAZARD OF SEWERAGE TREATMENT

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

With reference to numerous complaints from residents of Bracken Ridge that nauseating smells from the Brisbane City Council sewerage treatment plant are so bad that residents are not able to eat meals or sleep in their homes in the vicinity of that plant and that houses must be locked up, especially at night, as migraine and asthma sufferers are in a dire position, will he cause investigations to be made into this health hazard and take action to make the council live up to its responsibilities?

Answer:—

I assure the honourable member that every complaint received by my department is immediately taken up with the responsible authority so that effective and positive remedy can be made to alleviate any distress.

In the present instance, inquiries made of the Brisbane City Council have elicited the following information: complaints concerning this installation were received by the Brisbane City Council from 8 to 23 August 1977; objectionable odours were generated during the period by breakdowns in two unrelated sections of the plant. The problems in these sections have been resolved and the plant is now functioning correctly; no complaints concerning this plant have been received by the Brisbane City Council since 23 August 1977.

24. LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO DECLARED ROADS

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

(1) What are the new rates of contributions required from local authorities towards work on declared roads?

(2) What will be the effect of these new and long-overdue reductions in these requirements on local governments' meagre finances?

Mr. HINZE: After I have given the answer to the question, it will probably be suggested that I should grow a long white beard because of the striking resemblance of my actions to those of Santa Claus.

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Approval was recently given for the following reductions:—

—	From	To
	%	%
Secondary roads—		
Permanent works ..	25	15
Maintenance	30	10
Urban subarterial roads—		
Maintenance	20	Nil

These new reductions will apply to expenditure on and from 1 July 1976 so that councils will benefit in 1977-78.

The new secondary roads permanent works charge will mean a saving of some \$600,000 annually to councils in the amounts charged, or \$67,000 annually in interest and redemption payments which would be cumulative.

For maintenance the annual saving will be some \$740,000 for secondary roads and \$130,000 for urban subarterial roads.

For 1977-78 the total annual saving to the councils will be about \$937,000.

The charges now made for works on the various classes of declared roads are—

—	Permanent Works	Maintenance
State highways . . .	Nil	Nil
Developmental roads . . .	5	Nil
Main roads . . .	10	Nil
Secondary roads . . .	15	10
Urban arterial roads . . .	Nil	Nil
Urban subarterial roads	10	Nil

25. ELECTRICAL SAFETY, RAINBOW BEACH CARAVAN PARK

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in "The Gympie Times" of 20 August that Mrs. Joy Shaw was evicted from the Rainbow Beach Caravan Park because she complained about lack of electrical safety at the park?

(2) As Mrs. Shaw has submitted to me photographs of up to seven exterior cords attached to four outlets through loose double adaptors and wrapped around a water tap at this park, will he undertake an investigation into a reported statement from a South East Queensland Electricity Board spokesman to the effect that there was no danger and that no check had been made?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) A verbal report from an unidentified person about multiple leads was received by the Gympie depot of the South East Queensland Electricity Board and an installation inspector visited the site. He warned the owner of the danger of multiple connections to outlets and the owner undertook to have further outlets installed. There was no electrically hazardous situation at the time of the inspection.

26. PLAGUE GRASSHOPPERS, MT. ABUNDANCE AND SURAT

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

(1) What measures are being taken to control plague grasshoppers in the Mt. Abundance and Surat areas?

(2) In the event of serious outbreaks, will Government assistance be forthcoming?

Answers:—

(1) Officers of the Australian Plague Locust Commission are at present in the Roma area, and will be checking for hatchings in the Mt. Abundance and Surat areas. They will be implementing aerial pesticide application as appropriate, while ground applications will be carried out by officers of the Department of Primary Industries and the Rabbit Control Authority of the Lands Department.

(2) Finance has already been made available from Consolidated Revenue for chemical supplies and pesticide application, and it is expected that this control action will prevent a multiplication of the pest and a likelihood of a major outbreak in Southern Queensland.

27. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAND, ST. GEORGE

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

(1) Does his department own any vacant housing allotments in the town of St. George?

(2) If so, where are they located and how many are held?

(3) Is it intended to erect a residence for the principal of the new St. George High School and, if so, where will it be located?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) The Department of Works has recently acquired two allotments in Alfred Street, St. George, for my department.

(3) A residence for the principal of the new high school is included in the 1977-78 housing programme. It will be constructed on the allotment on the corner of Alfred and Carnation Streets.

28. MUNGINDI HOSPITAL

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

What is the current situation regarding the proposed new hospital for Mungindi?

Answer:—

The honourable member has been most assiduous in his representations on this matter. I regret to have to advise him that at the present time there has not been any firm advice received from the Commonwealth regarding availability of funds.

29. MESSAGE PARLOURS AND PROSTITUTION

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

(1) With reference to the recent claims made in this Chamber as to the existence of massage parlours which are only a cover for widespread prostitution and in view of this Government's efforts to side-track these allegations into an emotional defence of an unnamed senior police officer, is prostitution rife in this State and, in particular, in Brisbane?

(2) If he is not able to say either way, will he ask any cab driver the location of these houses of ill fame, just as both the member for Rockhampton North and I did on two occasions last week while travelling to and from Parliament?

Answers:—

(1) Neither the Government nor I have endeavoured to side-track allegations in respect of prostitution. There is no evidence to prove that prostitution is rife in Queensland as the honourable member suggests.

Prostitution has survived for centuries and it would be naive of me to suggest that it does not exist in Queensland or in a city the size of Brisbane. However, I have already tabled in this House figures which clearly demonstrate the increased police attention being given to this problem under my administration. Arrests for prostitution have risen from 214 in the 1975-76 year to 512 in the 1976-77 year. These figures do not necessarily indicate an increase in the number or activities of prostitutes, but they do clearly indicate the increased attention being given to the problem by my department. This police activity reflects the respect that the Government of this State has for the moral values held by the citizens who are opposed to prostitution.

I hope that members of this House and the general public will see through the double standards adopted by the A.L.P. on this issue and judge it accordingly. A.L.P. policy is to legalise prostitution. If it ever became the Government of this State it would wash its hands of the problem. Its policy is a recipe for the growth of organised crime. Prostitution would grow like Topsy under a Labor Government. Honourable members opposite have evidently forgotten their own party policy in their recent pious ravings about the problems of prostitution.

Last week this House was subjected to the spectacle of the honourable member for Archerfield, armed with information from a Brisbane harlot, attempting to criticise this Government for not doing enough to stamp out prostitution. Yet the policy of his own party is to do nothing about the problem at all. What hypocrisy! Now the cry has been taken

up by the honourable member for Rockhampton. I repeat to him the offer I made last week to his colleague the honourable member for Archerfield. If either of them is genuinely interested in assisting police in their efforts to combat the problem, instead of trying to adopt a "holier than thou" attitude for the sake of political mileage, he should provide what information he has on the operations of prostitutes to the Police Department so that it can be investigated.

