

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 1978**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

because they are my friends, are not being prosecuted for late trading. Naturally, I reject the allegation with all the contempt at my command.

Not only have I had scant connection with the people to whom I presume Mr. Kennedy refers but, on hearing the scurrilous charge, I checked with the Chief Industrial Inspector, who informed me that the premises concerned had been visited by an officer some time ago following complaints and that, in addition, inspectors had visited the premises last week-end, when evidence of a trading-hours breach was obtained. This action will continue as the need arises.

I am amazed that a prominent businessman like Mr. Kennedy—a member of the board of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation and a former chairman of the Australian Postal Commission—should not only demonstrate a complete lack of respect for the law, but should see fit to bolster his argument with a malicious slander.

I might add that apparently Mr. Kennedy intends to deprive the commissioners of any reasoned arguments he may have. His was not among the 16 firms which entered appearances at the preliminary hearing of the inquiry and, as at midday yesterday, it had not made a written submission, even though 30 other responsible citizens and firms throughout Queensland have already done so.

I should like to make the position of the Government very clear. Hours of trading are divorced from politics. They are set by the Industrial Commission after full and proper consideration of all factors.

Any businesses open outside those hours are liable to penalty. The House may rest assured that premises opening illegally tonight will be visited by industrial inspectors. That applies to Mr. Kennedy, who has been observed as being a prominent A.L.P. supporter.

The only responsible manner in which the voices of all sections of the community can be heard on shopping hours is through intensive public examination. This is also the only way in which considered judgment can be reached. It cannot be reached by deliberate flouting of the law.

## POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### INITIATION

**Hon. T. G. NEWBERY** (Mirani—Leader of the House) for **Hon. R. E. CAMM** (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Energy and 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 Police Act 1937–1977 in certain particulars and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

## THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 1978

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

### PAPER

The following paper was laid on the table:—  
Order in Council under the Land Act 1962–1975.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### LATE TRADING HOURS; ALLEGATION BY MR. J. KENNEDY

**Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL** (Aspley—Minister for Labour Relations) (11.3 a.m.): Honourable members are aware of a mounting campaign by certain businessmen to usurp the function of the Industrial Commission and set their own trading hours. They are also aware that a tribunal of inquiry is currently investigating all aspects of this very issue.

My main purpose in making this statement is to assure the House that the Government is not impressed by obvious attempts to put pressure on the tribunal and is quite determined to apply the law to those who would put themselves above it.

My second purpose is to comment on the scandalously slanderous statement reportedly made by Mr. Jim Kennedy that some people,

## QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

### 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE

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

(1) Was the former chairman of the board of directors of the State Government Insurance Office (Queensland), Mr. E. Riding, promised the first available position on the board upon his retirement?

(2) Has one member of the board been retained on the board even though he has now passed the retiring age and, if so, what is his name and the reason for the decision?

(3) Has Mr. Riding now been advised that, as he is no longer a member of the board, his right to represent the State Government Insurance Office (Queensland) on various boards, such as Gows and any company in the woodchip industry, will no longer prevail?

(4) What is the reason for the changes?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. However, in view of the proposed changes in the administration of workers' compensation and the consequent curtailment of S.G.I.O. investment activities, Mr. Riding has agreed that his reappointment to the board is no longer justifiable. I add, however, that I have exhorted Mr. Riding to continue as chairman of the S.G.I.O. Building Society, and he has agreed to do so.

(2) Yes. His name is Mr. J. H. Lalor, the representative from the legal profession on the board. He has been retained on the board temporarily because of changes to the legislation which will affect the board of the S.G.I.O.

(3) Mr. Riding did not represent the S.G.I.O. on the boards of R. M. Gow or Woodland Pty. Ltd. He was appointed to these boards as an individual by the respective shareholders and, of course, it would be contrary to law for any member to represent other than all shareholders. To my knowledge Mr. Riding retains membership of these boards.

(4) See answers to (1) and (3) above.

### 2. PRIORITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

(1) When was the Priorities Review Committee established and what officers were appointed to it?

(2) How many times has the committee met and on what days?

(3) Was the Under Secretary, Premier's Department, an original member of the committee and, if not, has he been appointed to the committee and, if so, when?

(4) Did the committee, as reported in "The Courier-Mail" in February, meet and examine the S.E.C. report on the new powerhouse? If so, on how many occasions, for what duration, and who were at each meeting? If not, which officers of the Public Service examined the S.E.C. report and reported their findings to him?

(5) Did these officers consider the special Treasury Department report instigated by Mr. Knox on 2 February 1978?

(6) Have all three reports been considered by Cabinet?

(7) How long did (a) the S.E.C. report; (b) the Special Committee of Review report instigated by him; and (c) the Treasury report take to complete?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 7) If the honourable member chose to recollect, he would be aware that on Tuesday last, in this House, I made a lengthy ministerial statement setting out the facts relating to the siting of the next powerhouse at Tarong.

I cannot see any useful purpose whatsoever in prolonging the controversy, which is what the honourable member wants me to do by recapitulating all that was said on that occasion. I refer the honourable member back to the answer I gave him last week, if he is capable of understanding it. I think that is the best way of answering his question.

### 3. PICKETING OF A.L.P. HEADQUARTERS ON 24 APRIL

**Mr. Frawley**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police—

(1) Has any application been made by Mr. Gerry Jones for police to break up pickets outside Labor headquarters on 24 April?

(2) Is he aware that the reform group of the Labor Party intends to picket the meeting of the Queensland Central Executive of the Labor Party and that trouble is expected?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) No.

### 4. ENDOWMENT INSURANCE POLICY PAY-OUTS

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

What recourse is available to the public to force insurance companies to pay out endowment policies when the policy-holder has lost the policy but has signed a statutory declaration to that effect and has proof of payment in the form of a receipt book?

*Answer:—*

Section 119 of the Commonwealth Life Insurance Act of 1945 has application in a situation of this kind. The section in effect states that, if the rightful insured makes application for a replacement of a lost policy and the insurer does not provide a special replacement policy within six months of such application, then the insured can approach a court to have the matter remedied. Once the insured is in possession of the policy, his right to payment is undoubted and payment must be made.

#### 5. ABORIGINAL AND ISLAND AFFAIRS TENANCY AGREEMENT

**Mr. Prest**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

(1) Under the terms of the Aboriginal and Island Affairs Tenancy Agreement, is it true that at the expiration of seven days following a tenant's vacation of the premises all goods and chattels remaining on the premises are forfeited to the department and can be disposed of by the department?

(2) If so, when the goods and chattels are disposed of, are they sold by public auction or by what other method?

(3) Are the proceeds from the sale of such goods and chattels then applied towards any arrears of rental or is the money retained in trust for the ex-tenant until such time as a subsequent application is made for return of the goods and chattels? If not, what happens to this money?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. I should point out, however, that the legal right is not exercised other than in extreme circumstances. Only two cases have occurred to date and in each only after more than three months had elapsed.

(2) By public auction or other suitable methods such as donation to public charity or, in the case of unusable items, dumping with appropriate departmental certification.

(3) Proceeds are applied against outstanding arrears. The department's policy would be to refund to the ex-tenant any surplus, if such occurred.

#### 6. POLICEWOMEN

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

(1) Is there no longer provision for an intake of women into the Police Force? If so, will this apply for an indefinite period or is it only a temporary measure?

(2) How many women were recruited in the last three years prior to 30 June, 1977?

(3) What duties are carried out by policewomen?

*Answers:—*

(1) Provision still exists.

(2) 198.

(3) Female police officers are expected to carry out the same duties as their male counterparts.

#### 7. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

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

(1) Will his office be moved to Watkins Place when the new State Government building on the corner of George and Margaret Streets is completed?

(2) Is the date of completion anticipated to be June 1979?

(3) Are steps in train to construct an executive living area to his existing ministerial office in the old Treasury Building?

(4) Does the luxury home-unit standard facilities include plush wall-to-wall carpet, expensive furnishings and cupboards, ceramic tiled toilet area, refrigerator, dishwasher and colour television?

(5) Is the enormous sewerage cost due to (a) relocating drainage, (b) cutting drainage lines across the concrete courtyard, which has been in existence for years, (c) vents having to be taken up three floors of the Treasury Building, (d) work not being able to be carried out on normal Monday to Friday working days and (e) work having to be carried out only at weekends in the Commonwealth Bank premises on the ground floor?

(6) Are the aesthetics of the ground-floor corridor being completely spoilt by a copper vent pipe being installed where it is clearly visible?

(7) Did the construction of this executive suite start late last year and is it yet to be completed?

(8) Are costs involved at least \$50,000 to date, and what is the estimate of the total cost upon completion?

(9) Was the Deputy Director of Local Government removed from his own official office to make way for the executive luxury home-unit-standard facilities for the Minister and, if so, has the deputy director still close proximity to the Minister?

(10) Are the male staff toilets in the Department of Local Government in a disgraceful condition, how often are the toilets cleaned and how many times have they been cleaned during this year?

(11) In view of this extravagant expenditure by the Minister, is this expenditure a true indication of the financial restraint which his Government believes all sections of the community should practise in troubled economic times?

**Mr. HINZE:** I do not know why the honourable member asked this question. I guess it is because he has some cock-eyed idea that he might occupy these palatial chambers of mine at some stage. Would that be the reason? I now read the prepared answer.

*Answer:—*

(1 to 11) I thank the honourable member for his interest in my welfare—and that of the very dedicated members of my Local Government Department staff—in regard to changes to office accommodation and facilities in the Treasury Building. However, after hearing the honourable member's question—and rushing back to the office, in keen anticipation, to look in vain for the “executive luxury home-unit-standard living area” he spoke of (and after cleaning the toilets while I was there, of course), I'm still not sure whether the honourable member is trying to be serious, supercilious or just plain stupid.

**Mr. Burns:** Oh, come on.

**Mr. HINZE:** The Leader of the Opposition should take a look at him and he will be able to form his own opinion.

*Answer (contd.):—*

I'm content to let anyone who might care to read “Hansard” draw his own conclusions on that score.

As a member of the Opposition's “shadowy ministry”, the honourable member, I should have thought, would have known that the allocation of departmental and staff accommodation and facilities is a matter for my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing. If the honourable member is at all serious with his question, which I'm sure most members of this House would doubt, then I suggest he take up those particular matters with my colleague.

As to the luxury motel-style suite to which the honourable member refers, I can only suggest that he should not pay his informant on this occasion, as he has been sold a “pup”. The information is on all fours with a lot of the other drivel that gets passed through to members of the A.L.P.

The area to which the honourable member refers is in fact to be used as a conference room. I might even invite the Leader of the Opposition there, and he might even get a drink, which is more than he gives me when I go to see him. It will be used for ministerial conferences, deputations, Press conferences and similar gatherings

involving myself, the Director of Local Government, other senior staff and members of the Press.

The honourable member for Port Curtis knows that, when he led a deputation to see me in my room down here, people were sitting on the bed, under the bed and anywhere else where they could park themselves. There was hardly enough room for me to get into my own room.

Such a facility of acceptable standard has not been available up to now. If the honourable member seeks to reflect on the efficiency or otherwise of the workers involved in carrying out the necessary work to provide this facility, then that is up to him but I do not propose to join him. This is another matter he could perhaps take up with my colleague.

Suffice it to say that the accommodation is equipped for the role that it will play. This includes carpet on the floor, chairs to sit on, a table, a refrigerator—and even a modern innovation called a flush toilet. If the honourable member wants to know what that is, it is one of those things on which you pull the chain, and jump in. Should the honourable member ever attend a deputation or other gatherings with me in this conference room, he will be very welcome to use all these so-called “luxury facilities”—even the toilet.

#### 8. SUBSIDY, POPULAR THEATRE TROUPE

**Mr. Tenni,** pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation—

With reference to statements in “The Courier-Mail” of 19 April, what are the facts regarding the State Government's withdrawal of a \$2,000 subsidy to the Popular Theatre Troupe?

*Answer:—*

The Government has not withdrawn a subsidy to the Popular Theatre Troupe, which did receive grants in 1974-75 and 1976-77 in terms of the Government's scheme for financial assistance to cultural organisations. The scheme imposes no mandatory requirements on the Government. On the contrary, there is, naturally, a discretionary power as to the disbursement of grants, which can take into account such matters as the availability of funds and all other factors deemed relevant to the situation. This discretionary power was exercised on the occasion in question.

#### 9. RUBBISH DISPOSAL AREA, YORKEY'S KNOB

**Mr. Tenni,** pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism—

(1) Has approval been granted at the request of the Mulgrave Shire Council for an area of land in the Yorkey's Knob

area adjacent to council reserve R.1415 to be used for local government rubbish disposal purposes?

(2) As this area is now urgently required by the Mulgrave Shire Council, if this approval has not yet been granted, when will approval be given so that urgent disposal of rubbish can continue?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) The council's application will receive further consideration after a joint inspection by officers of the council and the Queensland Fisheries Service, which is being arranged at the earliest mutually convenient time.

#### 10. SMITHFIELD AND AVONDALE CREEK SCHEMES

**Mr. Tenni**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources—

With reference to the proposed drainage scheme in the Smithfield area and the amended Avondale Creek scheme, what progress has been made on the amended scheme, particularly in relation to the boundaries?

*Answer:—*

Modifications to the Smithfield drainage scheme as suggested at the public meeting at the end of January are still being examined. Until such time as the investigations are completed, I am unable to comment on the matter of possible boundary changes.

#### 11. LIQUID FUEL AND SOLVENT REFINED COAL STUDIES

**Dr. Lockwood**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police—

(1) With reference to liquid fuel and solvent refined coal, has the Mines Department, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government and a German consortium, selected in Queensland a primary site to undergo detailed analysis of coal properties, coal reserves, overburden, water supply and environmental impact, and a secondary site for a lesser general study and, if so, where are the sites located?

(2) Was the exclusion of Queensland from a recent Press report on this survey and the inclusion of only Victoria and New South Wales accidental, or has Queensland been excluded from this survey?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) Details of the proposed Imhausen feasibility study for the conversion of coal to synthetic liquid fuels have yet to be finalised between the

Governments of the Commonwealth, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland on the one hand and Western Germany on the other. No site in Queensland has yet been selected. Queensland has not been excluded from the feasibility study, and any Press report to the contrary is false.

#### 12. BURNETT RIVER TRAFFIC BRIDGE, BUNDABERG

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

(1) Is he aware of a recent report to the Bundaberg City Council by the council's engineer of serious defects in the Burnett River traffic bridge at Bundaberg, limiting its safe useful life to a few years?

(2) Has a site for a new traffic bridge been decided upon, and what progress has been made with departmental planning?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am informed that the city engineer has not made such a report to the council, though it appears that some sections of the Press may have mistakenly attributed a Main Roads Department report to him.

As the Main Roads Department has in the last two years spent over \$100,000 on maintenance of the bridge, it is obvious that it considers its useful life greater than a few years. The condition of the bridge is being kept under careful surveillance.

(2) No, a site has not yet been decided, but foundation investigations of possible alternatives are nearing completion. This information should facilitate the final decision on the site. When the decision is made, the detailed design of the bridge will be undertaken immediately.

I suggest that the honourable member for Bundaberg speak to his colleagues the honourable member for Rockhampton and the honourable member for Rockhampton North, because at present a bridge valued in excess of about \$5,500,000 is being built at Rockhampton, and also to his colleague the member for Mackay, because a bridge, with approaches, costing about \$6,000,000 is being built in Mackay. That indicates what a benevolent Minister I am. The only point I make about the bridge at Rockleigh in Mackay is that it is to be called the Ron Camm Bridge, after my colleague.

#### 13. IWASAKI TOURIST PROJECT LAND DEALS

**Mr. Blake**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources—

With reference to the ministerial statement by the Minister for Transport on 5 April that the land titles to be held

by Iwasaki will be restricted by law in terms of land-use and subdivision and the statement in "The Courier-Mail" of 23 March by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads that the franchise agreement probably will have an escape clause, whereby Mr. Iwasaki could change the use of the land under the agreement, in view of these totally different statements by the former Minister for Lands and the present Local Government Minister, will he enunciate the existing course of action of the State Government?

*Answer:—*

I do not think this is the time to attempt to deal with isolated and probably out-of-context aspects of the proposed agreement between the State and the Iwasaki Sangyo Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.

As the honourable member and the Leader of the Opposition are fully aware, the proposed franchise agreement will be presented to the Parliament shortly, at which time specific matters can be debated within the context of the whole agreement.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### SELECTION OF TARONG AS SITE FOR NEW POWERHOUSE

**Mr. BURNS:** I have three questions to ask of the Premier without notice. In asking the first one, I refer him to today's A.B.C. news broadcast about the secret meeting at the Executive Building at 10 p.m. on Monday at which the Co-ordinator-General asked the Electricity Commissioner two questions which the Premier said were the basis for the recalculation of the figures on the powerhouse issue. According to the Premier's own statements in this Parliament the Co-ordinator-General, at his request, had already fully investigated the powerhouse issue, and presented a report which was accepted by Cabinet on 13 February. I ask the Premier: Why was it necessary for the Co-ordinator-General to summon the Electricity Commissioner to this late-night emergency meeting on Monday to draw up a new set of figures to justify that decision of two months ago—a decision, I might add, that he himself said on Sunday was final and complete?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** For the honourable gentleman's edification and general knowledge I point out that it was I who summoned the State Electricity Commissioner to the Executive Building about 10 o'clock the other night. It was I who asked, through Mr. Schubert—

**Mr. Burns:** Why did he give you new figures?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The State Electricity Commissioner had not supplied certain figures that we were aware of. The information he gave to the Co-ordinator-General was

passed on to me and others, and that confirmed the attitude, decision and figures we had spoken of previously. This, indeed, confirmed the true picture. We got further information that had not been revealed to me or any other Minister by the commissioner previously, as to his general thinking and the basis on which he had made some of his calculations.

**Mr. Burns:** Are you saying that the A.B.C. news was wrong this morning?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I have made it quite clear to the honourable gentleman. If he has not been helped up to this point of time by all the information that I have given him, and the basis of it, I am afraid I cannot help him at all. It is as simple as that.

**Mr. BURNS:** I will see if the Premier might give us a little more information. I again draw his attention to today's A.B.C. news broadcast about the 10 p.m. panic meeting at the Executive Building on the powerhouse issue on Monday. I ask the Premier: Is it a fact that, apart from the Co-ordinator-General, the Electricity Commissioner and other officials, this meeting was attended also by certain officers of C.R.A., the company which has been offered the Tarong contract? Is it a fact that those officials flew up specially from Melbourne for the meeting to assist him to produce a set of figures designed to advantage Tarong at the expense of Millmerran in his ministerial statement?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** It is about time the poor old Leader of the Opposition woke up. It is time he got his facts and figures straight. I have had a lot of people in to assist to confirm the attitude I adopted previously. As to the people I have in my room—that is my business. I would not be interested in asking the Leader of the Opposition who he gets into his room. I would not like to be seen with many of them.

**Mr. BURNS:** I ask the Premier a further question on the same matter. Is he aware that the Treasurer is reported in a statement today as saying that the figures in the S.E.C. powerhouse report were checked by the Treasury before the 13 February Cabinet decision and found to be as accurate as possible? How does he reconcile this assessment of the Treasury with his ministerial statement on Tuesday that the report was in fact financially astray by almost \$500,000,000? Does he assert, as in the case of the Electricity Commissioner, that the Treasury also was guilty of trying to hoodwink Cabinet? In view of the mounting confusion and obvious economic conflict, will he now have all the financial assessments associated with the powerhouse issue, including the Treasury one and the new C.R.A. one, exposed to a thorough independent audit?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** While I was listening to that long tirade the Treasurer said to me, "Baloney!" That is about all it is. As I indicated to the honourable gentleman a few moments ago, there was other information that the commissioner supplied. That formed the basis on which we made the accurate assessment I gave the House the other day. The honourable gentleman can keep on as long as he likes. The cold hard facts are as I outlined them the other day, after having Mr. Murray in the other night and asking him certain questions in regard to information he had not supplied previously. On that basis we got the picture that I outlined to the House. It does not matter how Mr. Murray tries to twist the words or the situation; he then supplied information that he had not supplied previously. We were then able to get the exact figures of what the advantages were for Tarong—some \$200,000,000 in favour of Tarong.

