

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 1977

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

PAPERS

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

Reports—

State Electricity Commission of Queensland, for the year 1976-77.

Parole Board, for the year 1976-77.

Department of Works, for the year 1976-77.

Queensland Housing Commission, for the year 1976-77.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Fisheries Act 1957-1974.

Regulations under the Fisheries Act 1957-1974.

By-laws under—

Pharmacy Act 1976.

Medical Act 1939-1976.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ROLE OF MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD IN COLLAPSE OF QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Hon. N. E. LEE (Yeronga—Minister for Works and Housing) (11.6 a.m.): Up till now I have not indulged in personal recrimination over the matter of the Queensland Permanent Building Society. My main concern was for the welfare of all those people who were affected by its closure. But, in view of the vicious personal attack on me on television by the honourable member for Archerfield, I must draw attention to the despicable, irresponsible and utterly repulsive part he has played in the downfall of this society.

The people whose funds are frozen as a result of Queensland Permanent's collapse can thank the honourable member for Archerfield for that. There is no doubt that, if he had not persistently and maliciously attacked the society for several months, it would still be operating—and operating viably. Those same people can also reflect that the honourable member obtains his information from the same despicable type of person he uses

to back his unsubstantiated statements linking police with massage parlour operations—that is, unscrupulous eavesdroppers who pass on their tittle-tattle to him because they have found he is receptive to all vindictive and ill-informed gossip his ears can pick up.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (11.8 a.m.), by leave: I strongly refute the imputations made by the Minister in what amounts to another personal attack in a vain attempt to camouflage the inadequacies of his own actions in this matter and those of his Government. As Opposition Works and Housing spokesman at the time, I believe I did my public duty, and this latest action shows full justification for any questions asked, and statements made, by me in that capacity. I repeat that at no stage has the Minister refuted the substantive claims I made in relation to this matter and his continuing attempt to be less than frank today demands that he apologise to both this House and to members of the Queensland public whom he purports to represent.

Honourable members in this House and people in the building society industry are aware of the true position, but the public of Queensland, through the Minister's actions, have been denied their right to know it. Included in that right is their right to know that the Minister in charge of building societies himself privately expressed lack of confidence in the Queensland Permanent Building Society as recently as the week-end. Wear that, you mug!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I will not tolerate language of that type. I ask the honourable member to apologise.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I apologise.

PETITION

ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN RESTRICTING DRUG USAGE

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) presented a petition from 14 residents of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take no measures that could extend the major social problem of drug usage and will oblige those who are promoting marijuana and/or similar drugs to prove without doubt that such drugs are harmless before any legalization of use is introduced.

Petition read and received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE, "MAN: A COURSE OF STUDY"

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

(1) Has he read Book 9 of "Man: A Course of Study"?

(2) If the philosophies as enunciated by the authors are completely opposed to the Government's and the community's set of standards, will he immediately withdraw this course of doubtful educational value from State schools?

Answers:—

(1) I have not read Book 9, because there is no Book 9. I assume, however, that the honourable member is referring to the volume entitled "Seminars for Teachers", which with eight other volumes comprised the set of teachers' guides when MACOS was first published. "Seminars for Teachers" is no longer supplied by the publishers.

(2) I can only reiterate what I said in this House on 10 August last: MACOS will not be introduced into any additional schools during the remainder of 1977; information regarding Man—A Course of Study has been forwarded to all honourable members; a complete class-room set of the printed materials has been provided for my parliamentary education committee; and at that committee's convenience, I am waiting to arrange to screen the films and to arrange a visit to a school where MACOS is being used.

I also invite members of the community to peruse the materials, which are available at regional offices of education throughout the State, and to communicate their reactions to me.

I am particularly interested to hear from parents and teachers from schools where MACOS is being used, because the people best qualified to give opinions on the course are those who have had experience with it.

2. VENEREAL DISEASE FROM MESSAGE PARLOURS

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

(1) In view of his publicly expressed concern about the alarming increase of venereal disease in Queensland, have any cases been traced to the Bunnies Massage Parlour, South Brisbane, formerly known as Lady Fingers, and the Gentle Touch, located at Normanby?

(2) If so, how many cases have been traced and will he ensure that all female staff at these massage parlours undergo compulsory tests for V.D.?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The honourable member can be assured that I am concerned about the incidence of venereal disease. Under the Health Act 1937–1976 notification is compulsory and contacts are traced and treated.

The honourable member should also be aware that the Health Act 1937-1976 provides for secrecy in the administration of this section of the Act. This is in an endeavour to encourage the maximum number of notifications.

3. RENTING OF MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT HOUSES BY MR. ROBIN WHITE

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

(1) Does Mr. Robin White of Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo, rent several houses from the Main Roads Department under fictitious names?

(2) If so, does he rent the houses to groups of people for \$80 to \$100 per week, and does he also rent to them such items as beds and T.V. sets?

(3) In view of the critical housing shortage, will he have his department ensure that the occupants are in fact the department's lessees?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The matters raised by the honourable member are in the initial stages of an investigation ordered by the Commissioner of Main Roads immediately the possibility of such irregular occurrences came to his attention.

4. VYNAFLEX PTY. LTD.

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

(1) What are the names and addresses of the directors of Vynaflex Pty. Ltd.?

(2) What is the paid-up capital of the company?

(3) Did the Corporate Affairs Office and/or the Police Department receive complaints about the activities of this company and, if so, what was the nature of the complaints and what action was taken?

Answers:—

(1) I am informed by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs that there is no company registered in Queensland in the name of Vynaflex Pty. Ltd. There is a record, however, of a company registered in the name of Vynaflex (Australasia) Pty. Ltd.

The directors of this company are—

Antonio Festa—178 Blackwood Street, Manly,

Valerie Jean Festa—178 Blackwood Street, Manly.

(2) The paid-up capital of Vynaflex (Australasia) Pty. Ltd. is \$2.00.

(3) The Commissioner for Corporate Affairs has informed me that his office has never received a complaint about the activities of this company, but following a question by the present Leader of the Opposition on 26 September 1974, inquiries were made by inspectors of his office in September 1974 and again in January 1975. As a result of their inquiries, it was determined that no breach of any Acts administered by the commissioner had occurred.

The commissioner has also informed me that the police have never recorded a complaint against the company, but he understands that numerous complaints have been received by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs.

5. ORMEAU SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware that the Ormeau School has 36 students enrolled, with more expected?

(2) Have plans been made to provide more accommodation to overcome the shortage of space and, if so, what type is planned?

(3) Are plans completed for the installation of a septic system at this school?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) Action is being taken to provide a modular building of two class-rooms for the commencement of the 1978 school year.

(3) Investigations are under way as to the availability of a suitable water supply to enable planning to commence for the provision of a septic system.

6. ADMISSION CHARGES TO NATIONAL PARKS

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

Has further consideration been given to introducing admission charges to national parks to help defray the cost of providing and maintaining public facilities?

Answer:—

Yes. The Director of National Parks and Wildlife is currently investigating the feasibility of charging park-use fees on national parks. The matter requires careful consideration related to visitation rates, peak periods of visitation and the profitability of collecting fees on a full-time or part-time basis.

On many of our national parks it would cost more to collect fees than would be taken in collections, and it might be that

charges are only profitable when levied on selected national parks with high visitation rates. Experience has shown this to be so in other States. Additional staff would need to be employed both on the parks to collect fees and in head office for administrative duties.

7. RUNCORN STATE SCHOOL

Mrs. Kyburz, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

Is it intended to relocate the Runcorn State School and, if so, when?

Answer:—

The establishment of new schools at Warrigal Road and Symons Road are to be considered in conjunction with future works programmes to provide relief to the Runcorn State School. However, no indication can be given at this juncture as to when these new schools will be provided.

The need for retention of the Runcorn State School is a matter for assessment by the Education Department after the two new schools have been established.

8. DRIVERS TO KEEP TO THE LEFT

Mrs. Kyburz, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) What attempts have been made by the Main Roads Department to educate drivers to stay on the left-hand side of two-lane highways and the freeway?

(2) How can we eliminate road-hogs?

Answers:—

(1) No doubt the honourable member's question has been prompted by the frustration she has experienced in being prevented from travelling at higher but safe speeds on four-lane roads by two cars travelling abreast and well below the speed limit. I and many others have suffered similar frustrations on many occasions. With this background the installation of the "slow vehicles use left lane" signs on major four-lane highways was approved. Consideration is now being given to amending the legislation to make compliance with such a direction mandatory, though there are major problems involved which have still to be overcome.

(2) I wish it were possible to give a simple answer to the final question which the honourable member has posed. If it were, we would perhaps also have the simple answer to reducing the road toll.

9. SLAVE-LABOUR CAMPS, BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware of a claim in "Sunday Sun" of 26 September that its investigators had revealed that officials of his department, the Brisbane City Council, the Police Department and trade unions knew about so-called slave-labour camps in Brisbane?

(2) As the article also stated that inspectors from his department started investigating one camp in April last year but failed to announce the outcome, what are the circumstances in this matter?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) As the honourable member will be aware, I answered yesterday a series of questions on this matter submitted by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition, typically uninformed, cast a slur on the efficiency of officers of my department. He preferred to side with Transport Workers' Union officials who misled a newspaper by failing to reveal the success of legal action by my department against Khalile Deen and the recovery of wages due to a T.W.U. member.

That the Leader of the Opposition obviously did not check the accuracy of statements by irresponsible T.W.U. officials is bad enough. That he should use this unpardonable lapse as a basis for an attack on my officers shocks me. If the Leader of the Opposition were man enough he would stand in this House and apologise to the dedicated officers he slandered.

10. MR. NOOR DEEN OF CARINA

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

(1) Are the whereabouts of Mr. Noor Deen of Carina presently known to the police?

(2) Were any charges laid against him following the recent raid on the so-named Belmont slave camp?

(3) Has he previously been convicted of offences of a criminal nature?

(4) If so, what were the offences and the penalties or sentences given, what was the length of time served under each sentence and what were the relevant dates?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) As stated in this House on 22 September 1977, in answer to questions concerning the police raid at Belmont on 20 September 1977, I do not intend to

make any statement or answer any question in relation to the subject, pending finalisation of police investigations and action.

I again discussed this matter this morning with the Acting Commissioner of Police, who advised that police should be in a position to finalise their investigations by the end of the week.

11. MR. NOOR DEEN AND MR. BASHIR DEEN AS CAR DEALERS

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

Are Noor Deen and Bashir Deen, spoken of in recent newspaper articles, registered car dealers or are they entitled to hold car-dealer plates?

Answer:—

No. There is no current application for dealer's plates submitted in these names.

12. ART UNIONS AND AMUSEMENT ACT

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

In view of the number of amendments that have been necessary to update the Art Unions and Amusement Act in recent times and the obvious difficulties experienced by sporting and charitable organisations in interpreting the Act, will he consider making officers available to tour major provincial cities and towns for the purpose of lecturing representatives of these organisations on the details of the Act or have an officer on the staff at the court-houses designated to handle the many and varied inquiries from these bodies?

Answer:—

Art union inspectors regularly visit cities and towns in Queensland and in the course of their duties advise organisations of the requirements of the Act and regulations.

Brochures relating to the conduct of various types of art unions are available from the Art Unions Section and copies are issued to organisations granted permits or registration under the Act.

Officers of the Magistrates Courts Office are able to give some advice; but, unfortunately, sufficient experienced staff are not available to allow for one officer to be allotted to deal exclusively with art union inquiries.

I appreciate the problem and I have arranged for the publication of a booklet explaining in simple terms the art union laws. This booklet is now with the printers and will be soon available for distribution.

Consideration is also being given to extending the services of the art union officers so that organisations can be better informed.

13. GOVERNMENT LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

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

(1) How many interpreters are employed on a full-time basis by all State departments, how many are employed in each department, and at what centres are they stationed?

(2) Does the Government publish any material or information in non-English languages and, if so, what publications or materials were published and in which languages in 1976-77?

Answers:—

(1) Full-time interpreters are not employed in State Government departments. However, a full-time position in the State Migration Office requires multi-lingual ability and offers an interpreting service for non-English-speaking persons. The Department of Justice presently maintains a panel of interpreter/translators who are available to departments as required. The Department of the Public Service Board also maintains a panel of officers within the Public Service who are capable of translation work.

(2) An advertising booklet in Spanish, French, Italian and Polish is published by the State Migration Office and revised periodically. Immunisation schedules printed in 13 non-English languages have been printed during 1976-77 by the Division of Health Education, Department of Health.

14. MR. GEOFF GOULLET, SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN PENSIONERS' LEAGUE

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

(1) Did he see reports in the "Sunday Sun" of 25 September of a statement by Mr. Geoff Goulet, secretary of the Queensland section of the Australian Pensioners' League, in which he attacked the running of private-enterprise nursing homes in Brisbane?

(2) Is this person better known as a very active member of the Communist Party of Australia, and was he at one time employed by the Communist Party as a full-time functionary, managing the Peoples Bookshop in Brisbane?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. Ernest George Goulet, commonly known as Geoff Goulet, has also had a lengthy and close association with

numerous radical and Left-wing groups whose principal objectives appear to be the downfall of democratic authority and the disruption of industry and public order. These objectives, of course, are in line with the professed policies and ideologies of the Communist Party in its bid to infiltrate democratic societies.

15. GLADSTONE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) When will urgent work be carried out at the Gladstone State High School regarding (a) the extension of the canteen to cater for the 1,400 children and (b) the drainage and bitumen sealing of the area adjacent to the canteen, which is presently a health hazard?

(2) When will approval be granted for the parents and citizens' association to install a cold room?

Answers:—

(1) Funds are not available at present to permit these types of projects to be approved.

(2) A report is expected from the district architect at an early date in connection with the proposed alternative siting of the cold room.

16. INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

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

(1) What action has the Government taken to open international tourist business in Queensland?

(2) Has any discussion been held with the owner of Laker Airways Charter Operations in relation to his proposed trips to Australia from Europe?

(3) What representations have been made to the Liberal-National Country Party Government in Canberra on adverse effects to our tourist industry?

Answers:—

(1) The Queensland Government Tourist Bureau has promoted the tourist attractions of the State in overseas areas by (a) special promotions, (b) supply of literature, (c) advertising, (d) film distribution (both through commercial theatres and television), (e) assistance to overseas publicists visiting Queensland, (f) liaison with the Australian Tourist Commission, which is primarily responsible for the promotion of Australia's tourist attractions overseas, and (g) participation in the affairs of the Pacific Area Travel Association.

(2) The Laker operation is still a matter for consideration by the Commonwealth Government and, consequently, I have had no discussions with the operators as yet.

(3) Matters of concern to the tourist industry in Queensland are raised regularly with the Commonwealth, either directly or through the Tourist Ministers' Council.

17. OIL-SHALE DEPOSITS NEAR GLADSTONE

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

(1) Has the feasibility study of the oil-shale deposits near Gladstone being carried out by the Sydney-based company, Southern Pacific, yet been completed?

(2) What are the latest estimates in relation to the quantity of oil-shale in the area?

(3) What is the estimated amount of rock required to produce one barrel of oil?

(4) What is the value of the oil in this deposit?

(5) What is the cost of the study being carried out?

(6) What is the estimated cost of the plant and equipment required to extract oil-shale in this area?

(7) What plans for the development of the oil-shale have been made, and when will the plant commence production?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) 2.25 billion tonnes.

(3) 1.7 tonnes.

(4) The value is dependent on the amount of oil that can be economically produced from the deposit.

(5) The cost of the feasibility study is confidential.

(6) No precise estimate of the cost of the plant and equipment can be made at this stage, but it would certainly involve the expenditure of several hundred million dollars.

(7) The nature and timing of any development would be dependent on the result of feasibility studies.

18. STUDIES INTO NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF FOODS

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

(1) What facilities are available within his department to carry out studies into the nutritional value of foods?

(2) What studies have been carried out by his department into this very important subject during the last five years?

(3) Will he cause a study to be conducted into the nutritional value of (a) breakfast cereals, (b) potato chips, (c) ice cream, and (d) such products as Cheesels, cheese straws, etc., either by his department or by the relevant Commonwealth agency?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) This work is carried out by the Nutrition Section of the Commonwealth Department of Health, Canberra. Studies are carried out under the direction of the Nutrition Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The information required by the honourable member is contained in a book entitled "Tables of Composition of Australian Foods", which is published and sold by the Commonwealth Government Publishing Service. I believe the Parliamentary Library has a copy.

19. PRE-SCHOOL TOILETS

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

(1) With reference to the State pre-schools that have been constructed throughout Queensland, is he aware that some young children are refusing to use the toilets provided, because there is no privacy?

(2) Will he explain why partitions were not placed between each toilet when the pre-schools were constructed?

(3) Will he have partitions installed by his department if requested by either the teaching staff or parents of children who attend the pre-schools?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that the design of toilet areas in the State's pre-schools has been given detailed consideration by my department's architects in conjunction with the responsible officers of the Education Department and that the consideration of privacy has been carefully weighed against the consideration of the need for supervision by the teachers and safety, prior to a decision being made in this matter.

(2) No partitions have been provided, in order that the children may be supervised by the teacher present and any child seen to be in difficulty readily assisted. In more recent plans since 1975, having assessed the reaction of the parents and children, the department has altered the plans to allow for divisional partitions but not for the doors to the cubicles. Partitions

are 900 mm high (3 ft.) and allow for teacher supervision while affording a degree of privacy to the children.

(3) Requests for installation of divisional partitions as described are favourably considered for all pre-schools where such partitions have not been originally provided.

20. NATIONAL FITNESS CUT-BACKS

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport—

(1) How many additional National Fitness officers will be employed this financial year and how many of these will be females?

(2) Will National Fitness officers who resign not be replaced?

(3) How will the activities of the National Fitness Council be cut back or restricted this financial year because of the limited increase in the allocation for National Fitness purposes in the Budget?

Answers:—

(1) In keeping with the constraints being applied in all areas of the Public Service, it is not proposed that any additional National Fitness officers will be appointed during the current financial year.

(2 and 3) These will be matters for consideration by the Queensland National Fitness Council in the light of its approved budget for the present year.

21. NEWCASTLE DISEASE, PROSECUTIONS

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

(1) With reference to statements in "The Cairns Post" of 27 September by the First Assistant Director-General of the Quarantine Division of the Commonwealth Department of Health regarding the suspected introduction of Newcastle disease being brought about by the grossly irresponsible and criminal actions of a few people in illegally importing parrots from Indonesia, have any charges been laid or prosecutions been made and, if so, who are the individuals or parties involved?

(2) What further investigations are being carried out, and what action is pending?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) As the matter is presently under litigation and relates to alleged offences committed against Acts administered by the Commonwealth Government, I am unable to supply the information requested.

22. EMPLOYEES IN RAILWAY DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

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

(1) As at 30 June 1976 and 1977, respectively, what were the numbers of employees in each of the South Eastern, South Western, Central and Northern Divisions of the Railway Department?

(2) As at 1 September 1977, what were the numbers in each instance?

Answers:—

(1)—

Division	30 June 1976	30 June 1977
South Eastern ..	11,128	11,398
South Western ..	2,304	2,363
Central ..	6,044	6,166
Northern ..	4,873	5,093
	24,349	25,020

(2)—

Division	1 September 1977
South Eastern	11,337
South Western	2,330
Central	6,166
Northern	5,025
	24,858

I do not think that constitutes mass sackings.

Mr. Jones: What about the decision at the commissioner's conference?

Mr. CAMPBELL: If the honourable member does not watch out, he will cause a run on employment, just like his colleague caused a run on the building societies.

Mr. Jones: What about the decision at the commissioner's conference?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CAMPBELL: Does the honourable member want his second question answered or doesn't he?

23. PRIVATE BUS OPERATORS, BRISBANE

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

(1) How many private bus operators service the Brisbane area?

(2) To 30 June, how many of these have been granted financial assistance by the State Government, in what form and what were the amounts in each instance?

Answers:—

(1) There are 20 private bus proprietors operating urban passenger services within the Brisbane statistical division under licences or permits issued under the State Transport Act 1960-1972.

(2) Not all of these proprietors have applied for subsidies under the Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act 1975-1976.

Details of applications received and subsidies paid from the inception of the Act on 1 January 1976 to 30 June 1977 respecting proprietors in this area and the form of assistance are—

Subsidy on interest paid on loans for purchase of approved passenger omnibuses under section 17 (1) (a) of the Act—

Number applied ..	3
Number of approvals	3
Amount	\$2,339.02

Subsidy on gross fare revenue under section 17 (1) (b) of the Act—

Number applied ..	16
Number failed to qualify	3
Number of approvals	13
Amount	\$274,760.60

Subsidy to compensate for pensioner concession fares under Section 17 (1) (c) of the Act—

Number applied ..	19
Number of approvals	19
Amount	\$205,963.38

24. NOISE NUISANCE FROM BRISBANE AIRPORT

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

What action of a practical nature has his Government taken to reduce the noise and T.V. interference caused by aircraft leaving or approaching the airport at Eagle Farm, as these problems are being experienced by residents of the suburbs within the Bulimba, Lytton and Wynnum electorates?

Answer:—

My Government has for many years been seeking the redevelopment of Brisbane Airport in order to alleviate noise nuisance and to provide a facility that is adequate for the present and future needs of Queensland.

As all technical assessments indicate that the existing facilities are inadequate and that redevelopment is imperative in the interests of State development, I shall continue to strongly pursue the matter with the Right Honourable the Prime Minister.

25. RAILWAY LAND AT CALLIDE STREET, BILOELA

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

What is the present situation regarding the railway land on the western side of Callide Street, Biloele, now occupied by approximately seven tenants who, with me, last year met with the Minister and the Commissioner for Railways, at which meeting it was agreed that this land presently owned by the Railway Department would be excised and sold to present occupiers?

Answer:—

The Railway Department's negotiations with the Main Roads Department and the Banana Shire Council on the question of rear access to the proposed subdivision have been necessarily protracted because of the need to provide a through laneway, the limit on the amount of land the Railway Department is in a position to release and the proximity at the eastern end of the Dawson Highway.

The confirmation of the Banana Shire Council's acceptance of the final laneway proposals and the agreement of one of the lessees to the release of land for inclusion in the laneway are being sought. When the matter of the laneway has been resolved, instructions will be issued for the carrying out of the required survey.

26. YEPPON AND BILOELA POLICE STATIONS

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

(1) Following his tour of my electorate with the Acting Commissioner for Police—what action is being undertaken to upgrade Yeppoon Police Station to a 24-hour station?

(2) When will the station receive a second car?

(3) When will the Biloele Police Station receive a second telephone, connected to a constable's residence?

Answers:—

(1) Consideration is being given to increasing the police strength at Yeppoon and other police stations in the State, but

the extent to which this can be done will depend upon the availability of additional police officers for this purpose.

(2) The amount of funds available for the purchase of vehicles does not allow another vehicle to be allocated to Yeppoon at this stage. In the meantime the inspector of police, Rockhampton, is making an additional vehicle available from Rockhampton whenever possible.

(3) The matter of provision of a telephone in the constable's residence at Biloele is being considered in the light of funds available for the installation of telephones throughout the State. However, I would mention that at present three telephones have been provided for after hours calls at this station—one, in the residence of the officer in charge, one in the single men's quarters, and the third in the departmental residence at Thangool, which is occupied by a member of the force stationed at Biloele. To assist the public, Telecom has been requested to list the Thangool telephone also under "Police" in the Biloele directory.