(2) I am surprised that the honourable member for Rockhampton is so willing to admit to this House that he and the honourable member for Rockhampton North make regular inquiries of cab drivers as to the location of houses of ill fame. Of course, what they do in their spare time is none of my business; but I certainly do not want to emulate their actions.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. NEWBERY: You have not named him yet.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You know who he is.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask honourable members to desist from persistent interjections. Otherwise I will have to deal with them under Standing Order 123A. I warn all honourable members.

30. TAX-FREE PAY FOR VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

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

Will he undertake to look at the possibility of approaching the Commonwealth Treasurer again to see that the small remuneration paid to volunteer firemen be not treated as taxable income?

Answer:—

I am very sympathetic to the matter which has been raised by the honourable member in his question. The Premier wrote to the Prime Minister on 19 May 1977 and subsequently the Commonwealth Treasurer advised on 12 July 1977 that the question of exemption from taxation of the allowances paid to auxiliary fire brigade personnel would be considered during the deliberations leading up to the framing of the recent Federal Budget. It is now obvious that favourable consideration was not given to the matter in the Budget. Only in the past few days have I authorised officers of the State Fire Services Council to have discussions on this matter with Mr. Bob Katter, M.P., and I am advised that Mr. Katter intends to take the matter up with the Commonwealth Government. In the circumstances I think that any further

approach to the Commonwealth Treasurer might be deferred pending the result of Mr. Katter's representations.

31. AID TO TWO MT. ISA EGG PRODUCERS

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

(1) Is he aware of an announcement by the South-East Queensland Egg Marketing Board, in its Sunny Queen Egg Farm Newsletter of 15 July, agreeing to provide assistance to two egg producers in Mt. Isa?

(2) What action has the State Government taken to ensure that the assistance offered is agreed to by the Commonwealth?

(3) Have the producers in Mt. Isa been officially notified on the type of assistance agreed to by the South-East Queensland Egg Marketing Board?

(4) Will he elaborate on the conditions of the agreement?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The assistance is being financed from the revenue of the egg marketing boards within Queensland. Under this arrangement the question of Federal Government involvement does not arise.

(3) It is not the function of my department to advise the egg producers concerned. I am informed however that the Mt. Isa producers have been officially notified by the South Queensland Egg Marketing Board.

(4) Very briefly, the main conditions are that, while the producers will still be required to pay the appropriate levy fortnightly, 90 per cent will be refunded to them on a quarterly instalment basis. Ten per cent will be retained to defray administrative costs. This arrangement will cover flocks up to the current hen quotas and will be reviewed annually.

The honourable member for Mt. Isa should feel very satisfied. I commend him on the representations he has made on behalf of the egg producers in Mt. Isa to draw to my attention the cost of production that they endure because of their remoteness. The producers in Mt. Isa, I am sure, will be very grateful to him for his efforts.

32. COMPANY, SMART TIME PRODUCTS

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

(1) Is he aware of a company trading as Smart Time Products?

(2) Is the company registered in Queensland?

(3) Is he aware that the company is presently attempting to set up offices in Brisbane under other names?

(4) What are the other names the company is using in Brisbane and are they registered in Queensland?

(5) As the company is claiming to prospective buyers that the Consumer Affairs Bureau has valued goods at \$900 yet offers these goods for sale for \$600 and as these items have been locally valued at approximately \$400, is the Consumer Affairs Bureau aware of its name being used?

(6) Has any complaint connected with the company been received at the Consumer Affairs Bureau?

(7) Will he warn all women in Queensland, particularly in Brisbane, to be on their guard against this company, which is allegedly offering goods at a discount rate?

Answers:—

(1) No. However, I am advised by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs that the bureau is aware of a company Smart-time Pty. Ltd.

(2 to 4) These questions should be directed to my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

(5) I am advised by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs that he is aware the bureau's name was being used, whereupon the firm was immediately contacted. On 26 August 1977 the Queensland manager of Smart-time Pty. Ltd. advised—and I quote—

"In the instance where Consumer Affairs was quoted as recommending our products we would like to point out that this procedure is by no means an accepted practice in the organisation, and the matter will be brought to the attention of all the consultants at a general meeting to be held tonight Friday, 26 August 1977.

"If this has been done in the past, it has been purely without the knowledge of the company, and steps are being taken to ensure that such a thing does not occur again.

"The person concerned in this instance, namely Florian, was dismissed from this company several weeks ago, due to his irresponsible behaviour."

(6) Yes; a number of complaints has been received the majority of which have been satisfactorily resolved.

(7) In view of the facts placed before me I do not intend to issue such a statement at present.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

IRVINEBANK TREATMENT WORKS

Mr. TENNI: I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: Is he aware of the recent statements by the member for Cairns, as reported in North Queensland newspapers, that the State treatment works at Irvinebank will be closed by this Government?

Mr. CAMM: Yes, my attention was drawn to that statement of the member for Cairns. The newspaper I saw had a photograph of him sitting in the bar of the Irvinebank Hotel. Whilst I would not deny him the right to partake of some refreshments during what was obviously to him a very confusing tour (he would have no knowledge whatsoever of the workings of a tin-treatment plant), I suggest that before he makes such outlandish and ridiculous statements he put a bit more water in his liquor. Then the people of North Queensland might get some truth from him. The truth is that the Government has no intention whatsoever of selling the Irvinebank Treatment Works. It is there as a service for the tin miners in the area. Although it is incurring substantial losses, the Government intends to continue its operations.

At the same time the member for Cairns mentioned that we would sell the works after selling off the cream of the tailings to some private company. I would ask him if he knows any better market for the tailings of the mill than the one we have procured. These tailings have been accumulated since the commencement of the treatment works. When more sophisticated treatment works came into the area, it was decided to offer the tailings for tender to see if some company would treat the tailings to recover any tin that might have remained. A company has been successful with its tender, and the tailings are being treated—and men are gaining useful employment in the other treatment works through the processing of these tailings.

If the member for Cairns desires to inspect this Government-owned instrumentality, I suggest that he should as a matter of courtesy advise officials of the Mines Department in Cairns that he is going there. They will tell him what to do. They will even make arrangements for someone to conduct him around the works who will explain it fully to him. But he went up there like a bandicoot sniffing for trouble. He did not go to the manager of the works or to any officer associated with the plant. Instead, he went with his cronies to the pub at Irvinebank and made this statement against the Government.

I say once again that the Government has no intention whatsoever of selling the Irvinebank Treatment Works, despite the advocacy of such a proposal by the honourable member for Cairns.

STUDENT PROTEST MARCH

Mr. LAMONT: I ask the Premier: Is he aware that the student protest march originally planned for this morning did not

proceed? Is he also aware that a hard-core group that did attempt to march dispersed when they came within 100 yards of the police? Does he believe that it may augur well for the future of Government and police relations with students if this situation continues?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is correct that the demonstrations and rioting in the streets that these people, supported by the A.L.P., planned did not eventuate. I want to compliment all the sensible people who did not follow the lead given by some of these radicals and Communists, again supported by the A.L.P. and the Trades and Labor Council. It all fizzled out.