#### ALLEGED SUPPRESSION OF EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS AT AURUKUN

**Mr. TENNI:** I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs: Is he aware that a large section of the residents of Aurukun are violently opposed to what has been alleged in their name over recent weeks, and that they claim there has been a virtual reign of terror to stop a proper expression of the community's true views? What can the Minister do to allow the real attitudes of these people at Aurukun to be known?

**Mr. PORTER:** I have been aware for quite a number of weeks now of what purports to be a sort of widespread Aurukun hymn of hate against the State Government. It has been orchestrated very carefully by a relatively small group of people and it never did present the valid consensus of the community's opinion, if I may put it that way. I am not sure that there has been the campaign of terror which the honourable member referred to, but extreme pressure has been exerted by a relatively small group to obtain this appearance of pro-Commonwealth, pro-Uniting-Church and anti-State-Government feeling. That is for sure. As a matter of fact a telegram was received only a couple of days ago by my department—and by an odd coincidence I have it here—from Aurukun people who are deeply disturbed at the situation. They say—

"Many Aurukun people and their families have left their homes and gone to other places because they do not agree with what is being done at our community. Will you please help some of us to go to Brisbane to see Mr. Porter and explain to him that plenty of Aurukun people do not want Federal Government but never have any chance to say anything about this. Please help us to see Mr. Porter before it is too late. We do not want to talk to Viner."

These people who sent the telegram, and who speak on behalf of a very large section of the Aurukun people, will be in Brisbane on Monday to see the Premier and me, to express their fears and to see that justice is indeed done in this matter for all concerned.

#### VISITS BY MR. GROGAN TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

**Mr. TENNI:** I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs: Is he aware that a well-known Communist named Grogan is running around the Aboriginal communities using a chartered plane and stating that he is authorised by the Commonwealth to organise petitions demanding full land rights? If so, will the Minister indicate what can be done about this situation?

**Mr. PORTER:** I am aware that this Mr. Grogan is moving around in a chartered plane claiming that he is authorised by the Commonwealth Government to secure signatures to petitions demanding that the Commonwealth control all the Aboriginal and Island communities in Queensland and that they acquire land and set up land-right enclaves here, as in the Northern Territory. Mr. Grogan claims in the communities that what he is doing has the approval of Mr. Viner, the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. But earlier this week in Brisbane Mr. Viner denied categorically to me that he has any knowledge of what Mr. Grogan is doing, that most certainly he has not authorised it in any way at all. What Mr. Grogan is doing is entirely without authority from any Government, irrespective of what he may claim. Since this gentleman, who is so well known to the radical, activist Left, is using a specially chartered aircraft—which is a very expensive operation, to say the least—it would be interesting to know who is making available to him the necessary tens of thousands of dollars. I have one source of information that suggests these funds come, in part, at least, from the World Council of Churches. Unfortunately, I am unable to check thoroughly on that. Certainly it is a real mystery where these huge sums of money come from to enable unauthorised people to go into the communities to try to stir up trouble on a totally fictitious basis.

#### WATER SUPPLIES TO DIRRANBANDI, HEBEL, ANGLEDPOOL AND GOODOOGA

**Mr. NEAL:** I ask the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources: As there is at present a small flow in the Culgoa River, with a further flow coming down the Condamine-Balonne river system and as most of the water with a flow less than 65 cusecs goes down the Culgoa, will consideration be given to putting the drop boards into the regulator at the junction of the Culgoa and Balonne minor rivers as a matter of urgency to ensure sufficient water for the towns of

Dirranbandi and Hebel, as well as towns such as Angledool and Goodooga in New South Wales, all of which are situated on the Balonne minor river? Will the Minister give consideration to allowing the district engineer to make such a decision in future?

**Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT:** I will arrange for the commissioner to make immediate arrangements for an inspection of the Culgoa and Balonne minor rivers to see if readjustment of the regulators should be made.

I go along with the honourable member's request about the district engineer, if it is at all practicable.

#### NORTH QUEENSLAND LAND COUNCIL

**Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG:** I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

(1) Has he heard of an organisation titled "North Queensland Land Council" and is he aware that its executive comprises part-Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people now passing as Aborigines who are either ticketed members of the Communist Party or close associates of known Communists?

(2) Is he further aware that full-blood Aborigines at Kowanyama, Edward River and Weipa deny that these people are Aborigines at all?

(3) Is he aware that the N.Q.L.C. operatives are visiting communities in Cape York Peninsula in specially chartered aircraft and during wet canteen sessions, when community council elders say that these people do not fully understand the nature of what they are signing, endeavouring to persuade people to sign spurious petitions for a Federal take-over of State communities?

**Mr. PORTER:** It would be difficult not to be aware of these things. The latter part of the honourable gentleman's question, of course, refers to the area that I dealt with before. These petitions being put around are indeed spurious. The despicable technique is for these Communists to wait for the wet canteen sessions to go amongst the people and try to get their signatures without ever reading to them what the petition is about—occasions when the elders say that the people are not in the best situation to evaluate what they are doing.

I am well aware of the North Queensland Land Council and the fact that it purports to be an Aboriginal operation, which it is not. Those full-blood Aborigines in the Peninsula areas and on the communities bitterly resent what is being done by these people, pretending that it is being done on behalf of Aborigines in the name of Aborigines. It is a great shame that the Commonwealth apparatus in so many areas is still riddled

with these Left-wing Communists and activists who were put there in the Whitlam days and, I am unhappy to see, still remain. It is a great misfortune for all of us.

#### WELFARE OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**Mr. FOURAS:** In asking a question of the Minister for Welfare, I draw the Minister's attention to comments made in this Chamber on 13 April last by the honourable member for Merthyr, who said that youths who are hardened criminals and require institutionalisation are let loose because—

"... the Director of Children's Services in this State has seen fit to delegate the control of these young people to young child care officers, who make a snap judgment in the foyer of the court and let them loose upon society again."

I ask the Minister if the comments made by the honourable member for Merthyr are in fact true?

**Mr. HERBERT:** The honourable member for Merthyr is a man who has spent a tremendous amount of time in this field. A problem does exist in the community today, and it is a problem which faces the decision-makers in the Department of Children's Services in deciding just what to do with many of our young people who go astray. No matter what they do, 50 per cent of the public think they are wrong because they are too tough and the other 50 per cent think they are wrong because they are too soft. It is also a fact that not only within the Department of Children's Services but in any area in which social workers are involved, because social work is a comparatively new university discipline, the only social workers who are available are very young people. We do not have the hard core of middle-aged people to be found in most other professions.

Young people react in a totally different way from older people in decision-making in this area, so very often there is a clash between them over the decisions that are made. It is a very difficult matter for the director because the department last year handled 20,000 young people—a tremendous number of youngsters—who came under the notice of the department in a variety of ways. Very often the director has to rely on advice from young people.

I have received complaints from police officers and magistrates to the effect that very often young offenders are let loose, and because of these complaints I have received from responsible people, and from the honourable member for Merthyr and other members, I have asked the director to give me a full report on the way in which these decisions are made so that, if in fact we are releasing youngsters into the community who should not be so released, we can take appropriate action.

## RESTRICTED SALE OF COMPOUND ANALGESICS

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I ask the Minister for Health: Is he aware of legislation currently under consideration in Tasmania seeking to confine the sale of compound analgesics to registered pharmacies? In view of reported claims by the Tasmanian Government that it has decided not to wait for agreement among the States on this issue and has elected to lead the way, will he inform the House as to the prevailing status of compound analgesics in Queensland, with particular reference to precautionary measures?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I have seen the report made by the Minister for Health in Tasmania in which he stated what the honourable member has indicated. I would like to place on record in this House the fact that the Queensland Government has been the first to introduce regulations covering the sale of compound analgesics. Queensland was the first State to follow the National Health and Medical Research Council on this matter. I was absolutely amazed at the statement made by the Tasmanian people because at the Health Ministers' Conference only a few weeks ago no State other than Queensland gave an indication that it would move in this direction. The Tasmanian Government was well aware of Queensland's position and what we had undertaken to introduce in this State. In fact at that stage we had already brought down appropriate regulations which are to come into effect from 1 June. There is no truth whatsoever in the statement that Tasmania is the first. Again in a matter of health Queensland has led Australia.

At 12 noon,

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

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

## RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIFTH AND SIXTH ALLOTTED DAYS

Debate resumed from 18 April (see p. 405) on Mr. White's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth) (12.1 p.m.): At the outset I express my appreciation to the people of Chatsworth for the confidence they placed in me by electing me to this Parliament as their representative. I assure every one of them that I will be available at all times to help them with any problem or injustice they may encounter. I also place on record my thanks to my campaign director, John Berndt, and the many other dedicated people who worked such long hours on my campaign.

At this early stage of my speech I shall refer to the controversy about people left off the electoral roll which the Liberal

candidate who opposed me tried to create following my election to this Chamber. The fact that the electoral rolls were in such disarray was the fault of the Liberal members for allowing an electoral redistribution to take place so close to an election, and also the fault of the Minister in charge of the Electoral Office for not implementing proper roll-canvassing between elections. On the two Saturday mornings prior to the closure of the rolls for the last State election, I set up tables in four shopping centres to enable people to check whether they were on the roll. This resulted in over 100 new enrolments for my electorate. The disgraceful part of this exercise was that we had to operate outside the law as the police would not issue permits to allow us to set up information tables in shopping centres. I feel the number of enrolments we received on those two Saturday mornings showed the urgent need for a complete roll canvass of the State. This canvass should take place immediately to put the rolls in order for the local authority election due in March next year.

The second point I raise regarding last year's State election is the attempted bribing of electors by members of the Government parties. It was said many times in my electorate that the only way money would be spent in Chatsworth would be by returning a Liberal member. I draw honourable members' attention to the point raised by the honourable member for Cairns on 18 March 1975, that is, the oath taken by Ministers, which is:

"I do swear that I will, according to the best of my ability, skill, and knowledge, well and faithfully execute the office and trust of" (his portfolio) "of the State of Queensland and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, and that I will in all things honestly, zealously, and impartially discharge and exercise the duties, powers, and authorities appertaining to me in the said office. So help me God."

After they have sworn that oath, they subscribe the roll before a witness. I raise this matter because of the statements made in my electorate and trust that when Ministers are allocating funds they will remember this oath. The point that all honourable members should remember is that we are all Queenslanders, and we should all be treated equally.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you, as the former member for Chatsworth, on being reappointed as Chairman of Committees. I am sure that all the people of Chatsworth feel it is very fitting that you should be presiding during my first Address-in-Reply speech.

I turn to my electorate of Chatsworth. The Chatsworth I represent is vastly different from Chatsworth as it was known in the last Parliament. The old Chatsworth covered 3.2 square miles whereas the new Chatsworth

covers approximately 11 square miles. It takes in all of Carina, Carina Heights and parts of Camp Hill, Belmont, Holland Park and Mt. Gravatt East. It has a number of new housing developments, the largest being Carindale, which has over 2,200 home sites as well as a large residential B development.

In September last year Chatsworth had 16,057 electors; now, only six months later, the enrolment is already around 17,000. By the time the next election is due in 1980, Chatsworth will be well over the quota for city electorates. This is a classic example of a gerrymander where the electoral commissioners have not taken into account population growth.

My electorate has two full Housing Commission estates, one at Carina Heights and one at Holland Park, as well as half of the Mt. Gravatt East Estate. All of the houses in these estates were built by a Labor Government in the 1950s. While the Housing Commission has recently given many of these houses a very rough coat of paint, most of them are still in urgent need of repair. As most honourable members would be aware, the Housing Commission has sacked nearly all of its day-labour workers and now lets most of its maintenance on Housing Commission homes through the private sector. One only needs to inspect the work of these private contractors to see that this is totally unsatisfactory. Instances have been reported to me where painters have spilt paint on tenants' floor coverings and furniture and, because of the contract method they are working under, they don't even bother to clean it up.

I have witnessed a job where four different fencing contractors met on one corner. Instead of placing one corner post and joining four fences to it, as would be the proper tradesman's way of doing the job, each contractor put in his own post a couple of inches away from the other, with the resultant unsightly mess of four posts for one corner.

The tenants of most of these houses are also being denied reasonably cheap rent. The most recent savage rent increase by the Queensland Housing Commission brought the rent of these houses up to \$33.60 per week. The Honourable the Minister claims that this is 75 per cent of the estimated market rent. I raise this point because I consider it is the Queensland Housing Commission's responsibility to set the market, not to chase it.

The Queensland Government should face up to its responsibility in the housing sector and build the homes needed to accommodate an estimated 10,000 people on the Housing Commission waiting list. Besides the tremendous boost it would give to Queensland's ailing housing industry, it would force slum landlords to reduce rents to levels at which people would be able to afford to live in a reasonable manner.

One tenant produced to me pay slips which showed his declining position under the present Government. In July 1976, when his rent was increased from \$19.50 to \$23.60, his gross pay was \$132. In February 1978, after his rent had been increased to \$33.60, his gross pay was \$142. The Queensland Government had taken his whole pay increase for that period.

**Mr. Frawley:** Shame!

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** I agree with the honourable member for Caboolture that it is a shame.

When the increase of approximately 15 per cent in the Consumer Price Index over that 18-month period is taken into consideration, the tenant is \$19.80 worse off in real money terms than he was in July 1976.

**Mr. Bourke:** Have you checked those figures?

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** Yes, I checked them myself.

After this tenant—and most tenants are in the same situation—has paid his rent, taxes and Medibank levy, he is left with less than \$100 per week to feed and raise his family. I challenge any honourable member in this Chamber to exist on that amount of money per week.

On 13 February 1978, I wrote to the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing asking him to receive a delegation of persons elected at a public meeting of over 100 Housing Commission tenants, to discuss certain problems they face as tenants of the Queensland Housing Commission. His reply was—

“I am usually prepared to meet a deputation if a useful purpose will be served or new ground broken. In this case I can see no purpose in a deputation and regret that I am unable to agree to meet one.”

I ask honourable members to consider that statement, especially the phrase “if a useful purpose will be served”. The Honourable the Minister did not know the case we were to put before him, but he decided in advance that it was wrong and would not serve a useful purpose. I would point out to him that, as the Minister for Works and Housing, he is responsible for some 20,000 Housing Commission tenants and thus it is his responsibility to at least listen to what they have to say, and give them a fair hearing. As the Honourable the Minister is not prepared to meet a delegation, I feel it is my duty to give the facts and try to get some justice from this Parliament.

The Honourable the Minister has implied in Press statements, and on two occasions in letters I have received from him, that the Queensland Government is moving in line with the South Australian Government. However, since July 1976, rents in Queensland

have increased by up to \$14.10, while in South Australia the maximum increase has been only \$7. Even these figures do not fully show the differences between the two States. In South Australia the current rent for a three-bedroom double unit is \$22 per week, while in Queensland a bed-sitter, which is nothing more than one room with a curtain drawn across the middle, is \$28.60 per week.

The second point I wish to raise with the Honourable the Minister is the inequalities that exist in the rental rebate system. In South Australia, with an income of \$50, the rent is \$8 while in Queensland it is \$8.35.

Here are some more examples:

Income	South Australian Rent	Queensland Rent
\$	\$	\$
60	9.50	10.85
70	11.50	13.35
80	13.00	15.85
90	15.00	18.00
100	17.00	22.25
110	19.00	25.60
120	21.50	28.90
130	24.50	32.25

As well as the differences charged under the rebate system, I also wish to discuss with the Honourable the Minister the different ways in which the two States assess income for the rent rebate system.

In Queensland all household income, excluding child endowment, is taken into consideration. In South Australia, the rebated rent is calculated on the tenant's income, with \$3 added to the rent for dependent income earners up to 21 years of age, or \$5 if the dependent income earner is over 21 years of age.

An example of this would be a widow with a 20-year-old son. In Queensland, if her market rent was \$32.20 and her son earned any more than \$80 per week, she would not qualify for a rebate. However, under South Australian conditions, her rent would be only \$11 per week, a difference of \$21.20.

The third point I would raise with the Minister is the moving of elderly people from their homes by the Queensland Housing Commission. Pensioners and, in particular, widowers, in order to qualify for a rebate, are forced to sign a declaration which states—

“With reference to my application for a rebate of rent on State Rental accommodation tenanted by me, I specifically agree that:

(a) should the persons in continuous occupancy of the premises now be, or be reduced to, less than an average

of one person for each room deemed by the Commission to be a bedroom or enclosed sleepout, and

(b) should the Commission offer me, at the rebated rent, alternative accommodation which it considers to be suited to the number of occupants,

Then, in the event that I do not accept such offer, I shall be liable to pay full economic rent as assessed by the Commission for the premises tenanted by me and I shall have no entitlement to any rebate thereof and the Commission may at its discretion take appropriate action in terms of my Tenancy Agreement to obtain vacant possession of the premises.”

At first sight that declaration may seem to many people to be a fair request, but I think we need to look deeper. Consider a 70-year-old pensioner who has been living in a Housing Commission home at Carina for 25 years. In order to qualify for a rebated rent, he must sign this declaration. Then, at the Queensland Housing Commission's discretion, he could be offered a flat at Inala, which is some 15 miles away from his present Carina home and the area where all his friends live. If he did not accept this offer, the Queensland Housing Commission could take legal action to put him out in the street.

I know of cases at the present time—and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, know of cases as well—where pensioners are paying \$33.60 out of a pension of \$49.30 per week rather than sign this declaration. I trust that the Honourable the Minister will read this speech and give urgent consideration to changing the system in Queensland to one that puts people before profit.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** He isn't in the House.

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** I know he is not in the House.

This is the first opportunity I have had to put forward some of my views on how I feel a Government can help the community in which we live.

One important way a Government could help our community would be by proper protection of school p. and c. organisations. At the present time schools are forced to raise money for many necessary items of education such as special textbooks, television sets, musical equipment and playground equipment. The list is endless. Whilst the Government grants subsidies to schools, it does not give proper supervision and protection to the goods that are bought.

One instance I would like to mention is the adventure playground at the Carina State School. Plans were drawn up for this project by G. Shaw and Associates. They were approved by the Works Department and the playground was built by Metropolitan Property Services. A couple

of months after the project was completed, a swinging bridge, which was a part of the playground and in itself cost an estimated \$800, literally fell to pieces. Now the school p. and c. association is faced with what I could only call a ridiculous situation.

The builder will not accept responsibility as he built the bridge according to the plans. The firm that drew the plans will accept no responsibility as they were approved by the Works Department. The Works Department will not accept any responsibility as it only approved the plans in principle so that the p. and c. would qualify for a subsidy. The eventual losers will be the parents who slogged their guts out running bingo games and fetes, and the mothers who gave their time to the running of the tuckshop. In this instance, I consider the Government must come to their aid and get the Works Department to rebuild the bridge properly at no further cost to the parents of the school.

If we analyse the situation properly, we will find it is the Government's responsibility to repair the bridge, because, as soon as the adventure playground was built in the school ground, it became the property of the Department of Education, which is the trustee of the grounds. Therefore, all structures thereon are its property, and hence the responsibility of the Government. I am not saying the Government should direct where p. and c.s spend the funds they raise; only that it should give proper protection so that hard-earned money is not wasted.