27. YEPPON-ROCKHAMPTON ROAD

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

(1) What permanent construction works are programmed for the Yeppoon-Rockhampton Road for 1977-78?

(2) Who arranges priorities for such roads in the respective Main Roads divisions?

(3) In view of a daily average of around 3,400 cars on the Yeppoon-Rockhampton Road, what amount has been spent on the Livingstone Shire portion of this road for the years 1970 to 1975 in capital works, excluding maintenance?

Answers:—

(1) Funds totalling some \$750,000 have been allocated for expenditure on this road. Some \$10,000 was allocated to cover the completion of the bridge over Limestone Creek. A further \$700,000 has been allocated to continue with the construction of the approaches to this bridge. A section of 3.4 km will also be completed, with expenditure in this current financial year of \$45,000. The total value of these works exceeds \$1,250,000.

(2) Priorities for works on declared main roads are a matter for decision by senior departmental officers. However, the views of the local authority concerned are of prime importance and carry considerable weight.

(3) The amounts spent in capital works over the periods mentioned by the honourable member and to the present are as follows:—

1970-71	Nil
1971-72	Nil
1972-73	Nil
1973-74	Nil
1974-75	\$216
1975-76	\$17,498
1976-77	\$396,541

I would add that I have approached the Minister for Defence for a grant in addition to the normal roads grants for works on this road, in view of the high usage by defence vehicles. The Minister for Defence did not accede to my request. I will, however, attempt to secure additional funds for this and other roads in Queensland in the light of their importance as defence roads.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

REPAYMENT OF FUNDS IN QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Mr. BURNS: In asking the Minister for Works and Housing a question, I refer to yesterday's closure of the Queensland Permanent Building Society and his statements in this morning's "Courier-Mail" on the plight of people in special circumstances. To whom do the people in special circumstances apply for early settlement, how do they apply and when does the Government expect that they will receive their first payment or relief? Since there are many people living virtually from day to day on building society savings, will he have this matter granted top priority with the liquidator or with his officers? Further, as in his statement he used the words "little doubt" in relation to the ultimate return of money, will he give a guarantee today that all savings will be refunded through the Contingency Fund and also that all or some of the interest payments will be met? Will it be competent for an investor who has borrowed from the society to have frozen deposits debited to meet his monthly commitments to the society? In other words, if he has money in accounts, can he have that credited against money owed under the mortgage?

Mr. LEE: It is easy to see that the honourable member for Lytton, who is the Leader of the Opposition, wants to hop on the bandwagon and accept credit for what this Government has already done. We have done everything that it is possible for a Government to do in the event of a liquidation. Had we not placed this company in the hands of the liquidator—and the fault for that lies with one of the A.L.P. Leader's own members—all members of that society would have totally lost their money. Therefore, he should give credit where credit is due. He should not try to hop on the political bandwagon by asking for things that he knows darned well the liquidator cannot do.

This Government has always encouraged, and always will encourage, the giving of priority to persons in need, if it is possible. The Leader of the Opposition should know that under the Act a liquidator cannot show preference; but, as a Government, we will be asking him to give every possible hope to those who are in a desperate position. That is no different from what we did last time. We do not change our attitudes just for political advantage, which the Leader of the Opposition is seeking to do by asking this question.

REPAYMENT OF FUNDS IN QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDINGS SOCIETY

Mr. BURNS: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing a supplementary question. In this morning's paper he said that people in special circumstances would be given some assistance. I refer to pensioners and other people who have invested all of their money in this society and I ask: Who do they ring, where do they make contact and what arrangements has the Minister made for those people in those circumstances?

Mr. LEE: First of all, the Leader of the Opposition seemingly cannot read. It is all in the paper. We put it in the paper specifically to help those people. For his own information the honourable member should go and read "The Courier-Mail". It contains a full-page advertisement which will tell him where to ring. I have advised that this Government will do everything in its power to help the people in need, which is no different from what we did last time. I cannot remember exactly but I think it is 161 Queen Street, phone number so-and-so. I do not remember it, but it is in the paper.

REPAYMENT OF FUNDS IN QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Mr. BURNS: I have a further supplementary question for the Minister for Works and Housing, who is like Pontius Pilate this morning, washing his hands of the problem.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. BURNS: Do they want to let the Minister hear my question or do they all want to shout it down?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BURNS: Will it be competent for investors who have borrowed money from the society to have their frozen deposits debited to meet their monthly commitments to the society? An answer, Mr. Minister. Don't ask the Treasurer. Haven't you got an answer?

Mr. LEE: I tell the honourable member again that this Government has always acted responsibly and will at all times do everything in its power under the Act. Had it not

been for this Government's setting up the contingency fund the honourable member would not have been able to ask the question and I would not have been able to rise here and confidently say that people will get their money.

Mr. Burns: It's a joke, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LEE: Hooper is the man who caused all the bother. Why doesn't the Leader of the Opposition ask him some questions? He backed him up in the paper this morning.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. LEE: Yes. The honourable member wiped his hands, just as he is doing now. Wait till the people decide at the polls.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn all honourable members that I will not tolerate persistent interjections while a Minister is on his feet.

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Mackay. He is included in that category.

Mr. LEE: As I was saying, the Leader of the Opposition has lined himself up with the member for Archerfield in this morning's paper, even though he was not in the Chamber to vote on the motion. The people will judge him for helping to bring the society to its knees. Therefore he will be condemned by the whole of the people of Queensland. These people know what he is.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Rockhampton under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. LEE: The Leader of the Opposition, who claims to be protecting these people, and to be so worried about them, could have and should have stopped the honourable member for Archerfield and this would not have happened. Shame! Shame! That's all I can say.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR PROTECTION OF BUILDING SOCIETY INVESTORS

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Has his attention been drawn to an article in the Toowoomba "Chronicle" of 29 September 1977 headed, "Chipp calls for Government guarantee on building societies' funds"? Will the Minister outline for Mr. Chipp's benefit this Government's record in implementing measures to protect investments in building societies?

Mr. LEE: I did notice the announcement by Mr. Chipp to which the honourable member has referred. He, like the honourable

member for Archerfield, knows very little about the relevant Act. In fact, he knows nothing about it. If it had not been for the action of the Government in setting up a contingency fund, not now but 18 months to two years ago, many investors in building societies would have lost their money. As it is, they will get dollar for dollar. That is more than the Opposition would give them; all Opposition members are seeking is cheap political propaganda.

Mr. Chipp has shown a complete lack of knowledge of what has happened in Queensland. In fact, in speaking as he did, he could cause a further run on building societies. It was a despicable thing to do. Mr. Chipp, like the honourable member for Archerfield, should stick to the truth about building societies instead of going on with a lot of rubbish about something of which he knows little.

STATEMENTS BY MR. D. CHIPP IN TOOWOOMBA PRESS

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Has his attention been drawn to two Press articles on page 6 of the Toowoomba "Chronicle" of 29 September 1977 in one of which Mr. D. Chipp calls for Governments not to interfere with the business sector and, in the other, he urges the Government not to interfere in building societies? Is either of these purely political proposals consistent with his so-called commitment to honesty in government?

Mr. KNOX: Mr. Chipp is one of those who has a policy for all occasions. If people do not like his policy for this occasion, he has another for another occasion. This article, which has been brought to my attention, contains two statements by Mr. Chipp. One is that Governments should interfere in the operations of building societies, which, of course, are part of private enterprise. The other, which deals with rural industries, is that Governments should not interfere with the business sector; they should set guide-lines and establish a climate in which business can operate efficiently. He then says that there is a need for honesty in government.

There is honesty in government in this State, and we are prepared to be examined on any of our policies and on any of our administration, as we are being continually and repeatedly. I am prepared to stand up in the House and be examined on the way we run the affairs of the State, and I am sure that the Premier and the whole of the Government are, too. The decisions that we have to make may not always be popular, but they are made with the best of intentions in the interests of the people, and in the long run the people recognise that.

IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr. CASEY: I ask the Premier: Is he aware that the Queensland factory that manufactures Bjelke Blue cheese imports much of its special cheese components from a South Australian dairy company? As he is happy to sponsor the use of this South Australian product in Queensland, will he also join in some of the other successful ventures of the South Australian Dunstan Labor Government?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I have a very high regard for the people at the Caboolture factory which manufactures that particular cheese, and I know that they do an excellent job. As I am not a director of the factory, I am not aware where they get certain ingredients from.

As to importing other goods from South Australia—I know they have a lot of closed industries there and that they have a lot of industrial trouble in their factories, and I do not want to import any of those things. Queensland is so very far ahead of South Australia that I am sure they would like to follow us and import something from Queensland, but not the other way round.

MEETING OF CATTLEMEN AT TOOWOOMBA

Mr. HARTWIG: I ask the Premier: In view of the tumultuous applause given to him by 1,000 cattlemen from all over Queensland at Toowoomba yesterday—I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker; it was 999, as the honourable member for Mackay did not stand—was that applause given to the Queensland Government because the cattlemen of Queensland do not trust Labor, which has no rural policies, and because this Government has legislated for a floor price scheme for beef?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I did appreciate very much the goodwill extended by the cattlemen and the people at the conference yesterday. I do not know whether the honourable member for Mackay stood with the rest of the people. I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition did, because he was on the platform and he could not very well remain seated.

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have previously warned the honourable member for Mackay to refrain from persistent interjections. If he persists, I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I wouldn't know whether he stood with the rest of the people in the hall. That does not worry me. I know the people strongly support this Government's policies and attitudes. As the honourable member for Callide said, certainly it was clear yesterday that they

don't trust the Labor Party or have any confidence in it or its rural policies. They supported us very strongly. If the honourable member for Mackay didn't stand up, no doubt it was because he was ashamed of the policies of the A.L.P. and was not game to be seen by people or let them know that he was there.

ALLEGED WITHDRAWAL FROM QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY BY MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Is he aware that the member for Murrumba withdrew his money from the Redcliffe branch of the Queensland Permanent Building Society 24 hours before the building society collapsed? In these circumstances, is he able to say if—

Mr. FRAWLEY: I rise to a point of order. That is a downright deliberate lie. I take exception to it.

Mr. Wright: Oh, sit down.

Mr. FRAWLEY: You shut your mouth or I'll flatten you.

Mr. Wright: You threatened to do that once before.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I'll do you over one day. I have a letter about you.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The allegation is not correct. I take exception to it. I did not withdraw any money.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Archerfield to accept the denial of the honourable member for Murrumba.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I am just asking a question, Mr. Speaker.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member will not withdraw it, I will not allow the question.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I withdraw it. May I continue with the question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: To continue with my question—in these circumstances, is the Minister for Works and Housing able to say if the member was blessed with a fortunate premonition similar to the one that prompted him to move residence into the new electorate of Caboolture three weeks before the redistribution results were announced? Or, alternatively, were Government members with money invested in

Queensland Permanent given prior warning of the pending closure so that they could withdraw their funds before liquidation occurred?

Mr. Campbell interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LEE: In answer to Idi Amin, the member for Archerfield—firstly, I accept the denial of the honourable member for Murrumbidgee. If he denies that he withdrew any money from Queensland Permanent 24 hours before it collapsed, I accept his word totally. I certainly do not accept that part of the question as put. It is just a cheap, political gimmick. The rest of the question is in the same category.

I refuse to answer such rubbish.

ABORTION REFERRAL CENTRE

Mr. LANE: I ask the Minister for Health: Is he aware of the circular being forwarded to all medical practitioners on the establishment of an abortion referral centre in the Focal Centre in the Valley? What is the Government's attitude on abortion centres?

Dr. EDWARDS: I am aware of the circular, which was brought to my attention this morning by various medical practitioners. No doubt the honourable member had it brought to his attention by medical practitioners in his area.

I view with great concern the attitude of some people to the proposed setting up of an abortion referral centre in the Valley. I make it quite clear that the Government will not tolerate any violation of this aspect of the law. The Queensland Government's attitude to abortion is quite clear: we will not tolerate abortion on demand, as has been advocated by many people in the community. We certainly support any action to wipe out such practices in this State. I believe that members of Children by Choice made statements on television last night that so many people were referred to the South. This Government will not change its policy just because certain people are prepared to evade the law by going interstate. The law here is quite clear, and we will abide by it. I assure the honourable member for Merthyr that we will have this matter investigated. If in fact there is a breach of the law, I will see that action is taken.

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

PRIVILEGE

LIST OF SPEAKERS PREPARED BY WHIPS

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.10 p.m.): I rise under Standing Order 115 to raise a question of privilege.

I have just been handed a list of speakers prepared by the Government Deputy Whip for today's debate on the Budget. I find the decision to be a departure from the normally accepted parliamentary practice that, where agreement is reached on the floor of the Parliament, the Opposition members are given the right to criticise the Budget and to participate equally in the debate.

You, Mr. Speaker, have allowed questions from one Opposition member to questions from three Government members since the Opposition numbers became so small in this Parliament.

The last five speakers on the Budget on Tuesday were Government members. They were Mr. Kaus, Mr. Lamond, Mr. McKechnie, Mr. Akers, and Mr. Row. Today—the last day of the Budget debate—the speakers on the list are Mr. Frawley, Mr. Turner, Mr. Lane, Mr. Aikens (who is not a member of the Opposition), Dr. Scott-Young and Mr. Gunn. Therefore there will not have been one Opposition member among the last nine speakers in the debate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you consider this matter in the light of the right of the Opposition, on behalf of the people of Queensland, to criticise the Government. This Government has decided to cut back on the number of hours allowed for the Budget debate. It is cutting back on the number of days allotted for the Estimates debate. It has now made a decision, through the Government Deputy Whip, to restrict the number of Opposition speakers, to restrict criticism of the Budget on the eve of an election. It is a disgrace and I raise it more in sorrow than anything else. It is an arrogant misuse of Parliament by this Government.

Mr. MOORE: I rise to a point of order. I point out that, on the last day on which the Budget was discussed, we had an agreement under which A.L.P. members were to speak for half an hour and Government members were to speak for 20 minutes. The Leader of the Opposition spoke for an hour and the honourable member for Rockhampton spoke for an hour, when Government speakers were reduced to 20 minutes. Those two Opposition members broke the agreement. Today, we have been given an indication that they would speak for an hour. Our speakers are restricted to 20 minutes. A.L.P. members have had more than their ratio in time, so they have nothing to cry about. They do not honour agreements, and that is the reason for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I believe that the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition is one entirely for the Whips. But I would say that all honourable gentlemen would at least agree that if Opposition members intend to speak for one hour, seeing the numbers in the Opposition, surely to heavens the Whips could arrive at some amicable agreement based on a ratio of three to one.

Nobody wants to stifle anybody else on either side of this House in bringing any matter before the House. The Whips should be able to agree. If a Government member wanted to speak for 60 minutes, the Opposition would not be prepared to accept it, and I would say rightly so. Surely to heavens both Whips should be able to reach an amicable agreement under which everybody has five or 10 minutes, or as the case may be, to the satisfaction of all honourable members. We could take it the other way round. If the bells were rung we could say, "How many members are in the Chamber?" If we accepted the ratio of members (Opposition and Government alike) in the Chamber, I believe that there would not be one hour available to the Leader of the Opposition or anybody else.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Standing Orders provide for 60 minutes.

Mr. Burns: The Leader of the Opposition gets an hour and a half.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is so. If the Leader of the Opposition speaks for one and a half hours other honourable members will want to apply a ratio.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am on my feet and honourable members should not argue with the Chair. I say to all honourable members that they should at least reach an amicable agreement and, if the Leader of the Opposition wants his 20 minutes or half an hour, all other members should have 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour. I believe it is the responsibility of the members of this House. I leave it entirely to the Whips to arrive at an amicable agreement on this matter.

ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Minister for Police): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Animals Protection Act 1925-1971 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

BRISBANE FOREST PARK BILL

INITIATION

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Leader of the House) for **Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service): I move—

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

to establish the Brisbane Forest Park and to provide for the administration, management and control of the park and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT— RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Chatsworth, in the chair)

Debate resumed from 27 September (see p. 970) on Mr. Knox's motion—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1977-78, a sum not exceeding \$142,840 to defray Salaries—His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (12.17 p.m.): In the first place, I should like to congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on the excellent Budget that he has presented.

Before going any further, I have to waste some of my valuable time to put the record straight following the question asked by the honourable member for Archerfield about whether I withdrew my money from the Queensland Permanent Building Society 24 hours before it collapsed. It is completely untrue to say that I did that. I had money in this society for years but about 12 months ago, when my eldest son wanted to build a house, I drew it out and lent it to him to save him from having to pay some of the charges that he would otherwise have had to meet. He built a house at the corner of Brunel Street and Klingner Road, Redcliffe, and when he returned the money to me I kept it because I wanted to buy a house in Caboolture. That explanation clears up the point concerning Queensland Permanent Building Society. The money was in fact taken out 12 months ago.

Mr. Lane: To help your family.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It was to help my eldest son build a house. I have always been a strong family man and one who has been prepared to support his family. I think I did the right thing by lending my eldest son that money.

I deal now with the suggestion about my knowing where the electoral boundaries of Caboolture would be. If I was smart enough to work out where the boundaries would be placed, why should I not move to the centre of the electorate? I just happen to be a damn sight smarter than many Opposition members. I worked out with pencil and paper exactly where the boundaries of Caboolture would be drawn. I am quite satisfied with the boundaries; in fact, I could not have drawn them better myself. I bought a house in Waterview Crescent, Caboolture, three weeks before the boundaries were announced. I laid out \$35,000 to back my judgment. I am prepared to put my money

where my mouth is. I backed my judgment with cold, hard cash. I am no piker; I do not mess around. I will win the seat of Caboolture by the length of the straight.

Mr. Lane: Is the A.L.P. running a candidate against you?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Two, and neither could win with a start.

Mr. Yewdale: How many Liberals?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I don't know and I don't care. Twenty-two candidates of all parties could be run against me and I would still beat the lot. I will win on the primary vote; preferences will not be needed.

I return now to the excellent Budget brought down by the Treasurer. It convinces me that Queensland is paying a high price to be part of the Commonwealth of Australia. There is no doubt that Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia are contributing greatly to the Commonwealth. In fact, 23 per cent of the total exports of Australia comes from Queensland. If that does not convince people that Queensland is the greatest State of the Commonwealth, I do not know what would.

In 1975-76 Queensland had an export surplus of \$1.6 billion. By way of contrast, New South Wales had an export deficit of \$1.2 billion and Victoria an export deficit of \$1.05 billion. The values of some Queensland exports were—

	\$
Sugar	632,000,000
Wheat	173,000,000
Wool	62,000,000
Coal	374,000,000

Other exports were valued at \$327,000,000. As I said before, Queensland's exports accounted for 23 per cent of Australia's exports. So anyone who says that Queensland is not the greatest State in the Commonwealth does not know what he is talking about. That is the type of statement that I would expect to hear from Victorians—that Queensland is not the greatest State in the Commonwealth.

We could get all the goods that we import—electrical goods, motor cars, farm machinery, television sets, refrigerators, heavy equipment and many other things—a damn sight cheaper if we were allowed to set up our own manufacturing structure. I am not advocating that Queensland should not continue as part of the Commonwealth, but I am pointing out what a good State Queensland is and what a damn good Budget the Treasurer has introduced on this occasion.

One of the most heartening features of the Budget is the complete elimination of road transport fees. I sincerely hope that the road transport operators take advantage of this to pass on to the people who get their goods by road some of the savings that benefit them. Last time there was

a reduction in road transport fees, not very many of the road transport operators reduced the charges to people using their vehicles.

Mr. Wright: Come on, you fellows; give him a go. You're talking too much.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I don't care; I can go against any opposition. I don't give a hoot. The contribution that I make satisfies me, and I don't give a hoot about anybody else.

The Budget also provides for concessions in the field of pay-roll tax, and that is definitely going to help small business. The maximum exemption level is to be increased to \$125,000 from 1 July 1978, and I think it is certainly to the Treasurer's credit that he has done that.

The reduction of 10 per cent in workers' compensation premiums is another indication of the Government's concern for small businesses, because one of the most crippling expenses that small businesses employing up to, say, 10 employees have to meet is workers' compensation premiums.

I turn now to education which is of great importance, I am very pleased to see that the per capita grant to all primary students in non-State schools is to be increased from \$126 to \$165 per annum and for secondary students from \$195 to \$252. I believe that non-State schools of all denominations play a very important role in the education system of this State. Some time ago I made a rough estimate and found that it would cost the Government at least \$20,000,000 to provide the educational facilities now provided by non-State schools if those schools were suddenly wiped out and it had to provide all the educational facilities.

While speaking on the subject of education, I might say that I have been very concerned lately about what is known as MACOS—"Man: A Course of Study". This is a structural course for which teachers have little or no need for preparation. Of course, that will suit all the lazy teachers like the honourable member for Rockhampton used to be. District inspectors of schools have been slating teachers recently for using prepared texts instead of carrying out their own research, but MACOS is totally prepared by overseas behavioural scientists. Teachers are not permitted to use their so-called professional freedom in courses such as MACOS, because the whole course and the departmental attitude is prescriptive.

I have read some of the books. There are supposed to be nine books. The Minister for Education said in answer to a question by the member for Isis that there were only eight books. Of course, book 9 is the one entitled "Seminars for Teachers". With eight other volumes it comprised a set of teachers' guides when MACOS was first published. "Seminars for Teachers" is no longer supplied. No wonder it is not supplied, because it is a completely socialistic document.

Mr. Powell interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is the one they do not want us to see. I serve notice here and now that if any officers of the Education Department try to give me the same treatment as they gave the member for South Brisbane, they will find that they have tackled a horse of a different colour. I will not be nice to them as he was; they will really get a serve from me that they will never forget. And I am throwing down the challenge right now. If any of the Education Department academics get stuck into me, they will get a hell of a flogging, and they should not forget that. I will be re-elected and I will give them hell for the next three years.

As far as I am concerned, MACOS is a very dangerous course that honourable members must study very carefully themselves before deciding whether or not to allow it to be implemented in any of the schools in this State.

Mr. Lane: It is rather expensive, too.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course it is expensive. Has the honourable member ever struck an academic who does not have airy-fairy ideas that cost a fortune to put into effect? I know of no academic whose suggestions are simple and down to earth. Whatever they put up always costs a fortune to implement.

The book referred to by the honourable member for Isis definitely does exist, and it is called "Seminar for Teachers". It was in the original sets introduced into schools, and a copy of it was being used at the Serviceton State School until yesterday. I have read one of the books, "The True Play". It is about a group of Eskimos. One of them is called Itimangnark, a fine hunter. I have never read such a conglomeration of tripe between two covers. This book is for 10-year-olds. I suggest that the Education Department should set about teaching 10-year-olds how to spell and how to read and write before it gives them some of this tripe. I am certainly going to resist it.

Mr. Powell: If they want to teach about native peoples, don't you think the Australian Aborigines should be the subject?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I really do. With all due deference to my friend the honourable member for Cook, I think his people would be a better example to use than a tribe of Eskimos. It is not that I have anything against the Eskimos, but they are in another part of the world and we have our Aborigines and Islanders right here in Queensland. If any examples are to be used, I think we should use our own indigenous races instead of Eskimos.