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Rockhampton under Standing Order No. 123A.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: This demonstrates the importance of Governments being fair, just and positive. I am sure the people of Queensland appreciate the attitude adopted by the Government and the Police Force. I should like to compliment the Acting Commissioner of Police and policemen on the very practical and fair way in which they faced this problem.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

PROPOSED ILLEGAL MARCH BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Mr. LAMONT (South Brisbane) (12 noon): I rise to speak today in this debate to tell the House of my experience this morning at the University of Queensland. I went out there in the hope that I could address the students because I knew that they were contemplating an illegal march. When I arrived I found a couple of hundred students listening to a student leader who was reading out the rules of the march. Mr. Fielding, the President of the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, came across to me and said, "I think we are here in the same capacity today. We are trying to talk them out of it." He introduced me to the organiser of the meeting, and I asked if I could speak. He said, "We will have to put it to the meeting." To their credit the university students voted in favour of hearing what I had to say, although there was one staff member—at least he claimed to be a staff member—who shouted vociferously that I shouldn't be heard. No doubt he was there in the name of free speech, too!

I told the students that I have a great concern, as do, I think, other members of this Assembly, for the right to freedom of assembly and the right to freedom of expression. I also told them that I felt that the

decision to march in protest was made in ignorance of the decision made by Government members yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Houston: That's not binding on them, and you know it.

Mr. LAMONT: Just let the honourable member wait a minute. We are talking about free speech, so let me make my speech and let him hear me out before he makes any comments.

We made the decision yesterday afternoon as Government members that permits should not be issued for street marches where it clearly appeared that such marches would be provocative and therefore probably result in violence. You know as well as I do, Mr. Speaker, that some marches are deliberately provocative. The march in London a few weeks ago by racists in S.E.15 was deliberately provocative, because that is a coloured area. It was just as provocative as Hitler's storm-troopers marching through the water-side area of Berlin in 1932. We don't tolerate, nor should we tolerate, any demonstration that interferes with other people's civil liberties or which is deliberately made to provoke violence. I explained to the students there that the principle they were protesting about had already been preserved and protected in the Government parties' resolution. What the Government parties did was to spell out our feeling. There was no direction to the Police Commissioner; we merely clarified Government policy with respect to street marches. And we said that where violence was likely or probable we felt the permit should not be given. That was not directing the Commissioner of Police; this was supporting what the police themselves wanted. I explained this to the students. I told them that the Premier had made a statement since, which I had seen in the Press, and that this is what he was aiming to achieve all along.

I knew that I was not going to talk the hard-core students out of marching. My purpose in going there was to ensure that the moderate students, or the sightseers or those who just wanted a bit of entertainment would know that there was no real principle to protest about because the principle had been defended by the appropriate people in the appropriate place, that is, the elected representatives of the people. I pointed out that they are constituents as much as anybody else, and they must regard us as their representatives. Having explained to them that circumstances had changed considerably since they took their decision to march, I then told them that if they insisted on marching anyway it could not be in the name of a principle that had already been secured. I said to them, "If you continue to march, I want to make it very clear to you that you are not marching for a principle." I told them that anyone who continued to march today would be marching deliberately to come into conflict with the police or for some purpose other than the principle which was raised on the previous day when they took their decision.

After I had spoken a large number of moderate students—I assume they were moderate students, but maybe they were just intelligent students—came to me and said that they had decided against marching because they felt that what I had said was reasonable. I was disappointed at some people, particularly one gentleman who wanted everyone to consider the situation as they interpreted it on the Tuesday morning. The later turn of events did not suit his purpose.

He was not interested in the fact that circumstances had changed. I was glad that Mr. Fielding, the President of the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, supported my comments.

I was a little disappointed that some of the students considered that the police might have deliberately planted people in the student body to act in a radical manner and provoke violence. I think the position might have been the other way round; any plant would be more likely to be there at the instigation of some other body than the police. I was rather disappointed that a so-called staff member did not want to permit me the right to free speech.

I should like to read to the House this very responsible document circulated by student leaders, so that members will know the attitudes of these leaders—

"There will be eight (8) marshalls coordinating the march. They can be identified by white armbands with a red 'M' insignia.

1. The march must disband immediately when the marshalls give the direction to do so. Disbanding will take place at least 50 metres from any police lines.

2. Once the marshalls have directed the march to disband people should do so in the following manner:—

(i) Move away from the police and keep moving away.

(ii) Move on to the footpath and form into two's and three's.

(iii) Move quickly but do not run.

(iv) Disperse over a wide area.

(v) Cease chanting the moment the marshalls give the order to disband. Remain quiet and especially do not swear.

(vi) Fold up all placards and banners.

(vii) Observe all 'Don't Walk' signs; when crossing the road do not obstruct traffic—cross in two's and three's.

(viii) If you are close to the University grounds move back there.

(ix) Make your way to Roma St. Forum Area."

Now, that's not bad; it is indeed responsible. I am happy to say that university students have adopted this stance. I hope that in addition to retreating today they now do what I urged them to do previously and that

is to seek a permit if they want to march. If for one reason or another the Superintendent of Traffic does not give a permit—as is his legal right—they should accept that decision.

This morning's exercise by moderate students in withdrawing at the last minute shows that they can be persuaded by reasonable argument. The fact that the students themselves accepted my presence on campus and heard me out and that even the hard-core students withdrew at the last minute, instead of forcing confrontation, is a good sign. I hope that the trade-unionists who are meeting today follow the example set by the students, and I hope that in the future students will adopt a similar responsible attitude and will not be inflamed by the extremists.

I can see members of the Opposition looking terribly glum at this turn of events. I hope that we can look forward to police not having to put their own selves in danger in the future. In my own experience as a police officer I have seen such danger, and it is not very pleasant. The smiles today are on the faces of the police officers who were at the site and were happy to be able to go back to a normal day's work. I hope this augurs well for the future.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CUT-BACK IN EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.9 p.m.): I was surprised to hear the honourable member who has just resumed his seat take credit for what has happened today. Whether or not he realises it, at a meeting yesterday the student body agreed that when confronted with the police the students would disperse.

On behalf of the Opposition I spoke to the students yesterday suggesting that they stick to the footpath, that they walk in groups of twos and threes and that they abide by the traffic regulations. So it is nonsense for the member for South Brisbane to claim that he had convinced the students to do that. The decision was taken 24 hours beforehand.

Mr. LAMONT: I rise to a point of order. I made no such claim. I lauded the students for having made that decision themselves. I said that I believed I had convinced some moderates to pull out at the last minute. That is the only claim I made.

Mr. WRIGHT: May I go on, Mr. Speaker?