Another problem which faces many of my constituents is the stench from the Brisbane abattoir. I am informed that it is caused by the burning of blood and bones, which is always done at night or on weekends. This nauseating smell travels well into the suburbs of Camp Hill and Carina, which are at least four miles from the abattoir. The Government has passed legislation in this Chamber which, if implemented properly, would eliminate this pollution problem. I think the time has come when more pollution inspectors must be employed to get out in the field and enforce the law by bringing to court those firms which at the present time are flaunting the law.

Before being elected as a member of Parliament, I owned and operated a small engineering business from 1970 to 1975. Through the experience I gained in this business, I can understand the many problems that face the small businessman trying to operate at a profit in today's marketplace. I believe one of the most important initiatives for small businessmen that the Government could undertake would be a Small Business Department. This department would assist small businesses by bringing together the many different rules and regulations that they must comply with, and advising businessmen what are the requirements of the Government.

Isn't it a lovely state of affairs that Labor politicians have to suggest something along these lines in an attempt to protect the small businessmen in this State because none of the honourable members opposite will do anything for them.

A second function of this department would be to investigate and report to the Government the ways in which the present laws financially frustrate the small businessmen of today. Many smaller operators are being sent out of business by two-dollar companies which get credit and then go into liquidation owing many thousands of dollars to small business.

As the owners of corner stores are often forced to buy their stock at prices above retail prices in large chain stores, a department such as I have outlined could investigate marketing procedure in the domestic sector. When one considers that the present National-Liberal Government supposedly stands for free enterprise, one wonders why it has deserted the many thousands of small businessmen in Queensland today.

Could it be that these businessmen cannot afford the large campaign donations that the Liberal and National Parties receive from the mining companies and multinationals, or is it because the present Government is working towards a complete take-over of Queensland by multinational corporations and Japanese businessmen, such as the Iwasaki scandal at Yeppoon? All I can say is that I am glad we had a Labor Premier in Queensland when Bob Menzies tried to give us to the Japanese, because, if the present Government had been in power in 1942, we would all be eating rice and drinking saki today.

I trust the Government will consider my proposal to set up a Small Business Department. The small businesses of Queensland are run by Queenslanders and employ many thousands of Queenslanders and deserve a far better deal than they are getting from the Government at the present time. If a department such as the one I have proposed was set up in Queensland, I believe it would indirectly help to create employment. Businessmen would regain the confidence they need to start expanding if they knew the Government was prepared to stand behind them. With unemployment in this State at its highest level for over 40 years, the Government needs to take urgent steps to create as much business confidence as it can.

I can truthfully say the largest single problem I have encountered since being elected to Parliament is the plight of the unemployed. In some parts of my electorate, up to 11 percent of the work-force is without a job. Under the policies of the Fraser Government and the Queensland Government, I cannot see the problem getting any better. It is time the Queensland Government faced up to its responsibilities to the people

of Queensland by creating jobs to allow the unemployed to work, so that they can once again provide for themselves and their families.

If the Queensland Government is serious about reducing unemployment, the key lies with the large mining companies.

**Mr. Frawley:** Give us a few ideas.

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** If the honourable member had been listening to my speech, he would have heard some of my ideas.

Firstly, the Government could create jobs for Queensland seamen by saying to Utah, "Employ our men or face the consequences."

**Mr. Frawley:** What about your Russian mates?

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** Since entering this House I have come to one decision, and that is that there is one way that the Australian Labor Party can win Caboolture at the next election.

**Mr. Frawley:** How's that?

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** Invite all the honourable member's constituents into the public gallery and have them listen to him, and see what a fool he makes of himself.

**Mr. Frawley:** You put up two candidates last time, and I did them both. Why don't you give up?

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

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** Let's face it, a company that spends over one million dollars in advertising simply to tell us they are good people, surely can afford to employ Queensland seamen on their ships.

Secondly, the Government should increase the royalties they receive from mining companies. The Whitlam Labor Government charged \$6 a ton as an export levy on all coal taken from Australia, yet Fraser has all but abolished it. This levy did not stop the mining companies from exporting coal, but it certainly gave Australia a far better return than it is getting at the present time. If the Government increased royalties, it would have many millions of dollars available to spend, and this would create employment. Once the mining companies have taken all of our resources, it will be too late to say we should have received more; Queensland will have been left like a deserted quarry.

**Mr. Frawley** interjected.

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** I listened in silence to the maiden speech of the honourable member for Caboolture. Could he do the same for me, please?

**Mr. Frawley:** It wasn't my maiden speech.

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** During the period 1970 to 1975, the most frequent question asked of me, as a businessman, was why did I support the Australian Labor Party.

**Mr. Tenni:** You went broke.

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** I did not go broke.

I would like to place on record my reasons for supporting the Labor Party, and why I feel it is the party best suited to serve the people of Australia. The main reason is that the Australian Labor Party cares about people. It puts people before companies and before profit.

I always draw people's attention to the shabby deal elderly people in Australia are getting from Tory Governments, and point out that these people are the ones who made Australia the free country we have today. I have always found that one can pick members of the Liberal or National Parties by their attitudes to the less fortunate people in our society. How often have we heard the phrase: "I made it by myself; so can anyone else." Whilst that phrase, in itself, could be true, to say it is to show selfishness of the highest degree. If everybody in Australia had the same opportunities and initiative, they would all be bosses. Then who would be the workers?

To me the Australian Labor Party stands for unselfishness. It would—

- \* redistribute through Governments equal opportunities for all people;
- \* provide equal education opportunities based on students' ability and not on parents' ability to pay;
- \* provide medical and hospital care to all;
- \* provide jobs for all Australians;
- \* provide money through the public sector, to enable people to buy their own homes at a price and interest rate they can afford;
- \* change the discriminatory laws we have which allow white-collar crooks to fleece millions of dollars from ordinary Queenslanders; and
- \* improve generally the quality of life for all Australians.

The only opportunity many Queenslanders have had to see a Labor Government was the Whitlam Labor Government from 1972 to 1975. Unfortunately, the achievements of that Government were clouded over by the never-ending and unfounded criticisms and verbal barrage from both the Queensland Government and the media.

One only needs to look around to see the achievements of that Labor Government—projects that were able to be completed only because of the generosity of a Labor Government. In my electorate, there are four pre-schools which were subsidised by the Whitlam Labor Government; the Camp

Hill High School received a \$60,000 grant to help build an assembly hall; we have a magnificent playground at Carina, and many footpaths in my electorate were concreted through direct grants from that Labor Government.

These projects I have mentioned, and many more, would never have received the same priority from a Liberal-National Government. As I stated earlier, its philosophies are based on selfishness and greed and are not concerned with raising the quality of life within the whole community.

Another question often asked of me was—

“How can you, as a business owner, support the Australian Labor Party when the Labor Party is affiliated with trade unions?”

I would like to place on record my support for the trade union movement in Australia. I am now, and have been for many years, a member of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights' Union. I have always requested people working for me to join the union, explaining to them that the conditions and pay they received were a direct consequence of the actions taken by the trade unions. Without trade unions, they would undoubtedly be exploited by companies making them work twice as long, for half the pay.

Since this session has started, on many occasions I have heard Government members attacking union officials personally for the job they are doing. I would suggest that, before Government members make another attack, they go to the Trades Hall and see the cramped and ancient conditions under which these officials work. They would soon realise that only people dedicated to helping their fellow man would persevere under these conditions.

Soon we are to see the good work that is done by trade unions destroyed by this Parliament through the proposed right to work legislation. This legislation is wrongly named, and should be titled either the “right to scab” or the “right to destroy workers living conditions” legislation.

One needs only to compare living conditions in the States of America to see that workers are far worse off in the States that have such legislation. We will have in Queensland the ridiculous situation that workers under Federal awards will be far better off than workers under State awards.

I think that we must look very closely at the way this supposedly free-enterprise Government works. An egg producer in Queensland has to sell his eggs through the Egg Marketing Board; a dairy farmer, his produce through a milk or butter board; a farmer, his produce through the Brisbane Markets; a fisherman, his catch through the Queensland Fish Board; and so the list goes on.

Almost all primary producers are made by this Government to compete on equal footing; yet the Government is to say to trade unionists—and only because the trade union movement supports the Labor Party—“No more will there be trade union shops. We will change the law and completely erode the conditions that you and your fathers have fought so hard for so many years to achieve.”

This brief outline explains my reasons for supporting the Australian Labor Party, and I trust that, following the next election, we will be implementing the policies of our party as the Government of Queensland.

In the time I have left in this debate, I would briefly like to place on record my first impressions as a member of Parliament and also raise one of the most important issues facing Queenslanders today.

Two words would describe my first impressions, and they are “frustration” and “disgust”—frustration at spending the first five months of my first term waiting for Parliament to begin sitting; and disgust at the way in which the Government runs proceedings in this House. It took eight sitting days for every member of the Opposition to get the opportunity to receive an answer to a question, and in the Matters of Public Interest debate, which is held every Wednesday between 12 noon and 1 p.m., Opposition members are allowed the opportunity to speak only twice, whereas Government members have four opportunities to speak. This means that during the first session of this Parliament the Opposition will be able to raise only eight issues of public importance. Fifteen members of the Opposition will have no opportunity to raise an issue.

This Parliament must consider ways of changing this unfair system of debate. The Opposition must be allowed equal time in Matters of Public Interest debates.

In addition, a complete new system of asking questions must be considered. So far this session Ministers have used up most of question-time with ministerial statements. Ministerial statements should come after question-time, thereby leaving a full hour every day for questions.

I mentioned earlier the frustration of waiting five months for this Parliament to be recalled. I know that all 23 members of the Opposition were waiting eagerly for Parliament to resume so that they could debate the major issues affecting Queensland during that time.

**Mr. Bourke:** When are you going to start?

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** The Government does not give us the opportunity. Yesterday the Opposition had a motion on the Business Paper to debate Tarong and also to debate the right to work legislation. If the honourable member supports the Opposition in bringing that motion before the House, we

will have a debate. He should not ask stupid questions. Yesterday, too, a division took place in this Chamber on the tabling of documents relating to Tarong, and every Government member voted against the motion. Last night on the Willesee programme the president of the Liberal Party said that members of that party don't agree with Mr. Bjelke-Petersen; they just vote with him. That is the situation in Queensland today.

I know that all 23 members of the Opposition were waiting eagerly for Parliament to resume so that they could debate the major issues affecting Queensland during that time. But one by one the months went past, and we saw the elite band of 18 making decisions that should have been made in this Parliament. We saw the banning of SEMP, sight unseen by most members of Cabinet; Aurukun; the Iwasaki scandal; the siting of the new powerhouse at Tarong and many other issues.

I have heard the remarks made by Government back-benchers in their Address-in-Reply speeches. Most of them have implied alarm at the stranglehold Cabinet is getting on decisions in Queensland.

Government members delight in telling us they have a free vote in Parliament, so I challenge them to stand up and be counted. Let them join the Opposition in demanding that these important issues be debated in this Parliament.

One of the decisions made by Cabinet in the parliamentary recess was the siting of the new powerhouse at Tarong. This certainly is the main issue that should be debated in this Parliament.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** It's a public scandal.

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** It certainly is.

There was no necessity for that decision to have been made by Cabinet, as Queensland has been waiting since 1972 for a decision. Waiting another two months to allow a full debate in Parliament would not have made any difference to the construction timetable. We must look at what this decision—which was made by 18 men and, as reported in the Press, supported only by 10 of them—is going to cost Queensland. The proposal put forward for Tarong will cost Queenslanders \$259,000,000 more than the tender by Millmerran.

**Mr. Austin:** You've been listening to Tom Burns.

**Mr. MACKENROTH:** I was listening to the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police in Parliament the other day when he told us that the cost was an extra \$259,000,000. As he has read the report, I will trust what he said.

That represents an extra \$130 for every man, woman and child in this State. Surely no Cabinet Minister can justify imposing this charge simply to site a new powerhouse at Tarong and not Millmerran.

**Mr. TENNI** (Barron River) (12.33 p.m.): I, too, have very great pleasure in speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion. They did an excellent job and were successful in getting the message across in reply to the Governor's Opening Speech.

I pledge my own loyalty and that of the electors of Barron River to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

I congratulate Mr. Speaker, the Premier and all Ministers for the excellent manner in which they have performed their duties over many years and continue to do so. I similarly congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in your role as Chairman of Committees.

**Mr. Scott:** This is your last term.

**Mr. TENNI:** That was said between 1974 and 1977, but I am still here and a few A.L.P. members have gone.

I thank the electors of the Barron River electorate. It is a very hard electorate to work. It is a large electorate. I have worked very hard during my time in this Parliament, which, of course, was shown up by the figures in the 1977 election. Areas like the Douglas Shire which in the past have been Labor strongholds were won this time by the National Party. Of course I put that down to a certain shadow Minister for Primary Industries. I would like to thank him for his assistance by coming into that part of my electorate. His support of my opponent helped me to win the election. The electors could see the type of talent—if it could be called that—that the Opposition spokesman for Primary Industries had, and that made my job much simpler. They knew that the ability of the present member was far ahead of that of the Opposition spokesman on primary industries and the Labor candidate for the seat. The honourable member for Mackay did such a marvellous job for me that I will welcome him back to my area at any time. I will even help to cover his costs.

I shall now refer to a few of the achievements in my electorate in the past 3½ years. Before I represented the area I had not seen such a run-down electorate. I have often heard Opposition members say how well Labor representatives look after their electorates, but their remarks do not apply to Barron River. To prove my point I cite the old Barron River Bridge that had been there since doomsday. Until I became a member of this House no decent representation had been made to replace that bridge.

**Mr. Scott:** Bill Wood got that for us.

**Mr. TENNI:** Bill Wood did not do that at all. Bunny Adair was pushing for it for years, and although he was a darned good member he did not get it. Bill Wood pushed for it, but he did not get it. When I got into Parliament I soon got the ball rolling and an excellent bridge is now constructed across the Barron River at Stratford.

**Mr. Scott** interjected.

**Mr. TENNI:** I am the one who should be congratulated for that—I and the people who supported me in making sure that the bridge was built. I do not doubt that the former members may have tried to get it, but they were weak and did not have the ability to make submissions in the proper way.

Drilling for the new Kamerunga Bridge has been completed and the plans are under way. I have been assured by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads that tenders will be called in August. While that bridge is being constructed another will be built over Avondale Creek. The people of the Tableland, Mossman-Daintree and the fast-growing northern beach areas will then have an opportunity to go to Cairns in all weather. They will have a Q.50 bridge and road which will allow them to go about their normal business in a sensible manner.

The upgrading of the Rex Range road between Mossman and Mt. Molloy over the Tableland is another great achievement. Many tourist coach operators want to use that beautiful scenic drive but in the past the representation has not been strong enough to get something done about sealing the road. The first leg has been completed and the second leg will be commenced in mid-June. But we are not simply building a bitumen road over the Rex Range. We are being sensible about it and, with the co-operation of the Douglas Shire Council, the Main Roads Department, the farmers and other people of the Douglas Shire, we intend to use 26 000 cubic metres of gravel taken from the range for road-widening purposes to construct the long-awaited airport to be built between Port Douglas and Mossman.

**Mr. Scott** interjected.

**Mr. TENNI:** The former Labor members did not even think about an airport. They did not think of giving the people of the Douglas Shire an airport for emergency purposes or other activities. For three years I walked over land in the area, including swampland, trying to find a suitable flat area that met the requirements of the Department of Civil Aviation and other authorities. During Labor's representation of that area an airport was not even thought of. That was typical of past Labor representation. We now have a suitable piece of land and approval of the Lands Department, the

Fisheries Department and the Douglas Shire Council. The Mossman sugar mill and certain farmers are donating trucks with drivers to cart soil for this project in conjunction with the Main Roads Department. If it saves one life we will have achieved something worth while. Never in the days of Labor's representation did it think of one life in the Douglas Shire area. But I have been successful in that, and we will see a strip formed there in the near future.

**Mr. Casey:** Did you raise these matters at your branch when you were a member of the Labor Party?

**Mr. TENNI:** When I was a member of the Labor Party, I did not represent the Douglas Shire area. I represented Mareeba in those days. That was when it wasn't full of the Reds, as it is these days. They were starting to go pink, and that's when I got out. It's full of Reds now—Communists—and those blokes in the Opposition won't dissociate themselves from the Communists. They will never dissociate themselves from the Communists. Through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I challenge the shadow Minister for Primary Industries to admit it now. He should stand up in this House and dissociate himself from the Communists—instead of his party taking money off them for campaigns. That is when I will respect its policies.

**Mr. CASEY:** I rise to a point of order. The member for Barron River has challenged me. I certainly dissociate myself from the Liberal Party in this House.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! That is a facetious point of order.

**Mr. TENNI:** I can understand that, but what about the Communist side?

I will never understand how a sensible person like the honourable member for Mackay ever thought of going back to the Labor Party. It kicked him out once. It got rid of him. He sat up on the back seats and bowed and scraped to Labor for years.

**Mr. Moore:** Crawled on his stomach.

**Mr. TENNI:** Yes, crawled on his belly. Eventually he went back in. Why, I'll never know. He thinks he is going to take Tom Burns's place. I think he might. Tom Burns's ability is not highly thought of in this State, so perhaps the opportunity is there for the member for Mackay. Good luck to him if he makes the grade. We will slaughter him, too, just as we are doing to Tom Burns. Probably when he becomes Leader of the Opposition he will resign again.

Another road that we have developed in my area is that from Mt. Carbine to Mt. Molloy, which was a shocking piece of road. Again, the previous representative did nothing about it. It is now a full bitumen road

right through to the new complex called R.B. Mining, which will be officially opened by the Premier on 5 May. It is a very big complex employing a lot of men. I am proud to stand up in this House and say that I helped create employment for those people through my efforts to achieve the development of the road and certain other things.

I am very proud to be associated with the Main Roads Department, and particularly our district engineer, because of a section of road on the Kuranda Range. That is a very narrow road, and very dangerous.

**Mr. Scott:** The last part that was done was not worth doing, because you still can't pass a car on it.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest that the honourable gentleman proceed with his speech.

**Mr. TENNI:** The member for Cook would not know much about being able to pass cars. After all, he has only just got his licence back. It so happens that there is an overpass on the section of the Kuranda Range which has just been widened. If he hasn't seen that, his licence should be taken off him again—though perhaps not for the same reason—as he is not capable of driving.

**Mr. Scott:** Did Frawley tell you to say that, Martin?

**Mr. TENNI:** Frawley doesn't tell me to say anything. I've got the ability to leave you for dead.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest honourable members lift the level of this debate a little.

**Mr. TENNI:** The Atherton road is another that is being developed at the moment, although my opponent in the last election made the statement that nothing was going to be done about it. However, the work had already started when he made that statement. That is the type of ability we see on the Labor side.

**Mr. Scott:** He'll get you next time.

**Mr. TENNI:** He might, too. He has even cut his beard off. He is no longer a New Guinea man. He has been down here 18 months. The people might accept him, but he'll have to be good.

**Mr. Moore:** When will he get shoes?

**Mr. TENNI:** He'll have to learn to wear shoes, yes.

The widening of the road from Miallo to Rocky Point is another achievement. It has made it much more simple for the trucks carting sugar from the Miallo and Rocky Point areas into the mill at Mossman. It has made it much more comfortable with easier passing and fewer dust problems. The

Reid Creek–Daintree road was in a shocking state for many, many years. It is now a hive of activity. We will soon see a very wide bitumen road, with new culverts. There will be crossings over Reid Creek and many other small creeks in the area.

I now refer to the overpasses on the Cairns–Mossman road, which is another achievement in improving conditions for large sugar trucks travelling from Mossman Mill to Cairns. I hope that in the coming financial year the Minister will see his way clear to provide bitumen surfacing on the overpasses because they have been such a huge success for trucks and caravans.