I turn now to Mr. Costello, the president of the Queensland Teachers' Union. Everybody knows that he is a strong supporter of the A.L.P. who is always trying to get across

his socialistic thoughts. He is a strong Left-winger. Whenever he called teachers' strikes, he made sure that his children were not deprived of their education. They attend a non-State school. I might mention in passing that he went to the convent where his children attend and said to the priest, "If you like I will organise your teachers for you here, and get them all fixed up properly." Of course he was tossed out of the grounds by the priest, which was the right thing to do. He should have been turfed out well before that. He is lucky that his children are getting an education. Had I been the priest in charge of that convent, I would have booted him completely out of the place and made his children go to another school.

Costello accused the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities of pandering to extremist elements. If I am an extremist in the eyes of Mr. Costello, I am happy to be one. Certainly I am against all he represents. He made that allegation because the Minister cancelled the seminar in Toowoomba last Monday on the proposed new social science course for Queensland primary schools. This Book 9 that we can't get a look at—some honourable members have managed to find out something about it—is being kept from members of Parliament by persons in the Education Department because they don't want us to see it. It is the culmination of all the brainwashing in this course for 10-year-olds—this publication by Carter Wilson which is absolute rot. I have never read anything like it. It is complete rubbish. I advise honourable members of the Opposition to read it. They will be used to it.

A Government Member: They can't read.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Those who can.

The Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs stated on 10 August last that MACOS would not be introduced into any additional schools during the remainder of 1977.

Mr. Powell: Why are they having a seminar?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I think they are trying to pull the wool over the Minister's eyes. The Minister has shown a great deal of sense.

Mr. Warner interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have said that they don't want us to see the book because they know we would reveal it for what it is—a socialistic document. I am dirty on it first of all because it is written by overseas people. Why the devil can't they use some book on education written by Australians—not necessarily Queenslanders, but Australians?

I turn now to building societies and, unlike some people who give their word and then break it, I am going to stick to my word and speak for only 20 minutes or less. There is one particular building society in Queensland now which does not really employ its own

staff. I sincerely trust that the Minister for Works and Housing will look into this very carefully. This society is in no danger of going to the wall; there is nothing wrong with it financially. However, I do believe that a building society should not be allowed to employ a management group.

The employees of this building society are really employed by a management group to whom the building society pays a management fee. Under the rules, the employees of building societies are not allowed to vote at meetings. I think the honourable member for Ipswich West could bear me out on this; he knows more about it than I do. I would ask him, through you, Mr. Hewitt, whether it is true that employees of building societies are not allowed to vote at meetings of shareholders. By having the building society managed by a management company—the employees are not listed as employees—the employees can vote at shareholders' meetings. Generally it is found that the directors of the management company are also directors of the building society.

I draw this matter to the attention of the Minister in the hope that he can change this situation. I am not claiming that this occurred with Queensland Permanent; it didn't. But I hope that the Minister will do something to ensure that this state of affairs is not allowed to continue. If the situation were changed, building societies might lose some of the stigma that occasionally attaches to them.

Recently a number of members of the A.L.P. stated that State Labor parliamentarians could reject party policy on the issues of abortion, prostitution and homosexuality. What absolute rubbish! That statement was designed to mislead the public. I do not know whether the member of Rockhampton—I wish he was in the Chamber—is one of those who made this statement.

Everyone knows that when a person nominates for A.L.P. selection he signs a document stating that he will abide by the Labor Party's rules and official Labor Party policy. I am not against that. If a member of the A.L.P. wants to sign such a document, that is up to him. If he wants to give away 3½ per cent of his salary as a kickback to the party for having endorsed him, that is all right by me. But I certainly would not pay 3½ per cent of my salary to any political party simply to retain my endorsement.

The Labor Party should not try to mislead the public by saying that its parliamentarians can exercise a free vote on those matters. They cannot. Any statement to the effect that Labor Party politicians are allowed a free vote is absolute hogwash.

As an example—the Labor members of the Select Committee on Punishment of Crimes of Violence, even before they heard one scintilla of evidence, were instructed to vote against the reintroduction of capital

punishment. Government members, too, voted against it; but at least they heard the evidence first. There is nothing wrong with a man's voting of his own free will. The Labor Party is only trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the public by stating that its members can vote of their own free will or according to their conscience. They cannot. All members of Parliament should have the right to exercise a free vote on moral issues.

Recently, the Labor Party reverted to its old tactic of Press-bashing. An example of this can be found in the first statement issued by Gerry Jones after his election to the position of secretary of the A.L.P. Honourable members will recall that he used to be the member for Everton.

Mr. Gunn: He was a sit-down member.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is right. He sat down in the street with Senator Georges. I have shown the photograph so many times that it has become well worn.

Mr. Lindsay: I don't think he is standing next time.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course not; he's not game. He is an urger and won his way to the position of secretary of his party.

He said that the Labor Party had two stumbling blocks in Queensland. The first was what he called a gerrymander and the second was the Press. He claimed that the Press did not always tell the right story about the Labor Party. He made that comment during the controversy surrounding his appointment to the position of secretary of the A.L.P.

It is no secret that the Leader of the Opposition threatened to resign over Mr. Jones's appointment as secretary. Bill Hayden also objected to his appointment.

Gerry Jones was kicked out of Everton in 1974 by Brian Lindsay—a man who has really given the electors of Everton the representation that they missed while Gerry Jones was member. Before being kicked out, Mr. Jones enjoyed wide Press coverage and had no reason whatever for complaint. His appointment as secretary of the Labor Party was certainly against the wishes of most of the rank and file.

As I said before, to allow other members an opportunity to speak, I shall talk for only 20 minutes or so. I should now like to mention the rail for Redcliffe. Recently the Rail for Redcliffe Committee, a group of persons pressing for a rail link to Redcliffe—

Mr. Prest: You are standing for Caboolture.

Mr. FRAWLEY: For the information of the honourable member for Port Curtis—as he will not be here much longer I

shall have his name included in "Hansard"—the word "Kabul" is Aboriginal for "carpet snake". "Caboolture" means "home of the carpet snake". I hope that that little piece of information is taken back to Port Curtis.

Getting back to the Rail for Redcliffe Committee—for many years the Redcliffe Peninsula, comprising approximately 13 square miles, has been connected to Brisbane by the Hornibrook Highway. This Government is building a second connecting bridge. It is to be named the Houghton Highway, after Mr. Speaker (the honourable member for Redcliffe), whom we all revere and speak of with affection. He has been the member for Redcliffe since 1960. Thanks to his efforts (and to some small extent to mine) the Houghton Highway is being built.

To get back to the rail for Redcliffe, a spur line from Narangba or Dakabin would be of great benefit to the city of Redcliffe and its 30,000 to 40,000 people. For many years different groups have made representations about this line, but the Rail for Redcliffe Committee has shown its genuine concern about progress in the Redcliffe peninsula. The Rail for Redcliffe Committee has been called a front for the Labor Party. That is not true. Labor Party, National Party, and Liberal Party people serve on the committee. The honourable member for Sandgate (Mr. Dean), the honourable member for Redcliffe (Mr. Houghton), the late Senator Milliner, Ken Leese (the former member for Pine Rivers), the present member for Pine Rivers (Mr. Akers) and I have all attended meetings of the Rail for Redcliffe Committee and made a worthwhile contribution. All those on the committee, including members of Parliament, have supported the proposal.

In conclusion, I repeat that this second Budget produced by the Treasurer is an excellent one. And I am confident that he will present many more of the same calibre.

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (12.37 p.m.): In speaking to this debate I compliment the Treasurer on the introduction of what I believe to be a sound, stable and solid Budget. As a member representing a rural electorate I shall discuss some of the problems affecting rural areas and rural people, and the effect of this Budget, the recent Federal Budget and measures introduced more recently by the Federal Government, on rural areas and rural people.

I speak without fear of contradiction when I say that the efficiency of Australian rural producers ranks in world class, particularly in areas of marginal rainfall. Yet one-third of Australia's 50,000 beef producers receive no income; 27 per cent of them earn from nothing to \$5,000 a year, and all face a bleak future. That is a fair indication of today's rural scene. Primary producers face severe, increasing pressures

on their incomes and living standards. The rural sector has always been of major importance in the Australian economy. It continues as a major earner of export income, as the foundation of decentralisation and the livelihood of small and large rural towns and cities.

Figures from the Queensland office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Queensland primary industries (excluding mining) reached a new peak of earnings of \$1,323 million in 1975-76. That illustrates the importance of rural industries.

It has been conservatively estimated that 20 per cent of Australia's population depends totally or partly on rural industry. When any policies—be they State or Federal—are being considered, it is essential to realise that the livelihood of up to 3,000,000 Australians is under discussion.

In the 1977-78 Federal Budget, about \$132,000,000 was provided for the sheep, cattle and grain industries. However, too many people overlook the fact that of that sum \$117,000,000 is in the form of repayable loans.

Bear in mind that the manufacturing industries are highly protected by tariffs and restrictions on imports. I will now briefly discuss how this affects rural industries as compared with manufacturing industries. The Industries Assistance Commission has calculated that for 1975-76 the effective rate of protection for the whole manufacturing sector was 33 per cent—a sharp increase on the previous year due almost entirely to an increase in quotas. It should be noted, however, that much of the protection is concentrated in a few industries and only about half the employment in manufacturing is tariff dependent. The value of effective protection—or net subsidy equivalent as it is commonly called—in 1975-76 was \$4,190 million.

It is generally accepted that ultimately exports and export industries pay the vast majority of these costs when protection is given in the form of tariffs or import quotas. Other groups, such as consumers and non-exporting industries, can largely recoup the costs through higher wages or prices, even if not immediately. On this basis—the method for which is explained in more detail in an appendix—the cost imposed on the sheep, cattle and grain industries in 1975-76 by tariff and quota protection is as follows:

Sheep Industry:	\$2.60 per sheep	
	or \$383,000,000 total	
Cattle Industry:	\$8.00 per beast	
	or \$232,000,000 total	
Grain Industry:	\$31.20 per tonne	
	or \$552,000,000 total	

Alternatively, the cost of tariff and quotas in 1975-76 was \$11,600 for every sheep, cattle and grain producer.

The precise figures themselves are relatively of less importance than the order of magnitude they indicate. By any standard, it is clear that protection to manufacturing industry in Australia, through tariffs and import quota restrictions, has seriously weakened the rural sector. I point out that secondary industries have been receiving this protection for 70-odd years.

I would now like to discuss some of the measures introduced recently—either in the Budget or by other means—by the Federal Government to assist rural industries. There were the income equalisation deposit scheme and the reintroduction of the superphosphate bounty. I represent an area dependent entirely on wool and beef production, where the bounty is absolutely no help at all. However, a concession has been given for capital improvements and the purchase of plant, which has been of benefit in many areas.

It is estimated that over the next 12 months it will cost something like \$100,000,000 for the Federal Government assistance given to the beef industry in recent weeks. That has been welcomed by many sectors of the rural industry. Some \$6,000,000 has been allocated to set up a beef classification scheme. Further, a moratorium has been placed on debts owed by cattlemen in the brigalow development area. I believe that the Federal Government should consider extending that scheme to apply it to all cattlemen throughout the length and breadth of the nation whose operations are not viable.

A request has been made to the Prices Justification Tribunal to see if there is a case for the tribunal to investigate the prices for beef marketing and processing throughout Australia. That tribunal will be asked to examine the margins that apply between the killing of beef and the purchase by the consumer, as well as differences in domestic and export prices. I believe that that is a step in the right direction.

What I believe will be most helpful to beef producers is the Federal Government's intention to pay a cash grant of \$10 per beast for 12 months to assist in disease control processes or the spaying of young heifers. There will be a ceiling of \$2,000 per producer. That will result in a cash flow for producers in dire circumstances who desperately need money. It must necessarily assist by reducing breeding numbers in areas where there is an oversupply.

I would like to see either the State or Federal Government introduce a grant to cover interest payments on loans to specialist cattlemen. Additional loans are of no assistance. They only increase the capital debt and interest payments.

I am sorry that the Federal Government at this stage has not been able to do anything about the equalisation of fuel prices. I

read that in Longreach yesterday the Prime Minister indicated that this aspect was being closely considered. The Australian Woolgrowers and Graziers' Council maintains that a fuel price equalisation scheme could be introduced based on a surcharge of .27c per litre on all petrol, the proceeds of which would be used to equalise metropolitan and non-metropolitan wholesale prices.

Fuel equalisation is not something that helps only the sectional interests such as the grazing industry in western areas. It is of tremendous benefit to everyone because it allows carriers, councils and everyone else to function more cheaply and the flow-on goes to everybody living in western areas.

I should like the Federal Government to increase the taxation zone allowance in western areas so that it would be of benefit to everyone in those areas and not just one sectional interest. It has been put up as a proposal to the Federal Government on many occasions and I have written to both the Prime Minister and the Treasurer on fuel equalisation, taxation zone allowance, and also on foreign aid. With the position rural industries are in at the moment, particularly beef cattle production, the Federal Government should look more closely at the possibility of paying foreign countries in beef instead of with finance.

I now turn to State Government assistance given to rural industries. Land cattle rentals have been reduced following the Barry Report. The cattle freight subsidy and concessions of some 35 per cent are being continued in this Budget. Drought concessions still apply. Probate and gift duties have been completely removed. The Government has generously removed those iniquitous taxes. This move is of benefit not only to rural producers but also to many people who have saved throughout their lives. Although some rural producers have no incomes at present, it cannot be overlooked that they have capital investments in property. When they pass on, their spouses or others who are left behind would be hit with a further burden if probate had not been removed and it would be impossible for them to meet their commitments. As indicated in the Budget, road permit fees have been completely removed. This will be of tremendous assistance. Recently the Queensland Government was the first State Government to introduce legislation allowing for beef minimum prices. It has set a precedent for the Federal Government and other State Governments to follow. I certainly hope that they will do so in the near future.

One other area of assistance that could be extended by the State Government to transport operators in western areas is allowing them to cart their own fuel from Brisbane

for use in western areas if no fuel equalisation scheme is introduced in the near future. Many of these people face tremendous fuel bills in carting livestock and wool out of western areas. I urge the Treasurer to look closely at that suggestion.

I should now like to discuss briefly the problems of local government, particularly those of the local authority in my area. The personal income tax sharing scheme that is operating at present has meant a combined increase from \$24,200,000 to \$27,900,000 this year. In my area, Blackall Shire received \$142,000; Booringa Shire received \$152,000; Murweh Shire received \$274,000; Paroo Shire received \$206,000 and Tambo received \$67,000. I think that the increases to Blackall, Booringa and Tambo were not in line with the rate of inflation and that those shires should be given special consideration in State grants.

The local government system of funding through rate collections in rural areas is in a desperate situation because most rural property owners do not have the financial capacity to meet their rate commitments. I see the Minister for Survey and Valuation in the Chamber. He kindly travelled to Mitchell and the Booringa Shire recently. That shire has been revalued. The overall valuation dropped from \$8,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Valuations of some individual properties were reduced 10 per cent, some 17 per cent and some up to 50 per cent in the poorer class of mulga country. The local authority increased the rate in the dollar. Some property owners are faced with higher rate burdens even though the council is not going for any greatly increased amount over and above what it collected in recent years. The rates of some property owners have increased from \$4,600 per annum to \$6,200 and many of them have not the financial capacity to meet these commitments.

I think that Governments have to look seriously at the system of funding local authorities, particularly those in sheep and cattle areas. I appreciate the activities of the Grants Commission but local authorities need a greater share of the common taxation pool and a more equitable system of rating to allow them to continue their function. Some people on properties working seven days, possibly 80 or 90 hours, a week, receive virtually no income and are hit with rate burdens of \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year. While they are going further and further into debt, they look to the towns and see people making in the vicinity of \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year and paying rates of possibly only \$60 to \$80 a year. I can well understand the position of some rural producers at the present time.

In the short time of my speech that remains I propose to refer to the Budget in more specific terms. It is not my intention to speak on all facets of it. Many members have

spoken of irrigation schemes and other projects in their areas. I was pleased to see in the Budget the allocation of an additional \$50,000,000 for housing. A total of 555 Housing Commission homes will be provided for Queensland families, 48 will be built for station-masters and other employees of the Railway Department. This is an area of housing that has needed attention for some time and I hope the Government will continue with improvements in this field. 50 houses are to be built for teachers and public servants in country areas and 32 for police officers throughout the State.

Provision has been made for the construction and maintenance of roads in 77 cities, towns and shires, to the value of \$10,000,000. The \$5,000,000 that has been allocated in State grants and the extra \$50,000,000 will provide a boost to local authorities over the length and breadth of the State.

Another matter that I should like to discuss is unemployment in western areas. I believe that this is a major concern, particularly in places where there is little chance of diversification. Many people in western areas, like those on the Downs and in the cities, have been able to avoid cost increases by labour-saving means such as the use of machinery and, in stores, the employment of check-out girls rather than shop assistants. This, of course, means a reduction in the work-force. I believe that Federal assistance should be made available to assist decentralisation by the setting up of industries in areas where diversification is not possible. Recently a study was undertaken into the feasibility of a wool-tops industry in western Queensland. All areas were considered but the finding was unfortunately that such an industry was not feasible at the present time. However, with assistance from the Commonwealth Government, it may be possible to do something along those lines.

I had a proposal put to me by an accountant in Charleville. I think what he suggests is quite feasible. He has used figures based on the pre-Budget tax rates but the difference in amounts representing savings to the Federal Government on the new rates is negligible. I shall read it; what is important is the principle involved—

"The idea is based upon the Federal Government granting taxation concessions to areas they may wish to define to encourage people to establish industries and thus absorb the work-force. Certain guide-lines could be established, e.g. the industry must employ a minimum of 20 people and be located in a certain town. The taxation incentives could be on a time basis or some other formula but would have to be of a magnitude to encourage people to invest."

As an example of savings to the Federal Government, he has worked out the following based on a new industry employing 50 people:—

“Assume the average unemployed family is a husband, wife and 2 children.

	\$
—Unemployment benefits per family is \$93.50 which gives an annual payout of ..	243,100
—Average wage per employee employed by the new industry at say \$175 per week at an average weekly tax of \$31 which gives an annual tax revenue to the Federal Government of	80,600
From one industry the revenue would be better off by ..	<u>\$323,700</u>

If a company was operating the new industry, for it to pay \$323,700 income tax at 42½%, it would have to have a taxable income of \$761,647.

As an incentive to establish the above industry in a nominated area, a tax-free system could be introduced—

	Tax Revenue \$
Say first 150,000 of taxable income is tax free	Nil
Say next 150,000 of taxable income at 50% rates	31,875
Say over 300,000 of taxable income at 100% of rates ..	196,200
	<u>228,075</u>
Tax on \$761,647 at full rate is	323,700
Less tax collected	228,075
Loss in tax	105,625
Less above savings in revenue	<u>323,700</u>
Net amount the revenue would be better off through one industry	<u>\$218,075</u>

The actual increase in revenue to the Government, of course, would be many times larger than the example. Any large industry attracts other businesses and improves existing businesses. Additional taxes would be paid which otherwise would not have been generated.”

So I believe that in the interests of retaining people and employment opportunities in western areas, the Federal Government—and also the State Government—should think along the lines of giving some incentive for the establishment of industries, even to the extent of allowing tax concessions. If such a policy were implemented, unemployment would be taken up and the country would prosper.

In conclusion, I again congratulate the Treasurer on the introduction of the Budget.

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.57 p.m.): I am happy to have the opportunity to enter the Budget debate and add to the appreciation already expressed by many other members of this Assembly my compliments to the State Treasurer and the Government for what is a very excellent Budget. As has been pointed out, once again the Budget is balanced, which is almost unique in Australia. Looking at State after State, one does not find the sound economic management that has been evidenced by the Budgets presented to the Parliament of Queensland for so many years, and this year, in particular, I think that members have an obligation to rise in their places in this Chamber and say just how satisfied they are with the Budget because of its excellence.

It is what I would describe as a happy Budget. One had only to look across the Chamber at the faces of the Opposition when the Treasurer introduced it to know that it was a happy Budget. There was a great air of gloom in the Opposition benches. Honourable members opposite were all frowning and scowling at the Government benches. Whenever the Opposition scowls and is unhappy and is whingeing and crying, we all know that the Government's action is very good and generous. I should like this Budget to go down in history as a happy Budget. It is beneficial to many sections of the community, indeed, to the community at large, under very many headings—State aid, studies preliminary to the commencement of major capital works, assistance to kindergartens, which will continue the public's pride in being Queenslanders above all else.

Honourable members need only refer to their own electorate to realise the satisfaction felt in the community as a result of the good works that have been carried out by the Government and the way in which it allocates its funds. In my small electorate, which is only about 2.2 square miles in area, the Government deserves commendation for the amount of money that has been expended on major capital works over the last two or three years. In the suburb of New Farm, just a year or two ago, I had a single-unit pre-school built to accommodate 50 four-year-olds. The total cost of that pre-school was \$144,735, in an area in which it is very difficult to acquire land and very expensive to build. In the Clayfield area, which is now in my electorate, we managed to persuade the Government to construct a new police station that will service many of the suburbs in my electorate. The total cost of that was \$150,000.48.

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

Mr. LANE: Prior to the luncheon adjournment I referred to the capital works programme in the electorate of Merthyr in

the last year or two and listed a few of the buildings constructed during that period. I will continue. The State school at New Farm has had \$146,203 spent on it over the last three years. A new car park and pedestrian overbridge has been provided at the Albion Railway Station as part of the electrification programme. That installation by this Government cost \$317,639. A new Ascot pre-school which cost \$298,170 will be opened tomorrow by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. It has been constructed on land I acquired for that purpose just over two years ago. It is a very expensive installation but one which was very much warranted in the Ascot/Clayfield area. It will service the many families who are returning to those suburbs as older homes are being restored and as others are torn down and replaced by new homes or units.

At the other end of my electorate in Kent Street, New Farm, a building known as Henderson Lodge has been built by the Housing Commission for aged persons at a cost of \$813,000. That building provides adequate and comfortable accommodation for just over 50 aged people.

Capital works of that sort are continually going on at a local level, and that is the type of improvement that members can achieve if they apply themselves to their electorate. I suggest that it is a far cry from the gloomy, dismal outlook that Opposition members have on this subject. They seem content to whinge and moan at all times. That is part of the grey blanket of socialism that they desire to throw across the community.

I suggest that the Federal Government could do more to assist with capital works. I know that the presumption is that, when the economy is expanded, so, too, is inflation; and, conversely, if the economy is contracted, the rate of inflation is reduced. I personally do not believe that that is necessarily so, particularly in the area of major capital works. Australia is a developing country that has found new wealth in recent years—new wealth in terms of population and natural resources. Australia will get off the launching pad over the next decade or so as one of the world's leading nations—possibly even a superpower in terms of economic development. This growth should not be inhibited in any way by any restriction on capital works. I call on the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to reverse this part of their economic strategy and to release some money for Government buildings and major Government developments throughout Australia, particularly in Queensland.

I do not believe that increasing the rate of economic growth increases the rate of inflation. I believe that is a false economic philosophy, and one that the Federal Government would be well advised to change. Probably one of the most sensitive areas of Government initiative that will help to reduce unemployment is the building

industry. That industry is one of the best barometers of the economy of the country.