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

Mr. WRIGHT: I voice my disapproval at another savage onslaught, not one by the Premier but by the Federal Government, on education not only in Queensland but also throughout the nation as a whole. Mr. Fraser's track record on education is really an indictment on conservatism in this nation.

It is rather unfortunate that the member for South Brisbane and so many other great education advocates in this State have remained completely silent about the Fraser Government's actions in relation to education in Queensland and other States.

We have had 21 months of broken promises from the Fraser Government; we have had 21 months of throwing promises out the window. As a result, equality of opportunity for young people in this country has been gravely affected and the quality of life has indirectly been affected.

First of all, the Fraser Government failed to provide for a 2 per cent growth for schools, for universities and colleges of advanced education. That was the guide-line in 1976, yet in 1978 there will be a negative growth rate. The Fraser Government further promised to provide cost supplementation for buildings and other equipment as a protection against inflation. That promise, too, has been broken.

The Fraser Government has destroyed the whole notion of triennial funding. It has failed to maintain minimum growth rates in all aspects of education. Irrespective of its electoral promises, it has failed to encourage innovation and experimentation. In fact, it has gone totally into reverse; it has cut \$4,000,000 from the innovation programme.

When a quick comparison is made with Labor's record in the three years it was in power, it is found that the real growth in funding under Labor was 39 per cent. But we have seen no real growth in the past two years. The Budget provides for an increase in education funds of 9.8 per cent, which represents a cut-back of 1 per cent in real terms.

The absence of cost supplementation on buildings and equipment will mean a substantial cut in all areas of spending on education. Only on technical education has there been any real increase, but the \$8,000,000 spent in this sphere is a very small proportion of the total of \$1,700 million involved in education expenditure.

All other areas have copped the axe. Student allowances have not been increased. In the light of inflation and the increased cost of living there must be a decline in students' living standards. Only a very small number will benefit in a minute way. Students living away from home and those with dependants will receive a 5 per cent increase. With inflation running at over 10 per cent, that means a reduction.

In Queensland, the State Minister for Education wants to force teacher trainees on to T.E.A.S. payments. He says that will be good enough. The Federal Minister for Education (Senator Carrick) has said, "I am even cutting back the assistance being given at the moment." I suggest to all honourable members that the Federal Government has undermined the whole system and will continue to do so. It has interfered with the

independence of the Education Commission. It is now directing the commission in setting its priorities, so we now have political interference. It is forcing the commission to bring down submissions to redirect money to wealthy schools. Surely that is contrary to the legislation that established the commission. Funding is no longer based on the principle of need; it is no longer based on the fact that a school is a category 5 or category 6 school. The new proposal is that all non-Government schools will receive the same Government assistance. The formula being used is that non-Government schools will receive the equivalent of 40 per cent of the cost of educating a child in a Government school.

There is a good argument for assisting non-Government schools, but surely there should be a formula or some type of policy based on needs and priorities. But no consideration has been given to special circumstances. Rather the funds will go to wealthy schools regardless of need. The result of this will be a direct increase of \$2,000,000 for the wealthy schools in categories 1 and 2. I will not name the schools; but I am sure that honourable members know them. That will mean a drift of \$14,000,000 from Government to non-Government schools. There will be a 10.3 per cent increase in funds for private schools in the States and Territories compared with a 2.2 per cent increase for Government schools. That represents a cut of over 8 per cent in real money terms.

The Government has also directed that \$3,000,000 be provided for non-Government schools in new areas. How will this money be provided? Very simply! There is to be a cut-back of \$4,000,000 in the innovation programmes and a massive decrease in funds for Government schools.

It has been assessed that the State Government schools throughout the nation will lose between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000 to the non-Government sector. The Government schools will suffer because of the flow of funds to private schools, but so will many non-Government schools. I cite those in categories 5 and 6. Surely the policy should be that all Government schools should be assisted on the basis of need, but that is not the policy now. The policy is to let the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Mr. Jones: Let the kids suffer.

Mr. WRIGHT: The honourable member for Cairns is right.

The State schools will suffer seriously, but I pity the poor non-Government schools because they are in a worse position. At least State funding will assist some of the State schools. At least the department's attitude is designed to ensure that it keeps up with modern ideas, but the poorer Catholic schools have not a chance under the new proposal. They cannot afford remedial teachers at the moment. They cannot afford teachers to help as music specialists, or many of the additional people we have in the schools today. So they face a worse situation.

Mrs. Kyburz: It is the parents' choice to send them there.

Mr. WRIGHT: It may be their parents' choice, but when a Federal Government says it is going to fund all non-Government schools, the position is ridiculous. I am surprised to hear the member for Salisbury say that she supports this. I would have thought that, as an educator, she would have been at least one who would have said that we should put it on the basis of needs and priority. The Federal Government is blatantly discriminating against the State and poorer non-Government schools.

Even in the area of teacher education—teacher-training—there is a cut-back in State funds and an increase in non-Government funds. I suggest that the Federal Government is waging a war on education generally, and tertiary education specifically. It has established a new commission, but this will mean stagnation for universities and colleges of advanced education. It will mean that intakes will remain at the present level. It will mean that no new institutions will be established. It will mean that all building projects will be reviewed. It will mean stagnation in the tertiary allowances. And why? Because the commission will not have the say any more. The commission will be bound by the political directions given by the Fraser Government. There is a three-pronged attack. There is a gradual breakdown of the Government system of education by propping up private schools; there is an attack on tertiary education so that once again it will become the sole realm of the rich and the privileged; and there is a move by the Federal Government to abandon its role of fully funding tertiary education and other State education.

Mrs. Kyburz interjected.

Mr. Lamont: Will you take an interjection?

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

Mr. WRIGHT: Let them yell, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Let me say that a proposition has been put to the States that all education be funded on the basis of a 40 per cent contribution from the Commonwealth and a 60 per cent contribution from the States. So we see again the Federal Government's move to transfer responsibility from itself to the States—part of the federalism policy. That will mean a lowering of education standards. It could mean the reintroduction of fees at tertiary level.

Mrs. Kyburz interjected.

Mr. WRIGHT: It will mean less Commonwealth involvement and, when that happens, either standards go down or State taxes go up.

Mr. Lamont: Will you take an interjection?

Mr. WRIGHT: What does the honourable member for South Brisbane support? Naturally, I suppose, he supports the idea of letting the people pay more.

It will mean that the poorer independent Catholic schools won't have a chance. It will mean fewer teachers and buildings, poorer-quality education and poorer-quality facilities. It will mean larger classes and poorer-quality education generally. These policies are an attack on every Australian.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WRIGHT: They are an attack specially on the lower socio-economic groups in the community.

It will mean a higher contribution by people through taxation. It is an attack on the less populous areas. It is attack against the teaching profession. It is an attack against the tertiary institutions, and I urge this Chamber to make the strongest protest to the Federal Government.