**Mr. Scott:** When are you going to build a tunnel on the Kuranda Range?

**Mr. TENNI:** I am glad that the honourable member raised that matter. As he knows, the Main Roads Department has conducted an investigation and surveys of it. However, there are certain problems associated with it. I am happy to hear the honourable member for Cook raise something sensible for the first time in his life. The problem is that it is not solid rock construction and tunnelling in the rocky outcrops would create a problem. The cost of concreting the tunnels would be very great. Naturally, there are more important sections of roads in the Barron River electorate on which work needs to be done. But the honourable member will see it happen for sure. He is stating deliberately that the engineer at Cairns and the Main Roads Department overall have no ability. I do not agree with him. They have a ton of ability. The Main Roads Department had this idea a long time before I raised it.

The widening of the Mt. Molloy–Julatten road has been completed. The new member for Cook will enjoy the privilege of using that road when he is travelling through my electorate to get to his.

**Mr. Jones:** That's kind of you.

**Mr. TENNI:** I do not mind doing that to help him out.

The next big job that will be undertaken in 1979–80 is the drilling and testing for the Kamerunga Bridge and the upgrading of the Delta Road. When this is completed, the whole Delta Road system will be very good. It will be wide and suitable for fast travel. It will please all of the people in the Barron River electorate and the areas to the north—the Bloomfield River area and the Tableland.

The school buildings throughout my electorate are reasonably good now. They were pretty lousy when I became a member. A tremendous amount of work has been done on them. The construction of the domestic science block at Mossman is near completion and a manual arts block has been constructed there. Work has been done on the house and school at Daintree. The schools

at Rocky Point, Miallo, Caravonica, Freshwater, Machan's Beach, Cairns and Edge Hill are reasonably well cared for now. Most of the extensions required to make those schools suitable and a pleasure for the children and teachers have been carried out. I thank the Minister for Education as well as the previous and present Ministers for Works and Housing for their co-operation.

At the moment I am working with my colleague the honourable member for Cairns to improve two or three schools in his electorate because children and teachers from my electorate use them. I believe that he and I have a joint duty to endeavour to make those schools as comfortable as possible. Next Friday week he, the Minister for Works and Housing, the p. and c. associations, the principals and I will be inspecting those schools. I am sure that following the questions we will ask, as I asked about my schools, we will see some success in the near future. I thank the honourable member for Cairns for extending to me the invitation to join with him in making this possible.

Attention has been given to the police stations at Mossman, Mareeba and Kuranda. Kuranda urgently requires a home for the constable. Accommodation is very hard to obtain in the Kuranda area. I hope that the Minister will make provision in his Estimates for a home at Kuranda.

In my time as the member for the area I have seen the development of the Port Douglas Harbour. This was not the result of the work of the previous member. The harbour is well on the way to being developed fully. Within the next few months it will be one of the best and prettiest harbours in Queensland with deep water at low tide. I am very pleased about this and should like to thank the Government and the Minister concerned for their efforts in making Port Douglas Harbour a beautiful place with facilities for fishing boats, prawn trawlers and private craft.

After the 1977 floods, large sums of money had to be spent to repair the damage caused by erosion to the river banks and beaches and to guard against future erosion. I would like to thank the various Ministers for their help and co-operation during this crisis, particularly the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources. I would also thank the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, who made the necessary arrangements for rock to be made available for use in restoration work and I am very pleased that I can tell my constituents that more rock will soon be available from the widening of the road up the Kuranda Range. This rock will be used to protect the riverbanks and the beaches from further erosion.

I will now deal with a few points that the honourable member for Cook put forward. He made a statement—and I had to take a point of order on it—that I was

responsible for the dismissal of the ex-member for Barron River, Mr. Bill Wood. Honourable members may not realise that Bill Wood is a personal friend of mine. I regard him as a very decent and sensible fellow. But there is no way in the world that I will accept responsibility for his dismissal. I wasn't even here at the time; I was in Western Australia. I am shocked that the honourable member for Cook, a North Queensland man, should make a statement like that. It is just unreal.

The honourable member for Cook, in his maiden speech, claimed that I was responsible for Mr. Wood's dismissal from Government employment. I think I should clear the air and inform honourable members of the history of this matter. First of all, the ex-member for Barron River, Bill Wood, resigned from his Government employment when he was elected a member of this Parliament. He was the member for Barron River until I defeated him in the 1974 election. He then applied for a job and was given one, but he did not like the position and so he resigned. He was then given another job. He then contested for the first time the seat of Leichhardt, which meant that he again had to resign his employment so that he could contest the election. He was defeated in that election and was again re-employed. He again contested the seat of Leichhardt and had to resign from his employment. That was the fourth occasion on which he resigned. He is entitled to a job, as anyone else is, but he is not entitled to a job before so many other teachers who had their names down long before he did.

Mr. Wood knows that if I am able to help him I will be only too pleased to do so. I have got this message through to him. However, I will not be accused of the things that the honourable member for Cook accused me of in his maiden speech.

The honourable member for Cook also claimed in his maiden speech that public servants who supported A.L.P. candidates in the 1977 election were moved sideways after the results were known. I will now endeavour to prove to this House how incorrect and false that statement is. I can name a few public servants in my electorate who assisted the Labor candidate—Mr. Bob West, a railway employee; Mr. Vince Walker, a sergeant of police and president of the Mareeba Branch of the Australian Labor Party; Mr. W. Fossit, who is with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in Mareeba; Mr. Bill Eales, a schoolteacher; and Mr. Jim Wallace, who is also with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. Those gentlemen helped the Labor candidate but they have not been moved sideways; they still remain in their jobs. There are many more like them.

This is an example of the untrue statements that the honourable member for Cook made. There is the proof of the pudding.

No-one wants to see them moved sideways. They have the right and privilege to support the political party of their choice. Whether they are right or wrong in their choice is their own business and not the business of honourable members in this House. To my knowledge, not one public servant who supported the A.L.P. has been moved aside in my electorate, and I have named a few of those supporters who are known by me.

The member for Cook mentioned bad roads, schools and many other things in his electorate. He mentioned particularly the Lakeland Downs area and the bad roads north of Laura. I do not think the honourable member for Cook realises that I know his electorate better than he does. I have travelled over it many times during the last six years. He makes a statement like that; but then he immediately says that the electorate was well represented by Labor members prior to 1974. He has to make up his mind—either the area was well represented by Labor Party members prior to 1974 or it was not. He makes the statement that everything is in one heck of a mess and at the same time he says that the area was well represented by Labor Party members. He is just being foolish. He has to sort himself out and make up his mind which way he is going. The Labor members either did a good job or they did not. One minute he congratulates them and the next minute he says that everything is in a mess.

He then claimed that the tin-treatment works at Irvinebank were run down. Yet this Government spent a considerable sum of money in overhauling that plant in 1976-77. This was done on the recommendation of the former member (Mr. Deeral), not the former A.L.P. members, who apparently did not even know it existed. The present member has only just found out where it is, anyway. The honourable member also claimed that there was a shortage of police in the electorate. Yet he had been a member only a few short weeks when he found out that the Queensland Police Force is certainly on the ball. In fact, police are always on the ball.

It is also very interesting to note that the honourable member for Cook does not live in his electorate. If a member is sincere and fair dinkum, he should always live in his electorate. That has always been my claim.

**Mr. Jones:** Neither did the former member for Cook.

**Mr. TENNI:** Does that excuse the present member for Cook? I do not believe it does. I believe that, if a member is sincere and wants to represent his electorate properly, he should live in the electorate. I live in the centre of my electorate—at the hub of the wheel, so to speak—and I move out from there. I do not care who the member is; that is the way it should be done.

The honourable member for Cook also said that the Government had cut 15 per cent off tobacco growers' quotas in the past two years—

**Mr. Scott:** Which is true.

**Mr. TENNI:** The honourable member for Cook does not know what he is talking about. This Government did not cut quotas by 15 per cent over the past two years. If the honourable member has the time and sits down with me for half an hour, I will teach him a little about the tobacco industry. I have lived with it for the past 18 years and I know a little more about it than he does. He knows as well as I do that the Queensland Government has nothing whatever to do with the tobacco industry. Short-sell—that is what the growers call it.

**Mr. Scott:** You haven't done anything for them.

**Mr. TENNI:** That shows how much the honourable knows. The fact is that the stabilisation scheme was approved by the Australian Agricultural Council, and the tobacco industry representatives on that council come from all tobacco-growing States. All I can say to the honourable member for Cook is that if he is so interested in the problems of tobacco growers, and I agree with him that they do have problems, he should talk to Mr. Wran and Mr. Dunstan. The heavy State tax that each has imposed on cigarettes and tobacco has been a crippling blow to the industry in this country. Tasmania and Queensland are the only States that have not imposed a State tax on tobacco products. If the honourable member wants to overcome the problems of the tobacco industry, he should fight for the removal of this tax.

The honourable member for Cook also said that only 3 per cent of the net profits from bauxite-mining at Aurukun would go to the Aborigines. I think he said that 3 per cent of nothing is nothing. How stupid can a person be? If I have minerals on my land and someone finds them, I get nothing, so why should anyone have anything better than the average Australian? After all, we are all Australians.

He also referred to the arid, red areas at Weipa. I have been to Weipa four times in the past three years, and I think the reforestation being carried out there is something of which the company and we as Australians should be very proud. The honourable member is deliberately knocking mining activities at Weipa, which will indirectly create unemployment in his own electorate. I think the company is doing a marvellous job, and with the reforestation programme is actually creating employment; and the honourable member should be proud of it. He should rise in this place and say so, but I will forgive him because he is a new member.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. TENNI:** Opposition members tore me apart after I made my maiden speech because I had made mistakes but, by jove, I learned the hard way, as the honourable member for Cook is doing. It is just so silly for any member to make such statements.

**Mr. Scott:** You're not much of a teacher, Martin.

**Mr. TENNI:** I will teach the honourable member a lot.

I would now like to speak about a problem which exists in my electorate and, I should imagine, in the electorates of many other members, and that is the problem associated with Aboriginal communities.

**Mr. Scott:** Now you are going to give them another bucket, aren't you?

**Mr. TENNI:** As far as I am concerned, our black and white—

**Mr. Scott:** I suggest you don't go to Aurukun.

**Mr. TENNI:** The honourable member claims that I should not go to Aurukun. After I asked a question about it this morning, he said that if I went to Aurukun I would be shot. I do not doubt that. He has probably just been up there and arranged it. That is the type of thing such people do. He has just come back from Aurukun.

To return to what I was saying—the fact is that we are all Australians and we should all be treated equally.

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

**Mr. TENNI:** Before the recess for lunch, I was dealing with the Aboriginal question. I believe that all people, no matter what their colour or their religion, are equal. We are all Australians, and it is about time we accepted that.

People in my electorate—in Mareeba, Mossman and part of Cairns—are not prepared to put up with the present situation associated with certain sections of the coloured community. I say very clearly that I am not denigrating the Aboriginal people. There are some good clean-living Australians amongst the Aboriginal people in that area. Unfortunately, a very large majority of Aborigines are creating problems for the rest of the community, including coloured people.

**Mr. Scott:** Do you mean most of the Aboriginal people?

**Mr. TENNI:** The honourable member for Cook does not know what he is talking about. Before he stood for election to Parliament he had not seen an Aborigine.

For example, at Mareeba most of the public-order offenders are Aborigines—that is, drunkenness, obscene language, disorderly

conduct and many other charges. Aborigines also constitute a large proportion of the criminal offenders.

**Mr. Scott:** Are you saying that they are worse than the white people?

**Mr. TENNI:** No.

The honourable member for Cook has been up there, and he admitted this morning that he is going to have me assassinated if I go to Aurukun. It certainly would not be with a rifle; probably it would be with a boomerang or a spear. Then again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable member probably has never seen a boomerang or a spear.

It seems that, by and large, arrest procedures for both black and white people are similar. However, after arrest blacks have a decided advantage through the Aboriginal Legal Service. There is no means test on legal aid, and even if an Aboriginal offender is employed, he is not required to contribute to legal costs. On the other hand, if a white person who is in employment is arrested, he has to pay his own legal costs of lower court hearings and must face a means test to obtain poor-prisoner's defence for higher court hearings. The Australian Legal Aid Office is only for persons being cared for by the Commonwealth—for example, pensioners, those on unemployment and sickness benefits, and so on.

Recently instances have been occurring in which Aborigines who are suspects are being told by the Aboriginal Legal Service that they must not answer police questions if interviewed by police. This is a basic right of both black and white people, but a white person does not have the advantage of any legal service if he is in employment, so he is greatly disadvantaged in comparison with his black counterpart. As I said earlier, I believe that we are all Australians and that we are all entitled to similar treatment.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Well, why don't you pay them as Australians, instead of paying them \$60 a week?

**Mr. TENNI:** The honourable member who has interjected—I do not know where he is from—is a bit of a stranger in the House. Where is he from? Wolston. Well, that electorate will go down, for sure. After listening to his maiden speech, I suggest that it cannot help going down.

Courts in the Mareeba and Cairns areas do not seem to differentiate between black and white when they are setting punishment, and that is as it should be. As I said earlier, there should not be any differentiation between black and white; all Australians should be treated equally. However, we all have to behave as Australians—in our appearance, our dress, in hotels, towns and schools.

In some areas blacks seem to receive better treatment than whites, and that has been mentioned to me by people in the Normanton

area. In fact, I believe that a number of Normanton residents have approached politicians—I imagine that the honourable member for Cook would have been approached by members of the white population in Normanton, but, because he might lose a vote, he would not be prepared to do anything about it; he would be prepared to discriminate—to investigate what they claim is very lenient treatment being given to blacks by the courts in that area. Persons found drunk and unconscious would break down into about 90 per cent black and 10 per cent white.

Aboriginal courts on missions, conducted by councils, vary too greatly in punishments to make a comparison. It would depend on the attitude of the particular council. It would depend on which tribe was represented on the council and the tribe of the persons who come before it. There would be a high penalty for someone from the opposition tribe and a low penalty for someone from its own tribe. In most instances when blacks appear in court the magistrate refuses to deal with the matter until an Aboriginal Legal Service representative is present. That is not done with whites.

**Mr. Frawley:** I am a blood-brother of the Arunta tribe. What would happen to me?

**Mr. TENNI:** I don't know. The honourable member had better check with the honourable member for Cook; he could be a blood-brother of that tribe.

On social service day—on most days, in fact—Aborigines are plentiful at the hotels but a rare sight in butcher shops and supermarkets. They are charged ridiculously low rentals. We saw what happened to the beautiful homes that were supplied in Mareeba. The occupiers of three or four of those homes are to be congratulated because they have looked after them. They have cultivated flower and vegetable gardens and planted fruit trees. They are good, solid Australians. I do not refer to them as coloured people because they should not be referred to that way. The remainder of those houses are completely wrecked.

An arrogant attitude is becoming apparent in the younger Aborigines. They congregate on footpaths in business centres, so that other pedestrians have to walk on the road or in the gutter to get around them. They are not above giving whites a bit of a shove. On one occasion in Mareeba an Aboriginal woman pushed a white woman into the gutter saying, "That's where you belong, you white bitch." I don't believe that that is the correct thing to do, but that is the type of thing that is happening. Women have complained to me about being grabbed on the rump when they were walking along the main street. Obscene suggestions have been made to white women in the main street. All that is uncalled for. Admittedly, that sort of thing happens in the white community, but not as much as it is happening in the dark community.

The honourable member for Cook would know that canteen nights on the missions regularly produce violence of varying degrees. That places a terrific stress and strain on the members of the medical profession on the mission. Doctors have to stitch cut heads and attend to broken arms because of the violence caused by alcohol.

Quite a number of Aborigines charged with stealing are charged because they have stolen food after they have spent their money on grog. They give the excuse of being hungry. I feel sorry for some of the Aboriginal children who suffer through that type of thing. A considerable amount of police time is taken up by the Aboriginal community in Queensland—and not just in North Queensland. One of the members on the socialist side of the House said just a while ago that we should abolish the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. Possibly this is a type of apartheid. Unfortunately those people need assistance, and we must help them out. When they can help themselves, we should get rid of that department as quickly as possible. They are all Australians and are entitled to use the same departments as the white community. If they have a matter that comes under the Department of Works and Housing, they should be able to go to the Department of Works and Housing; if it is a health matter, they should be able to go to the Department of Health. There should be nothing to deliberately create discrimination against one or the other.

**Mr. Scott:** You are adopting the Labor Party's policy on that matter.

**Mr. TENNI:** I believe in looking after all Australians. If the Australian Labor Party has an apartheid policy, that is a matter for that party. I do not agree with it. I believe in treating all Australians the same. At the same time I believe that all Australians should treat all other Australians the same. We should not have to put up with inconvenience caused by any race, whether it be white or black. All races should be treated on an equal footing.

Before concluding I should like to make some comments about the present Federal Government and the home-consumption price of sugar, which I believe is going to be something like \$18 a tonne. The sugar industry in my area is in trouble, along with the tobacco industry and the grazing industry. The mob on my right backed the Whitlam socialist regime all the way. They backed that Government, which broke hundreds of thousands of small businesses. Indeed, 176,000 small companies went broke throughout Australia when it was in power. The Leader of the Opposition and all his cronies backed it completely. We cannot allow similar happenings. The Fraser Government must realise that the sugar industry is in trouble. We all know of the problems we had recently with the Japanese. They are not fools; they know the price Australian

people are paying for their sugar. That is why they put on an act about paying what they said was a very high price. I thought the sugar industry's submissions would bring sense and light to the Federal Government. And I was pleased to read in yesterday's "Cairns Post" that the Federal member for Leichhardt criticised his own Government—opposed it bitterly—because he believes in the rights of the sugar industry. Somehow or other we must get the message to the Federal boys that a home-consumption price of \$20 a tonne is insufficient. The big farmers have troubles, but the small farmers on 2 000 tonnes or less are history.

I have not heard one Labor member speak about helping the sugar industry. They are all quiet and docile. They can talk only about a powerhouse decision that is over and done with. Why can't they be constructive and demonstrate their so-called power in this House? They complain about having only two speakers in the debate on Matters of Public Interest on Wednesday. How many more do they want? There are three parties in this House—the National Party, the Liberal Party, and the Labor Party; each party is entitled to two speakers. That is what Labor is getting and that is what is fair and square.

**Mr. Frawley:** Do you know what they called the Whitlam Government?

**Mr. TENNI:** No. I'll bite.

**Mr. Frawley:** Whitlam chickens—all Left Wings and bums.

**Mr. TENNI:** I see. That is probably true, too.

I hope that in the next couple of days the Federal Government will realise its terrible blunder in crucifying the cane farmers of Queensland.

**Mr. Scott:** It is your Government.

**Mr. TENNI:** I don't care whether it is or not. I am not afraid of speaking here; I am not chicken or lily-livered like Opposition members. I say what I mean. I represent the people in my electorate, not the Federal Government. When I am on my feet I say what I want to say. I do not have to listen to comment from the socialists on the left.

I only hope that the Federal Government realises it has to do something very quickly to save the sugar industry of North Queensland. The men in the industry know what has to be done. The submissions they made had sufficient bite and strength, but the Federal Government overruled the proof given to it by industry leaders who are very capable in their field.

**Mr. DOUMANY** (Kurilpa) (2.28 p.m.): I rise to support the motion moved by the honourable member for Southport and seconded by the honourable member for Warwick in reply to the Opening Speech

delivered to Parliament by His Excellency the Governor. Once again I pledge my loyalty and that of the electors of Kurilpa to Her Majesty the Queen.

I congratulate the Governor on his excellent Opening Speech and on the very fine way in which he is discharging his duties. I am sure that every honourable member has the utmost confidence in his ability to discharge his important role.

At the same time, I congratulate Mr. Speaker on his re-election to office and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your reappointment as Chairman of Committees. I am sure that we all appreciate having the House in such competent hands.