The building industry employs a huge number of persons, from the labourer with his pick and shovel in the trench to the architect and the professional engineer in his office. It is through the building industry that a large number of people earn a living and have money to spend. Unfortunately, however, a large section of our population comprising architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and labourers, are presently out of work or alternatively in only part-time employment. To restore them to their former decent way of life and good income, the Federal Government must provide money for major capital works. As I have said, contrary to the belief held by some people, I do not hold the view that such a step would have disastrous results.

A boost to the building industry indirectly benefits a large number of people, such as manufacturers who make aluminium windows or plumbing fittings. While the building industry is buoyant their business is on the increase. In a country such as ours the building industry should be buoyant. The Government should take action to see that it is buoyant. A boom in the building industry also ensures employment for workers engaged in our transport industries.

I call on the Federal Government to embark on a major capital works programme and so help to put Australia back on its feet. One capital works project that is of particular interest to me as well as many other honourable members, and one that would be of tremendous benefit to Queensland, is the relocation of the Brisbane Airport. In 1972 a detailed plan was drawn up for the resting of the airport in the Cribb Island area, closer towards Moreton Bay. The plan called for the laying of new and longer runways to cater for the huge commercial aircraft that are now in use. Unfortunately, this plan was abandoned by the Whitlam Labor Government and has not yet been picked up by the Fraser Government.

Relocation of the Brisbane Airport should be commenced. It would provide tremendous benefits to the community generally and also employment for a large number of persons. The immediate benefits, of course, would flow to the residents of Ascot, Hendra, Hamilton, Clayfield, Teneriffe and New Farm, who have to contend with the continual noise of low-flying aircraft landing and taking off. But, as I say, the State as a whole would derive benefit as well.

Queensland is engaged in a large volume of international trade. Many Queenslanders are required to fly in and out of Brisbane on overseas business. I have in mind particularly employees in the mining industry and the primary industries, such as the wool,

wheat and sugar industries. Businessmen are continually flying backwards and forwards between Queensland and overseas countries. Furthermore, with our affluent society and high salaries many Queenslanders go overseas on their holidays. Unfortunately, because of the inadequacy of the Brisbane Airport many of them are forced to fly interstate in order to leave Australia. This is not good enough.

One of the first things that the Federal Government should do is recommence the 1972 programme for the resiting of the Brisbane Airport. Already the Commonwealth has acquired either by negotiation or by resumption a number of properties in the Cribb Island/Nudgee Beach area. They are being held pending the relocation of the airport. The only obstacle in the way of such a project is lack of finance from Canberra.

If the airport is relocated clear of the city and away from the Brisbane River, the noise nuisance will be overcome, as will the danger to aircraft when landing and taking off of colliding with a new bridge that might be constructed across the river at such a height that river traffic will not be hindered. It will not interfere with the freeways and expressways that are needed to take traffic from one side of Brisbane to the other. When the airport is shifted to the site selected in 1972, and the runways are realigned, aircraft will land and take off in directions different from those used at present, and people in residential suburbs will suffer the very minimum noise nuisance.

It is a shame that we do not hear more on this subject from members of the Opposition. I know from many people living in Bulimba and Hawthorne that they suffer greatly from the noise caused by planes landing and taking off at Brisbane Airport. Yet rarely do we hear anything from the honourable member for Bulimba about the noise or about shifting the Brisbane Airport. Not a peep from him! He does not show the slightest interest in the discomfort suffered by people in Bulimba and Hawthorne.

I was very pleased to see in the Budget the proposal to carry out a complete feasibility study on the construction of a tunnel under the Brisbane River. Honourable members may recall that less than two weeks ago in this Chamber I advocated such a study. I do not claim to have had all the original thought on this matter. As early as 1964, my predecessor (Mr. Sam Ramsden) advocated the construction of a tunnel under the Brisbane River.

Mr. Houston: And I before him.

Mr. LANE: I am pleased to hear that comment from the honourable member for Bulimba, but it is just not so. If the records

are studied—and I have studied them in detail—it becomes apparent that Mr. Ramsden's voice was the first to be raised in this place advocating a tunnel under the river. On one occasion, when Mr Ramsden was seeking the support of the Labor-controlled city council, he took the honourable member for Bulimba with him to the council hoping to get support for his proposal to build this tunnel. If honourable members care to read the record in the Press, "Hansard" or other journals of those days, they will see that after the one visit made by the honourable member for Bulimba to the city hall with Mr. Ramsden he withdrew his interest from the proposal and was not associated with it again.

Because the Labor-controlled city council decided for an unknown reason—which smells, to my mind—to support the use of a cross-river ferry, the honourable member for Bulimba lost interest. When the Labor council showed no interest in the tunnel we did not hear from him again, just as we have not heard anything from him about the aircraft noise. Over the years, Sam Ramsden had to fight the battle alone. It could be thought that the Labor member representing the area on the other side of the river where the tunnel would emerge—and the area was held entirely by Labor—would display continuing interest in the construction of a tunnel.

The Treasurer announced in the Budget that the Government intends to have a full feasibility study on the construction of a tunnel carried out. It is intended to call world-wide tenders to be based on a complete knowledge of the engineering problems and the economic viability of the proposal, which is just what Sam Ramsden suggested in 1964. Unfortunately, at that time the Government, which was of the same colour as the present Government, but with different men in the saddle, ignored his advice and called tenders without carrying out the initial feasibility study. The announcement about the tunnel makes the Budget worth while. The study will be undertaken and we will get some real tenders from overseas from people who are interested in building another tunnel in a major city.

The proposal for the electrification of the rail lines from Brisbane to Rockhampton and Toowoomba makes a major positive contribution to what has become known as the energy crisis. It will transfer the fuel demand from diesel to coal, and, as we all know, coal is in plentiful supply in this State. The generation of electricity from coal will provide sufficient energy to drive our locomotives from Rockhampton to Toowoomba.

I understand that just such a project has begun operating in France, which has made the move away from diesel power to electrification on its long-haul rail lines. Such a move preserves fuel oil—a form of energy

that is in such short supply. For its farsightedness, this Government is to be commended. I know that the Railway Commissioner, Mr. Goldston, had something to do with that recommendation, as it has been a hobby-horse of his. He deserves our esteem.

Before I sit down, I would like to pay tribute to the Government for the State-aid provisions in the Budget. Once again the Government has put Queensland to the forefront in providing State aid. The per capita grant for primary school students has been lifted from \$126 to \$165. That is quite outstanding—an increase of 31 per cent. The increase in the per capita grant for secondary schools from \$195 to \$252—an increase of 29 per cent—is also to be commended.

I am pleased that the Treasurer's move has been recognised by Catholic school authorities. I would like to read a Press statement made by the Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane on 22 September, following the Budget increases. That Press statement from Archbishop Frank Rush reads—

“On behalf of Catholic Schools in Queensland I wish to applaud the granting of increases in the funding levels provided by the State Government of Queensland to non-Government Schools in this State.”

Of course, that is why there is such a fit of the miseries on the Opposition benches. They do not like this sort of thing. The Archbishop goes on to say—

“We are grateful to the Government for the readiness it has shown to hear the needs of Catholic parents and for the response it has made to those needs through the Budget; parents of children in Catholic Schools will be most appreciative of the continued support.”

In conclusion, I commend the Treasurer for this excellent Budget, knowing that the people of Queensland will recognise it for just what it is—the happiest Budget this State has seen for many years.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (2.34 p.m.): In the restricted time that I have, I want to make a few pertinent remarks about North Queensland, which as all honourable members know is my beloved Northland. We hear a lot these days about the need to put a cracker under the Federal Government, a cracker under the State Government and a cracker under this particular locality of instrumentality—

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: I will say this for the honourable member for Bulimba, who is persistently interjecting: when he was the

Leader of the Labor Party in this Chamber we did not see the disgraceful, detestable, deplorable exhibition of bad manners and loutism and hooliganism by members of the A.L.P. that we see today. It might be a very good idea for this Parliament and for the people of Queensland if he went back into the leadership.

I want to say that years ago most of the northern wool was shipped through the port of Townsville. A very fine, efficient, big wool-dumping plant was situated in Townsville. The wool came in, was dumped in this particular building and was shipped overseas in the grease in the dump. This meant quite a deal to North Queensland. It provided a lot of work and quite a lot of income and revenue and was something that we appreciated very much indeed. Today the wool from North Queensland—it runs into scores of thousands of bales—is not shipped from Townsville. It comes all of the way down here by train and I presume it is dumped in Brisbane and shipped from here.

I should like to know why this Government has not put the screws on the big wool companies or pastoral companies that have the graziers in the palms of their hands. The stage has been reached today when graziers have to send orders for their ordinary food for their stations and clothes for their families through the big pastoral firms like Dalgetys that run them. The firms delete from the lists what they think the graziers can do without. It is about time that someone took on these great big pastoral companies and let them know that we want North Queensland wool dumped in Townsville and shipped from there as it was for many years. It added to the prosperity of the North. It helped to build up the North and it will help to keep the North in its present position.

It is the same with meat. Our meat is transported by rail to Brisbane and is dealt with here and is probably shipped overseas from here. It is a shocking, monstrous state of affairs economically and financially for the North. There is no reason at all why we should not go back to shipping our wool and meat from Townsville, just as we ship our sugar and other primary products from there.

That is not a question only for the Government. It might be a question for the Government to put the screws on the big companies that are responsible for it but it is about time someone took them right on and brought them right out into the open—pilloried them—and let the people know what he thinks about them.

I understand that if the police allow it, there is to be another procession on 22 October protesting against uranium mining. Application has been made to hold one in

Townsville. I could name now the 26 people who will march in that procession. Of the 26, 14 will be grubbies and scrubbies from the university, who march in every procession. It would not matter what the procession was for or the basic reason for the procession, those 26 would march in it, and more often than not they would be the only ones who were marching in it.

It is a shocking state of affairs when we have prominent trade union officials in Townsville—one of them an A.L.P. candidate in the coming election—advocating the closure of the Mary Kathleen Mine. That is what the slogan, "Leave our uranium in the ground" will mean. Mary Kathleen means a lot to Townsville. Everything for Mary Kathleen goes by rail or road from Townsville after it arrives there by ship or by road. Many people are employed in Mary Kathleen. They come through Townsville and we get the benefit of their trade and the money that is spent there. It is monstrous that the Labor Party should endorse a man to run for the seat of Townsville South who comes out in the columns of "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" advocating the closure of Mary Kathleen, just as quite a lot of other ratbags in other parts of Australia are advocating the non-starting of many of the uranium mines.

Mr. Goleby: They claim that they are interested in jobs.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes.

What really is the position in regard to uranium? I have gone into it. I have read everything on the subject in the Parliamentary Library and that I could get from every other source. We get down to what is called a focal point. As far as I am concerned the focal point is this: I have yet to hear a member of the A.L.P., the Communist Party or the Left-wing trade union movement say anything about the mining and exporting of uranium from Communist countries or any country that is even tinged with Communism. I put that aside in my mind by thinking, "Well, it would not matter what you do. If you are a Communist, it depends entirely on which side of the fence you are whether a thing is right or wrong." As I said the other day, whether they agree with street processions depends on whether this A.L.P. is in power or in Opposition. When they are in Opposition they are in favour of street processions. When they are in Government they turn out the police to baton down the people who take part in street processions.

Only yesterday I was speaking in Townsville to a man who wore the cloth and he asked me about the uranium issue. I said, "I went round and round the issue, but I did not, like Omar Khayyam, come out by the same door wherein I went." What impressed me most is the situation in Canada, which is today one of the world's

greatest democracies. It is a member of the British Commonwealth and no-one could conceivably call it a Left-wing country or a nation tinged with Communism. Canada faced up to the uranium issue and it now mines and exports uranium. The millions of dollars earned in this way flood back to Canada and do much to make it the very fine country that it is today.

Why cannot we in Australia do what was done in Canada? Why cannot we say, "We will mine our uranium and export it and flood the country with money from overseas and do something in this country with it."? When all is said and done, for many years Australia had merely to produce products and they could be sold. Wheat, fruit, wool and most minerals were shipped overseas and readily sold without let or hindrance. Sometimes markets would fluctuate but there was a steady stream of money coming into Australia from the sale of primary products. It was on the basis of that steady stream that Australia became strong financially and economically.

Why cannot we do the same with uranium? Many markets for Australian wheat, wool, meat, fruit and other products have dried up following the formation of the European Economic Community and the bloc vote among the Communist countries. The markets that were once wide open to Australia have now been sealed off. Consequently Australia is reaching the stage where it will have nothing to sell overseas in order to obtain funds to buy the things that are needed here to keep Australia the great country that it is. How monstrous, selfish and treacherous it is for A.L.P. members to go out on the hustings and say, "Let our uranium stay in the ground. Let others mine and sell uranium but let us not do it here."

One of the bodies that are confusing the people of Australia today is the A.B.C. I am not referring to small local branches of the A.B.C. We have a fine branch in Townsville. There is nothing wrong with its news presentations and one can always get an item included in the news at Townsville if one thinks it is worth inclusion and the local station agrees. But it is quite different with stations in the South. A couple of weeks ago I had a Saturday night off and I watched the programme "Four Corners". It is conducted by the very physically attractive Caroline Jones but if she is not a half-baked Com, I am not a North Queenslander. The A.B.C. puts on the television screen all manner of queer-looking creatures. One fellow put up by the A.B.C. the other day with, what he claimed, an unanswerable case against the mining of uranium had the open, drooling mouth and the expression of a masturbation addict. The A.B.C. gets fellows of this type from the universities and puts them up as lecturers in this or readers in that. All we know about them is that if they

have the intelligence that their appearance suggests they must be some of the biggest idiots this side of the black stump.

We are part of the Commonwealth of Australia and it is up to the Government to say to those who run the A.B.C., "Give us an ordinary fair go. If you are going to give the anti-uranium group so much time on radio and television, give the pro-uranium group an equal go." I have not seen any member of the Government speaking on the A.B.C. for the pro-uranium group. I have seen the Premier once or twice on television when the A.B.C. has graciously given him the opportunity to say something about uranium and the development of North Queensland. But every time one turns the television set to a southern station one sees a weird, hairy, tacky-looking dope who claims to be a lecturer in this or a professor in that and he puts up all the confused arguments in the world. This is all one ever sees when matters of real importance to the country, particularly the uranium issue, are under discussion.

I do not often get an opportunity to listen to television, as I have so much to do with the people. When all is said and done, I am a member who believes in representing people. I do not believe in representing policies and parties and that sort of thing; I believe in representing people. I walk the streets with them; I talk to them; I find out what they want; I find out what their ideas are and I collate them. I then say, "Well, the general opinion of the people of Townsville, anyway, is that 90 per cent of them want uranium dug; they want it mined, and they want it exported." There is no doubt about that. Irrespective of the class of society to which they belong, there is a solid phalanx of opinion in favour of uranium mining and exporting. Yet any stranger who came to this country and turned on an A.B.C. television programme would get the idea that the people of Australia were bitterly and irrevocably opposed to the mining and export of uranium.

The Premier is no fool. He is certainly not a fool when it comes to judging people's opinions. I suppose he sends all this material along to the A.B.C. What a pity it is that it is not used. There is a great deal of talk about the Premier having an aeroplane for himself. It might be an idea to have a television station of our own so that we could tell the people what Queensland really needs. I say that because I believe that we must take these fellows on, make them stand up and be counted, put the finger on them and say, "Are you in favour of mining and exporting uranium, or are you in favour of leaving it in the ground?" When they answer, we can take them on and tell the people just what it means to leave our uranium in the ground. Above all, we can tell them what it means to dig and export

our uranium and put this wonderful country of Australia—in spite of the Hawkes, the Halfpennys, the Gallaghers and all the rest of them—back where it once was when the Labor Party was controlled by men of repute, men of respectability, men of sense, men who had the interests of Australia at heart, men who believed in the word "Australian" in the Australian Labor Party's platform. When we talk about the A.L.P. today, the "A" does not stand for Australian; many of the people who are in the Australian Labor Party today do not realise that the "A" stands for "Australian". They might think "A.L.P." stands for "Academics and Lawyers Party", or something like that. Let us begin to think and vote and work for Queensland as Queenslanders, and to think and speak and vote as Australians.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (2.48 p.m.): I wish to be associated with the debate on the Budget and to commend the Treasurer for presenting such a worthwhile document, and I thank him personally for being able to marshal the funds of this State so successfully. It is an outstanding Budget; in fact, by comparison with the Budgets of other Australian States, it probably is paramount. Queensland has the unique distinction of having the best marshalled funds of any of the Australian States and has consistently been able to avoid deficit funding and maintain the lowest level of taxation. That is to the great credit of the Government, which will soon face the people once again.

Because there are limitations on the time for debate, I do not wish to dwell particularly on the structure of the Budget as such and the disputation and discussion about how funds are raised. Rather do I wish to refer to some specific matters that are of particular interest to me.

The electorate that I am to contest at the coming election takes in, on its western boundary, a freeway presently under construction, and I have come to learn anew the problems of people whose lives are disrupted by freeway development.

First, there are those whose homes are in the way of a freeway and have to be resumed. Their lives are disrupted enormously. They have to go somewhere else to build and re-establish their lives. That causes enormous disruption, and I have a great amount of sympathy for those people. However, as long as the compensation paid to them is reasonable and the problems of moving are met realistically, I do not believe any more that they are the worst sufferers.

The worst sufferers are those where properties are not resumed, those who live in close proximity to a freeway and have to face the new disruption suddenly inflicted upon them, and that disruption is enormous. I do not have a great deal of sympathy for people who move into a locality having undesirable features that have always been there. As a case in point, I refer to the

electorate of Lytton. People complained vociferously about the tannery down there. The fact is that the tannery was there years before most of the homes were built. Those people should have known what they were going to live beside.

Mr. Goleby: What about Darra?

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: That is equally true at Darra.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! The Chair will not tolerate cross-firing in the Chamber. If anyone wants to interject, he should speak to the member on his feet.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: That is not true of freeway development. People have lived in a suburb for 10, 12 or 25 years. They chose that locality deliberately because at the time it was reasonably quiet, convenient to the city, and had particular attractions for them. Suddenly, because of circumstances they cannot control, a noisy freeway is built in close proximity to them. They are faced with the noise, the lights at night-time and, to a great extent, the fumes of cars. I have had this problem brought to my attention very forcefully in the few weeks since I was endorsed for the seat of Greenslopes. I want those people to know of my sympathy for them. I want to know what social studies have been made into these problems, and what solutions can be found for them. I have had discussions with the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads and he has indicated to me his own sympathy. These problems have been brought to his attention, and, I am sure, will be taken very much into account when the development of freeways continues. It is to his great credit that he does recognise these problems and wants to find solutions to them.

Each and every one of us could pose our own solutions. I suppose it could be said that a swath of land on either side of the freeway should be resumed as well and converted to parkland. The cost of that would be enormous. If that cannot be done, at least solutions of another kind should be sought to minimise noise and maybe insulate some of the homes. Everything possible should be done to demonstrate in a tangible way our sympathy for those in the vicinity and our realisation of the new problem that has been inflicted upon them.

While I am still talking about Mr. Hinze's portfolio, I want him to know that he has my sympathy and support when he seeks greater funds for main roads development. When he complains that the petrol tax is not returned in full for road construction, he is, of course, perfectly right. The petrol tax has never ever been returned in full to the States. It has always been regarded by the Federal Government as a form of taxation to swell Consolidated Revenue and not as a

source of funds for road construction alone. So the Minister is wrestling with a long-term problem when he fulminates about it.

I constantly lament that roads in North Queensland, in particular, are cut each time we have cyclonic weather. Quite clearly that is not good enough. If the Minister could somehow or other put forward a crash programme so that those roads that are cut receive some priority in planning, he would certainly have the support of this metropolitan member and, I would imagine, of most members in the Chamber. I think it is quite intolerable that so far into the 1970s we still have primary roads in this State that go under and are cut for days on end as soon as cyclonic weather comes along. That creates hardship not only for those people who live in the district but also for travellers. Usually it happens in January when the greatest number of people are on the roads. I would want the Minister to know he has my sympathy in the problems he faces and my support for any crash programme he can put forward.

While I am adopting this attitude of total support for him, I want him to know that when he complains about the way motorists misuse freeways he has my whole-hearted agreement. It is appalling to see the way in which some motorists move out into the outside lane and just stay there. They refuse to budge and have not the slightest idea of the proper way in which freeways should be used.

The signs that the Minister has had erected—"Slow drivers keep to the left" and "Use outside lane only when overtaking"—seem to have no effect whatever. The Minister is suggesting that the police should be made to fine motorists who hog the outside lane. I would move to that step only as a last resort, but I believe that the police should certainly be pointing out to people that they should be using the inside lane. For a start at least, we should embark on some educational programme.

Last year it was my privilege to be in New Zealand and to motor from Auckland to Rotorua. The road habits of New Zealanders in contrast to those here are impeccable. New Zealanders use the outside lane only to pass, and they move back into the inside lane straight away. They do not seem to find it necessary to be reminded about the use of the inside lane by ugly signs every few kilometres along the way. It seems to be part of their driving pattern and has been inculcated into them properly and well.

When the Minister points out that the freeways are being misused and that they are clogging up much earlier than need be, he is totally correct. This is happening because the lanes on the freeways are not being properly used.

Another matter I wish to refer to briefly is pay-roll tax. In this current year it will put more than \$212,000,000 into the Treasurer's

coffers. The history of this tax is known well enough and probably does not need to be recapitulated. It was introduced in the early 1940s as a Federal tax to fund child endowment. While that intention was lost, the tax remained. For years and years, even while inflationary pressures were evident, the exemption level remained at \$20,800 a year. It was only when this tax was vested in the States that the exemption level started to move and some recognition was paid to inflationary pressures.

This Treasurer has been particularly innovative with pay-roll tax. Whilst acknowledging that, having regard to the realities of the day, it cannot be abandoned, at least he is making sure that it will not bring the very small businessman into the net and that it will be reviewed on a very regular basis.

Pay-roll tax has a great number of critics. I will remember that Pat Hanlon, the former member for Baroona, was one of its most vehement critics. His primary argument was that it was a tax that had to be paid whether or not any profit was made. That is a valid point.

From a Government's point of view, its virtues are that it is a growth tax, it is easy to collect and it provides a Government with liquidity. Every month the money comes in; the Government does not have to wait for three-monthly or six-monthly collections. We know that even the Federal Government wrestled with its problems of insufficient liquidity by making company tax payable on a quarterly basis. From industry's point of view, on the other hand, the tax is payable even if industry is incurring heavy losses. It represents a disincentive to employment and it is undoubtedly an added cost of production.

But, as I say, the realities are here. No Government could afford to abandon a tax that is bringing in over \$200,000,000 a year. Pay-roll tax needs to be indexed and, while the Treasurer has not used that word, by the way that he is moving the exemption rate, he is giving the impression that he is in fact indexing it.

Pay-roll tax needs to be applied with greater flexibility and growth industries that need encouragement possibly should be able to enjoy exemption in their founding years. I am very attracted to the idea that apprentices' wages could possibly attract some relief. Certainly the arguments put forward by business should be listened to closely. If pay-roll tax cannot be abandoned, it should be applied as humanely and as sensibly as possible.