SPRINT RACING

Mr. WARNER (Toowoomba South) (12.18 p.m.): I wish to put before the House today a proposal which I and many other people feel will be of very significant benefit to the sport of racing in this State. In a nutshell, my proposal is for an amendment to the Racing and Betting Act to alter the application of rule 43 of the Australian Rules of Racing so as to allow races to be conducted over distances of less than 800 m in Queensland.

There is in Queensland and, indeed, throughout Australia, a growing number of horses which are not suited to the types of races now being programmed, but which are nevertheless capable of sprinting over short distances. It is a type of racing which is gaining popularity, especially in country areas, and therefore, I submit, worthy of official recognition.

So that honourable members may fully understand the situation, I will explain that rule 43 of the Australian Rules of Racing states that no race shall be conducted over a distance under 800 m. Before the metric system was introduced the rule, of course, said "four furlongs". Because of this rule, the sprint racing I have mentioned has had to be conducted on unregistered country tracks where betting and totalisator facilities are not allowed and prize-money must therefore come from sponsors.

The proposal I wish to put to the House today is that rule 43 of the Australian Rules of Racing be amended to allow a maximum of two races under 800 m in country and provincial areas where the local race club approves of this type of race being included in its normal programme.

The effect of this change would simply be that, at the option of any individual club, it may conduct races over distances under 800 m, with a limit of two such races on any one programme. I believe that if those proposals could be adopted and short-distance racing were to be permitted in Queensland, it would give a much-needed boost to country and provincial clubs such as Toowoomba, Warwick, Dalby, Roma and many other smaller clubs which at the moment are struggling to survive.

I would like to remind honourable members that in the United States quarter-horse racing has become a very big industry. In recent years, many of these horses have been brought to Australia, and it is obvious that as legislators we should see whether we can do something positive to help promote this type of horse. That is another strong reason why I make this proposition to the House.

Let me make it perfectly clear that this proposal does not seek to make short-distance racing mandatory; it merely seeks to clear the way for clubs in country and provincial areas to programme a maximum of two such races at any one meeting if they so desire. The programming of such races would always be at the discretion of the club.

I will go further and state that I believe that if this type of racing is legalised, quite a number of southern owners and breeders would move their horses into Queensland because of the frustrations they have encountered over the years in trying to get short-distance sprinting legally accepted in their respective States. In fact, it is not beyond the bounds of credibility that Queensland could very quickly establish itself as the leading State for this type of racing, and everyone can see what that would mean—increased T.A.B. turnover, income from bookmakers' tax increased, and greater numbers of horses competing to make programmes more attractive, which in turn would attract more people to the course. Virtually every country and provincial club would welcome the opportunity to stage short-distance races on their regular programmes. Many have already applied to do this, but they are not permitted to do so.

I think it might be appropriate at this stage to elaborate on a remark I made earlier about the growing popularity of short-distance racing. Already a sprint racing registry has been set up in Sydney to register horses (of all breeds), to register jockeys, trainers and tracks, and to compile and distribute the Australian Rules of Sprint Racing. State sprint racing associations have been formed, or are in the process of formation, in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Here in Queensland, which is what we are principally concerned with at this time, sprint race meetings have been held on a regular, organised basis since 1972 at places such as Noosa, Murgon, Laidley, Jandowae and

Nerang, to mention just a few. In addition, speed trials have been held at Callaghan Park and at Kooralbyn. Prize-money at these meetings has been up to \$10,000 provided wholly by outside sponsors who have shown themselves willing to support the concept of sprint racing. I make that point to emphasise that sprint racing has reached its present level of acceptance without the assistance of bookmakers, the T.A.B. or any form of Government finance. The clubs and the people interested in and dedicated to the sport have created their own facilities, even in towns where an existing race-track is seldom used and is in dire need of revenue.

The proposal I am putting to the House envisages no other changes to the existing racing structure. For example, existing racing bodies would continue to control racing, with the exception that races would be over distances ranging from zero upwards instead of from 800 metres upwards. Existing facilities on registered tracks would continue to be used and, I suggest, to greater advantage by greater numbers of people. Furthermore, all horses, owners, trainers and jockeys would be required to be registered and controlled under and in accordance with the present structure.

It will therefore be clear to all honourable members that the sprint race clubs in Queensland are not seeking to establish their sport as an industry separate from the structures and controls at present operating. On the contrary, we see sprint racing as being complementary to present-day registered racing. Certainly it is another facet of horseracing, but there appears no valid reason why it cannot be part of the existing overall racing scene.

I have already made the point that country and provincial clubs would welcome with open arms the legalisation of this type of racing. I will go further and say the Government would be doing country racing a really good turn if it cleared the way for sprint races.

I repeat that the introduction of the proposals I have outlined would constitute no threat whatever to the existing racing set-up. On the contrary, I would like to outline what I consider would be advantages to the racing industry generally. Firstly, it would mean the introduction of new owners into racing. Secondly, it would mean an increased supply of horses for racing and consequently increase demand upon breeders. Thirdly, I point to the greater employment opportunities for trainers and jockeys and associated personnel. Fourthly, I should like to mention the effect upon attendances at race meetings, with so many more people interested in and following a new aspect of racing. Naturally, increased attendances would mean higher revenues at a time when finance is the prime need of every race club in Queensland.

Furthermore—and here I refer to the horse itself—there would be far more opportunities for introducing younger animals, particularly two-year-olds, without burdening them with the extra stress of longer races. Honourable members are already probably aware of the fact that barrier trials over short distances for younger horses have become part of the racing scene, and I venture to suggest this is for that very reason—to avoid the stress of longer races.

Having dealt with the advantages of legalising short-distance racing, I think it advisable to acquaint honourable members with opposition to it and to try to counter such opposition. Regrettably, it appears that some gross misconceptions about the introduction of this type of racing exist in some quarters. We have, for example, heard it said that the people wishing to introduce sprint racing onto registered tracks operating under the control of existing racing bodies are seeking, in their own own right, a part of T.A.B. turnover. That is absolutely incorrect; there is no substance in it, because if our proposals are accepted all persons associated with short-distance racing will become part of the one big overall racing scene.

We also understand that in certain quarters we are considered to be a threat to the thoroughbred industry. To that assertion I say this: many horses which would participate in short-distance races, if they are legalised, would have blood lines at least equal to, if not better than, many horses racing under the rules as they now stand. Many horses currently racing on registered tracks simply cannot run more than 800 metres, but these would certainly be an attraction in races under that distance. However, this may be irrelevant, because the aim of our proposals is that any horse—all horses, if you like—should be allowed to enter into competition, with the result depending upon his speed and stamina, not his breeding. After all, existing bodies were set up to control racing, not breeding.