This afternoon I shall speak firstly of the role of Parliament. Having spent a term here, I can look back with enough experience to be able to make worthwhile comments. In the Queensland Parliament we follow the Westminster system. One of its most important aspects is that the sovereignty of Parliament is absolutely paramount. What we need is greater expression of that sovereignty through the private members. Regrettably there is a tendency on the part of Governments (and I am talking here about Cabinet—the Executive) to diminish the importance of private members, regardless of whatever goodwill or good intention there may be. It is natural for human beings to want to make life a bit easier, and work at the point of least resistance. However, it is also a fact that we want private members to contribute the maximum possible to the government of the State, and we want them to contribute it through this Parliament.

During the last Parliament we saw with the introduction of the Subordinate Legislation Committee a very big step in that direction. I believe that the Government has a constructive attitude, despite all the criticism in the Press—in editorials—and that which flows from political opponents of the Government. Undoubtedly a constructive effort is being made to improve the performance of the Parliament. The select committee recently appointed to inquire into education is another constructive step. My only hope is that we will see more select committees appointed by the Parliament so that more private members can take a real place in deliberations on important issues, make their contribution and in fact help to form policy.

I would like to see, too, the introduction of a public works committee and a public accounts committee, because undoubtedly we want greater surveillance of the bureaucracy. In no way am I denigrating the bureaucracy. Some extremely competent people head Government departments and instrumentalities in this State. Some very strong people are responsible for operating our affairs. Nonetheless, no-one is beyond reproach—and no-one should be beyond reproach. This Parliament has the task of representing the interests of all individual Queenslanders. It

needs committees of this sort. I would say that a public accounts committee is particularly important, because it constitutes a constant watch-dog on the expenditure of our funds and resources. Nothing is better than a watch-dog appointed by this Parliament—one that stems from this Parliament.

The reason for the existence of such committees—for strengthening them and having more of them—is even greater because we do not have an Upper House. One of the damaging blows to the democratic system in Queensland was made by an A.L.P. Government in the 1920s when, despite the results of referenda, by subterfuge and cunning those members in the place across the corridor voted themselves out of existence.

**Mr. Moore:** Even though the referendum favoured retention.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** Yes. Even though the referendum favoured retention of the Legislative Council, they abolished it.

**Mr. Scott:** A progressive step.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** They had principles.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** It is remarkable to hear comments of that sort coming from the other side of the House. They should stop to think that in all other States of the Commonwealth the Legislative Councils were retained—and retained in fact by a succession of Labor Governments.

**Mr. Scott:** What good does it do?

**Mr. DOUMANY:** A comment of that sort is remarkable, coming from an intelligent man like the honourable member from the North. We all know that, in order to represent our electorates satisfactorily, we must have individual contact with our constituents. Many of us have 20,000 constituents, which means a population of upwards of 40,000 people—men, women and children. In my electorate I have the gaol as well, so another couple of thousand can be added. We have to maintain effective contact with those people. I am sure that most honourable members are trying to do their jobs diligently. At the same time we have a river of paper flowing across our desks from Government departments as well as the very critical river of paper flowing through this place in the form of legislation.

**Mr. Wright:** You get four letters a week; come on, admit it.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** There is no question that at times we do not pick up detail. The honourable member for Rockhampton would be one of the first to admit that. I have heard him say that sometimes we fail to pick up errors in detail because legislation is pushed through.

We need a Legislative Council that has no job but to review legislation. It could be a nit picker. It could pick the eyes out of every clause and dot the i's and cross the

t's. Whatever obstruction there might be to it, it is one of the best checks and balances possible. If anybody is concerned about the power of the Executive—the absolute power of Ministers, Premiers and Prime Ministers—he should reflect on the counterbalancing effect an Upper House would have on those people. In the absence of an Upper House in this State we are extremely vulnerable to the exercise of power.

A good deal of criticism has been voiced about the length of sittings in this House. Certainly, owing to an election slightly earlier than usual last year, the total number of days we sat was low. Even if the election had been held on the normal date, there would have had to be an early cut-off of the sittings. Over our history, our present total number of sitting days compares quite favourably with what it has been.

What I take issue with is the disposition and spread of the time that we do sit. Most honourable members detest, and should detest, being required to sit into the early hours of the morning doing something like two or three normal days' work compressed into one day. We have a dilution of debate because as members get tired they are less and less prepared to pick at legislation and criticise it. They are less and less prepared to take the trouble even to read it. As I said, by sitting abnormally long hours, we do in one day the equivalent of the work of three average working days. In this way we have one period of questions instead of two or three. In effect Ministers are required to confront the Parliament and expose their affairs to questioning and scrutiny for only one-third of the time that they should be.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** If the honourable member will let me finish, I will let him make his point.

In addition, the length of time available for the debate on Matters of Public Interest is reduced. By sitting long hours, we reduce the number of Wednesdays that we sit. Therefore we have fewer grievance debates.

I should like to see a longer spread of sitting days. I should like to see the Parliament sit reasonable hours. We should have reasonably short days so that we can work effectively while, at the same time, having good and regular access to our electorates to serve our constituents better.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Whilst I agree with everything you say, will you agree with me that Ministers are taking up a lot of question-time with ministerial statements?

**Mr. DOUMANY:** Ministers have to say their piece. At times I disagree with the length of their statements. If there is one thing about parliamentarians, including Ministers, it is that they talk too much. There is no questioning that many things could be said in this place in one-fifth of the time actually taken. Some of the public

servants who work for Ministers are extremely clever. The honourable member for South Brisbane is smiling. Of course, it is only months since he was in the role of writing answers to questions for Ministers, and he knows all the tricks of the trade. Regrettably, the trick of the trade is to spin it out. If one Minister can spin it out, he contributes to the interests of the other Ministers. The length of statements concerns me, as does the length of answers to questions. I am appalled at the length of some of the questions, too, especially some coming from new members.

**Mr. Tenni:** What about Mr. Prest? Yesterday he gave notice of one that was two miles long.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** As I say, I am appalled at the length of some of the questions; they are far too long. I believe that we should introduce a rule to cut down the length of questions.

**Mr. Wright:** You'd be one of the greatest offenders when it comes to lengthy questions.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I deny that. I have not heard such detailed questions as those from the honourable member for Rockhampton. He is just a jot-and-tittle man from the New Testament, or from the Old Testament, if you like. He talks about (a), (b) and (c), and subsection this and that. For goodness' sake, let's be objective about this.

There is another thing that worries me about our parliamentary system, although this happens more in the Commonwealth sphere than it does here, and that is the retrospectivity of legislation. If there is one way to beat the rules, it is to change them after the game has started.

**Mr. Fouras:** That is what the Premier has done a few times recently.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** It is a sin of Governments of all colours, but in Canberra at the moment it is an enormous sin, because whatever a person thinks about the elimination of current tax schemes and the need to reform taxation, a lot of genuine businesses and firms will be in absolute chaos, especially when three years ago they thought they were planning with certainty a certain line of action and a certain programme of expenditure, and now they find that they will be up for liabilities that they did not anticipate. It will wreck a lot of businesses. It will send them to the wall. I am amazed that the bureaucrats in Canberra have managed to twist the ear of the new Treasurer effectively enough to force retrospectivity in these measures. Some people might think that these measures are very desirable. In fact, I think it is important that we get taxation revenue from those who can pay it and who should pay it, but I believe that retrospectivity is not the way to get

a short-term gain for Government revenue in the coming year. I believe it has very, very dangerous implications.

While I am on the subject of Parliament, I think I should talk about our federal system. Unfortunately, during the period when Mr. Whitlam was Prime Minister we witnessed an assault on the concept of the Westminster system and the Upper House and an enormous assault on the concept of federalism. There is no question that Mr. Whitlam would have dearly loved to see the end of State Governments, because as a centralist he believed in one total unit of government, centralised in one area. Totally centralised government is an anathema to me, and I believe that it is important for parliamentarians, whether they be Federal or State parliamentarians, to recognise their equality in our federal system. A parliamentarian in this House is just as important as a parliamentarian in the House of Representatives or in the Senate. It is regrettable that there are some federal members and senators who tend from time to time to demonstrate a sense of superiority, and they do so overtly, I might add.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Yes, and it's confined to the Liberals.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** It is not confined to Liberals; it is fairly rife amongst the Federal members.

**Mr. Wright:** I'd agree; there are some National Party ones among them, too.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** Certainly there would be some National Party ones among them; the disease is catching. However, as I have said, there is absolute equality between members of this Parliament and members of other Parliaments, including Canberra, South Australia, New South Wales and so on.

**Mr. Moore:** The Federal Parliament is the child of these Parliaments.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** Indeed it is. It is a product of all the Parliaments of the States, which agreed on an overall, integrated system. If people cannot look at it in that way, then they cannot understand the politics of Australia. It is extremely important that we have this equality, recognise it and try to live by it. It is also important to recognise that it provides checks and balances, just as a Legislative Council or an Upper House does.

I would now like to talk very briefly about the economy, because much of what we see in the newspapers today, and much of the comment that is flowing to and fro in the community, is a result of economic factors that are imposing on us as individuals. There is no question that since 1972 we have gone through a most difficult period, and there is no doubt that in December 1975 the Fraser Government inherited an extremely complicated and difficult situation.

**Mr. Fouras:** They haven't improved it much, either.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** The honourable member for South Brisbane should not interject from other than his own seat, but since he has interjected—

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Row):** Order! I will take up that point and remind honourable members that they should not interject from other than their proper seats.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I would remind the honourable member for South Brisbane that, whatever arguments one might have about other concomitant factors, the rate of inflation is far lower than it was three years ago, despite the artificiality of the C.P.I. figures; because, as the honourable member would well know, the C.P.I. is a very arbitrary piece of machinery.

**Mr. Fouras:** At what price, though—200,000 more people out of work despite a decrease in inflation!

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I am not minimising the problem of unemployment, and I am certainly not minimising the enormous problems confronting small business. I am not minimising all those areas of hardship—I know they exist—but I would also point out that the rate of inflation has to be brought down to a level where business confidence can re-emerge, where people can be taken on to the work-forces of companies, where little businesses can spring up again, where building and construction can resume and where people, particularly those on fixed incomes—the superannuitants, the pensioners and all those people who cannot go to an Arbitration Court or the Prices Justification Tribunal—can survive. The strain on those people is enormous.

Only the other day I was talking to the Leader of the Opposition outside this House about the massive impact of inflation on superannuitants. For instance, widows of members who were here in the 1950s are now on pensions that are absolutely unrealistic. They are receiving only \$20 or \$30 a week, and suffering greatly from the effect of inflation. It just bites into the livelihood of little people. There is no question that the Fraser Government has tackled that problem, but I am very concerned about its reluctance now to take a few steps along the road to priming the pump. There is perhaps excessive power in the Treasury bureaucracy operating at the present time, which wants to have a very safe game in which to play. It is very tempting for the official economists to say to a Minister, "Leave it as it is because everything will work out fine at the end." Somewhere along the line the circuit has to be broken, and I believe that this is the time to start breaking it.

Amongst the unemployed there are many potentially productive people. I would not say that everyone is productive, because, regrettably, a minority of unemployed do not want to get a job at present. I stress the word "minority"; but there is a minority, and I know of some cases of employers who are trying to get, for instance, labourers and cannot get them.

One of the biggest problems at the moment is unemployment amongst very young people, and it is very high. The social effects and the effect on the future lives and attitudes of these young people, especially school-leavers who have not obtained a job, is something that needs special consideration.

I think it is vitally important for the Government to put a little bit of grease on the wheels of the economy. A big step in that direction was taken in February this year, when taxation scales were effectively adjusted downwards.

**Mr. Moore:** A bit of sand is needed on the rails so that the wheels can get a better grip.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** The honourable member for Windsor might have a point. In effect, we are saying the same thing.

There is no question that the economy is looking for a lead and, unfortunately, that lead must come from government. We cannot expect businessmen and employers to make all the running in the first place.

I should like to think that the time has come to look at things such as the development of infrastructure. We must not allow the present infrastructure to run down, and I have a horrible feeling that in the present careful and tight programmes for the economic management of the nation, infrastructure is beginning to lag behind the needs of the nation. I have in mind all the infrastructure—that which serves rural industry, the ports and their facilities and roads, as well as that which serves urban communities. It is all lagging behind because we are all tightening our belts. Both business and the Government are tightening their belts.

**Dr. Lockwood:** I think we have to get inflation down so that local government can again function properly.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I would agree with that. Local government is one channel through which some pump-priming can be done.

**Dr. Lockwood:** I would hate to see us dependent on central hand-outs for local government.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I should certainly like to think that the needs of such a programme are identified by the Commonwealth in co-operation with State Governments, because State Governments know a great deal more about what is going on down on the ground than does the Federal Government.

I should like to see a bit more imagination displayed in the taxation system. There is no question that we are a very heavily taxed nation.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Especially under this rotten Tory Government.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I point out to the honourable member for Archerfield that the greatest acceleration in the growth of tax revenue in this country took place under his illustrious colleague Mr. Whitlam between 1972 and 1975, when the tax take jumped by a factor of 2 or 2.5. He should be very careful in making statements such as that.

Let me get back to the core of the matter. We must look to businessmen to employ many of the people who are now unemployed. They must be employed in the private sector, and business can only grow and expand its work-force when it has a market for its goods and services. It would be suicide for it to do so otherwise.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** I am beginning to realise that you are ministerial material. You should be on the front bench.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I am speaking about the economy, and I turn now to the car-manufacturing industry. That industry is under a lot of strain at present. One has only to read in this morning's Press about Chrysler, which is supposed to be virtually on the point of going out of business. That would be a tragedy. In the car-manufacturing industry there is low demand and over-supply, and car manufacturers are running to the Prices Justification Tribunal, getting price increases, increasing their prices, and expecting the market to expand.

**Mr. Moore:** And then the trade union movement goes for a bigger bite.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** And the trade union movement goes for a bigger bite, which lifts the price a bit further. Many people would be happy to buy a simpler vehicle, with fewer options, if the price was at a reasonable level.

**Mr. Moore:** How much would I get for my 1961 Austin Freeway now?

**Mr. DOUMANY:** The honourable member might get \$100, which would cover the registration, the battery and the tyres. If the honourable member wanted to get a reliable vehicle as a replacement, it would cost him several thousand dollars. It is time that sales tax on cars was differentiated so that utilitarian vehicles of reasonable price were given a definite advantage. The sales tax on a simple, safe Holden, Ford, Chrysler or whatever that was optioned to the minimum and selling at a reasonable price should be brought down to something less than one-third of the current level. To the fellow who wants to buy a Jaguar, the top Statesman, Caprice or whatever, the price does not really matter very much. He is not

price-sensitive. It is about time the mass market was recognised as the most critical segment of the car industry.

There are many other products in the economy on which sales tax is being levelled blindly on a blanket basis so that the same percentage imposition applies to high-priced luxurious items and low-priced utilitarian items. The Treasury has to show more imagination. The Treasury has to wake up to the fact that revenue comes out of people, not out of things. The people need special consideration. If we could get that sort of imagination, we would see the car market jump significantly. If we could get the price of a Holden Kingswood, as a basic car, down to \$4,000 or \$5,000 on the road, everybody would buy that make and model. It costs about \$7,000 at the moment.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Row):** Order! Would the Chamber please come to order. There is too much audible conversation.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** In the present energy conservation situation other measures could be combined with the sales tax measure I have mentioned. We have to start penalising the owners of vehicles that are heavy consumers of precious hydrocarbon fuel. Such vehicles must be given a disability so that people will move towards vehicles of lower fuel consumption. The State Government can make its contribution here, too, by selectively changing registration fees to make it far more expensive to register a heavy vehicle.

**Mr. Moore:** Determine it on cubic centimetres rather than cylinders.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** That is right. It is the capacity, not the number of cylinders, that counts.

While on the subject of energy, I suggest the removal of sales tax on items like solar heaters. Such innovations require encouragement, yet they are taxed. Until recently sales tax was being charged on creams for the prevention of sun cancer. After enormous protests something was done about that. Such is the insensitivity of tax collectors. When we read the Bible we realise that they were not very well regarded in those days, either. Regrettably there is still a tendency for tax collectors to behave in the same way today. They have to realise that they must tailor their efforts to the needs of the people.

I turn now to some of the bread-and-butter issues concerning us in Brisbane at the present time. I am very concerned about the situation of housing and accommodation.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** That is a scandal, you know.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** I would not like to see Labor's methods put into operation.

In today's issue of "The Australian Financial Review" the Federal Construction Minister, Mr. McLeay, who was in Adelaide speaking to a conference of surveyors, is reported as saying that a tightening supply/demand situation is facing Australia in rental accommodation because fewer and fewer investors are prepared to put money into flats. At present, it is a difficult proposition to get a reasonable return. I do not say that flats are worth what is being charged for them—in many instances they are not—but an enormous lag has occurred in the construction of new units because of disincentives facing investors.

**Mr. Fouras:** The Housing Commission has built only 7½ per cent of all private house accommodation in Queensland.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** The Queensland Housing Commission has done a fine job considering the rough treatment it got from the Federal Government.

**Mr. Fouras:** At the same time the Government of South Australia built 25 per cent.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Row):** Order! There will be no cross-firing in the Chamber.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** Ownership of houses is vital for Australians and their families.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** It is fast disappearing.

**Mr. DOUMANY:** It is not.

We want good rental accommodation at a reasonable price for all the young families saving money for a deposit and waiting for the economy to turn upwards. It is becoming harder and harder for them. In South Australia, the A.L.P. Premier (the notorious Don Dunstan) imposed rigid controls on rentals and aggravated the situation down there. The article in today's issue of "The Australian Financial Review" pointed out the drastic effects on the people of South Australia. We do not want that here. We want incentives to be given to investors so that increased rental accommodation will be available to put the market more in balance. We must meet the growing demand.

More funds must be injected into home-ownership. In the 18 months prior to the end of last year, the Queensland Government injected \$35,000,000 of special funds at 7½ per cent interest into housing. Loans of up to \$18,000 were subject to a moderate means test which, I think, was a combined income of a man and his wife of \$260 a week. That was an enormously important contribution to Queensland's economy and to home-ownership. I hope that the Treasurer in his forthcoming Budget can find more of this money because housing is a critical area. If people are not well housed and happy, all the social welfare, all the fancy, carpeted classrooms and all the

other frills provided for the community are but nought. People must have a decent roof over their heads, with the certainty of having it tomorrow, the week after that and the year after that.

At present, housing should be the Government's top priority. It is most appropriate that the Minister in charge of housing is with us this afternoon. I am sure he realises housing's priority and will be fighting for funds for home-ownership.

In the past 12 to 18 months, enormous strides have been taken in transport, particularly rail transport, with the cross-river link and electrification. Railways are the absolute basis of a good urban transport system. I hope that the Minister for Transport looks closely at initiating the electrification of lines going through South Brisbane. The southern suburbs of the city deserve an electric train service. In the light of the enormous expansion on the south side of Brisbane, electrification of the lines must be given top priority.

I would hope that, as soon as that cross-river rail link is completed and traffic begins to cross the river, plans will be launched for the construction of electrification facilities on the South Brisbane line. I would also like to see the link-up of that line across to the bayside areas. I believe there is an opportunity for Brisbane to have a railway system second to none if we can move now and move with confidence.

I would hope, too, that we see an improvement in rolling-stock on the south side of Brisbane as soon as the bridge is finished and as soon as electrification of the Darra-Ferny Grove line is finished. When the new, electrified rolling-stock is put into service, I would like to see the better-class diesel rolling-stock pushed into the south side of Brisbane, because we have not seen much of it up till now. The south side needs a fair deal in railway transport.