My only other comments concern a man who will soon retire from this Assembly. While the Budget debate is carried on in an atmosphere of some controversy, I say without hesitation that every honourable member will endorse the sentiments I am about to express. Our very distinguished

Clerk of Parliament (Mr. Cyril George) is to retire at the end of the life of this Parliament, after sitting at the table—almost where he is now—since 1933. He has had a long and very distinguished career. I have said to him privately that I hope he will put some of his anecdotes and recollections in book form so that we can all enjoy his pen picture of the great personalities he has seen in this Chamber.

He is one of the unsung personalities in this Chamber. He has been here since 1933 and the only words he has uttered have been those when he read the titles of the Bills and when, at the opening of Parliament, he calls on members who wish to speak to the appointment of a new Speaker. He is the silent operator but, without doubt, he is the most efficient operator.

Since becoming a presiding officer in this Chamber, it has been my privilege to understand in great depth the work, and the value of the work, that he performs. He does it with a meticulous and assiduous sense of duty and dedication. He has always been totally detached. While I have formed a warm and valued friendship with him, I do not know his politics. I have never presumed to ask. They are his own business. He has always been the epitome of all that a Clerk of the Parliament should be. We will miss him very much indeed.

If we move towards a review of the Standing Orders—and that has not happened since 1950—I hope that, with some time at his disposal, he may give us the advantage of his expertise and deep knowledge. That would be much appreciated if he opts to assist. Of course, whether or not we ever decide to review the Standing Orders is a matter for our decision, not his.

As he moves towards retirement, I want him to be aware of the great warmth and affection we have for him and the high respect we all have for the dedicated work he has given to this Parliament for so many years.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (3.3 p.m.): Firstly, I place on record that in this 1977 Budget debate I am the first Opposition member to speak after 10 Government supporters in a row have spoken in it. I strongly protest against the Government's cutting down the Budget debating time to two days, or less than 12 hours. Even on last year, time has been cut down from three double days to one double day and one single day. If this Parliament is as democratic as the Government claims, Parliament should have an opportunity to scrutinise the State's Budget. Government members believe that if 10 of them speak one after the other and say it is a great Budget everyone in the State will believe them. I strongly protest against what has happened. To make it worse, we have 18 Cabinet Ministers, which

means that they control 18 distinct combinations of Government departments. We have been told that this year, instead of debating the Estimates for eight portfolios, we will be debating only two of them—one set of Estimates from 12 noon until 4 p.m., with time off for lunch, and the next Estimate from 4 p.m., with time off for dinner.

To cap it all, this morning, at the commencement of the second day of the debate, the Government Acting Whip, or the Whip second-class, or whatever he is, put in front of us a list which indicated that only one member of the Opposition was to be given an opportunity to speak in this debate. Quite rightly, the Leader of the Opposition brought this matter to the Speaker's attention by way of a matter of privilege. Mr. Speaker said that the two Whips should work it out. How could we work it out with someone whom it is impossible to work with? It is a pity the honourable member for Windsor isn't here now. He should be here. He comes in here only to cause trouble. All I hope is that he will be one casualty at the next State election. I will certainly be doing all I can to bring it about. After all, this Parliament has to work in a democratic way. That is not possible when someone says, as he did, "You can have only 20 minutes." How can anyone analyse a Budget in 20 minutes? It is completely impossible.

We all know why the Government does not want the Budget analysed closely. They know that if it were closely analysed (as I have done in part, but unfortunately time will not allow me to go through it all) the various shortcomings in it could be illustrated, as I have done in the past. One thing I can say is that in the 20 years I have been here, on every occasion I have taken my full time to cover the Budget. At no stage has anyone been able to point out inaccuracies in any statements I have made. However, it requires time.

That restriction, however, does not stop me pointing out that this Budget has broken new ground.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: It has. I quite agree—but no Government members got onto it—or if they did, they are allowing it to pass unnoticed. The Treasurer had boasted that this was a balanced Budget. Finally he admitted that there was actually a deficit of \$1,017,669. The way Budgets were compiled and presented by every other Treasurer in years gone by—and I include Sir Thomas Hiley and Sir Gordon Chalk—the figure in Consolidated Revenue, whether it was a deficit or a surplus, was taken as the final amount.

In about January of this year this Treasurer realised that an enormous amount of money had not been spent. Instead of transferring it from one Government department

to another in the hope that it would be correctly spent, he saw that that could not happen. Failing to use money correctly in the first half of the year—failing to keep Works Department employees working during the first half of the year—he hit upon the idea of putting a big slice of Consolidated Revenue into a trust account, from where he could play around with it. The Treasurer appropriated into what he called the Special Projects Fund an amount of \$62,743,467, which he believed could not possibly be spent out of the normal Consolidated Revenue. As he did not want that amount to be shown in this Budget as a surplus, he created this special fund with it.

He was able to spend quite an amount of money out of it—approximately \$50,000,000—but at the end of June the fund showed a credit balance of \$12,743,467. Under the previous forms of budgeting, if that money had not been put into a special trust account, it would have been shown as a credit amount in Consolidated Revenue, which would have given us a Budget surplus.

Let us remember that in the Budget last year there was no provision for a separate fund such as this. The only provision for money that was not really accounted for was to cover any increase in Public Service salaries. I might point out that Public Service salary increases are usually taken care of in the normal allocation of increases in Public Service requirements by the various Government departments.

Therefore, if this Budget had been presented in the normal form, it would have shown, instead of a deficit of about \$1,000,000, a surplus of \$11,725,771. A look at the tables relating to the Trust and Special Funds reveals that the money that was expended—\$56,298,533—went to the Department of Railways, the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply, the Department of Main Roads, the Queensland Housing Commission, the Agricultural Bank, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Justice, the Department of Works and Housing, the Department of Mapping and Surveying, loans and subsidies to local bodies for backlog sewerage, the Health Department, loans to local authorities, and sundry works. Most of those items are normally covered in the Budget.

When we debate the Appropriation Bill later on, we will be authorising the removal of money from one department to another when we find that money has been reallocated. This is something new that has been introduced and, if this Budget is adopted, as no doubt it will be, never again will a Treasurer show any great deficit or surplus. As soon as he realises he has money like this available, he will put it into a trust and special fund where it can be used. If there is any surplus or credit at the end of

the period it will not be shown under Consolidated Revenue. That is the way the Treasurer has handled the Budget. Government members say how wonderfully this Treasurer or this Government has budgeted in a different way from the other States. It is different. It was made different by the creation of a trust and special fund.

Mr. Frawley: That is correct, but you didn't find it; Pat Hanlon found it.

Mr. HOUSTON: Pat Hanlon was great on Treasury matters. Don't underrate him. Anything that I have learned from him I am pleased to have learned. Let there be no doubt about that.

Since the election in 1975, when the Government's majority was 69 to 11, it has become completely arrogant and used its numbers to gag debate. I hope that this fact goes down in history and that future Parliaments and those who study democracy do not use the past three years as an example of how democracy operates.

The Government has used its numbers in the asking of questions and also to make personal attacks on people outside. If a person happens to be a trade-unionist or a Labor Party candidate he should watch out because his name will be blackened without any facts at all to back up what is said. We ask questions of Ministers who do not know the answers. They will only give an opinion not based on fact.

Another example of the Government's arrogant attitude has been the constant changing in the business of the House. At night we are told that the following day we will deal with certain matters. I would bet anything I have that before that day is out the Government has changed completely the business before the House. Years ago we knew the order of business because it appeared on the Business Paper. That does not apply now. It depends on the propaganda that the Government wants to disseminate and on which Ministers are available. I suppose that the most shocking indictment of this Government is the lack of attendance of Ministers to deal with the business of the House.

Mr. Wright: And Government members.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right, but I am more concerned with Ministers. They should be in the Chamber every day between 11 and 12 o'clock because that is question-time. That is when the democratically elected members of Parliament have the opportunity to ask Ministers about their portfolios. All we get is the old story. If we ask where a Minister is, we are met with silence. Never once have I heard Government members criticise the absence of Ministers or ask where they are.

Mr. Wright: There are only six Liberals in the Chamber now.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. Their arrogance because of their numbers is well known. They think that they can rely entirely on attacking unions and union members to carry them through.

Another matter I want to raise is what happened yesterday. This is another example of arrogance because of numbers. First of all, the Minister for Works and Housing delivered a very short ministerial statement on the Queensland Permanent Building Society. Not once did he say anything about its employees' security of employment. Not once did he mention the employees at all.

Mr. Goleby: Did Hooper think of that?

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member for Archerfield said yesterday that he had on several occasions drawn Cabinet's attention to the fact that things were going wrong. Not once in his ministerial statement did the Minister mention employees. Never once did he mention whether the Reserve Bank would step in. In 1974, when there were problems with building societies, the Federal Labor Government and the Reserve Bank made it known immediately that they would stand behind viable building societies to cushion any effects they might have felt. This Government did nothing about it.

Yesterday, the Treasurer moved a pathetic motion and said that it had to be carried. When he sat down Mr. Speaker had to say, "Somebody has to second the motion." What happened then? The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party rose but all he contributed was, "I second the motion." What a pathetic performance that was!

I replied on behalf of the Opposition believing that the honourable member for Archerfield would be given a chance to defend himself against the attack launched by the Treasurer. But what did the Treasurer do? He applied the gag and said, "I am doing this to allow question-time to proceed." What a lot of nonsense that was!

Mr. Lowes: Then the honourable member for Archerfield talked about sewerage.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. He cannot get on the list today so I have to do the job for him. He will speak for himself next Thursday; he is not being given a chance until then. The story will still be the same.

I shall tell the Committee the story of yesterday's debate. After the gag was applied, the debate on matters of public interest followed. The honourable member was on the list of speakers and the honourable member for Windsor put him down first. That was an action hitherto virtually unknown. The honourable member for Archerfield was committed to visiting Woodridge on behalf of the Labor Party. The local people wanted him to go there. He heard their complaints about sewerage and promised to bring the matter up in the House.

Mr. Lamont: It wasn't even in his electorate.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member for South Brisbane took no interest in it at all.

Mr. Lamont interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member cannot outshout me when I am using the microphone. Actually he cannot do it at any time, so he should not waste his energy.

The honourable member for Archerfield did the job that he promised to do. When the names of speakers were submitted they read Hooper, Tenni, Lamond, Wright, Byrne and Kaus. That was the list that went round.

Mr. LAMONT: I rise to a point of order. I ask the honourable member to accept the explanation that his colleague had to accept yesterday.

Mr. HOUSTON: There is no point of order, Mr. Row. I have only a limited time.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr. HOUSTON: As soon as the honourable member for Archerfield was on his feet and it became clear on what matter he was going to speak, the Government decided, "Right, now let's bucket him." They then got the honourable members for Maryborough, Barron River, Toowong and Belmont to enter the debate, and for no particular reason. The honourable members for Maryborough and Toowong were not even on the list.

Mr. Jones: Who was?

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member for Wynnum. I do not know why he would want to waste time by speaking. The people of Wynnum no doubt would be happy to know why he gave away his time so another member could be bucketed. The member for Mansfield also gave away his time. That is the type of situation that we now have here.

The Treasurer has said that the Opposition is not doing much to help the present situation. The Budget shows a surplus of over \$11,000,000 yet over 47,000 people are unemployed in this State. The Government could not care less about that. There should not be such a surplus; the money should have been spent on providing employment. The Government has sacked, or dispensed with the services of, an average of over 10 Works Department employees a week over 26 months, yet it has a surplus of over \$11,000,000.

The Premier says, "I am the great champion of the right of everyone to work." What right do those 47,000 people have? What jobs has the Government created for them? It has not created any. The Premier wants to support someone down at Broken Hill—bring him up here and find a job for him—but he will not find jobs for the 47,000

Queenslanders who are out of work. He has not done anything to improve the situation, nor has anyone else on the Government side.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: Honourable members opposite can talk and yell as much as they wish. They have had plenty of opportunities to talk about the employment situation.

Let me answer a couple of comments made by the honourable member for Merthyr, before I honour my agreement and resume my seat. The honourable member did not honour his agreement, because the Whip had to come into the Chamber and tell him to sit down. I am intent on giving my colleagues an opportunity to speak.

The honourable member for Merthyr spoke about the Opposition not having done anything about a tunnel or a bridge or anything about the airport. Let me take the airport first. The honourable member knew full well that two days ago I asked a question about noise. It was—

"What action of a practical nature has his Government taken to reduce the noise and T.V. interference caused by aircraft leaving or approaching the airport at Eagle Farm, as these problems are being experienced by residents of the suburbs within the Bulimba, Lytton and Wynnum electorates?"

It was not answered until this morning, but the honourable member for Merthyr knew full well that I had asked it. What did he do? He got up in this Chamber and asked what I had done about it.

The Premier's answer was—

"My Government has for many years been seeking the redevelopment of Brisbane Airport . . ."

But what has the Government achieved? It has not achieved anything. It is still asking for it.

For one period of three years a Labor Government was in office in Canberra. Because there was a hostile Senate, it could not even get its Budget through to enable it to do the jobs that it wanted to do. Honourable members opposite supported those who prevented the development of the airport area.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: Of course I am concerned about the noise in the electorates. The only way development will take place is by getting a Labor Government back into office in this State. It would exert pressure to have the work done and cut out the noise.

As to the tunnel or bridge—it is true that Sam Ramsden spoke about it. I spoke about it, too. I came into this Assembly in 1957 and Mr. Ramsden came here in 1960. If you

go back through the records, Mr. Row, you will find that I was advocating not the building of a tunnel but a cross-river link down towards the mouth of the river, being either a bridge or tunnel.

The reason why the Brisbane City Council had to put in the ferry was that the State Government stipulated that it could build a bridge only if it was a toll bridge. The Government called tenders and said that the scheme was impracticable. In fact, it did not receive any tenders, and the Brisbane City Council, using ratepayers' money, decided to put the cross-river ferry there because the State Government would not contribute 1c towards the project. Now a second ferry really is needed, but the State Government still has not come forward with any proposal.

I regret that I cannot analyse the Budget in detail, Mr. Row, as I have been gagged by this Government's actions.

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (3.23 p.m.): The honourable member for Bulimba is becoming one of the greatest whingers ever seen in this Chamber. He has grizzled about the 20 minutes that was afforded to him.

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. GUNN: I will say something about the honourable member for Mackay in a moment.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! There is far too much audible conversation on my left. If honourable members wish to have a conversation, I ask them to leave the Chamber.

Mr. GUNN: The honourable member for Bulimba spent a goodly portion of his time whingeing about the time that he did not have.

There is no need for anyone on the Opposition side to grizzle about privileges. The other afternoon we saw the greatest abuse of the privileges of this Assembly that we have ever seen when the Leader of the Opposition's secretary—I do not know his name, but the honourable member for Archerfield calls him "C.I.A."—and Boccabella, aided and abetted by the honourable member for Mackay, stood on the verandah of this building and abused the privileges of this Parliament by taking photographs of the demonstration outside, particularly of the police arresting—

Mr. CASEY: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Somerset is making completely false accusations. I took no photographs from the veranda of this building, and I ask for a withdrawal of that statement. The accusation is completely false.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the honourable member for Somerset please withdraw his accusations?

Mr. GUNN: I did not quite hear what the honourable member said, Mr. Row; there is too much noise.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the Chamber please come to order!

Mr. CASEY: He said he didn't hear me. My point of order was that he made the accusation that I was taking photographs from the veranda of Parliament House. I did not recently take, nor have I ever taken, photographs from the veranda of this House. I ask for a withdrawal.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Is the honourable member prepared to withdraw it?

Mr. GUNN: I will put it this way: he was encouraging others to take photographs. He didn't try to stop them. I did try to stop them.

Mr. CASEY: I rise to a point of order. Mr. Row, you have made a ruling on it. I have asked for a withdrawal.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! If the allegation is offensive to the honourable member I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. GUNN: If it is offensive I withdraw it.

I want to get back to the honourable member for Bulimba, who has done nothing but whinge in this Chamber. It is just frustration of course. I will give him this much credit: when he did lead the Opposition in this Chamber and there were 33 members on that side, at least we did have some decorum. I do back up the honourable member for Townsville South on that. I was always pleased to see the honourable member for Bulimba come into my area when he was Leader of the Opposition. He was the greatest vote catcher for me that I ever saw up there.

I congratulate the Treasurer on this Budget. It is one of the best Budgets ever introduced in this Assembly. That certainly adds to the frustration of honourable members on the other side. Good management is very evident in this State at the present time. Business people are coming from the southern States, particularly from South Australia. Queensland has become the leader of innovations in government. Many other States have followed our example in some respects. The abolition of death duties in the last Budget has meant a great increase in population in this State. The abolition of road permit fees is another area where we have given the lead. This has encouraged the free enterprise system of which we are so proud and has led to an influx of population.

I wish to refer particularly to the large increase in expenditure on education, particularly in the pre-school field. Almost every area now has a pre-school centre. I would like to see 11th and 12th grade education available throughout the State. Probably this would be impossible at the present time with the existing staff, but I do hope that in the future we will see an increase in secondary departments in country areas. Although pre-school education is of the utmost importance, the establishment of high schools should be given top priority.

I wish to refer to the problem associated with the conservation of water in my area. The Laidley Shire, covering 260 sq. miles, is one of the highest-producing areas in Queensland. In effect the underground water supply in that area has been taken for granted. I have been to see the Minister on this count and he has promised to give consideration to the establishment of weirs on Lockyer and Laidley Creeks in order to build up the underground supply. I remind the Committee that that shire makes an enormous contribution to the well-being of Queensland, being as it is right at the back door of the Brisbane metropolitan area.

The Prime Minister's announcement about the establishment of a Rural Bank will be welcomed throughout Queensland. I give full credit to the Agricultural Bank, but it has been limited in what it could do. At a time like this when beef producers are in trouble in many areas, the Agricultural Bank cannot play its full part with its limited finance.

I will refer briefly to the problem of the beef producers. Probably as my area is very close to the metropolitan market, and its producers are able to diversify to a certain extent, they do not suffer as badly as others. They have high-quality grazing country in the Brisbane Valley. In fact, it would probably be some of the best grazing country in Australia. Their land is very highly valued and therefore highly rated, so they must be assured of good prices.

I was very pleased to see the Cattlemen's Union bring forward the matter of the sale of livestock. This has a great impact on the prices received by the producers. Prior to entering Parliament I was involved in the selling of cattle and I used to deplore the way big wholesalers would put their heads together in what we termed lot-splitting of stock at saleyards. It was also known as ring-buying. I do not know whether it still goes on. In those days if someone told me who bought the first pen of cattle I could tell him the names of the processors who would buy the next three or four pens. If this practice is still followed at the big saleyards, we need to have a close look at it.

The Budget provides for the allocation of \$14,500,000 to the Wivenhoe Dam and \$8,800,000 to the Splyard Creek hydroelectric scheme, in my electorate. The sum of

\$14,500,000 will be applied to the construction of the dam wall. Construction is proceeding according to schedule, and it is expected that the dam will be completed by 1983.

The Splyard Creek hydroelectric scheme will, in effect, be unique in that it will use more electricity than it will generate. It will be about half the size of Swanbank and will be used only at peak hours between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. As is known, electricity cannot be stored. I know that the Queensland Electricity Generating Board is looking at other locations further up the river, such as Mt. Byron, with a view to extending the scheme.

The provision of \$50,000,000 to create employment must be applauded by everyone. Last year the sum of \$69,000,000 was infused into employment-creating works. Hospitals, schools and public buildings benefit tremendously from that infusion of funds.

The abolition of road permit fees will help industry to the tune of \$2,700,000. I know that road hauliers are in serious trouble. I should like to see road tax reduced if not totally abolished. But of course I know that it is not possible to do that in one bold step. Everyone is aware of what this Government has done in a short period of time; it has abolished death duties and is now abolishing road permit fees. Furthermore, it is taking another step towards the abolition of pay-roll tax, which is an iniquitous tax. No doubt these moves will be of tremendous benefit to the small businessman. Over the years this Government has lightened the taxation burden on small business.

The Government's policy is one of encouragement to free enterprise. Every farmer, every grazier and every businessman is engaged in free enterprise. Small business employs in excess of 40 per cent of the working population; 25 per cent are employed by the Government, and the remaining 35 per cent or so are employed by big business. If we are to create employment, small businesses or private enterprise must be encouraged. It is of the essence of this Budget to encourage the free-enterprise system and we do not apologise for that.

I should like to know how much money is to be infused into the Rural Bank. As this is a Federal matter, probably the answer will not be known for some time. However, a massive infusion will be required to assist rural areas. The Rural Bank established in Western Australia is very successful.

Contributions made to local government concern all of us because local government plays an extremely important part in community life. It is said that no matter what we do in our homes—whether we pull a switch or a chain or walk out on the footpath—local government is involved in some way. When I was a shire chairman

the shire did not receive much in the way of grants although it received subsidies that were very handy. Today, local government bodies receive a fair contribution by way of untied grants, but they had to fight for many years to get them. One of the main problems affecting local government is the increasing cost of administration. We are all familiar with it.

All in all, this is a good, progressive Budget. I am certain that Queensland will continue to benefit for many years to come if this Government remains in office and I see no reason why it should not do so for generations. I congratulate the Treasurer on the introduction of this Budget.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (3.38 p.m.): In rising to speak on the Budget prepared by the Treasurer, firstly I thank him for the interest he has taken in the Toowoomba bus services. As all honourable members know, Toowoomba has received Government assistance under the Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act introduced by Sir Gordon Chalk, who, as Treasurer, paved the way for the passage of the Bill as he realised the urgent need of urban bus proprietors in Toowoomba and other parts of Queensland for Government assistance if they were to survive.

In this changing world where public transport is still necessary, but where most people prefer to use private transport, it behoves the Government to keep public transport viable. In 10 or 15 years marked changes will occur in public and private transport as fuel becomes increasingly short and more expensive. Australia enjoys extremely cheap fuel. Compared with other countries, Australia enjoys about the cheapest fuel in the world. But I believe this will change as new supplies of crude oil become more costly and the importing of fuel supplies becomes more difficult because of political wrangling.

The Government has seen fit to increase from 10 per cent to 15 per cent the subsidy payable on the gross fare revenue of urban bus proprietors. It has also seen fit to assist urban bus proprietors to meet the capital cost of replacing buses. When driving our cars around, we think our equity is holding up well, but when we come to replace them after five years or so we find that the price of a vehicle has increased 200 or 300 per cent.

If that is true of the private car, it is also true of large buses that are used in public transport and as tour coaches. Many a small businessman who runs a public bus service has found that the cost of replacing a bus is simply beyond his resources. Therefore I congratulate the Government for coming to the rescue of these men. Two bus runs in Toowoomba have been struggling—indeed, they were on the point of collapse—until this magnificent gesture by the Treasurer to increase their subsidies by up to 25 per cent.

This is not a gift to anyone. Each and every ticket sold is audited. The Government will not be wasting money. In fact, it will be helping pensioners and workers. Sir Gordon Chalk, the late Minister for Transport (Hon. Keith Hooper) and the present Treasurer (Hon. Bill Knox) are to be thanked for the fine job they have done in this field.

In Toowoomba we are witnessing the benefit of prudent and frugal Government control of expenditure, which is rising in the form of a 200-bed hospital, which all told will cost some \$3,685,000. That is providing a lot of work for Toowoomba contractors and sub-contractors, since all sizes and types of jobs are needed in fitting it out and bringing the job to completion. It is something that is there for all people to see. They can see where the Government is spending its money. They can see that we in this State are doing something.