It is a fact of life that this type of short-distance racing does exist, and will continue to do so. If it cannot be legalised, and allowed to be conducted on registered tracks, it is almost certain that more unregistered tracks will appear throughout the State—often alongside registered tracks—and to me this is virtually a wasteful duplication of effort. In addition, the sport would have to seek to formalise itself so that it has a separate controlling body. Furthermore, it would be compelled to seek a separate entitlement to betting facilities which, though perhaps undesirable, would be unavoidable if the proposals fail.

There is no element of compulsion; short distance races would be programmed at the discretion of clubs concerned. There will be no interference with accepted racing practices.

If I might conclude on a lighter note, it is something which the Government would be able to introduce without incurring any expense, a most cogent argument in these times of financial stringency. Mr. Deputy Speaker and honourable members, I would greatly appreciate your support for the proposals I have put.

"HELTER SKELTER" R-RATED MOVIE

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (12.28 p.m.): I rise today to discuss a subject which is very dear to my heart, and which I know is very dear to the hearts of many people around Brisbane who have been phoning me about it, and that is the type of films that are available for viewing in Brisbane. I realise that at the recent National Party Convention the honourable member for Isis moved a motion suggesting that R-rated movies should be banned from drive-in theatres. I discussed the matter with him this morning, and I could not agree more. I think it is a pity that the president of the National Party spoke against that motion, on what I believe were false grounds.

A movie to which I take great exception is one called "Helter Skelter", which is showing at the Village Twin cinema. This movie in fact eulogises the Manson murders. It is indeed a great pity that this sort of film can be shown in any theatre because, no matter what anyone says, I believe that movies like that feed the twisted mind and, for Heaven's sake, we have enough people with twisted minds in our society as it is, as was shown by the dreadful murder which occurred a couple of weeks ago. That is something I do not want to discuss now.

I am against films which ridicule any of the minority groups in our society, something which seems to be occurring more and more, and I include films that ridicule sex, women and violence. It is so easy to ridicule all three. These movies might be good paying propositions, but if one goes to an R-rated movie one sees an audience ranging from the middle-aged to young men, who obviously need something in their lives, licking away at ice creams. They have an ice cream in their hand and one sees the remains of two or three more on the floor beside them. Obviously their saliva is running so hotly that they need to keep their mouth full.

I am appalled to see a movie about the Manson murders showing in a place like Brisbane simply because I believe that if ever there was a case which called for the reintroduction of the death penalty, the Manson case was it. He and his mob should all have been wiped out. In fact, next year they can apply for parole. All I can say is, "God help Beverly Hills next year." The whole mob of them could be free, and the reason for freeing them would be good behaviour. My God! I know what I would do to Manson if I could get at him.

On the night of the incident, five people were hacked to death in a house rented by Roman Polanski and his wife, Sharon Tate, who was eight months' pregnant when she was killed. I will not discuss what happened to them other than to say that the murderers were thorough. Cumulatively, the victims had been shot seven times and stabbed 103 times in the murder.

The fact is that in "Helter Skelter" the whole case is discussed so graphically that there is no doubt in my mind that it would give people with twisted minds an idea of what to do if they wanted to commit a murder that was a little bit different. I think it is a pity that this creature—I will not say "animal", because I believe that the majority of animals are better than he is or ever could be—has been made into some sort of a hero by the film world.

Of course, to my mind what Manson did is unforgivable. However, I have read various articles about Manson and one of them says that Manson is, and was, a product of our world, as natural as Amin, Fraser and Nixon, or even his own hero, Hitler. My God! I do not believe that a creature such as Manson has been nurtured in our society, nor do I believe the people who say that 14 or 15-year-olds who obviously are hardened criminals are products of their parents. I have seen them often, and I know that in many cases they are not. There is no doubt about that.

The violence cycle has been demonstrated to incite violence, and this has been researched very carefully in America, particularly in relation to the media and to films, by Berkowitz and Macaulay, who have suggested that a series of reactions may take place in people who see violence, murder and hate depicted in movies. It gives many people aggressive ideas and images may arise in the mind of the viewer or reader, and if inhibitions are not evoked and if the observer is ready to act violently, open aggression may result.

Let me turn now to advertisements in "The Courier-Mail" today showing what is on in Brisbane. The titles of the movies showing at the drive-ins are nothing short of a good giggle; there is no doubt about that. We see "Finders Keepers Lovers Weepers" and "Vixen" in big letters. There have been even funnier ones. Obviously the titles are made as risqué as possible in order to induce people to think, "My gosh! If this is going to be so exciting, I will have to keep coming back here every night for the next week."

However, I think that the movie "Helter Skelter" is an absolutely frightening indictment of the film industry. To try to cash in on the Manson murders and that creature's exploits is nothing short of criminal.

Before resuming my seat, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I should comment on the slating by the honourable member for Rockhampton of spending on education. I hold

the honourable member in high esteem, but I must say—and there is always a “but” when a woman speaks—I do not believe that the spending on education has anything to do with the quality of education. We need to cut back on expenditure on universities; we need to cut back on expenditure on colleges of advanced education. Is the honourable member for Rockhampton aware that there is a surplus of teachers in this State? In fact, I believe that it will be necessary to cut back on the use of colleges of advanced education as such and to convert them to institutions of a different type, probably institutes of technology.

Mr. Wright: Do you believe that education spending should be based on needs and priorities?

Mrs. KYBURZ: Yes, I do, but I do not believe that religious schools should be discriminated against in any way; nor do I believe that an all-powerful commission should make the big decisions, because I believe that the Schools Commission has had far too much autonomy.

SPORTING VENUES AND FACILITIES

Mr. YEWDALE (Rockhampton North) (12.35 p.m.): The matter of public importance that I wish to raise is that of sport and the need to foster greater participation and provide the best possible venues and facilities for the many and varied forms of sporting activity in Queensland. We are all aware of the organisations that are functioning—the Department of Sport, National Fitness and various clubs such as police boys' clubs. I believe that a lot more can be done, particularly for young and aged persons. Those are the elements on which we should concentrate. By providing the necessary facilities, we can encourage youth to engage in sport.

One of the long-term advantages of providing facilities for youth is the keeping of young people off the streets. The benefits from that are obvious, and I will not elaborate on them at this point. A second advantage is that it helps to build a young person physically, which, in turn, reflects favourably on that person's mental attitudes. A third long-term advantage is that it helps young people to enter sport competitively, which instils sportmanship and comradeship and creates an understanding of what winning and losing is all about. To my mind this all leads to a better citizen and, in turn, to a better community.

I believe that there is a continuing need to keep elderly persons physically active, and where possible accommodation for that purpose should be provided. It is to be regretted that in many of the less developed and populated areas elderly people are distinctly disadvantaged, and some cognisance should be taken by this Government of those areas with the objective of improving

the lot of those elderly people. Assistance could be rendered by providing some accommodation in the less populated towns in country areas. Some sort of basic furniture could be provided in those buildings by service clubs and/or local authorities. In addition there should be some minor catering facilities. Although I have not travelled extensively in country areas, I have seen some of the smaller towns in the Central Highlands. I am talking mainly about the older towns and not the newer ones that have built up in the mining areas. It would seem that there are very few organisations to foster activities for elderly people in those old towns. This is probably because of the waning of general activity there. Nobody shows the initiative to help the elderly people. Much more could be done for them.