I would like to finish on an area of grave concern—the treatment of the ageing and the disabled in our community. In recent times—in October 1976—a report entitled "Health Problems of the Ageing in Australia" was published by the National Health and Medical Research Council. I commend that to all honourable members, because it talks about the demographic patterns in Australia and the inevitable ageing in our population, with a consequent inevitable demand for all Governments to face up to the problems of the aged and an ageing population and determine what is best for such a population. One thing that is emerging is that we should care for people in their homes and not in institutions. I wish to quote from the recommendations on page 52 of that report. Recommendation 6 reads—

"Hospital, community and social welfare services should be integrated to meet the individual requirements of the elderly person. It is the responsibility of each community to ensure that its own efforts are

co-ordinated to achieve the best results for the aim of keeping the elderly in their own homes."

I believe that that is critical.

While we are at it, let us not forget the quadriplegics and paraplegics. As people are killed and maimed on the road each week, we are creating another problem and we have to face up to it. As yet we have not faced up to it properly. I know that the Minister for Health has started to do so and is determined to tackle these problems.

**Mr. MILLINER** (Everton) (3.7 p.m.): Firstly, I congratulate His Excellency the Governor on his presentation of the Government's legislative programme. I also congratulate Mr. Speaker on his election. His election unopposed is an indication of the respect that the members of this Opposition have for him. I also congratulate my colleagues on this side of the House on their election.

I take this opportunity to thank the many people both within and outside Everton who assisted me during the election campaign. I would like to make special reference to my campaign director, Mr. Ray O'Hara. Although relatively inexperienced, he undertook the job with a great deal of determination. What he lacked in experience, he made up for in enthusiasm. I also thank Everton Young Labor, the Arana Hills and Mitchelton branches of the A.L.P. and the waterside workers for their untiring efforts which made my election to this place possible. I am and shall always remain their humble servant.

It would be remiss of me if I did not pay tribute to previous members who have represented this electorate with a great deal of dignity. First, Mr. Eric Lloyd was the member for Kedron from 1951 to 1972. Mr. Gerry Jones was the original representative for Everton from 1972 till 1974. In the Brisbane City Council the electors of Everton have been represented by Labor aldermen for a long time, first by Mr. Roy Harvey and then by Alderman Brian Mellifont, both of whom have represented the area well.

Following the redistribution, the complexion of the Everton electorate changed rather dramatically. From an electorate based within the boundaries of the Brisbane City Council, the new Everton includes areas of the Pine Rivers Shire. While it lost parts of the suburbs of Stafford, Everton Park and Grovely, four additional suburbs were added from the Pine Rivers shire—Ferry Hills, Arana Hills, Everton Hills and Bunyaville. Those suburbs are situated immediately to the north and west of the old Everton electorate.

By 1870 there were 30 people living in the Pine Rivers Shire in Everton. The main activities were dairying and timber-getting. The population remained fairly static until 1900 and then grew steadily

throughout the next 50 years. By the time of the 1954 census, 336 people resided in the area. The first housing lots were sold in the late 1950s. Initially there was no reticulated water or sewerage; the roads were unsealed and there was only a concrete causeway across Kedron Brook, which separated Brisbane from the Pine Rivers Shire.

However, the district grew rapidly. Young couples in particular were attracted to it by relatively cheap land in an attractive setting not too far from the city of Brisbane.

By 1966 the population of the area had grown to 2,000. Water had been connected and a bridge had been built across Kedron Brook. As the area grew, the first shops and schools were established and the roads were progressively sealed.

By the 1971 census, 8,200 resided in the area and by the 1976 census the population had grown to 14,154. The growth of these suburbs in the last 15 years has been rapid.

Today the electorate contains many attractive residential areas—it also contains some less desirable features in the form of about a dozen industrial buildings—but it has developed primarily as a residential area and nearly all the homes in it have been constructed in the past 15 years. These homes have been built using a wide range of materials, visually very pleasant. The most attractive parts of suburbs are those where residents have planted trees. The appearance of the suburbs would be greatly enhanced if more trees were planted in yards, along streets and alongside the industrial buildings.

The forest character which attracted many people to the area initially is slowly but surely being destroyed. This would not be so if special efforts were made to retain the trees as areas are developed and if those which are removed were replaced when houses are built.

Figures from the 1971 census indicate that of a total labour force of 2,896 residing in the area only 82 or 3 per cent work in it. A further 66 people travel into the area to work. When the total local employment of 148 is compared with the residential work-force of 2,896, the role of the area as a place of employment is relatively minor. The lack of reasonably significant recreation, cultural or scenic resources precludes the area from becoming a major drawcard for visitors. Predominantly residential in character, what local employment exists is important to those who are employed.

It is misleading to read too much into these figures. Suffice it to say that the area is largely populated by people from the middle socio-economic classes. Most travel outside the area to work—97 per cent. Over half of these travel into the inner city area of Brisbane.

An analysis of the population by age and sex indicates a very high proportion of households consisting of young couples

with very young families. It is expected that new families moving into the area will be of much the same composition. However, as those families already there move into the higher age groups, the distribution of the area as a whole will become more evenly spread and approach that of other more established areas.

The breakdown of the work-force figures indicates that, in 1971, 36 per cent of the women between the ages of 20 and 39 were employed. Only one-tenth of these were employed in the area. This proportion may or may not have changed much since 1971 but it is not likely to have altered significantly. Financial pressures and changing social attitudes towards working women will tend to have increased this proportion while higher unemployment in the work-force as a whole may have discouraged women who might have sought employment.

At the 1976 census there were in the area more than 2,700 children of pre-school age. If only 20 per cent of their mothers work, compared with more than 36 per cent of women between the ages of 20 and 39, then approximately 500 children are potentially in need of day care. A proportion of these will be absorbed into kindergartens and pre-schools but a significant number will require a care facility of some other type. In addition we have over 2,400 primary-school children. If 25 per cent of their mothers work, then a further 600 children are potentially in need of after-school supervision.

I take this opportunity to mention one of the leading identities of Arana Hills, Mrs. Melva Welsh. Mrs. Welsh was one of the pioneers of Arana Hills. She has been actively engaged in community work for the past 20-odd years and has been responsible for the editing, production and distribution of "The Adviser" newspaper. Her welcoming of new residents has helped them settle into their new surroundings with a minimum of fuss. I personally congratulate her on her efforts.

Local government is the closest level of government to the community and therefore plays a very important role in the development of Queensland. It is local government that supplies most of the basic requirements—road-works, sewerage, cleaning, maintaining parks and gardens and many other jobs that make our way of life as comfortable as it is today.

It is becoming extremely difficult for local government to function effectively without more assistance from the Federal and State Governments. The backlog sewerage scheme introduced by the Labor Government was a tremendous boost to local government as it gave direct access to Federal Government finance. The scaling down of the backlog sewerage scheme in 1976 has caused many problems for local authorities. Sewerage work which was started under the funding agreement had to be curtailed or the local

authority had to go out and borrow privately to complete the sewerage works. Consequently, in many local authority areas, ratepayers were faced with an increase in their rates to pay interest and redemption charges on these loans.

Rate charges are an ever-increasing problem in our community. The electorate of Everton has some areas controlled by the Brisbane City Council and others by the Pine Rivers Shire Council. In McIlwraith Street, which is the boundary between the two local authorities, the residents under the control of the Pine Rivers Shire Council pay approximately \$150 a year more than their neighbours, living across the street, under the control of the Brisbane City Council. This difference in rates between the Brisbane City Council and the Pine Rivers Shire Council has caused many problems in Division 1 of the Pine Rivers Shire. Many residents firmly believe that these dormitory suburbs of Brisbane would be better off if they were brought under the control of the Brisbane City Council and enabled to enjoy the added services provided by the Brisbane City Council such as transport and full-time representation from their elected representatives.

From the debate on the subject, it is quite obvious that the only way to resolve the dispute is to conduct a poll in these suburbs so that in a democratic way the residents themselves can determine which local authority they prefer to belong to.

The revaluation of the Pine Rivers Shire in December of this year will further aggravate the situation because it would seem that people do not understand the method that local authorities use for determining the amount of revenue that they require to complete their programmes. I agree with the Minister for Survey and Valuation that the system of assessing land valuation and land tax should be overhauled.

The valuation equalisation method operating in New Zealand, and recently adopted in South Australia, should be considered in this State. It has been proven and is simple to operate and could be easily adapted to the needs of this State. It is based on the State being divided into five areas and annual valuations being applied to all these areas. In every five-year cycle the Valuer-General undertakes a normal valuation of the areas. Reliance is placed on the experience of the valuer responsible for an area to advise on the adjustment to be made to the total existing valuation of the area, to bring it up to the level of the latest area valuation carried out in the special-purpose area. He is furnished with all the latest information on sales that have occurred in the area and the difference between the existing valuation and those sales, and from his experience, he must decide whether that ratio is reasonable or should be varied. His decision will depend largely on whether many sales have taken place in the area or whether there is a

dearth of sales information, to which properties the sales are related—residential, commercial or other use—and the circumstances surrounding each sale. After determining approximate ratios, the valuer then adjusts the total valuation of the area to the latest general valuation level, and this becomes the equalised valuation. No adjustments are effected to individual property values.

Under valuation equalisation ratepayers have no right of objection or appeal except every fifth year, because no change is effected to the existing property values other than the natural causes until the fifth year of revaluation for each area is made, nor can there be any right of objection for appeal against the total adjusted value which the Valuer-General annually determines for each area.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Row): Order! Once again I ask honourable members to moderate the level of conversation in the Chamber. If this does not occur, the debate will be held up until it does. The honourable member for Everton.

**Mr. MILLINER:** As no other person in the State possesses the information required to decide by how much the existing total assessed value should be adjusted either up or down to equalise it with the level of the latest five-yearly general valuation completed, the equalised valuation is a carefully determined judgment and should not be the subject of questioning by any person, even the Ombudsman. For a valuation equalisation to be successful, it is imperative that the decision of the Valuer-General be final and not subject to appeal; that is the case in New Zealand.

The valuation equalisation system has all the advantages of an annual valuation without the disabilities of appeals and objections. It permits the Valuer-General to carry out revaluations to a five-year-cycle pattern. The rate is levied on the valuation in force, which is accurate and actual.

The amount payable annually in rates will reflect market values of property and will, in turn, be sensitive to wage and cost-of-living variations. Increases in rates will occur annually, and will be spread over the whole five-year period instead of occurring in the year of the revaluation. The system is simple to operate and should be understood by most ratepayers. All properties of equal market value should pay the same amount for rates annually regardless of whether they are located in metropolitan or country areas.

The Government takes great pride in the electrification of the railway line between Ferny Grove and Darra. I find it rather disappointing that this project has been deferred for some 20-odd years. It was the Labor Government of the 1950s which started the electrification of the railway system in this State, and it was not until the Federal Labor Government was elected in

1972 that it was resumed. I urge the Government not to stop at the electrification of the railways. I believe a co-ordinated system of transport is needed so that commuters will not be required to drive their motor vehicles to railway stations. The Government should introduce a system of feeder buses for the suburbs of Ferny Hills, Arana Hills, Everton Hills and Everton Park.

With the increase in vandalism and crime in urban electorates, increased police protection should be high on the Government's list of priorities. The area serviced by the Mitchelton Police Station is far too great for the personnel and cars with which it is now equipped. It should be upgraded to a 24-hour police station with additional staff and equipment so that a 24-hour patrol can be maintained.

With the increase in the young population in the Everton electorate it is pleasing to see local residents concerned enough to attend a meeting held to establish a youth club. I hope their efforts prove fruitful, and that in a couple of years a viable youth club will be operating in the electorate. Sport and recreation can make a tremendous contribution to the quality of life. Adequate avenues should be made available to encourage participation in every type of recreation and assist in its development for the enjoyment and physical well-being of the community.

There should be established in Queensland a State administration headquarters for sport and recreation containing trained personnel supported by adequate office facilities. Sport, directly and indirectly, probably interests more people in the community than any other activity. Education of children's minds and bodies should go hand in hand. One without the other leads to failure to reach full potential. Sport also creates the ideal social climate for bringing all people together on a common level, as well as gaining for our nation recognition and prominence throughout the world. Many people from overseas countries would be unaware of Australia's existence but for the achievements of many of our sportsmen and sports-women.

In the Housing Commission area in Everton it is becoming obvious that the Government must look at the housing of the aged. Some of the very first Housing Commission developments were undertaken in this electorate. Consequently, the children of the families who moved into these areas have now left and quite a number of three-bedroom homes are occupied by aged couples or a single person. I urge the Government to look at a kind of development like the Endeavour Project at Waterloo in Sydney, where multi-storey units have been constructed for the housing of retired people. Such projects should be constructed in the area or as close as possible to the area where these people have lived so that they may remain near to the environment that they know.

It is becoming obvious that housing in this State has reached crisis point because, first of all, the cost of buying a block of land and then building a house on it is now out of the reach of many young couples. The Government should take the initiative through the Housing Commission and provide more money so that every young couple can realise their dream of owning their own home. More than ever before, many people will never own their own home, but again the Government must take the initiative through the Housing Commission by supporting an extensive building programme to provide low-rental accommodation. This, I believe, would have a two-pronged effect. Firstly, it would stimulate the building industry and create many job opportunities not only in the building industry but in industries associated with it and, secondly, and probably more importantly, it would provide good, cheap accommodation for those in the community who really need it.

The Government should consider resiting the new high school at Ferny Grove. With some 1,450 children attending high school, and 2,800 attending primary school in the suburbs of Ferny Hills, Arana Hills and Everton Hills, the need for a high school in this area is paramount. The number of children that a high school at Ferny Grove would service would be limited, but with the electrification of the railway line, a number of children would be able to attend high schools closer to the city.

As the Education Department already has four primary schools in the Everton electorate and has acquired land for a further three primary schools there, I sincerely believe it should start immediately to plan a high school in the electorate.

Education is a life-long and on-going process. Although recognising the basic importance of the three Rs concept in education, I believe that, in this day and age of tremendous technological change, education needs to go further than the three Rs. Children must be taught to cope with life; they must be taught to choose intelligently; they must be taught a capacity of self-discipline; they must be taught a sense of social responsibility; and they must also be taught the ability to form meaningful human relationships.

As I said, education is a life-long and on-going process. It is not realistic to believe that education is strictly confined to the class-rooms. Television, for good or for bad, plays a large part in the education of our children. It is from this area, I believe, that many of our social problems stem.

After 20 years of television in Australia, what is our choice? Or, more accurately, what has been chosen for us, and why? What are the effects of television violence on the community? This is an aspect which has been almost disregarded by the average

viewer; yet major research evidence indicates that the viewing of television violence increases aggressiveness in children, leads to the acceptance of violence as a way of life and, consequently, changes the nature of our social structure.

There is a wide variety of possible reasons for the continued acceptance of violence on our screens. It might well be that the average viewer uses himself as evidence of the fact that one can view television violence and not become aggressive, although in reality he may well be more aggressive after viewing television violence than before, or that what he sees is only a story and hence does not have any impact on the attitude and behaviour of the viewer.

A more serious problem lies in the fact that so many of our teachers, parents and administrators are not even aware of the nature and content of television programmes viewed by children in particular. A simple check of the opinions of teachers and principals concerning, for example, their impression of the 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. television programmes indicates not only a dearth of knowledge of the programmes themselves but also an attitude of indifference towards viewing television at such an hour. This may well be a worthy attitude in terms of time, programme content and other demands of the day. However, it is reasonable to expect that those responsible for children's education should have at least some idea of the type and content of programmes that approximately one in four of their children view before arriving at school.

If teachers and parents are not aware of programme content, there is little likelihood of their accepting a constructive role in the development of programmes in the media. Consequently, by default, they have handed over the control and planning of television, particularly of programmes for children, to a small group of television producers and station managers, who may or may not put the interests of children ahead of those of advertisers and shareholders. Even if they have children's welfare as their foremost aim, producers are rarely trained in an understanding of the growth, development and needs of those to whom they broadcast. It would be unthinkable to allow a programme on health and associated medical problems to be produced without the assistance of medical specialists. On the other hand, we are prepared to accept daily television programmes that are produced for children and produced without the assistance of professional skilled educational personnel.

There probably has been more research into the effects of television violence than any other aspect of television. With very few exceptions, the results could almost be expected from a purely commonsense approach to the subject, namely, that violence in television tends to increase aggressive behaviour in children.

It is not suggested that television violence is the cause of all or even most of the aggressive behaviour in children. The estimated contribution of television violence to aggressive behaviour in the community has been suggested by a variety of sources as possibly in the order of 10 per cent. Is this a small proportion? Hardly! Few would suggest that an unemployment level of 7 per cent is small. If it could be established that 8 per cent of serious injuries suffered in motor vehicle accidents could be eliminated by wearing seat belts, this would be significant. If televised violence increases aggressive behaviour by 10 per cent, any steps taken to reduce this percentage would benefit not only the individuals concerned but the community as a whole.

Those wishing to defend the televising of violence usually refer to the relatively small percentage of persons affected. It all depends on what value we place on human life. We do not know whether the televising of violence sows small seeds that may grow and bear fruit in unfavourable circumstances much later.

Another argument advanced by the television industry in support of violence on the screen is that both children and adults tend to watch such programmes. They argue, "This is what the viewer wants. This is what he should be given. Let the viewer's preference be the deciding factor in selecting programmes." It is not necessary to point out that in most societies the activities which children, and even adults, may enjoy but which society feels may not be of advantage to either the individual or the community are frequently denied or restricted. It is difficult to understand why the same principle should not apply to television.

What of the argument that television only follows trends in society and that the media are followers, not leaders? It would be unthinkable for any executive to advise potential advertisers, "Television advertising does not create a demand for your new product. You establish a demand and our advertising will reinforce it." On the contrary, television advertising both creates a demand and reinforces that demand. Likewise, television programmes can and do create ideas, attitudes and behaviour patterns, and reinforce them.

Television's ability to influence the behaviour of its viewers can hardly be denied. Advertising firms spend millions of dollars a year on that assumption. The executives of television stations enthusiastically agree, yet they act with surprise when anyone suggests that their programmes of violence influence young children.

Even if television only reinforces behaviour, its role would be critical. A teacher or parent can spend weeks attempting to modify a child's behaviour or even a child's language, only to find his efforts frustrated by a television programme, a television

personality or a film hero who reinforces the very behaviour pattern that he is trying to eliminate.

A further distracting statement by the television industry is that opponents of television violence wish to eliminate all violence on television. The industry maintains that this would lead to an unrealistic view of life. Possibly some organisations would like to see all violence removed from the television screens, or at least removed during children's viewing periods. Others would seek a reduction in unnecessary violence. What is unnecessary? Can a police drama be effective without violence, or must it carry a heavy load of violence?

The suggestion is often advanced that television should present a realistic view of life and so prepare children for everyday living. If there is merit in this approach it is reasonable to expect that television should expose an average child to no more than the amount and type of violence which he would encounter in his normal life. Ideally, however, it would be preferable to present less violence, because our society should be moving towards pro-social values and encouraging children to reduce existing aggression, not to maintain it at its present level.

People are often accused, to use the television industry's words, "of endeavouring to make children's television an extension of the class-room." It is unthinkable that television, with its vast potential, should not extend the child's learning beyond the limits of the class-room. However, it would be of considerable benefit if television could heed the positive values advanced in education. These could and should be incorporated into programmes broadcast during children's viewing time.

The job of our educators is a difficult one. I would have hoped that the role of Government would be a creative, not an oppressive, one. Our education system must change continually to prepare our children for life.

Our children are brought up with the expectation that society will provide them with all they desire. This may have been true only a few short years ago; but how things have changed over those few years! Can our kids become doctors, dentists, teachers, train drivers and firemen? A few years ago any child who was prepared to work could usually gain entry to the profession or job of his or her choosing. Unfortunately that is not the case today. When I talk about teaching to cope with life, I believe that to be one of the most important functions of education. The kids must be taught to cope with reality, the reality that they may not be able to obtain employment in the job or profession that they choose.