For some time there has been a need for more hospital beds in Toowoomba. This new hospital will fulfil most of that need. However, I am aware that, even as I speak here today, other people are hoping to expand some of the private hospitals in Toowoomba to provide an adequate measure of care with medical and surgical beds. The Government certainly is not lacking in discharging its responsibility. It is leading the field, with the private hospitals following suit.

I am pleased to see that this Budget is providing an impetus for housing. There may be, as has been claimed, a shortfall of 10,000 in the housing requirements of this State today. I lay the blame for this fairly and squarely where it belongs—on the Whitlam Government. Anyone who cares to turn to the Housing Industry Association journal of July or August this year will see portrayed in a graph how new housing under the Whitlam administration was halved. After an initial lull of six to eight months following the election of the Fraser Government, new housing approvals increased and the building of new homes has followed.

In Queensland in particular this increase has been more marked than in other States. There are good reasons for that. One is Queensland's sound economic climate. Another is our sound Government. People are migrating across the border, particularly from New South Wales. I am often asked for help to find a job by someone who has been squeezed out of one by the fiscal policies of the N.S.W. Labor Government. I have been asked to find jobs for South Australians, too, who have been unable to find employment in that State because of the policies adopted there.

House construction is on the up and up. Certainly there is plenty of evidence of it in Toowoomba. Anyone driving through the electorates of Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South will see new houses going up

everywhere. This is a sign of faith and confidence in the future—confidence in what this Government is doing and in the actions of the present Federal Government. It has all been possible only through the reduction in the rate of inflation.

When inflation was 22 per cent—and Mr. Hayden said he was glad it was 22 per cent—building stopped. It is evident from the graph provided by the Housing Industry Association that home-building came to a stop. People were faced with the prospect of paying one-quarter of the cost of a house every year as interest. Money for housing dried up. Nobody could afford to pay each year in interest a quarter of \$30,000 or \$35,000, which would be the average cost of a brick veneer home these days.

Not many of the back-bench members in this Chamber could afford to pay \$7,500 per annum in interest on a house. Perhaps I can see one who could but I certainly could not. This has been remedied. Interest rates are down and will continue to go down. Under the inspired leadership in this State and under the Fraser administration in Canberra, which is setting things on the right path, people can look forward to owning their own homes and enjoying all the benefits of home-ownership.

A lot has been said in this debate about the problems of parking at schools. I am pleased to be able to say that the Wilsonton School, the Rockville School and the Toowoomba North School have good off-street parking. The parking at Newtown School will be improved by the expenditure of State money to be made available to the Toowoomba City Council for drainage work in Polo Street associated with the preparation of a site for a pre-school at the Newtown School, which will be funded in the 1978-79 Budget. These will be safe places for parents to set down their children and pick them up. The pre-school at Toowoomba East has had additional ground made available to enable children to be set down and picked up safely away from the stream of traffic. The Government is to be congratulated on its continued efforts in providing safe places for parents to set down and pick up their children.

I am pleased to see \$50,000 set aside in the Budget to aid the work of the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association, of which some other members of Parliament and I are directors. The association will make good use of this money to establish the office of a sporting director, who will be available to all of the youth clubs in the association. He will develop programmes, assist in training leaders and generally see that the movements and clubs take full advantage of their facilities. We have been looking forward to this and I am pleased to see it come about.

Although that is important, it is nowhere near as important as the provision of a financial director for the police youth clubs.

He will give his expertise to all of the police youth clubs that are raising money, paying wages, salaries and coaching fees and, most important of all, walking the tightrope in balancing their budget, paying off their building debts and meeting mortgage interest. The provision of this officer is most welcome. I am sure that when he is appointed he will find his work is well and truly cut out. He will have to visit the 15 or 16 police youth clubs and help them wherever he can. He will train the part-time people who help the clubs in preparation of budgets and book-keeping. I am sure that he will be a most welcome asset in Toowoomba.

National Fitness has been lamented by the honourable member for Rockhampton, who is State director of the National Fitness organisation. He said that it has not had enough money. It operates in quite a different way in Toowoomba. It is not as much interested in the grass roots organisation as it is in training the leaders of those organisations, perhaps a dozen at a time, in leadership, skills and management. It does a fine job, but it does not attempt to run a whole host of youth clubs. It functions very well in Toowoomba and I thank its leader, Alderman Lindsay Jones, and his band of helpers for the fine job that they do with what they have.

It is also pleasing to see the 31 per cent increase in per capita grants for non-State schools. This sets Queensland as the leader in grants to non-State schools. We have already seen Press releases from Archbishop Rush pointing out the value of these grants to Roman Catholic schools. In Toowoomba they will go a long way in helping people whose children attend Catholic schools to meet their bills. The granting of this increase signifies the Government's approval of the way in which Catholic schools and other church schools are conducting their courses of education. In this way the Government is backing those organisations in a job well done. I do not think we could afford to allow the financing of private schools to slip so badly that one by one they would be forced to close, thus throwing a sudden burden on the State system. I should like to see these schools receive much more. They do a good job and they merit greater assistance. I will continue to work in my own way, through representations to the Treasurer and the Government, to see that they are further recognised for the fine work that they do.

I expect the Government's guarantee to pay the interest on capital works to lead to increased building in church and other private schools throughout the State. Just as interest rates have stopped people from building private homes and crippled police youth clubs in paying for their buildings, so interest rates have prevented private schools from undertaking building work. Now that the Government has promised to meet the interest bill, every dollar raised by schools

will go directly to paying off the capital debt. I expect to see an increase in building by private schools. This is certainly not before time. Many schools have been struggling and making do with buildings that are very old. All private schools throughout the State will appreciate what the Government has done to stimulate their capital works programmes.

In education generally, the Government has again improved the teacher-pupil ratio in primary schools. I think that will be appreciated by every teacher, pupil and parent. I congratulate the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities on the way in which his department has drawn up its Budget Estimates.

For too long the Cinderella of education has been technical education. I am therefore pleased to see that there will be an increase of 7.4 per cent in the technical education staff, which means, as the Minister pointed out the other day, that there has been an increase of 20 per cent over the last two years.

Technical education has had its deficiencies. It has gone through great difficulties. I know, from meeting with teachers concerned with technical education in Toowoomba, that they are extremely competent and dedicated men and women, and anything that can be done to increase their numbers and make their job easier would be appreciated not only by them, but by all concerned with technical education.

I think the increase in the textbook allowance and per capita grants for primary schools for p. and c. association funding is to be applauded. Sound budgeting is evident at the Wilsonton State School because there are now funds for the further two classrooms that have now been announced by the Minister for Works and Housing. This increased accommodation is most necessary at Wilsonton and I am pleased to see that prudent financial management of the State has made it possible.

The library is under construction now, 18 months ahead of schedule, because of representations made by the principal, the teachers, the p. & c. association and by me to the Works Department, the Education Department, and even the Treasurer when he visited the school some time ago. As I said to the Treasurer on that occasion, the library was incredibly small. In fact, it took me a few minutes to realise that this room really was the library. There was a group of 12 small boys, my own son amongst them, squatting on the floor in an area less than the size of a school table. That was all the space that could be spared. So I am pleased to see that the Education Department has gone straight from that library to a library suitable for a school with 600 pupils. Instead of providing a library suitable for 400 pupils,

as it would have been entitled to, it has anticipated an enrolment of 600-plus when school begins next year.

The other great news from the Budget is, of course, that it will provide 30,000 man-months of work from the \$50,000,000 above and beyond what the State could expect for public works. As I said earlier, again this is because of the careful and prudent financial management of the State.

Taking into consideration the great effect that building has through what is known as the multiplier effect—that is, when a man is employed in the building industry, more building materials such as steel, cement, sand and gravel, timber, roofing materials, windows, paint are needed—of 250 per cent, we can expect perhaps 8,000 or 9,000 new jobs to be created—and this is attributed solely to the way in which the Government is applying its funds in the Budget.

A reduction in pay-roll tax will also stimulate employment. I am afraid that pay-roll tax (particularly in the days when Whitlam was getting all that he could out of industry and shutting it down here, there and everywhere) was proved to be the last straw that broke the back of industry. I am pleased to see that there are to be further reductions in pay-roll tax. It will keep more industries viable and perhaps allow small industries, in particular, to put on an additional man. The reduction in workers' compensation premiums will also be appreciated and will assist to reduce unemployment. In general, I think we can thank the Fraser Government for its efforts to reduce inflation.

This morning, the urgent need for question-time in this Assembly to be televised and shown to the people live, without editing, became apparent. We saw the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Archerfield, the architects of the collapse of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, gloat and laugh at the plight of widows, pensioners and other workers who are temporarily deprived of funds.

Mr. Casey: Oh, rubbish!

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I was here; I watched. They have been temporarily deprived of their finances, which are now controlled by a liquidator.

This attack on the Queensland Permanent Building Society has been mounted to add to unemployment and reduce home-ownership, both of which are among the goals and policies of the A.L.P. They have been mercilessly and relentlessly pursued in this Parliament, and I think that the people of this State appreciate who has done that and exactly how they have done it. All the honourable members in this Chamber know why it has been done. It is designed simply to create confusion, sorrow and mayhem.

I again congratulate the Treasurer on a fine Budget and I hope that, despite the collapse of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, more housing will be provided in Queensland.

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (3.59 p.m.): For a considerable time the Treasurer has been saying that there would be no increases in the Budget, that there would be no increases in State taxes and charges in 1977. On the face of the Budget that he has brought in, that does appear to be so. The truth of the matter is that there is no reason for the Treasurer to provide for any increases because revenue from the Government's own sources has increased so greatly in the last two years.

The figures in Table 3 on page 6 of the Tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement indicate that from 1975-76 to the Estimates for 1977-78, revenue from licences and permits has increased by 33½ per cent—an additional \$8,000,000.

Land tax increased by 90 per cent or an extra \$7,000,000; stamp duty increased by 50 per cent or an extra \$35,000,000; mining royalties by 58 per cent or an extra \$20,000,000; loans to local bodies—the profit that this Government makes out of financing things for local authorities—increased by 40 per cent or an extra \$2,500,000; conservancy dues, pilotage, etc. up 52 per cent, a further profit of \$2,000,000; fines and forfeitures up 30 per cent, an extra \$2,500,000; Magistrates Court charges up 130 per cent or an extra \$1,000,000; Registrar of Titles, again up approximately 33½ per cent, another \$1,500,000. On those items alone there is a total increase in the two-year period of \$80,000,000. Why should the Treasurer put up any charges this year? He has been getting ready for two years so that he could put a nice lolly on the table in this Budget to kid the people of Queensland about what he was doing.

There has been talk about a drop in the road tax. The licence figures indicate that there certainly has been, but the income obtained from liquor taxes is up \$10,000,000. This is the old booze-and-betting Government again. This sanctimonious Government talks about how terrible it is for people to be drinking, but it is making a fortune out of the drinkers of Queensland. In the last three years alone it has got an extra \$5 a year for every man, woman and child in the State.

Over the last couple of years we have had increases of 40 per cent and 15 per cent in rail fares. When we look realistically at what actually was charged, we see that those who have special contract rates with the Queensland Government must be gaining tremendously. Overall the income paid into Consolidated Revenue through the Railway Department over the same period covered by Table 3 on page 6 is up by 12 to 13

per cent in the Southern Division, whereas the Central Division and Mackay Railway is up by 35 per cent, and the Northern Division up by 33 per cent. That is the real income that the Government is getting. Never mind talking about expenditure; that clearly shows that the Government is getting its money from the railways in Queensland from the central and northern sectors. So it is the people who are living in the far-flung areas of the State who are contributing more than anybody else to the extra money this Government is getting. Money is being fleeced from the people living in far-flung country areas under the worst conditions in the State. People in the south-eastern corner are not contributing their fair share of the increase in Government charges over this period.

Let me cite a few more examples. First of all I refer to nurses' registration fees. We need nurses so much to care for the sick in hospitals. Nurses' registration fees have been doubled in the last 12 months. What about ambulances? Once upon a time the ambulance centres through the State were able to get their vehicles inspected free by this Government at six-monthly or 12-monthly intervals. They are now being charged by the Government to have their vehicles inspected by a machinery inspector.

Table 9 at page 10 of the Tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement shows that in the last 10 years liquor fees have gone up by 500 per cent. What a fantastic increase! Charges on traffic—traffic permits and traffic licences—have also gone up by 500 per cent in that same period. The Government is charging so much more for booze and so much more for traffic fees and licences. When the motorists get out on the road they are hooked by the breathalyser and the next figure shows up. Fines and forfeitures are up by 400 per cent in this same period of 10 years. T.A.B., betting tax and bookmakers' turnover tax is up 400 per cent in 10 years. That is where this Government is getting its money. It is getting its money clandestinely out of the pockets of the ordinary people.

Another group of persons who have been hit are the pensioners. The Treasurer has told us that there have been no increases in charges. Only a few weeks ago pensioners who occupy Housing Commission units had their rentals raised by 90c a week. When the construction of pensioner units was commenced in Queensland five years ago the weekly rental charged by the Housing Commission was \$3.70. Over the five years since then the rentals have increased on five occasions, by 245 per cent. The Government should hang its head in shame.

The people of Queensland are told by this dishonest and deceitful Government that we lead the nation in the sale of primary products. Joh's propaganda machine, as I

often call it, has been working very hard and very effectively. Even the Premier believes his own propaganda. Last year he jumped up and down, saying to the Japanese, European and American companies, "Buy our primary products or you will get no minerals from Queensland." His publicity team sprang into action and spread his remarks throughout the length and breadth of the State. The back-bench chorus joined in with other people and, like a choir with a conductor out front, said, "Good on you, Joh."

But what has happened since then? Absolutely nothing! Our primary industries have been rejected by Japan, America and other nations. The Premier is still working his hardest to negotiate mining agreements on the same old basis. We hear no talk now of other countries buying our primary products for fear they will get no minerals from us.

In October 1976 I referred in the House to the harmful effects of United States quotas on Australian sugar. I asked the Premier to put into effect the policy that he had stated so often. "No jolly fear," he said, "that would put too many people out of work." How many people have been put out of work because Queensland has not been able to sell its beef on the overseas markets? How many people are faced with unemployment because the Japanese sugar refiners are on strike? And that is what it is—a strike. The Japanese refiners are refusing to take our sugar. What does the Premier say now? He says, "We will sort all this out. It will be quite all right."

Mr. Lowes: What do you say about it?

Mr. CASEY: I say this: unless the Queensland Government takes stern action against the Japanese sugar refiners the Queensland sugar industry will be faced with huge unemployment. Already the sugar areas have the highest rate of unemployment in the State.

The 12 months that have elapsed since the Premier's statement have been disastrous for the beef and sugar industries. On many occasions before, I have told the story of Queensland's sugar and the Japanese market. The same story can be told about our beef. Only this week the Japanese have rejected our products.

It is too late for the Premier to make these comments. The original legislation should have contained protective measures. Anyone who doubts my word need only read "Hansard" of 28 August 1969 at page 273, where, during my maiden speech, I said that the Government should have included contract sales of sugar to the Japanese in negotiations surrounding the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement of 1968. On a number of occasions since then it has had the opportunity to do that, and it has done absolutely nothing.

What else has the Premier promised us about overseas trade? In July 1976, when in London after visiting Iran, he forecast rapidly

expanding trade in beef and sugar to that country. Again his public relations machinery was put into action and again the back-bench chorus joined in. A couple of weeks ago I asked the Premier what had happened in that direction and he answered that he did not know but that, as a result of his mission, there had been an increase in trade. He presented no figures at all to substantiate his claim. I have searched for figures concerning our exports to Iran, and what have I come up with? I have uncovered the startling fact that the New South Wales Government has assisted a company in that State and an Australian bank in a joint venture to sell beef products to Iran.

I have information that the New South Wales Grain Sorghum Board is selling large shipments of sorghum to Iran. I also have the startling information that the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board is now selling 86 per cent of that State's lamb exports to Iran. The 1977-78 production is already sold, because Iran wants this type of meat. All those points can be verified in publications in the Parliamentary Library. Our library staff informed me that Queensland beef sales to Iran in 1976-77 were nil—absolutely nothing as a result of the Premier's negotiations. Our sugar exports were also nil; not a grain of sugar went to Iran.

It is interesting to note in the latest publication of an export journal that sugar-beet production in Iran has been increased by 1 000 000 tonnes.

Mr. Katter interjected.

Mr. CASEY: The Government is making no real—

Mr. Katter interjected.

Mr. CASEY: Will you just shut up, Mr. Katter?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! I ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

Mr. Katter: Answer my question.

Mr. CASEY: The hustler from Flinders is making a big noise, as usual. That is all he has ever done in this Chamber.

The Government is making no real effort to sponsor overseas trade in Queensland primary products, and it is making no real effort to process our primary foods in the State. What happens to Karumba prawns? The Government will not even help the local people to get a supply of water. The Federal Labor Government gave the Queensland Government an opportunity to do something when it made an offer of finance to provide a bitumen road from Normanton to Karumba as well as give financial assistance for a water supply. It was a package deal.

Mr. Greenwood interjected.

Mr. CASEY: I will tell the Minister about that next week. I ask him to make sure that he is here.

The Commonwealth made a very good offer but the Queensland Government would not accept it, because it would have had to give some financial assistance to the Carpentaria Shire in its isolated position in the middle of nowhere. I have a letter from the Treasurer clearly indicating that he does not accept that the Carpentaria Shire is an isolated shire. Although the Government gives a special 45 per cent subsidy to western shires like Boulia and Barcoo, it will not assist the Carpentaria Shire, which is further away from a railhead than any shire—other than the Normanton-Croydon one, which could not be called a railhead. I have travelled on that line and I guarantee that neither the Minister for Survey and Valuation nor any of his Cabinet colleagues has done so.

The Treasurer of our State said that people living in the Carpentaria Shire, which is further away from a railhead than any of the western shires, is not in an isolated area. Because the Treasurer would not assist in providing water for prawn-processing, this season's prawns went straight into freezer boats to be sent to Japan at the rate of 500 or 600 tonnes a month in the early part of the season. I have talked to people who were loading the boats at sea. The prawns were not processed in Queensland. Prawns are being taken in large semi-trailers and freezer vans through the electorate of Flinders into the Northern Territory and down to South Australia. An Adelaide firm won an export award for selling Queensland prawns overseas. They are caught in the Gulf of Carpentaria, transported to Adelaide and processed and sold overseas. Why can't we process them in Queensland, which is where we should be processing our primary products? In this way we would provide employment for the people of Flinders and the other western electorates; we would take up the slack in employment caused by the disastrous plight of the beef industry. I could talk about many other matters in exactly the same vein.

The Queensland tourist industry employs 10 per cent of the work-force. It is a major employer of female labour. Every member of the work-force in this nation is a potential tourist. Through indirect taxes, charges and direct taxation on earnings, tourism is a major contributor to the funds of government at all three levels. The holidaying motorist accounts for 73 per cent of all of Queensland's tourist traffic. Recent savage increases in petrol prices by the Federal Government act against this form of tourism. Increased air fares resulting from additional fuel taxes will have the same result.

Let me talk about the coastal strip—and surely Gough Whitlam cannot be blamed for any increases in petrol prices there. The petrol subsidy was good for a number of areas in Queensland, but it had no real effect on the coastal strip. However, additional petrol charges and higher air fares will result in a decline in the volume of tourists on our coastal strip.

We are chasing tourists from Australia overseas. The Government Tourist Bureau is no longer a promoter of tourism in Queensland. It has become just another major travel agent. Recently it had a promotion scheme of 1,000 gift packs. Those packs consisted of a beach ball, a can of pineapple juice, a car sticker, a golf ball, a fishing line and hook and sinker, and a bottle of suntan oil. Those packs were sent to people in Melbourne in an attempt to encourage them to come to Queensland. In most cases what happened was that the people who received them gave the beach ball to the baby, used the golf ball themselves on the local course, gave the fishing line and hook to the son, used the suntan oil when they watched the cricket tests down in Melbourne, drank the pineapple juice and lost the sticker. Very few people came to Queensland as a result of that promotion. We would have been better off sending them a road map of Queensland, because we depend on motorists to realise our potential in tourism. They are likely to drive here in their own cars.

Whilst I am on the subject of promotion, let me turn to the railways. We are told that Queensland is now ahead, since we got rid of the griddle-car system. When the griddle-car was introduced, I and a number of other members criticised it very strongly. What happened? It has now been scrapped and we are back to the old system that is used in other States. In fact, we have gone back to the system used on the old Sunshine Express that ran in Queensland 30 years ago with its parlour cars (although it is now called a club car) and a dining car. It was introduced by the Labor Government 30 years ago.

New South Wales operates the Motorail. Each year thousands of tourists from Sydney are able to put their cars on trains and travel as far north as Murwillumbah. They are able to holiday in northern New South Wales and on the Gold Coast. Queensland is the only State where the Motorail system does not exist. Because of our shocking roads, it could be a winner. New South Wales is feeding tourists to the Gold Coast. It has a discount scheme for businessmen who use the railways on a regular basis. We could definitely introduce a similar scheme in Queensland. New South Wales has family fares. The parents pay the fare for themselves and two children, and any further children travel free. Surely that would be a good scheme for people in the Flinders electorate, Mt. Isa and so many of our other isolated areas who want to come

down here with their families on holiday, but who cannot afford to do so. Also it would encourage people to have more than two children. Goodness knows, we badly need people in this State of Queensland.

New South Wales gives a 20 per cent group discount—something that is not available on the Queensland railways. That is another thing we could do to promote tourism in our State. New South Wales gives better assistance to regional tourist organisations. Both Victoria and New South Wales give tremendous assistance to regional tourist organisations. South Australia, too, gives more assistance than Queensland. I would like to talk about the assistance given to tourism by Governments overseas, but I do not have the time.

There is much talk of a new State in Queensland. Mostly it is coming from former members of the Liberal and National Parties who have become dissatisfied with their own Government and who want to show some form of protest. The best answer for the people of the North, if they want a better deal, is a change of Government. This Government has never had a Minister from Far North Queensland.

The method of getting a new State is covered under the Commonwealth Constitution. It is set out quite clearly there. The Commonwealth Parliament may establish a new State, but only with the consent of the Parliament of a State and the approval of the majority of the electors of the State voting on the question. The New State Party cannot be for real. It is only a further split in the Government parties. People should accept this and take notice that this is the way in which it operates. If the people of North Queensland decide by a proper vote that they want to become a new State, then we will have a new State of North Queensland. But if they do not want it, we will not have it.

Mr. BOURKE (Lockyer) (4.21 p.m.): This is the first Budget since I entered Parliament and it is with pride and confidence in the document produced that I join in the debate. It is a document that shows capable and responsible financial management, a document that any Government member can wholeheartedly and honestly support. The discomfort of the Opposition in the face of this set of State accounts is understandable.

We are in the 21st year of successful balanced coalition government. Once again the coalition that enjoys the total trust and confidence of all Queenslanders has produced a Budget for all Queenslanders, the direct opposite of the divisive documents of envy that we can expect from any Labor spokesman.

There is no increase in taxes or charges. This is an outstanding performance in the face of continuing national inflation, even allowing for the reduced rate of inflation this year. It is in stark contrast to the story in other States. There will be no income tax

surcharge. This gives the lie to constant Labor propaganda about double taxation. There are the promised extra concessions and exemptions of pay-roll tax.