When considering sports ovals, grounds and associated amenities we should provide greater funds to local authorities for this specific community requirement. From my experience in Rockhampton it seems to me that the local council is for ever inundated with requests from sporting organisations to provide not only financial assistance but areas in which the organisations can establish headquarters and the necessary facilities to conduct their sport. From my observation there is a conflict in the provincial cities in the mind of local authorities as to the usage of public areas. I am talking about public parks and sports grounds that exist in most major towns. I believe that there should be a clear distinction between public areas and sporting areas. Too often organisations are allowed to move onto public parks and public areas where they establish some sort of a headquarters, put up a shed or a dressing room and a toilet, and then to some extent the public are barred from using that area because of the space that is taken up by the organisation and by the number of people that participate in that sport. I refer to cricko, cricket and other physical sports that are played by juniors.

Because of their economic problems local authorities are not providing the necessary additional sporting grounds and facilities. They just do not have the funds for that type of development. The State Government should look much closer at this. Additional space can be obtained through reclamation, and reclaimed land makes very fine sporting fields. There is always a need for toilets and very often access roads to new sports areas. Furthermore, there is often a need to erect fencing around grounds that are in close proximity to roads and traffic. This work should be done in the interests of protecting young children.

In South Australia the Government makes available to municipalities a grant of \$7,500 towards the cost of employment of a municipal recreation officer. A youth organisation in that State is given a dollar-for-dollar

subsidy for construction, remodelling, extensions or repairs to buildings and properties used essentially for youth work. I realise that youth organisations in Queensland are given a dollar-for-dollar subsidy for coaching juniors, but it seems to me that the Queensland Government should consider making similar subsidies available for extensions and repairs to buildings, as is done in South Australia.

Earlier I made passing comment about youth organisations that function in Queensland. I come back now to the National Fitness organisation. It would be fair to describe it as a semi-governmental body. As such, it receives assistance from the Government and employs its own full-time officers.

From my information, youth organisations in Queensland are struggling to obtain finance. A specific instance close to my home is the Rockhampton National Fitness organisation, which has established a very fine camp at Yeppoon. This fairly large camp contains a residence for its caretaker. For many years the organisation has been trying to renovate that residence to give the caretaker and his wife a reasonable standard of living. It is continually fobbed off by the department, however, with the excuse that no money is available. Even the department's own officers have placed the renovation of the residence high on the list of priorities. The Minister and his department should give consideration to making funds available to the National Fitness camp at Yeppoon, which caters not only for Yeppoon, Rockhampton and the immediate area but also for much of Central Queensland.

In Victoria the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation publishes for the benefit of sporting organisations and for the community generally a number of comprehensive publications. I show two of them to honourable members. One is entitled "Fun and Fitness Trails", another is entitled "Youth Needs and Public Policies". The latter publication is a fairly large one, and I have not had time to read it thoroughly. However, on scanning through it I notice some very interesting and complimentary remarks about people engaged in sport.

I want to deal now with the criticism of the Queensland Government for its allocation of funds to what I would term the more professional organisations. I am deeply involved in Rugby League, a professional sport—it is probably less professional in my district than in the metropolitan area—and also bowls. I play bowls as often as I can and am aware of the needs of bowls clubs. Bowls is a sport engaged in by some young people, some middle-aged people and quite a lot of elderly people. Bowls clubs are worthy of assistance in the provision of toilets, showers, changing rooms and so on. After all, as I say, they cater for middle-aged and elderly persons.

As to Rugby League, it is played by a great number of young people and a great deal of time is spent in coaching them. In spite of the fact that it is often criticised as a body-contact sport, I believe that children who are involved in it are well fitted for their future lives. It makes them better citizens and this, in turn, makes for a better community.

Greater use should be made of school facilities throughout Queensland. My area contains a high school that allows its facilities to be used by various groups in the city. Its activity centres and playing fields are being utilised by many persons other than schoolchildren. I am a strong advocate of extending that practice. While it is happening in certain other parts of the State, it should be practised on a much wider scale.

(Time expired.)

CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

Mr. LAMOND (Wynnum) (12.46 p.m.): On examining the areas of concern to industry and commerce we certainly see a contradiction of the old proverb, namely, look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves. Both primary and secondary industries are affected greatly by Government policies on exports and imports. Generally it can be said that industry is viable when it can compete in the market-place, whether at home or abroad, and when those employed in industry, whether on the factory floor or at the boardroom table, can enjoy the prosperity of industry.

Today I intend to refer specifically to the Australian clothing, textile and footwear manufacturing industries. Thousands of people are employed in them, but thousands more could be. An unrealistic approach has been adopted in decisions controlling these industries, mainly, I believe, because of lack of knowledge and understanding of the Whitlam Government. But little or nothing has been done by the Fraser Government to rectify the problem.

The Tariff Board (as it was known prior to 1970), which was reconstituted by the Whitlam Government as the Industries Assistance Commission, became an all-powerful advisory body to the Government on matters concerning tariffs, import quotas and other areas of industry. The imposition of tariffs can raise the price of an imported article to make it comparable, or almost comparable, with that of an article manufactured in the country. While tariffs imposed on imports help to make Governments more prosperous, they do nothing for local industry. Nor do they help the consumers very much. There is little doubt that the answers lie in rigid import quota barriers.

Whilst it is generally agreed by those who determine import quotas that they should remain in the vicinity of 20 per cent of

the demand, in a number of areas they are creeping up closer to 60 per cent, leaving only 40 per cent of the home market to be enjoyed by the local industries.

I shall now examine the effects of this high import quota figure on the clothing, textile and footwear industries. It is acknowledged that, because of the difference in labour costs and other factors, other countries can produce certain articles much cheaper than Australia. Those articles are offered for sale in the Australian marketplace at a price almost equivalent to that of similar articles manufactured in Australia. The price of the imported goods results either from tariff controls or an unreasonable, unrealistic mark-up on the imported articles. Whatever the reason, there is little benefit for the consumer and certainly a heavy loss of productivity and returns for Australian manufacturers, particularly those in Queensland. Quota barriers must be enforced rigidly and fairly if we are to save jobs and create even more jobs for people in manufacturing industries in Queensland and Australia.

The level of employment in an industry can be followed graphically by looking at the behavioural pattern of Governments in determining tariff and quota barriers. As an example of this I cite a factory in my own electorate which, in 1972, employed well over 100 people. In 1973, when tariff controls were reduced drastically, employment dropped to 15. In 1975, with the change in the tariff and quota systems, employment increased to 89. Today, with the quota system as it is, the factory is employing 58 people.