Undoubtedly the major problem facing our nation and State is unemployment. In view of the technological change that has taken place in the past few years, I do not

believe there is any easy solution to the unemployment problem. In the industry in which I served my apprenticeship, that is, the printing industry, the advances in technology have been quite staggering. To quote one example—a computer was installed in a Sydney daily newspaper employing about 1,300 people. The management gave an undertaking that there would be no retrenchment. Unfortunately that was not the case and employees were retrenched. That caused an industrial dispute resulting in a decision of the employees to withdraw their labour. Although 1,000 employees withdrew their labour, the company, with the aid of the computer, was able to publish the paper with no reduction in size. Eventually the dispute was settled, but it highlighted the fact that technology could do the job that was being performed by about 1,000 workers.

I am informed that a Brisbane daily newspaper is about to install the same equipment. Fortunately the industrial record of this establishment is particularly good and I do not expect in Brisbane trouble similar to that which occurred in Sydney. However, the company is looking closely at its staff numbers and has reduced drastically its apprenticeship intake. That, again, highlights the problem I spoke of earlier concerning the inability of school-leavers to gain employment.

We must live with technology in industry. It is here, whether we like it or not. I am a great believer in consultation before confrontation. I suggest that employers, employees and the Government examine the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act with a view to updating it to the 1980s so that society as a whole, not just the select few, gain from the technological changes in industry.

In view of the difficulty of getting apprenticeships for school-leavers, I would like to see the whole structure of apprenticeship-training overhauled. I would like to see all apprentices indentured to the State and a pool of apprentices established. Employers could draw apprentices from such a pool. Certain safeguards would have to be built into this scheme to ensure that apprentices were not exploited by unscrupulous employers who are out to get cheap labour. This scheme would also give the apprentices greater opportunities to work in different surroundings and gain wider experience than would normally be gained under the one employer.

The trade union movement plays an important role in our society. It was the bitter struggles by the shearers, the waterside workers, the seamen and many other sections of the organised labour force that helped us attain the high standard of living that most of us enjoy. If this standard of living is to be maintained, the trade union movement, too, must be maintained. The Government must realise this fact. As society becomes more sophisticated, so must our trade union movement follow suit.

The job of a union official, whether he be a full-time official or a shop steward, is a difficult one. The need for the Government to undertake trade union training has arrived. Subjects to be considered could be industrial law, safety, public speaking, management, organisational strategy and so on. By undertaking such training, trade union officials could put their cases in the Arbitration Commission in the best possible manner and gain results that would benefit their members and society as a whole.

I believe that, because of the increase in leisure time now enjoyed by the community, tourism has become one of the leading industries in this State. But tourism has been virtually overlooked. Development of the tourist industry should be undertaken through planning, research and promotion and, where necessary, the operation of a State tourist enterprise. I would like to see established a tourist-development loan fund to provide loans at reasonable interest rates. Many of our local authorities have provided tourist facilities, and they are to be congratulated on their activities. However, I do not believe that local authority rate-payers should have to foot the bill. Governments should make more money available to local authorities so that they can extend their tourist facilities.

In conclusion, I thank the silent majority in Everton for their support. I hope that the decisions of this the 42nd Parliament will make Queensland a better place in which to live.

**Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham)** (3.40 p.m.): Firstly, I take this opportunity to pledge my loyalty and that of the Cunningham electorate to Her Majesty the Queen. At the same time I congratulate our new Governor on the job that he is doing. All fair-minded people in Queensland would be very pleased to see the attitude that the Governor is taking to his job. It is very important that we have people of his calibre in positions as important as that of Governor. He is very much a hail-fellow-well-met type, and I believe that he will be well accepted right throughout the State. I congratulate him on his attitude.

As a new member in the last Parliament, I felt that this was a very strange and noisy place. After having been here for three years, I believe that if we are to lift the public's opinion of our profession as parliamentarians and of the institution of Parliament, it is up to each and every one of us to take a far greater interest in Parliament and be far more responsible in the activities carried out in the House. Too often the Chamber is used to throw mud and to personally denigrate people who are not in a position to refute the claims.

**Mr. Turner:** Don't you believe that dirt thrown is ground lost?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The honourable member for Warrego is very much to the point.

We would all do well to have a look at the behaviour in this place, particularly during the election of the Speaker. It is probably one of the traditions of this place; but, as has already been suggested, we could well look at changing that procedure.

As the Tarong/Millmerran power-station controversy is topical at the moment, I feel I should address myself to it. Let there be no shadow of doubt where I stood on this issue. I believe that, as a member for an area, all one can do is sum up the situation as one sees it, decide what is in the best interests of the greatest number in the electorate and then follow a course of action accordingly. That is exactly what I did in Cunningham. I possibly received a good deal of criticism on the northern side of the electorate, since some of those people may have felt that they would have benefited more by Tarong's being selected as the site. However, in my opinion, as the member for Cunningham, there was no shadow of doubt where the power-station should be sited and would do the most good for the entire region.

I would like to thank all of those people in the area who supported us in the presentation of our case. For once, we worked on a case for an entire region rather than selectively and selfishly for small areas. That is very important, and we should see more of it. However, in saying that, I would like to make a few pertinent points on the overall dispute. At the time when I was arguing the case reasonably strongly, I was not fully aware of some of the implications that have now come to light. We must seriously question the overall water supply. If there is a stumbling block with Millmerran, that is it. It was my belief that we had an agreement with the New South Wales Government under which we had sufficient water for irrigation and also for the power-station.

One suggestion that has been raised on a number of occasions, particularly in the Press, is that Toowoomba sewerage effluent be piped to Millmerran for use in the S.R.C. plant. Let me say here and now that the water from the Toowoomba sewerage plant is already committed for irrigation purposes along Gowrie and Oakey Creeks. There is no way in the world that that water can be taken from those farmers. Many landholders in that area are queueing up trying to get licences to use that water. Anybody who thinks he can take water from people to whom it is allocated and use it for another project will get into a tremendous amount of strife. Let there be no doubt about that.

**Mr. Casey:** Do you favour a full debate in the House on Tarong?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The honourable member has every opportunity. He can get on to his feet any time he likes. A very free range of debate is allowed at the introductory stage of Bills, when he can raise any matter he likes. During the past week or two I have not noticed any great reluctance on the part

of the A.L.P. to bring forward information on this particular controversy. A.L.P. members have had no problems whatsoever. They have devoted a good deal of time to it.

**Mr. Casey:** We can't get it brought forward.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** It has been brought forward in all sorts of ways. I do not intend to waste time arguing with the honourable member for Mackay. He can express his views whenever he feels like it.

Let us look at where we stand in relation to overall water supply. We have a problem with bringing water from Glenlyon Dam. I understood that there was sufficient water for irrigation in both New South Wales and Queensland and the harvesting technique of pumping water into the Coolmunda Dam for later use sounded like a pretty good idea, but it would appear to me now that we did not fully have the backing and support of the irrigators in that area. Possibly we will have a considerable number of problems with that suggestion.

It is absolutely crucial that we get the Millmerran project going. We run a risk of not getting the S.R.C. plant off the ground by not combining the power-station with it. This has always worried me. At the moment, I am doubtful if there is sufficient impetus to get the project going without some other side industry run in conjunction with it.

To get the water for this project we will probably have to look to the Mole Creek Dam and Northern Rivers water. For example, the Clarence River area has the potential of another Snowy River scheme. I understand one parliamentarian in New South Wales has spent his lifetime advocating this project. I know that the former member for Warwick (Mr. David Cory) raised this subject on numerous occasions.

I should like to refer to the Condamine River. It is very pertinent in the overall context of this matter. Let there be no doubt in the minds of Opposition members that the Condamine River is already over-committed. We have an over-commitment to water from the underground aquifers in the Upper Condamine Basin and we have an over-allocation of water from Leslie Dam. Despite the fact that Stage II of the Leslie Dam has been No. 1 priority by the Government, it staggers me that in Budget after Budget we have not seen any provision of funds to get this project started. I suggest that the Government should look very seriously at it because it is one of the very few projects on which a feasibility study has been done, with a Bureau of Agricultural Economics report to back it up. When one looks at the percentage return on capital or the benefits likely to result from the building of this dam, one realises that it is one of the best irrigation projects ever envisaged, not only in Queensland but also in Australia.

**Mr. Moore:** From figures published it appears that it could be a magnificent project.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The honourable member for Windsor is correct.

So many of these projects do not stand up to an economic survey, but Stage II of the Leslie Dam stood up to a survey and showed a return of 13.2 per cent on capital. This is one of the most significant returns that any irrigation project in the nation has ever been able to project. When projected on the very worst of terms one could possibly imagine, it still returned 7.5 per cent.

We cannot afford to let this great resource area of the Darling Downs languish for the want of a very small amount of money compared with the overall benefits that would result from it. I feel that we should look at it in the overall context of the New South Wales Northern Rivers scheme, and with the increase in water that could be obtained from such a scheme there would no longer be any doubt at all about the success of this Millmerran project.

As a nation we are faced, as the honourable member for Toowoomba North indicated, with a shortage of oil and are living in a fool's paradise. We are using oil as though it was going out of fashion. We will be faced with insurmountable problems when this inevitable fuel crisis occurs, so we as legislators must take meaningful steps in facing up to this problem. This ties in with what we are talking about in relation to transport. That is another reason why we should look at it.

There are many other things I want to discuss, so I will not take up the whole of my time on the Millmerran project. I turn now to the problems of the rural industry in the Cunningham area. When all is said and done, the Cunningham electorate is very much dependent on its rural industries. The economy of Toowoomba, too, depends on reasonably affluent times in the rural sector of its hinterland.

Let me first deal with the dairy industry. Fortunately, in the last three years we have seen some useful legislation that has helped the dairy industry. When I made my maiden speech in this House, I pointed out problems that faced the dairy farmers with quotas. Some of these problems have been overcome to a slight degree, but a lot more needs to be done to improve the lot

of the dairy farmer. I go on record as saying that I do not believe that we have dealt quickly enough with the problem of getting milk supplied to pre-school children, something that was promised in the election campaign. We should raise the priority of this scheme so that we can get it started. It is a scheme that will help the dairy industry as well as benefit the children, particularly those children who are underprivileged and are not getting the quantity of milk that they should be getting daily.

**Mr. Casey:** The Government has had six months now to put it into effect.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Who took it away in the first place?

**Mr. Casey:** I am asking you what happened to the promise that was made six months ago?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** This is the sort of thing we expect from the honourable member for Mackay. Opposition members bleat about the shortcomings of the State Government, but they very conveniently forget what happened when the Labor Party first got into power in Canberra.

**Mr. Doumany:** They've got a short memory.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** That is right, they have very short memories.

I shall now look at another problem facing the dairy industry. I refer to the proposed entitlements committee. I would like to see the legislation authorising this committee placed on the statute-book very shortly. We country members are being subjected to quite a deal of questioning by various people in the industry who are saying, "What is going on with regard to this?" I hope that in the next few weeks we will see the legislation being brought forward, because it was an undertaking made by this Government and I believe we must honour our obligations.

I now turn to the beef industry because, goodness knows, it is facing enormous problems at the moment. One has only to look around the countryside to see what is happening in areas that rely on the prosperity of the beef industry. I know that the honourable member for Flinders has been jumping up and down trying to get things done for the beef industry. I believe he has

done a tremendous job on the marketing authority legislation. He and some of the other members of the Minister's meat committee have to take quite a deal of credit for this legislation. While Federal Government assistance in the form of a subsidy for dipping and speying was of tremendous assistance, particularly to small producers, let us not fool ourselves for one moment that it was anything more than a stopgap measure. Of more significance in the brigalow areas was the moratorium on loan repayments introduced recently. That is the sort of assistance needed right throughout the cattle industry. We are getting into so much trouble that nothing short of that type of assistance will really do much for beef producers.

We must look at these problems on a long-term basis. In principle I am totally opposed to the idea of hand-outs. I do not believe for one moment that they are the answer. While they help in the short term, we must look more to the long term. We must ensure that any public money provided for any industry—I am not referring specifically to the beef industry—must be used in a sensible and practical fashion to ensure that those who are efficient benefit from it, not just those who are inefficient or who are in dire circumstances. We must ensure that we maintain a viable beef industry, because as a nation of exporters we cannot afford to allow these great export industries to fail and come tumbling down around our ears. Believe me, if this happens the consequent social problems will be immense. But this will occur if we do not reverse the dreadful situation that exists throughout rural Australia.

I now turn to the wheat industry. Perhaps I should refer not to the wheat industry, but to the grain industry, because it is probably the most predominant industry in the Cunningham electorate. It is probably one of the most diversified grain-growing areas in Australia. The farmers there have the ability to grow practically anything—

**Mr. Casey:** Except sugar-cane.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Yes, with the exception of sugar-cane, as the honourable member for Mackay points out.

I believe that very serious consideration must be given to Australia's overall marketing policies and where this country is going in the grain industry. The wheat industry

is in real strife because overseas credit sales are being made by other countries, particularly the United States and Canada. Because they have lower inflation rates, they are able to give extended credit terms to overseas countries wishing to buy wheat. In Australia, the higher inflation rate, with the consequent higher interest rates, takes a very large slice out of the overall cake in returns on wheat, and that situation can only be aggravated if countries overseas continue to reduce their inflation rate. We will be facing a very real problem unless we are able to reduce the inflation rate to a greater extent than we have been up to date.

Everybody will be affected—not only the farmers, but also machinery agents and the financial houses of the nation. The situation will be similar to that which arose in the days of quotas, when in many places machinery was sold at reduced prices and the finance companies were landed with equipment that they could not sell. Because that would do immense harm to the whole economy, we cannot afford to allow it to happen.

**Mr. Casey:** Surely you need some sort of control on production?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** I agree. We do not want a situation in which there is willy-nilly, stupid production that has no real relationship to the overall world market.

Believe me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the long term the wheat industry has a very great future. The only problem now facing it is the one about which I am speaking, that is, marketing in relation to credit sales being made by overseas countries, and this is cutting down the return to Australian wheat-growers.

In cases in which, because of weathering or adverse harvesting conditions, wheat has to be sold as feed wheat, some people are receiving as little as \$55 or \$56 a tonne. Taking into account the State average, in many areas it is not possible to grow wheat on that sort of return.

**Mr. Casey:** The I.A.C. marketing recommendations are not the answer, either.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Possibly so, but, as I have many other matters to cover, I will not go into that.

Let me turn now to one of the most pressing problems facing the central area of the Darling Downs in my electorate, particularly the Aubigny and Linthorpe catchments. I refer to the problem of soil erosion.

It is not only my problem or the problem of the landholder; it is a collective problem. We all have a responsibility to the nation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to conserve this very valuable resource. It is terribly easy to whip up some emotion and get people to talk about conservation and jump up and down about it. What could be more important than the conservation of this very precious resource, our soil? Once it has gone, it has gone for ever, and we get only one opportunity to retain it.

If some of the upland slopes of the Darling Downs become eroded, it is very difficult to get the land back into production. In some instances land has been eroded down to the basalt, and once it gets below a certain level it is very difficult to get any real production from that country again.

Although I am very grateful for the increase in Government subsidy from \$1,000 to \$1,500, I believe that Federal and State Governments should give much more assistance to overcome the problem, and one of the very practical things that could be done would be to use the technology that is now available.

For a start, let us look at orthophoto mapping. For the benefit of those who do not know what I am talking about, I point out that it is the use of aerial photography. With this technique the difference can be picked between a 4 in. and a 6 in. gutter. A projection can be taken right across a valley catchment when mapping for a soil-erosion project. A whole area can be mapped instantly so that contour read-outs are available. Imagine how many hours persons would take in traversing that country on foot to map it. I am sure that the honourable member for Southport, having been in the Army and probably having foot-slogged over difficult terrain—

**Mr. White:** Thousands of miles.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Yes, thousands of miles. I am sure he would realise just how much would be involved in doing that sort of work on the ground. A camera can instantly plot all the contours to the required definition. In

this way a soil conservation project can be speeded up. At the present time it costs \$1,000 a square mile to do this mapping. How much would it cost to do the same work by foot-slogging? I am sure that in many cases it would cost more than \$1,000 a square mile. We should get with the technology of the age, and use this technique. It would speed up more than just that part of the operation. At the present time departmental officers are sitting in offices preparing maps from information supplied by people who have walked all over the valleys. They are endeavouring to get out project plans so that some physical soil conservation work can be done. The whole project could be put forward five or six years by using the technology available to us. I urge all honourable members from country areas to look very seriously at the problem and ask them to support me in this practical suggestion.

I refer now to a subject that should be near and dear to the heart of all members representing country areas or near-metropolitan areas where this may apply. I refer to free and low-rental housing, and to what so far has only been kite-flying by the Federal Government or the Taxation Department. I am not too sure who has been doing the kite-flying. Let there be no doubt about it: if the Taxation Department says, "You must put a value on that housing of \$40 a week"—\$30, \$20, or whatever it might be—then I will be against it. Every thinking person in this House who knows about the difficulty of getting employees into country areas would realise that this cuts across what people are trying to do to get employees into remote areas of the State. That applies not only to persons working on the land, but to departmental officers, railway fitters and all sorts of employees. Opposition members should join with me and make certain that, if this happens, we kick up a hell of a row about it. We must ensure that it never comes to pass. If it does, it will be even more difficult to get people into remote areas. How can we expect to get persons to go into remote areas when we consider the sort of money that can be earned in the city? Let us make certain that we hit this one hard.

I now turn to a subject that is particularly important to my area. It concerns the Heritage Commission. We must ensure that we preserve what little history we have left—what we have not knocked down. I refer in particular to the Jondaryan Wool Shed, which is one of the few great wool

sheds left virtually intact in our nation, and which can be built up into a really worthwhile tourist complex. I hope to receive support from all areas of the political spectrum so that the Government will realise the significance of the project. It is a magnificent building that should be preserved for posterity. It has great potential. A very keen committee has spent an enormous amount of its own money, time and effort in trying to get this tourist project off the ground. To be fair, I must point out that the committee received an initial Government grant of \$10,000 but, unfortunately, nothing more has been forthcoming. I hope that, before long, it becomes eligible for another grant.

I shall now deal briefly with a subject that I referred to when we were considering straw-company legislation. It was also referred to by the honourable member for Brisbane Central. It is essential to look at the overall context of the legislation and relate it to the shortage of fuel in Australia. These matters are very much interrelated. We cannot continue to strike registration fees that have no relationship to ensuring that people do not use fuel wantonly. Whenever practicable, registration fees and other charges should relate to fuel usage. A suggestion was made that a heavy tax be placed on fuel and a nominal charge made for registration. In many far-flung areas of the State where the roads receive no real attention, it would be unfair to make people pay the same levy as those who drive on the freeway to the Gold Coast or on good bitumen roads. As I said, we are living in a fool's paradise in the oil situation. If we do not do something about it, we will run out of oil. When we do not have enough fuel to grow the bare necessities of life, it will be too late. By then, it will be a little too late to start thinking about it.

**Mr. GYGAR** (Stafford) (4.13 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise in this debate and affirm my loyalty and that of the electors of Stafford to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It also gives me pleasure to express my wish that, for many years to come, we will continue to look to Her Majesty, her heirs, successors and representatives to guard the rights and privileges of free man that we currently enjoy under her leadership.

It behoves us all in Parliament to consider what direction the Government should take now and in the future to ensure that

we continue to build the sort of Australia that Australians will be proud to live in. It is essential to consider the principles that we should be involved in, the principles that we as a Government and an Opposition should support jointly. I shall put to the House a number of the principles that I feel are of crucial importance in this the last part of the 20th Century.

The first principle is that the Government and the Parliament must accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions. In the case of the Government, this means that it must be answerable to the Legislature at all times, because the Legislature, comprising as it does the elected representatives of the people, surely must be paramount in any system of democratic government. Instead, unfortunately we often find government by bureaucracy—an undemocratic bureaucracy; an arrogant bureaucracy; a bureaucracy completely without supervision, without accountability and, most importantly, without competition. This in my opinion is what leads to its arrogance.