Pay-roll tax must be recognised as a tax on employment. There is no doubt that it restricts employment opportunities. Provision of employment is a matter of crucial interest to us all. This tax is a legacy from the Federal Government and is levied at a uniform rate Australia-wide. However in Queensland we do give far higher concessions than any other State. This is a de facto reduction in the overall tax rate. In fact, the level of pay-roll tax in application in Queensland is far lower than in any of the other States. We are continuing the coalition's efforts and have promised a further concession by lifting the level of exemption to \$125,000, far in excess of that in any other State, from 1 July 1978. Pay-roll tax is an iniquitous tax and I would say openly that I hope to see the end of it.

But here I differ from the Opposition in admitting that mere words will accomplish nothing. The State will receive in excess of \$200,000,000 from the proceeds of the tax this year. This compares to an Education Budget of approximately \$400,000,000 and a Health Budget of \$296,000,000. Money for essential education, health and other Government projects must come from somewhere.

In the absence of a credible alternative we are stuck with pay-roll tax despite our feelings on it. There is no simple alternative to it as a source of funds. It is on the subject of replacement taxes that the Labor politicians are silent. Taxes serve to provide Government funding and they can also serve as a weapon of financial management of the State. It is in the second that pay-roll tax has a negative effect. Taxes should be fair and equitable on the people. They should also be easy to collect. There are faults in pay-roll tax on this score also. However, as I have said, there is no easy alternative.

Simple and easy methods of collection of tax are already in use. The only taxes for the future are complicated taxes. There is value added tax—V.A.T. This would be an unmitigated disaster. It is grossly unfair in its distribution and the onus of collection falls on private enterprise. It is a typical theoretical socialist tax which would place the major onus for collection on unpaid collectors, that is, people in private enterprise. V.A.T. would have any person in a business or a profession subject to detailed exhaustive Government supervision and control, a long-term socialistic aim.

A net worth tax is another unworkable socialistic dream. It would be impossible to administer and destructive in its effects, and again would mean a total intrusion into the private lives and business of private citizens. It would be the start of confiscation of the

private savings of the nation. It would be a new approach to the public grab at savings bank deposits which was attempted by Lang in New South Wales in the 1930s and more recently by Hayden and Whitlam when they were denied Supply.

As a responsible member, I have to admit that there is no prospect of completely abolishing pay-roll tax in the near future. However, there appear to be defects in the administration of the tax. The wages of connected companies are lumped together for the assessment of the tax, thus denying them individually the benefit of the concessions. Other States do this even in the absence of the relatively generous concessions that are available only in Queensland. The Commonwealth recognises the separate corporate existence of these companies for the purpose of income tax and their separate legal existence. I feel that we should be more selective in the matter. Where the companies are merely a tax dodge, they can have no complaints, but where the connection is merely one of ownership and they are engaged in different activities, I feel that we should attempt to give some concessions subject to problems in administration.

There is another past fault in administration that was a direct result of the coalition's success in increasing the concessions available to citizens. This affected the employers of seasonal labour. It was necessary to divide the normal accounting period of 12 months into two periods of six months for the purpose of calculating pay-roll tax liability. This caused unfairness when large wages were paid on a seasonal basis. Vegetable growers in the Lockyer Valley employ workers in harvesting crops. Nature, not man, decides the circumstances. The grower has no absolute discretion in the choice of time.

I have a specific case concerning a grower at Gatton that warrants mention. The total wages for 12 months, from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976, were \$39,678. The concession available at the old rate was \$20,800. Tax at 5 per cent of \$18,878 was \$943.94. The concession was increased on 1 January 1976, in line with our consistent promises and policy of easing the effect of this tax as far as is possible. In the first six months, the wages paid were \$32,700 for seasonal labour. The tax concession was \$10,200. The tax at 5 per cent of \$20,400 was \$1,020. For the second six months the wages were \$6,900. The concession was \$20,400, so no pay-roll tax was levied in that second six months. Total tax as a result of the concession was \$1,020, some \$76 higher than it would have been if there had been no increase in the concessions available.

I instance this case as an example of administrative difficulties. The Treasurer has informed me that action has been taken to prevent this occurring in the future. However, I would like to see cases such as this adjusted retrospectively.

Whilst on taxes I feel that some mention of income tax is warranted. It is obvious, and has been for some time, that income tax has been raised to such a height as to constitute a total impediment to worthwhile productivity. At a lower level, it means that workers have no incentive at all to work overtime. Their earnings are confiscated for grandiose, pointless Government projects that contribute nothing to the national welfare. At a higher level, it means that capital needed in business for expansion and growth—in other words, job provision—is confiscated by the Government for non-productive purposes. It is this factor that has prevented growth of Australian native enterprise and left our commerce in the hands of foreign-controlled companies. At least under Malcolm Fraser we are on the right path, but there is still a long way to go.

The Budget, which has a total of \$1,806 million, is balanced, and this in itself is a major feat. Unlike previous Federal Labor Governments which led this nation into a morass of uncontrolled deficits, the coalition Government is a responsible organisation. We know that it is the people's money that we manage. We are not like Labor politicians who, when in power, had the attitude of poor men suddenly rich beyond their dreams.

Once again the coalition in Queensland has shown the way in providing for non-Government schools and community kindergartens. The payment to community schools for primary children goes to \$165 per annum and \$252 for secondary pupils. It must be remembered that it costs nearly \$700 a year to keep a pupil at a State primary school. In addition to giving parents their basic right of choice, non-Government schools have saved, and will save, the State vast amounts of money. The parents pay taxes and are entitled to aid. I congratulate the Treasurer on the level of aid that he has made possible. This is another area in which Queensland leads Australia, as these amounts are higher than those paid in all other States.

Transport and textbook allowances have also been increased. My area—Gatton, Toowoomba, Crows Nest and Yarraman—will receive \$1,188,000 for a new hospital at Gatton. The Government is concerned for the health of the rural people of this State and is doing something about it. Toowoomba will receive \$3,685,000 for new hospital work. In the field of main roads, there is a multi-million-dollar project to bypass Gatton and to improve further the major highway between Toowoomba and Brisbane. This has been a consistent programme and the results are very obvious when travelling from Toowoomba to Brisbane. The highway is constantly being upgraded and being made safer.

The Government has given more encouragement to decentralisation by increasing the management fee paid to regional development

boards for managing industrial estates. It has been increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per annum. As a director of the Toowoomba Development Board, which functions in the interests of the city of Toowoomba, I wish to thank the Government for this assistance, particularly as it is retrospective to last July. This is another aspect of the Budget. It does not make promises for the coming year; it makes provisions retrospective. In the education allowances, for instance, we are not merely making promises and trying to grab credit; we are giving positive benefits here and now. The extra assistance to the development board is much appreciated by the people of Toowoomba. It is seen as an encouragement to decentralisation.

In the field of irrigation and water supply, there is provision for another weir at Gatton, on Redbank Creek. The completion of the Bundaberg scheme has imposed a heavy burden on the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission this year and I am grateful for the new weir. The Minister for Water Resources visited the area recently and I have complete confidence in his fairness and judgment. I also welcome the work on the second stage of the Lesley Dam project, south of Toowoomba. It will also bring great benefits to my area. I am reasonable in my expectations and do not travel in a dream world, which is more than can be said for honourable members opposite at times.

The question of long service leave for all has been raised by one member of the Opposition. What about long service leave for those who are self-employed and who are expected to pay for the expensive extras for the people for whom they provide work? If the economy could stand it, I would agree completely, but I do not believe that some people in employment should get long service leave while others do not. However, the effects of premature decisions such as the 17½ per cent loading on holiday pay and an additional week's holiday, brought in in rash haste by Whitlam, are still with us in the form of continuing unemployment and inflation.

There are a number of long-term hopes that I harbour for my electorate, but I say again that I am reasonable and live in hope. Mere talk will not bring about anything, but these are the aims for which I will work.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Dr. Lockwood interjected.

The **TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Miller): Order!

Mr. BOURKE: I was quite prepared to accept the interjection by the honourable member for Archerfield. He has not been here often during the debate. At least he is now awake, which is more than he was when the Treasurer delivered his Budget speech.

Let me mention some of my aims. I would like to see more Government recognition of the problems facing Toowoomba in water and sewerage, and provision of increased Government aid in recognition of the fact that Toowoomba is the most successful inland city in Australia. I shall have more to say about that shortly.

A fast electric railway linking Toowoomba and Gatton with Brisbane has been mentioned in the Budget. This is a marvellously exciting development and will improve job opportunities in my area, in both Gatton and Toowoomba. There will be more industrial development, particularly in food-processing, in the area, and this must bring with it stability of employment opportunities. I look forward to the day when we have a fast electric rail service in combination with a first-class highway and Toowoomba will be successfully integrated with Brisbane.

A comprehensive Lockyer Valley development scheme should be implemented to fully develop the area's water resources. This should be in the form of small weirs patterned on the one at Ma Ma Creek.

Development of the coal deposits at Millmerran should be hastened to stimulate commerce in the Toowoomba area. This, again, is a marvellously exciting prospect for the future of the area in that it would provide large numbers of jobs.

I should also like to see increased Government aid for the cattle industry to fight ticks in areas on the edge of the tick-affected area.

I hope to see septic systems installed in all the schools in my area. There are only a couple that have not got septic systems, and I expect that they will get them as soon as it is reasonable.

There are other matters. I should like a new library at Crows Nest High School, perhaps a new library at Centenary Heights. They are on the priority list; no doubt they will get them in due course. The Government does not play favourites.

I should like to see increased activity in forestry projects at Yarraman and in the Crows Nest and Gatton Shires. I should like to see the provision of more Housing Commission homes, in particular pensioner units. We saw an example of the Opposition's hypocrisy when the honourable member for Mackay mentioned that the Government had increased rents on pensioner units. It has, of course, ensured that the increase will not be unreasonable. Rents must keep pace with development, and the Government wants to build as many pensioner units as possible. Honourable members opposite are trying to grab votes by championing low rents. The money must come in to build more units, and we would like to see pensioner units available to all people, not just to a lucky few who are early in the queue. I should also like to see the development of an aged persons' home and activities centre at Gatton.

I mentioned earlier the formulation of a Lockyer Valley water conservation scheme. I regard that as an urgent necessity. Water will be a factor of increasing importance in the future development of the Lockyer and Darling Downs areas. Because of the nature of waterways in the Lockyer, development will have to be by means of relatively small weirs to facilitate intake of water into the ground systems. Weirs such as the one on Ma Ma Creek have made vast improvements to quality and quantity of ground-water available.

Provision is made in the State Budget for a further weir on Redbank Creek near Gatton. However, it is time for a final ordering of the country in the Lockyer. Pioneering times, with a necessity for short-term considerations, have passed and the time is ripe for a scheme to provide weirs at every suitable location for maximum local retention and use of water resources. While big projects such as the Burdekin scheme and the Bundaberg scheme make large headlines, it is the smaller weirs that make economic and commercial sense and give a realistic return on community investment.

The investigation by the Snowy Mountains Authority of the Lockyer has not found any sites suitable for large-scale water storage. Weirs are the only suitable water-conservation method for the area. Any scheme would have to provide for maximum conservation for the future and should have the imagination and scale to benefit future generations of Lockyer residents. The investment of Government money in a Lockyer Valley scheme would be vastly more sensible than any large-scale projects elsewhere in the State.

Mr. Elliott: Not more sensible than investment in the Leslie Dam.

Mr. BOURKE: I will agree that the Leslie Dam might be different. However, I think that large-scale farm projects are more a national responsibility. There is a case for them, but they are more in the interest of the nation's future than in the short-term interest of the State's economic future.

As a member of the Irrigation and Water Supply parliamentary committee, it is along those lines that I will be working.

Toowoomba is unique in Australia in that it is a large inland city. All other major development has taken place on the sea-coast. As such it is faced with special problems both of water supply and sewerage disposal. Our water comes in the main from east of the range. It will increasingly have to be pumped up from below the city. As such it will be increasingly expensive. Cressbrook Creek Dam water will be relatively expensive, perhaps beyond the capacity of the city to pay, even with the State Government subsidy of 33½ per cent. Coastal cities obtain their water much more cheaply. It is one of my political aims to achieve more Government aid for

this dam. In addition, Toowoomba receives utterly no Government financial aid or subsidy for its sewerage works. This is because they are considered to be existing works rather than new works. We are expanding the existing plant rather than putting in new works. Yet owing to its location the city is required to achieve high levels of purity of its water discharge into the western water system. The Commonwealth Government has given generous financial aid to Adelaide for its water-treatment plant. This runs into many millions of dollars. Toowoomba has an unanswerable case for similar aid for its Wetalla sewerage plant, which is rendered much more expensive in the interests of people downstream. We are constantly under pressure to upgrade the standard of our discharge. Ultimately it goes into the same system from which Adelaide draws its water.

If decentralisation is to mean anything, central Governments must help to promote real growth in places such as Toowoomba. It is pointless to plan developments such as Albury-Wodonga and Orange-Bathurst and then let Toowoomba alone bear the costs incurred by reason of its location, with the central Government heaping more costs on the ratepayers. Government aid should go to where success has been naturally occurring. It is my ambition to get this deserved help and consideration for Toowoomba. As an alderman and member of Parliament, I am well placed to understand all aspects of the problem.

I congratulate the Treasurer on his first full 12 months in charge of the State's finances. A document such as the Budget is not just produced in a short term. It reflects capable and imaginative management of the State's resources over the past 12 months. It is a pleasure and privilege to be able to stand here and support such a document.

Mr. YEWDAL (Rockhampton North) (4.37 p.m.): It would seem that the Budget delivered by the Treasurer could be described as a quarterly adjustment based on electoral window-dressing for the forthcoming State election. That has been referred to on a number of occasions during the course of this debate.

If one looks at some of the matters confronting the Government and the people, particularly the housing shortage throughout the length and breadth of the State, especially in my electorate where I am very conversant with the needs for housing, the cost of land to young couples who are desirous of building a home in which to raise a family, the uncontrolled rents which the Government has continued to allow to spiral, the high interest rates that young people have to pay if they buy a home and the uncertainty about freight charges imposed on people in country areas with the likelihood of their being increased in the New Year, the Budget does not paint a very rosy picture.

I will refer briefly to housing and the Government's attitude towards it over a period of some years. The policy it has adopted is one that can be described only as piecemeal. It has never really got down to the problem of trying to overcome the housing problem. The department does very little forward planning. Forward planning in the initial stages includes the resumption of suitable land in areas where houses are needed. It seems to me that it does not follow up on what resumptions are made in that it does not have the areas serviced by private enterprise and/or local authorities. In 1973 I very strongly raised the matter of the allocation of funds for the resumption of land in my electorate. Following that a couple of telephone calls were made very quickly by the then Minister (Mr. Hodges), in which the local authority in Rockhampton was told to get off its backside and get out to service some of the allotments as there was a vital need for accommodation and a vital need for that servicing. It seems to be a continuing pattern of insufficient resumption and insufficient servicing. There should be a much greater effort and a much greater expenditure in the area of land provision for prospective home buyers.

In recent times the rental of most Housing Commission homes subject to a means test has been increased to \$45 to \$50 a week. People who meet the means test are necessarily in the low-income bracket. They are given priority in the allocation of Housing Commission accommodation. However, in spite of the fact that they are in the low-income bracket, they are forced to pay Housing Commission rentals of as high as \$45 to \$50 a week. That is totally wrong.

This Government, furthermore, has been very lax in the field of private rental accommodation. Under the Labor Government there was some control over rentals. Tenants had access to the Fair Rents Court, in which they could air their grievances. But now the field is wide open and private landlords can charge whatever rentals they wish. Very often the accommodation provided by them is substandard and does not comply with local authority by-laws. Tenants are forced to take this accommodation at exorbitant rentals. They know that if they were to complain to the local authority about the poor standard of accommodation, they would be evicted and probably would not be able to afford other accommodation that is offering. The Government is merely perpetuating the problem of substandard and slum accommodation.

The provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act work against the tenants. Landlords are able to impose extremely high bonds on young couples who rent premises. Landlords prepare inventories on the condition that any losses will be paid for from the bond. Bonds are so high that many young couples have difficulty in paying them, let alone the high rentals.

With the present high demand for private accommodation landlords are able to charge whatever rentals they like and are able to evict tenants who are paying what might be regarded as a fair rental and then let the premises at an exorbitant rental. They use the excuse that the premises are to be put up for sale, that they are to be handed over to a member of the family or that they are wanted for the landlord's private use. Excuses such as that are only a pretence. The truth of the matter is that the landlord sees the opportunity of obtaining a higher rental and grabs it. He goes through the lengthy process as provided in the landlord and tenant legislation and ultimately evicts his tenants.

The Government is not looking after the interests of tenants in Housing Commission and private accommodation. It is not affording tenants the protection that they deserve.

Another area of neglect on the part of the Government is builders' registration. Many young couples who have homes built by private enterprise find that their houses are full of construction defects. They are forced to take legal action against the builders because the Builders' Registration Board does not give sufficient protection to home owners. I will concede that the current insurance scheme is an improvement on the previous state of affairs and does give some protection. However, the field of home construction is also wide open. The Government has neglected its responsibilities in the provision of accommodation, the setting of rentals and the protection of young people who build their own homes.

Many young couples buy either a spec home or land on which to build their home. That is their first problem. In many of the provincial cities throughout Queensland a block of land costs as much as \$8,000 to \$10,000. That is a lot of money for a young couple to have to find even before they can think of building a home. Having purchased their land, they are then subjected to high interest rates on the loan that they obtained to buy it. They have to stagger along for a few years even before they can think about building a home. This Government is to blame for allowing interest rates to escalate. What has it done to reduce interest rates? Nothing at all! It could help overcome problems such as this by providing more accommodation through the Housing Commission. Why couldn't it advance money for that? Opposition spokesmen have proved today that the Treasurer has produced a Budget which leaves about \$11,000,000 from trust money in excess of expenditure. Why shouldn't the Treasurer spend that \$11,000,000 on housing and creating employment in Queensland?

The young home builder who has to borrow money for land and get a loan for his home has to pay all the legal costs involved in getting the loan, building his home and so on. If necessary, he then has

to pay the local authority or private enterprise for servicing the allotment. He has an accumulation of problems confronting him.

The time has long passed for local authorities to continue servicing areas for land developers. Local authorities should develop land and service it with water, kerbing, channelling, sewerage and electricity, and then make it available to people who want it. Local authorities could do that quite easily and sensibly and make a reasonable return on costs—a small margin of profit to be used in further resumptions. That system can work. Local authorities should compete with land developers.

Mr. Gygar: It will not work.

Mr. YEWDALE: I hear the honourable member for Stafford saying that it will not work; but it will work. If the local authorities provide the know-how to service land, if they can resume land as they do for a number of reasons—for council and sporting requirements—they can resume land and sell it for housing.

Mr. Frawley: They can't sell it.

Mr. YEWDALE: The honourable member says that they cannot sell it. What is Parliament or the Government for?

Mr. Frawley interjected.

Mr. YEWDALE: I suggest that the difficulty can be overcome easily. It is useless to say that it cannot be overcome. It is up to the Government to do it. Government members keep arguing about competition and freedom of choice, but why shouldn't the local authorities do this? It is not unreasonable to suggest that they should compete with the land developers. As I say, in many instances the local authorities provide the know-how for servicing the allotments. They are vitally concerned with servicing them.

If Government members do not want local authorities to do that, if they would rather be able to say that the high cost of land for home builders is attributable to kerbing, bitumen, water, sewerage and electrical facilities—

A Government Member: Don't you agree with that?

Mr. YEWDALE: I agree fully. I do not believe in saying that we should put home buyers on a bit of dirt without these facilities. That is a backward, unhealthy situation. If we are to provide these facilities—and I believe that we should—let the local authorities do it; let them get into some of the land developers who are ripping money off young home buyers through high charges for land. They are only making a profit from the local authority development.

Over the last couple of years I have been charged with the responsibility of looking into the unemployment situation in Queensland. Whether the ideas propounded by me

or my party are right or wrong, we have talked about how things can be done to relieve unemployment in Queensland, particularly for the young people. At the 12th hour, the Treasurer, or the Government, is telling the people of Queensland that money will be provided to create employment. What the hell has the Government been doing for the past two years? Absolutely nothing! It has been sitting on its butt doing absolutely nothing, or very little, about the situation except introducing piecemeal schemes. The Government has not been employing the maximum number of apprentices in its departments. It has been adding to the number of unemployed by displacing large numbers of people from the Works Department, and creating unemployment in industries which provide employment through the construction of homes, schools and so on.

As I say, at the 12th hour, on the eve of the election, the Government is talking about doing something to relieve unemployment in Queensland by a financial adjustment. The Government has slipped up in the Education Department training schemes. Trainee teachers who are being trained at the colleges of advanced education and the universities to be teachers will not have jobs available when they finish their training. There is no guarantee of a job. In fact, some of those kids coming out qualified as teachers will not be able to follow their profession. That is because of the short-sighted policy of this Government, which employed teachers from overseas—and I do not blame overseas teachers coming here and taking up employment in their profession. They have come to Queensland under certain conditions, but very many of them have ducked out of the country again and have not met their commitments to the Government. Now the Government is not able to cater for our own people who have trained to work in the Queensland school system.

I reiterate that the Government has been short-sighted in the employment area. I would think that after Christmas there will be very little talk about what is going to happen to the unemployed. This State has the second highest unemployment figures in Australia. Unemployment is increasing, and after Christmas an additional 30,000 kids will be leaving school and eligible to come onto the work market. I do not see any provision in the Budget by which this Government will be catering for those school-leavers looking for a job in the New Year. As a matter of fact, the unemployment situation will be aggravated by large numbers of kids leaving school. At the moment some kids who have been looking for a job for six to 12 months cannot get employment.

Mr. Houston: Not one Government member raised the unemployment issue.

Mr. YEWDALE: No. They don't want to, because it is one that they are hiding from. They know full well that their own Government is not going to do anything about it.

We hear this Government talking about decentralisation. Government members have been talking about decentralisation for the last decade—but they never do a thing about it. This Government is centralising everything in Brisbane. It has only been as a result of several years of agitation—not just by Opposition members but by Government back-benchers as well—that motor-vehicle registration is being decentralised. I think that is a good idea. We welcome it and accept it; but the fact is that it has taken about a decade of agitation to get the Main Roads Department to do that.

Most facilities are in Brisbane. Freeway construction, four-lane roads, new bridges and other road construction work—it is all happening in the south-east of Queensland. It is not happening in the other coastal areas or in country areas. People outside the south-eastern part of the State are being neglected. They are subjected to an ever-increasing spiral of freight rates and other costs. Although charges are not being increased in this Budget, we will see what happens after Christmas.

I just wish to make a couple of other points about the Industrial Development portfolio. Quite often the Minister and the department talk about industrial estates scattered throughout Queensland. Whilst we accept that they are a good concept and a good idea for the development of the State, the decentralisation programme is not working. I asked the Minister the other day which industrial estates in Queensland were serviced by rail links or loops and I was told that the only ones, with the exception of the Clinton Estate, were in South-east Queensland. Apart from the one in Gladstone, not one industrial estate outside South-east Queensland has a rail loop or rail link. Further, there is no forward planning for resumptions to put rail links to any of those estates. When the Government finally decides to do something about the resumption of private homes or other buildings, it will cost about five times as much. Therefore, in the area of industrial estates, the Minister has a lot to answer for.