Recently the president of the Australian Federation of Apparel Manufacturers said that over the past four years 47,000 people had lost their jobs in the textile, clothing and footwear industries and that one-third of the production machinery in the clothing manufacturing industry is lying idle. He said further that the Government could put at least 22,000 people back to work in these industries by expanding the minority share of the Australian market presently available to our own manufacturers.

The I.A.C. has been called on to produce a report generally based on the following—

- (1) How the tariff and quota system should be revised to rectify the problem in industry;
- (2) The effects on people in the industry of changes to the tariff and quota system; and
- (3) Where people who may be lost to the industry could be re-employed or placed.

It seems that the only recommendation or suggestion appears in a draft report and it could result in the textile, clothing and footwear industries being phased out. Too frequently Governments are advised by back-

room academics, who should look at the facts and the problems at a practical and feasible level by talking to the people on the factory floor and those involved in industry, and not by making recommendations on computer feed-outs or other complicated systems of decision-making.

The problem I am speaking of involves and concerns the people in industry. Recently I spoke to a young lady from a factory in my own area. I am sure that the directors of Hallmark-Mitex will not mind my using their factory as an example. This young lady was leaving the factory at midday—not because she had half a day off, not because she was on shift work and not because she was sick, but purely because she and her fellow-workers had agreed, with management approval, to arrange their working week so that each of them would have part-time employment. That is but one simple example of people making sacrifices to help others retain employment. They are preserving the right of their fellow-workers to work in their own industry or trade.

While this is a matter of Federal concern, I ask our Treasurer to give consideration in his next Budget, or even sooner, to the abolition of pay-roll tax for those employed on the factory floor. I think that this could do a great deal to create employment and to help industry as a whole. I ask that a reasonable approach be made to lowering the burden of workers' compensation premiums, too, which have become a great problem to employers of factory workers. Any relief in that direction would help people who are creating and furthering employment within our State.

There is no doubt that this problem is one that must be approached with a broad field of vision. In tackling the problems of industry as a whole, we must have a realisation of the facts and the problems as seen from the very floor of industry.

GLADSTONE POWER STATION OPERATIONS; SUGAR INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines and Energy) (12.54 p.m.): I rise in this debate to reply to some of the criticism that has been levelled at the operation of the Gladstone Power Station. First of all, the union official and A.L.P. candidate Mr. Vaughan showed his complete ignorance of the electricity supply industry by claiming that the new Gladstone Power Station was a white elephant and an inefficient generator of power. I do not know what Mr. Vaughan's qualifications in the electrical trade are, but I suggest that in future he leave the matter of electricity generation to the qualified engineers who are responsible for the operation of our power stations.

I do not know how long it will be before the media in this State take cognisance of the fact that Mr. Vaughan's outbursts invariably have no basis of fact. Only the other

day he claimed that the State Government was forcing engineering works in Queensland to close by awarding rolling-stock orders to factories outside the State, when the last contract for such work let outside this State was in 1957. I am sure that Mr. Vaughan now has become an embarrassment even to his own political party, particularly when his statements are in fact a criticism of his fellow Queensland workers employed at Gladstone. Indeed, here is a perfect example of real union-bashing—accusing unionists employed in the manufacture and installation of equipment at the Gladstone Power Station of being inefficient.

Let me put the matter straight. The performance of the first 275 MW generating set commissioned at Gladstone compares favourably with that of any other unit of similar capacity installed anywhere else in the world. The first unit was connected just 12 months ago and reached its full capacity in less than two months. Indeed, its full load test achieved an output of 302 MW, which was well above that anticipated. Far from being a white elephant, as Mr. Vaughan claims, the station has been running with a minimum of problems during the past six months.

Certainly if Mr. Vaughan had made any inquiries at all from people who know about the operations of power-stations he would have learnt that all new generating sets have teething problems. The experts know they will develop and they are rectified. The initial teething problems at the Gladstone Power Station were largely overcome by January of this year and it has been in commercial operation since.

During this time it has produced 20 per cent of the total energy requirements of Central and Southern Queensland. Indeed, the first unit at Gladstone has operated with greater efficiency than Swanbank B Power Station, which is regarded as the most efficient power-station in Australia. Last month, the Gladstone station produced three times the output of the Brisbane power-stations at Tennyson and Bulimba and in doing so operated at less than one-third of the cost per kilowatt-hour of the generation at the two older stations.

This is a point that I should like to impress on the people of South-east Queensland. This station is being fuelled with coal obtained at the lowest possible cost, as it is being removed as overburden over coking coal mined by Utah at Blackwater. Far from being a white elephant, the Gladstone Power Station will prove itself to be a valuable work-horse for this State and a money saver for all Queenslanders. The savings now will be nothing compared with those achieved when all six units are in operation. The second unit is now going through its commissioning trials. It was connected to the system on 5 August of this year and it reached its full capacity of 275 MW just five days ago.

The Gladstone Power Station has provided, and will continue to provide, major employment opportunities. At the moment there are

more than 800 construction workers on the site, and the operating staff of 180 is expected to increase to about 400 when the project is completed. Perhaps Mr. Vaughan will now desist from his union-bashing accusations against these workers, and perhaps also he will ask his A.L.P. colleague the honourable member for Port Curtis if he agrees that this power-station is an inefficient white elephant.

I come now to another criticism that has been levelled against the Government by the A.L.P. member for Mackay, who has been vociferous in his criticism of the Government in respect of the administration of the sugar industry. If the A.L.P. did kill the fatted calf for the honourable member when he returned to the party, I am sure that he must have been given the tongue, for since his return to the socialist fold he has hardly stopped spouting.

Mr. Aikens: He did a lot better when he was in room 2 with me.

Mr. CAMM: He did a lot better when he was an Independent.

Mr. Aikens: He's gone to the pack since.

Mr. CAMM: He claims that the sugar industry is being neglected by the Queensland Government because the Premier is not going to Geneva for the sugar talks. On the previous occasion both the Minister for Primary Industries and I, late in the session, represented the industry in Geneva, and this month the Minister for Primary Industries will again go to Geneva to make sure that our strength is there. He will again be accompanied by industry leaders from the Queensland Cane Growers' Council and the Australian Sugar Producers' Association, by the chairman of the Sugar Board (Mr. Harris) and by representatives of our agents, CSR Ltd. Also, of course, Mr. Anthony and his officers will be representing the Commonwealth Government.

The sugar industry, and Australia as a whole, will have adequate and worthwhile representation at this new international conference. I assure the honourable member for Mackay and all others in this House that I have complete faith in the ability of the Minister for Primary Industries and all other members of this delegation to present our case in the very strongest of terms and to see that the interests of the sugar industry are preserved. They are all competent men and they go with the industry's best wishes and hopes that a new international sugar agreement will this time be finalised.

The honourable member shows a complete ignorance of how the International Sugar Conference is conducted. Several committees are formed—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order previously agreed upon by the House the time for the debate has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.