All the time we hear the Minister for Industrial Development parroting about buying Queensland made. He refers to beer coasters and other things that are mentioned in departmental literature. The other day one of the workers from the railway workshops in Rockhampton was having a beer with me. He said, "There is a very interesting thing in the Railway Department in Rockhampton, and probably throughout the State." He wasn't sure, but he could speak with some certainty about his own work area. "We are issued with gloves to handle very heavy steel and the other heavy material we

work with. The Minister keeps telling us about buying Queensland made and using Queensland products, but the gloves we are issued with are all made in Hong Kong." Maybe we could argue about the quality of them or the cheapness of them; but a Hong Kong product is being used by a Government that talks about buying Queensland made. That is just one example, but I could refer to others. We have an example of it today from the member for Mackay, who spoke about the Premier and Bjelke blue cheese.

Mr. Gygar: I wouldn't use the Premier as an example.

Mr. YEWDALE: We can use the Premier as an example with regard to his cheese. In the main, the ingredients for the cheese that is using the Premier's name are brought from South Australia.

When we go over those matters very quickly again and talk about housing, rent, unemployment, transportation, decentralisation, the Budget—

Mr. Lowes: You use your influence on strikes.

Mr. YEWDALE: The honourable member would like to shoot them. He would like to put his jackboots on, with the Premier, and get out into the streets and shoot them. That is about what he would like to do.

Mr. Lowes: You go out and talk to them. You use your influence.

Mr. YEWDALE: The honourable member can say what he likes about strikes. He has ideas about them; so has his Premier and so has his Government. It is always down with the workers. They are never right. In his view, unions have never been known to be right since their inception. The unions are always wrong. He is always right. The fact of life is that they are people. They are in the community. They have been part of our way of life. They developed our society as much as anybody else. I have taken a stand in this Chamber and I will do it again if I feel that industrial disputation is not warranted. I say again that very often it is not. I am not so bigoted, so steadfast in my attitude and so biased that I believe that the unions are always right. The honourable member just says "No." (full stop). He does not know anything else. He kicks the workers every chance he gets.

I think I have said all that I want to say. I know that the Treasurer wants to get away because of other commitments. I reiterate that it is a three-month Budget, a quarterly Budget. We will wait and see what happens in 1978.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (4.57 p.m.), in reply: Honourable members on both sides of the

Chamber tended, as I suppose could be expected under these circumstances, to use the debate as a forum to advance the interests of their own electorates. I am not condemning this because, after all, this is one of the places in which the electorate is able to have an expression through its member of Parliament. Indeed in this debate it would be appropriate, when there are matters of concern and public interest to the electorate, for the member to air them. It is one of the reasons why members are here, no matter what other reasons they are here for, such as legislation and good order in the community. They are here to represent the people who have elected them. Regardless of the side of the Chamber we sit on we do our best to see that our areas and the people we represent, whatever their political affiliations, receive their fair share of services and facilities provided from the public purse. It is to my mind pleasing to observe the conscientiousness and diligence with which certain honourable members study the Budget documents to see how their electorates have scored in this regard. It is something to commend.

It is unfortunate that for a number of reasons it is not possible to document in full detail all the proposed programmes and projects in a way that would allow honourable members to see the total picture and be better informed on what is planned for their areas in the coming year. We do not frame the documents in electorates. They are departmentalised and honourable members have to do a dissection.

However, I have tried to make the Budget papers more informative and I am pleased to see that a number of honourable members have commented on this because the documents as published and incorporated in "Hansard" are very complete in themselves.

I have not set out to comment on the standard or content of the contribution of each honourable member to this debate. I appreciate that honourable members have had less than the usual time to study the Budget documents and it is therefore perhaps understandable that to a great extent their comments had no direct relationship to the Budget. I will, however, attempt to respond in all instances where honourable members have asked particular questions or raised an issue which, in my view, needs to be clarified.

The honourable the Leader of the Opposition referred to the Budget as an "Election Budget". I must confess that I was somewhat surprised that he led the debate in view of the arrangements that he had made in his shadow Cabinet for a new shadow Treasurer who has yet to perform as a shadow Treasurer. As the shadow Treasurer did not speak on the Budget, one wonders why he received this meteoric rise. Maybe there is some interesting background to it that we have yet to discover, or that has yet to come to the surface. Most of us

know some of the background and it has yet to be published. Certainly it was unusual for the Leader of the Opposition to lead for his party in the debate.

Mr. Houston: That's untrue, and you know it.

Mr. KNOX: Because the honourable member for Bulimba, as leader, also assumed the role of Treasurer.

Mr. Houston: I did not. Mr. Tucker was shadow Treasurer and you know it. Be truthful.

Mr. KNOX: Is that right? At least the honourable member for Archerfield has been shamed back into the Chamber. Obviously he feels that he must be here at this juncture. I trust I will not embarrass him as much as I did when bringing down the Budget. I trust he will remain in the Chamber and will not flit in and out in the conspiracy in which he is apparently involved at the moment.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the Budget as an election Budget. Obviously he is very worried about having to advance Labor's cause and trying to sell Labor's socialist philosophy to the people of this State in the face of such a responsible and economically and financially sound Budget as that which has been debated in this House this week.

He has attempted to discredit the Budget by conjuring up all sorts of bogies. Foremost amongst these is the hidden-tax mini-Budget bogy which the Leader of the Opposition has continued to thrust upon the electorate at large, and this Committee, at every opportunity since the Budget was brought down. Let me lay that bogy here and now, once and for all. Let me, in so doing, make the Government's position quite clear. The original undertaking not to increase Government taxes and charges, fares, freights, etc. was given at the time of the voluntary prices and wages pause in April this year. Both the Premier and I said at that time that there would be no increases during the period of the pause.

Although this pause was short-lived, being broken because the A.C.T.U., the Trades and Labor Council and the South Australian Labor Government would not support the required hold in wages, the Queensland Government's undertaking was nevertheless extended for the remainder of 1977. The Queensland Government was the only Government in Australia to do so. This commitment has been rigidly adhered to since April and has now been reaffirmed in this Budget.

The Government has no intention of increasing taxes and charges. The Budget has been drawn up and balanced on the basis of present levels of taxes and charges.

The Government has no mini-Budget in mind and no schedule of increases has been prepared or even contemplated.

Mr. Burns: I don't believe you.

Mr. KNOX: The Leader of the Opposition cannot have read the Budget. If indeed increases were contemplated, there would be a deficit; but, as I have pointed out, there is a surplus.

Mr. Houston: You have already put money aside in trust funds.

Mr. KNOX: I shall deal later with the honourable member and his talk about trust funds.

Let me make it quite clear that while salaries, wages and other costs continue to increase, the expenditure demands on the State Budget will likewise increase. The Government cannot therefore hold off tax and charge increases indefinitely and it would be a very foolish Government indeed that gave an undertaking to do so under these circumstances. I am not giving any such undertaking. I repeat what I already said in my Budget speech—that eventualities in this respect in 1978 will depend on the degree to which the Government can accommodate cost increases as the year progresses.

I repeat also that the Government has no predetermined plans to increase rates of taxes, charges, fares or freights in this financial year.

The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, in his attempts to discredit the Government, made quite a big thing about expected increases in the level of revenues in 1977-78 from various State taxes. He cited increases in liquor licence fees, traffic receipts, land tax, stamp duty, racing taxes and other receipts as examples of "hidden increases". This is utter nonsense, as any thinking person will realise. All forms of revenues must increase automatically with natural growth and, where charges are directly related to values, with inflation. Revenues would have to increase by at least 12 per cent under present conditions to maintain their real values in relation to population and monetary values.

Let us look at expected revenues under the four broad headings that embrace virtually all items where payments by the public are involved. They are in the Budget papers, and I repeat them for the benefit of honourable members.

State taxation will increase from \$388,100,000 in 1976-77 to \$409,500,000 this year—an increase of 5.5 per cent, without any increase in the rates.

Territorial receipts, including land rents and royalties, will increase from \$70,300,000 in 1976-77 to \$76,900,000 this year—up 9.4 per cent (mostly in royalties, which I will deal with shortly).

Receipts for services rendered—that is, Titles Office fees, court fees, and many other services provided by the Government—are up from \$34,500,000 in 1976-77 to \$37,200,000 this year, an increase of 7.8 per cent.

Railway revenues, in spite of the huge losses, will increase from \$260,800,000 in 1976-77 to \$280,100,000 this year—an increase of 7.4 per cent. Totally, there will be an increase from \$753,800,000 in 1976-77 to \$803,600,000 this year—an increase of 6.6 per cent.

All that information was in the figures that I published. The Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to look at them but did not have the ability to understand them. It is only about half the increase that could be expected and which would have occurred but for the concessions that the Government has allowed in such areas as pay-roll tax, death duties, road transport fees and the Government's decision not to increase charges in line with costs.

Where are the hidden increases that the Leader of the Opposition refers to? That paper is a complete document in itself and it adds up in all directions. Whichever way you care to look at it, you will find that it is all mentioned and all there. There is nothing hidden, nothing to be discovered.

The Leader of the Opposition queried why royalties were expected to increase despite forecasts of lower production. Again that is mentioned in the papers and he did not take the trouble to look for it. Royalties are expected to be \$6,000,000 up on the 1976-77 level, or a little over \$50,000,000. This is almost entirely in export coal, where an increase in price has been predicted and some of the royalties lost because of the export tax imposed by the previous Federal Government will be recovered as the tax is further reduced. I must say, however, that this estimate is now somewhat in doubt in view of the problems between Utah and the Seamen's Union.

Mr. Burns: Did you take Gunpowder into account?

Mr. KNOX: We have taken into account all sorts of casualties that might occur, because some occur every year, not specifically Gunpowder. Every year we have some pluses and minuses in the accounting system. I assure the honourable member that at the end of the financial year we will be very close to the estimates of what we take into revenue from this source. Contrary to the Leader of the Opposition's suspicions, no increases in royalty rates are planned.

The Leader of the Opposition also sees a hidden tax in the expected increase in the State Government Insurance Office's tax payment. Here again he displays a lack of understanding and knowledge of the principles involved in the operation of this office and its payments to the Government. For

his information—and it is there for him to see if he cares to look in the papers that have been tabled in the House—the State Government Insurance Office, although a Government instrumentality, operates in competition with commercial companies. It is exempt from Federal Government taxation but is taxed by the State Government on the same basis as its competitors, and this is something which has been quite a feature of the State Government Insurance Office organisation for some years. The taxes are assessed by the Commonwealth Government, and thus the S.G.I.O. has no advantage over its competitors in that respect. Of course, the State Government gets the benefit of that revenue. The reason for the substantial increase in its liability this year is that it is only now returning to a state of profitability which it lost during the period of high inflation created by the former Federal Labor Government.

Apparently the Leader of the Opposition would prefer to see the State Government Insurance Office continue under the duress of inflation and low profits of the Labor era than emerge as a profitable organisation paying full tax on full profits.

The Leader of the Opposition has implied that the 10 per cent reduction in workers' compensation premiums does not amount to much, having regard to the 25 per cent increase of a couple of years ago. He has apparently overlooked the fact that this is the second successive reduction of 10 per cent, which means that the 25 per cent increase in 1975-76 has now been virtually completely eliminated, thus returning some \$20,000,000 to the pockets of employers now that the Workers' Compensation Fund has been restored to a satisfactory financial position.

The Leader of the Opposition is sceptical also about the value of the special \$50,000,000 provided for employment-intensive capital works. Because \$50,000,000 has now been allotted, whereas \$69,000,000 was provided last year, he sees this as a retrograde step. Let me point out to him that at this time last year there was no money available for these very important purposes. The Government had plans to put whatever it could aside to boost employment, but the economy was uncertain and commitment at that time would have been foolish. By March 1977 \$69,000,000 had been provided, and thousands of people were employed who would otherwise have been on the dole.

This year, with economic conditions more stable, \$50,000,000 has been provided right at the outset. As I stated in my Budget speech, the position will be closely watched during the year, and if it is possible to add to the \$50,000,000, this will be done. However, I give no assurances beyond that at this stage.

It is not, to my mind, very important how much is provided in this year or that year. The important thing is that \$119,000,000 will

have been made available over a period of not much more than 18 months from Consolidated Revenue, as follows:—

\$23,000,000 worth of road-works;

\$30,000,000 worth of housing;

Nearly \$19,000,000 for local authorities;
\$47,000,000 for railways, hospitals, schools, police buildings, loans to primary producers, etc.

Thousands of Queenslanders will have been employed and countless businesses sustained through a difficult period. No other State or Government has been able to do anything like this.

Mr. Houston: Of course they have.

Mr. KNOX: \$30,000,000 was all they could get in New South Wales.

Mr. Houston interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order!

Mr. KNOX: The Queensland Government stands alone in its efforts to alleviate unemployment and stimulate economic growth.

Mr. Houston interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Bulimba has had his opportunity to speak.

Mr. KNOX: Yet the Leader of the Opposition says that we are not doing enough—that the money will not have a great impact on unemployment. Like a prophet of doom, with his colleagues who have a vested interest in depression and unemployment, he condemns any suggestion of optimism in the future economic prospects. Fortunately, Labor's economic record is such that nobody takes much notice of its assessments.

I do not for a moment deny that a cursory examination of figures and performance statistics for the past year does not present a happy picture for many of our industries. I am far from happy with the overall position as it presently stands. However, I repeat again that I believe, as a great number of people close to the heart of things do, that the worst is over and that there will be a steady but certain return to stability and prosperity from here on.

The Leader of the Opposition is obviously indoctrinated with the economic philosophies of his Federal leader and, like him, has a vested interest in continued inflation, unemployment and lack of business confidence. The Government is in trouble with the Opposition for giving the city council \$5,000,000 towards its transport undertaking. The Leader of the Opposition claims that the council has been ripped off. Let me make this point quite clear.

Mr. Houston: We will have the Lord Mayor in your electorate to tell them about it.

Mr. KNOX: The Lord Mayor is welcome in my electorate. He would only increase my majority.

While it may well be that the Grants Commission payment is increased because of the inclusion of the city council's transport losses, it is also a fact that the disbursement of the funds is the responsibility of the Queensland Government. The grants are completely untied and the portion of the overall grant that results from the transport losses is not required to be paid to the council any more than any other part of the grant is required to be applied to the service from which it is derived. Neither does the State have a moral obligation to pay the amount to the council. This argument ignores the fact that the State Government pays very substantial subsidies to the council for its general works programmes year after year.

It is apparent also from the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition that he has not read the Budget proposals and does not fully understand what the State Government assistance means to the council. It means that for every 40c fare the council collects in 1977-78, it will receive another 20c from the Government. In other words, it receives the fare that it is collecting now plus a 50 per cent subsidy. The council can increase fares or reduce fares—it can do what it likes—the Government will pay up. And there is a very good case for a reduction in fares, because 12 months ago the council did not expect that this amount of money would be available to it.

Mr. Houston: You promised it to them then.

Mr. KNOX: The council did not know a thing about it. The council has the responsibility of running the transport service in a business-like fashion, which includes determination of a realistic fare structure. There must be something wrong with the council if it cannot make a go of the undertaking on this basis.

I could go on refuting the allegations, accusations and misconceptions which persist ad nauseum in the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. However, I really don't think it is necessary, as most, if not all, honourable members recognise them for what they are—the rantings of a very frustrated man who sees no prospect of ever being in the position of delivering a Budget to this Assembly; a man who can condemn without fear of ever having to make the judgments and decisions himself; a man who can make promises in the knowledge that he will never be called on to fulfil them.

The honourable member for Rockhampton, like his leader, reads all sorts of undertones and ominous forebodings into what is in reality a straightforward, honest Budget document. He did not even have the courtesy to thank me for the help that I

gave the Rockhampton City Council. The mayor thanked me, but the honourable member did not. In his own words he as much as admitted to the honesty of the document.

He spent quite a lot of his inordinately long speech echoing sentiments which were already inflicted on the Committee by the Leader of the Opposition and which I have, for the most part, already dealt with.

I was somewhat mystified by his comments on the benefits derived by Queensland from its submissions to the Grants Commission. I don't disagree with what he said. One of the reasons the State is in its present sound financial position is that the Government has been successful in establishing its needs before that authority.

There are many other reasons as well and they all reflect the sound financial administration and husbandry which has been a feature of this Government since it came to office over 20 years ago. I'm not sure exactly what the honourable member was trying to say, but I do thank him for drawing attention to this very successful aspect of the Government's administration.

The honourable member made quite a song and dance about some sort of analysis that he claims to have done on expenditures in and around the metropolitan area compared with that in the rest of the State.

The Budget document quite clearly states that the capital projects specifically mentioned are confined to major projects and are not intended to be taken as a comprehensive picture of the overall programme.

Obviously, then, this precludes mention of the great number of smaller works that are programmed for the smaller centres in the State and tends to highlight developments in and around the metropolitan area and other major provincial cities.

I happen to have some figures on various expenditure programmes which might be of interest to the honourable member and others who have, or are trying to encourage, the misconception that this is a parochially minded Government which tends to favour the area with the greatest number of voters. The percentages I quote are the proportion of total expenditure in 1977-78 programmed for the area north of Rockhampton, which contains very close to 20 per cent of the State's population.

The sums and percentages involved are as follows—

Expenditure Programme	Sum	Percentage of State Budget
	\$	
Roads	29,700,000	27
Irrigation	5,800,000	37.7
Electricity Development	22,700,000	21
Subsidies and Loans to Local Authorities	11,800,000	26.6
Housing	11,400,000	12.2
Education and other Government Buildings	28,000,000	24.1
Railways	4,200,000	11

These figures, I would suggest, demonstrate that numbers of people involved are not the sole criterion on which priorities are assessed and put the lie to the honourable member's contention that the Budget is oriented to the metropolitan area of Brisbane.

The honourable member for Salisbury showed a special interest in transactions associated with assistance for deserted wives and in so doing has brought to my notice what is really an incomplete heading in the printed Estimates. The item under the heading "Commonwealth Payments" entitled "Assistance for Deserted Wives" does not allude only to deserted wives. It includes payments from the Commonwealth for deserted wives, deserting wives, wives of prisoners, unmarried mothers and some other women in a single-parent situation, including *de facto* wives.

It is interesting to note that deserted and deserting wives constitute about 80 per cent of all beneficiaries and unmarried mothers about 15 per cent, and that numbers in all categories receiving State assistance—that is, those in the first six months of eligibility—have almost doubled to 2,057 in the three years to 30 June last. The Commonwealth reimburses 50 per cent of the assistance payments made during the first six months of eligibility. After six months, the Commonwealth meets the full cost by direct payment. The corresponding expenditure heading which represents the full payment appears in the Votes of the Department of Children's Services.

The honourable member for Port Curtis apparently made something of an exercise of trying to reconcile a total of 685 houses with my overall figure of nearly 700 quoted in the Budget speech and concluded that only 15 would be built this year by the Housing Commission for needy people. I assure the honourable member that I will go to great pains to avoid confusing him in this way in future. This special housing loan effort is, of course, additional to the normal Housing Commission programme and is directed to a section of the community in the low to middle-income bracket, to whom normal Housing Commission finance is not available under the guide-lines. It can be used either to build or to buy houses already built. The honourable member seems to think that the funds do not achieve their employment-creative purpose if used to buy spec houses which have already been built. Surely he can see that if a spec builder sells a house he thus has the funds to build another one.

The honourable member was quite critical of the expected magnitude of losses on the railways operations and apparently considers that freight charges on the mineral lines are not high enough. The overall railways loss would be about half as much again if it weren't for the profits on mineral line operations, which should be well in excess of

\$60,000,000 this year. Mineral freights which are estimated at \$139,000,000 this year, or half the total receipts, are already increased annually under a formula and would have to be lifted a further 80 per cent to bring the railways to a break-even point overall. That, of course, is not likely to happen. Surely the honourable member is not suggesting that the Government should now ask the mineral companies to produce a further \$11,000,000, or even a major part of this amount. To answer the honourable member's question, I can assure him that these companies are paying freight at a fair rate and that the rate automatically maintains its value in comparison with cost increases. No doubt the honourable member can become familiar with the legislation on this subject and the formulas contained therein.

I made a special point of interrupting my schedule to be in the Chamber to hear what the honourable member for Bulimba had to say. I rarely agree with his views but, nevertheless, I do like to hear what they are so that I can straighten out his thinking in the many ways that are usually necessary. His effort today was a disappointment and I could have saved myself the trouble.

The honourable member started out by complaining about the short time available to say all the important things that he had to say after having carefully analysed the Budget, haranguing all and sundry whom he considered responsible. Having taken up most of his time doing this haranguing and complaining about other aspects of the conduct of proceedings that grieved him, he made a brief reference to one Budget matter which, apparently, was pointed out to him by somebody or other, and which he really didn't understand anyway, and then sat down. With the Committee waiting breathlessly for his well-considered comments, he sat down.

The honourable member for Mackay quoted all sorts of increases in revenue items over a 10-year period which he thinks are inordinate, and which he claims have given the Government the capacity to do all the wonderful things it is doing for this State. These figures may well be correct and they sound very impressive when looked at in isolation without regard for their true relativity to monetary values or, in some cases, the true facts. The honourable member is probably correct in saying that the major component of the increase in railway revenues has come from the Central and Northern Divisions. Of course it has. This is where the tremendous increases in coal and other mineral freights have occurred. He seemed to be complaining that they are spoiling the railways. The honourable member for Port Curtis claimed that the people who should be paying more for the freight should be those who have the minerals hauled.

As I was saying, this is where the tremendous increases in coal and other mineral freights have occurred—the increases which were responsible largely for the State's ability to keep freight charges for general merchandise down until a year or so ago, when increases which were nowhere near adequate to restore the charges to their proper level had to be implemented.

On the question of revenues generally, some of which he says have increased by 400 to 500 per cent in 10 years, doesn't the honourable member appreciate that inflation and population growth alone in that period account for some 275 per cent of growth in revenues, a point I made in my reference to the comments of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition?

The particular items he refers to—liquor fees, traffic licences, fines and racing taxes—are subject to normal growth in excess of these indices. Increased living standards generally, for example, and the overall percentage increases in collections certainly are not the results of increases by Government decision in excess of what was warranted.

The honourable member for Rockhampton North at a late stage of the debate could really do little more than parrot the sentiments already voiced by his fellows earlier in the debate. His point that the Queensland Government has done nothing about interest rates is absolutely incorrect. This Government has consistently advocated the reduction of interest rates—an advocacy that is finally starting to show some results. It is hoped that the Commonwealth will continue to bring rates down progressively, which was what was needed and what we all support.

In conclusion, I thank all honourable members who contributed to this debate. Their views on the many and varied topics that have been raised, whether in relation to the Budget or not, are of value to me and I am sure to other Ministers in so far as their particular responsibilities are concerned. Likewise, I am sure that, where attention has been drawn to needs in particular areas of the State, the relevant Ministers will take note of this for consideration in the priorities of their departments.

The commendations and criticisms on the Budget have left me more than ever convinced that it is in its concept and objectives the correct Budget for the economic and financial circumstances of the times. I am satisfied that it further reinforces the framework which has been developed over the years by this Government in readiness for the development to their full potential of all the industrial, commercial and manpower resources of the State.

Item (Salaries—His Excellency the Governor) agreed to.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 5.29 p.m.