We must as a Parliament be determined that the bureaucracy will be answerable to this House. There are several fairly simple mechanical ways in which we can do it—and it astounds me that we did not take those mechanical steps many, many years ago. There has been a decline in Parliament since the turn of this century—a decline that has just about set in to become a rot. I fear that, unless that rot is stopped very soon, we will see the Parliament as an outmoded institution with very little relevance to where the power really lies in this country and in this State.

The first thing that we can do to make the bureaucracy answerable is to set up committees of this House—two committees would be a simple start: a committee of public accounts and a committee of public works—in order that all of these bureaucratic and executive decisions that cause so much controversy and raise so many questions are truly accountable before the Bar of Parliament. I for one know that no Executive wants that sort of thing. This is why it lies on our heads here in Parliament to ensure that committees are set up. I am delighted to see that we are making some small measure of progress in this field by the institution of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation; but it is a very small step along the very long

row that we have to hoe if Parliament is truly to be supreme and not to be thrown out with the dust of history.

The second measure to ensure bureaucratic responsibility is, I suggest, sunset legislation—a fairly new concept but one that is gaining strength overseas; a method that has many strong points, and it behoves us to examine it here in Queensland. For those who have never heard of it—sunset legislation involves embodying in any legislation that sets up a statutory or similar body that has authority over governmental powers a provision that that body shall be automatically deemed to lapse and go out of existence after a period of years (be it two, four, six or more) unless by resolution Parliament determines that it should continue. Legislatures that have tried this measure—mostly in the American States—have found that there is a sudden and dramatic change in the attitudes of these bodies when they know they have to justify their existence.

This is what is lacking currently in so many of our statutory bodies. They know they do not have to justify their existence; that they can sit in their little bolt holes creating their empires and never be called into account. However, with sunset legislation they will be called into account often to justify their existence, to justify their purpose and to justify the taxpayers' funds being used to keep them going. This measure alone would blow through the corridors of our bureaucracy like a fresh wind that has not been felt there for centuries. For this reason, obviously, it will be strongly opposed and that in itself is ample justification for this Parliament to insist that such measures become accepted in the coming years.

I must admit to a great admiration for the United States Senate—a true House of Parliament; a Parliament which is supreme, which asserts its supremacy and which will brook no interference from the Executive or the bureaucracy in the exercise of its powers. It has a stiff backbone that we could very well study and learn a lot from. The bureaucracy must be told who runs this country—and it is us—the Parliament, the people's elected representatives. If we are truly to call ourselves a democracy, it can surely be no other way. The longer the people sit silently and allow the present system to continue, the greater the risk we take of Parliament passing into oblivion.

Here I would like to do a rare thing for me and that is to say a few kind words about Mr. Whitlam, because he must be recognised as one of the statesmen of the century. He realised this fact probably better than any other Australian politician over the past few years, with the possible exception of John Grey Gorton. What Whitlam did, and what Whitlam was game to do, was to seize the reins of power that he was given. He did not stand back and let the country run along with its own in-built momentum of bureaucratic power and privilege. He seized it with both hands, shook it and moulded it the way he wanted to. I for one would completely and totally disagree with the way he moulded it. My opinion of Whitlam is rather similar to my opinion of a dead fish lying on the beach in moonlight—it shines and it stinks—but he shone brightly and we should recognise that fact.

Mr. Whitlam did what we should do—assert that, as the people's representatives, we have the power and we are determined to use it. Perhaps what we need is greater flexibility in the top echelons of our Public Service. Again, Whitlam used this with great effect. Though the movements of people in and out of the top echelons of his Public Service departments created a considerable furor at the time, I personally do not think that it was a bad idea. The man had been elected to govern and when he found that bureaucrats would not let him, he sacked them and put in people who would. Surely no parliamentarian could take exception to that.

The next matter I want to deal with in some detail is statutory bodies. How this anathema to democracy ever got loose in our system I do not know. The sooner we put an end to statutory bodies the better. Their abolition is essential if Executive Government is to be directly answerable and accountable for the way that this State is governed.

I consider it a dereliction of duty for any Parliament to pass off the powers it has been given by the people in good faith to non-elected, virtually anonymous outside bodies which are not answerable to the people. The strength of our system is that. The people can remove us if they do not like what we are doing.

It is said that great privilege flows from being a member of this House. We should also recognise that great responsibility goes

with it. The responsibility is to use the power that we have been given, not to stand aside and duck our heads when difficulties arise, or to shove decisions off sideways into some little bureaucratic bolt-hole by appointing a statutory committee. We must face those problems and solve them because that is what we have been elected to do.

I do not attack the concept of having expert outside advisers. Indeed, they are essential. No politician, no matter what his talent, can expect to know all things about all subjects. But the final decision and the final responsibility must rest here in Parliament with the people's representatives. I suggest that those who are not prepared to accept the responsibilities of membership of this House and the membership of a Government should give great consideration to whether they are in the right field.

The next principle I should like to discuss is the confirmation of the rule of law. This involves a number of things, too, and it is essential for any healthy, democratic system. We should recognise the essential nature of adequate court powers because, as we are all aware, the legislative and governing process really embodies three separate groups. They are: the Legislature, which enacts; the Executive, which implements; and the Judiciary, which reviews. I am against any measure whatsoever which restricts the right of any citizen to access to the courts—and I mean courts in their normally accepted sense—because I am completely opposed to any new sorts of bodies, review boards and Star Chamber hearings where the courts do not get a look in.

Anybody who has studied legal history will be well aware of the problems that government in England arrived at many centuries ago with the proliferation of these little groups. It got so bad that the king had to institute a new court—a court of equity—to try to cut through the Gordian knot and establish some sort of justice over the top of them. What I fear is that the way we are going we will soon have to do the whole exercise over again—repeat the chopping up of these smaller bodies in order to get some justice for the individual citizen.

It cannot be denied that the judicature is being downgraded. We must at all costs preserve the integrity of this vital third arm of government, for on that arm rests justice, and without justice any Government is only a temporary thing.

In upholding the rule of law we must also ensure that there is adequate access to legal aid for all citizens. I do not believe that any individual right should be subject to arbitrary removal. Everybody is entitled not only to his day in court, but also to advice as to how he should conduct his case in that court, because a complex legal proceeding becomes a pointless sham if the person does not know what is occurring and does not know how to protect his rights that are at risk in that hearing.

It does not mean that I support willy-nilly legal aid for every ratbag who wants to come and litigate against any Government or body. I don't believe legal aid should be available for what are known as class actions or civil litigation, because in civil litigation the courts merely act as umpires. They arbitrate between the disputes of citizens. If citizens want to carry on disputes among themselves, surely they should expect to have to pay for them. But where Government action will trample on the rights of any citizen, then full access to the practitioner of their choice is absolutely essential.

I do not believe that we should create a new race of second-class citizens who have to run cap in hand to a Government-paid and appointed counsel; I don't think we should have paid legal officers; I don't think we should have lines of mendicant would-be suitors standing outside these offices pleading for a few crumbs of legal aid. These people should have the right of every other citizen to go to the practitioner of their choice and have that practitioner act on their behalf. This is the aspect that I fear the most about the new legal aid Bills that are being introduced around Australia at this time.

Another principle is fair and equal enforcement of the law. I am prepared, indeed eager, to proclaim what a fine body of dedicated men we have in the Queensland Police Force, and because of that I am determined to see that they are not subjected to unjust criticism either through ill-founded laws or misstatement by those who oppose them. Like everyone else our policemen must be like Caesar's wife; they must be seen at all times to be without sin. There is only one way we will achieve that, and that is by setting up an independent body to scrutinise the actions of police when legitimate complaints are lodged.

It has been said from time to time that the police have to go outside the law to obtain convictions. That is an indictment

of this House, because if that indeed is the case, then we must be prepared to change the laws. The police must have our support. For justice to be not only done but seen to be done an independent tribunal of a judicial nature is essential to hear any complaints against the Police Force. I believe that the integrity and standing of our police in this community are too important to risk as being held suspect by decent and honest citizens.

The third major point I would like to cover in looking towards the future is the principle that Parliament should always allow people to make their own choice on how they will live their own lives. So long as the action of any individual does not trample on the rights of others we in Parliament have no right whatsoever to restrict him or to limit him in any way. The first aspect of this that I would like to cover is the subject of censorship, a very interesting and thorny field. I believe that every decent citizen has the right to expect that he will not have offensive and disgusting material thrust upon him without his consent. I believe that parents should be able to send their young children to a newsagency secure in the knowledge that they will not be confronted with acres of heaving flesh openly displayed on the covers of magazines on the shelves. I do not think, however, that publications of this type should be totally banned. The one thing that should be totally banned is this disgusting child pornography that has been emerging in the news lately. The reason I think it should be banned is that it leads inexorably to the corruption of innocent children. For that reason alone it should be prohibited.

What we really need is a very strong system of classification of materials, so that objectionable material can be separated apart and seen for what it is. But I do not believe that anyone has the right to thrust his views on morality down the throats of the whole community. What appears to some people to be offensive might be innocuous to others. It is the basic right of the citizen to make that decision for himself. For some two years I have been raising in this Parliament the issue of the present ludicrous ban in this State on "Playboy" magazine. I will continue to raise it until such time as that magazine and others like it are allowed to be sold freely to the responsible citizens of Queensland.

Films are another interesting aspect. The R certificate is now a joke. It covers everything from a film which contains a few

obscene words to the vilest exploitative pornography and the most disgustingly graphic violence. It has got to the stage where, if one sees an advertisement for an R film, one does not know whether the film is one in which a few swear words are used or one that will disgust and appal the audience that is subjected to what is flashed on the screen. That is not good enough.

I suggest we need a new rating, an X rating, for these totally outrageous films, so that anyone who goes to them knows exactly what he is in for and has no excuse for complaint. We could well benefit from a further indication as to whether these films have been so classified because of the language used, the pornographic nature of them or the violence in them. This goes along with the principle that people know what they are getting and should not complain when they get what they ask for. No person who goes to an X-rated film that is indicated as being pornographic should complain when pornography comes up on the screen. I say this because extensive research overseas has failed to prove to my satisfaction that any detriment flows to the community from the showing of what are now called pornographic films or from the displaying of pornographic books. What I feel about these books has absolutely nothing to do with it; my personal judgment is irrelevant as is the personal judgment of every other person. Each of us should be free, of our own selves, to make our own decision, to choose either to see or to reject. No Big Brother Government has the right to decide this for us.

The second type of freedom of choice I would like to discuss concerns education, a subject much in the news. Indeed, I would like to quote what someone had to say about educational controversies. He said—

"As things are, mankind are by no means agreed about the things to be taught, whether we look to virtue or the best sort of life. Neither is it clear whether education is more concerned with intellectual or moral virtue. The existing practice is perplexing—no-one knowing on what principle we should proceed—should the useful in life, or should virtue, or should the higher knowledge be the aim of our training; all three opinions, have been entertained. Again, about the means there is no agreement, for different people, starting with different ideas about the nature of virtue, naturally disagree about the practice of it."

That just about sums up the education debate in Queensland at the moment. The significant point is that those words were written by Aristotle over 2,000 years ago. So nothing is very new in education.

We find parents, teachers and employers in conflict over what direction our education system should take at the present time. The unfortunate part about it is that each of them is attempting to impose his will upon the others. There is no choice; it seems to be a battle of the giants. To the victor goes the spoils; whoever wins has his wish completely and totally put into effect. To say there should be a true freedom of speech in education would undoubtedly upset a lot of people; nevertheless that is what I suggest. Parents, educators, employers—the whole lot—should be able to choose a system of education that they will support, one they will commit their children to, one they will work under and one whose products they will employ.

There is only one way to achieve that, and that is to introduce education vouchers. They will give a true freedom of choice. When each child is issued by the State with a voucher to the value of whatever State education would have cost in any event, that child or that child's guardians can then dispose of that voucher at the school which they think best suits their purposes. Let them choose freely between the progressive schools, which turn out revolutionary little cretins who cannot even string three words together, and the traditional schools, which are said to be brutal but certainly turn out what used to be called "educated" people. They should choose of their own volition what sort of system they will go into.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** That means cutting out Government grants?

**Mr. GYGAR:** No, I do not think it means cutting out Government grants—not across the board, anyway—because, effectively, every school will be eligible for the amount of grants that it can generate by the issued vouchers being returned by children.

**Mrs. Kyburz** interjected.

**Mr. GYGAR:** That is right.

**Mr. Davis:** When did you think this one up?

**Mr. GYGAR:** I didn't. The honourable member for Brisbane Central is merely displaying his ignorance, because in fact, as

far as I have been able to ascertain, voucher education has been in the news for about 25 years. It is a well-accepted academic proposition; in fact, it has been tried overseas. Before the honourable gentleman continues to display his ignorance, perhaps he should go away and do some research.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Gunn): Order! Perhaps the honourable member should notice that I am in the chair and speak through me.

**Mr. GYGAR:** Certainly, Mr. Deputy Speaker; I am delighted to.

What I do not want to see is any of these conflicting groups seize total control of Queensland's system of education. In particular, I do not wish to see some of the hare-brained academics who are currently circulating in this State having very much to say about education. We have only to look at this morning's newspapers to see the outrageous tripe that they put up as academic learning. I should like to quote from "The Courier-Mail" this morning a statement by a Dr. Edgar of La Trobe University, who is senior lecturer at the centre for the study of educational communication and media at La Trobe—a high-level academic!

The report says—

"She told the Senate committee that the 'glossy' portrayal of life in such shows as 'The Brady Bunch' were more damaging than violence to 'low esteem' children because the children believed it was true and felt alienated."

After that lot I have seen and heard it all! On the one hand, we have some of these characters saying, "Oh, we cannot have these violent shows because they encourage the children to follow them, they encourage the children to be violent." On the other hand, we now have this person saying that we cannot have decent shows on television because they make children feel inadequate. That is the sort of garbage that these people are coming out with, and that is the reason why I do not want to see them have anything to do with the education of my children.

Let us have a little bit of freedom. Let us have a system in which everybody can get what he wants out of education. There is only one way in which that can occur—by building a system that is flexible enough to take into account all the wants and needs

as they are perceived throughout our community. And the best way of doing that, I suggest, is through a voucher system of education. Let each family be able to choose the school and the system of its choice. Let those whose ambitions run to high academia and to the professions choose a school that is headed in that direction. Let those who feel that peace, love, happiness and flowers in the hair are the most important things in life choose a school that is so oriented. I do not dispute their right to do it; the only thing I dispute is their right to jam it down the throats of my children.

**Mr. Fouras:** How could a person on an ordinary wage choose to send his son to Brisbane Grammar?

**Mr. GYGAR:** He cannot at the moment, but he could under a voucher system, because persons who could not afford more than their voucher could get together and form a school which encompassed the educational principles that they held dearest to them. We all know that schools have reputations. A member has only to walk through his electorate to hear that this school is a good one and that school is a bad one. The same thing will happen.

**Mr. Moore:** It should be so much per head to any school. No matter which school a child went to, the taxpayer should be footing the same bill.

**Mr. GYGAR:** That is exactly what I am suggesting.

**Mr. Jones:** That is socialism.

**Mr. GYGAR:** No, it is not socialism by any means. Socialism is when the same dead hand is on everybody, when the same grey paint goes on everybody. I suggest to the honourable member through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that socialism is opposed to any sort of variety and freedom of choice, because socialism enshrines the crazy notion that all wisdom rests in one head. Socialists have never been able to find it yet; every time one bounces up they chop it off. I refer to Stalin, Khrushchev and the other great socialists who were the founts of all knowledge!

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Gunn): Order! The honourable member for Cairns is interjecting from other than his usual place.

**Mr. GYGAR:** This system is not socialist in any way, shape or form. I suggest that if we even considered introducing it at the higher levels in this State the loudest screams would come from members on the other side. The Queensland Teacher's Union and other vested interests would bounce up and down, because their security of tenure would be shot to pieces. The simple fact is that if they did not perform they would be out on their ear. If there is one thing that socialists hate it is the idea that they have to deliver the goods. The only reason they hate that is that they have not yet been able to do so.

These are just a few of the things I would like to look to in the coming years. Looking around at my colleagues in the House, I am sure that there is ample talent, determination and dedication here to lead the State to further prosperity, happiness and freedom in the coming years. Frankly, I hope I will have a part to play in the task that lies ahead of us. I want to play that part and maintain Queensland in its place as the premier State in Australia and a place where future generations will raise their children in peace and security, continuing under the mantle of Her Majesty the Queen.

**Mr. SHAW** (Wynnum) (4.42 p.m.): First, I join with previous speakers in offering congratulations to the Governor for the very fine job he is doing not only for the State but for the office he represents. He has a fairly difficult job. I do not agree with the remarks of one speaker who said that all incumbents of this office have done a first-class job and none ever warranted any criticism. It is a fact of life that some people carry out their functions more successfully than others. Unfortunately, in recent history some persons have occupied the office of Governor who have not carried out the duties of their office as well as others who preceded and succeeded them.

It is a pity that the Governor's Opening Speech is prepared by the Government of the day. I fully realise that this is the normal practice throughout all Parliaments under the Westminster system, but it does tend to align Governors with political parties. The function which Governors fulfil—and most of them fulfil it very well—is carried out better if the individual is free of any alignment whatsoever with any political party.

**An Opposition Member:** Why don't we just abolish it?

**Mr. SHAW:** There are people who do believe that Governors are a very necessary part of our democratic system. I am not going to argue whether that is so. I do concede that they carry out their work in a very fine way. This is exemplified by the royal family. Whether or not a person is a monarchist and believes that we need the royal family, I do not think he would argue that the royal family does not carry out its duties in a very fine way. Very few persons, particularly those who have been involved in public life, even at the level of parliamentarians, would envy members of the royal family. Those who are involved in public life would fully appreciate the tremendous strain under which members of the royal family operate and how wonderful it is that they carry out that job so well.

The Governor in his Opening Speech referred to improvements in Queensland's hospital system. Unfortunately, he did not refer to the hospitals which the Government, in its policy speech at the last election, promised to provide in four Brisbane suburbs. This is of some concern to me as a hospital was promised for the Wynnum electorate. A promise was made that tenders would be called in February or March this year. That time has passed without tenders being called. We were also told that construction of the hospital would begin either this month or next month.

**Mr. Moore:** Haven't you heard of the fiscal difficulties the Government is going through?

**Mr. SHAW:** When fiscal difficulties are involved, the Government has a responsibility in the first place to qualify promises by saying, "If conditions allow, it will be started by a certain date." When I pointed out that I was very grateful for the promise made by the Government but that the timetable set out was a practical impossibility, the representative of the Government in my electorate at that time said that I did not know what I was talking about—that it was not something the Government would be trying to do; that it was a fact.

**Mr. Miller:** Who said that?

**Mr. SHAW:** The representative of the Government in my area said that.

**Mr. Gygar:** He would not be of sound judgment.

**Mr. SHAW:** Obviously he was not, because he has been proved wrong. The time has come and gone and it has not happened.

I have great faith in the Minister for Health. The timetable set out by him was fairly practical. Following the statements he has made since then, I believe that the fears expressed about this promise—which, incidentally, has been made in the past five elections in my area—namely, that it was purely an election gimmick, are unfounded. As I said, I have faith in the Minister's statement that this proposal will be put into effect. However, I ask that it be started urgently.

The Government's proposal must be further explained because there were discrepancies between the proposals put forward by the National Party and by the Liberal Party during the election campaign. As a result there was a certain amount of confusion in the electorate about what was intended. I should like some early decisions by the Government on what sort of hospital, and what basic services will be provided.

**Mr. Moore:** Perhaps they will put a tent there.

**Mr. SHAW:** That is quite possible, because it was described as a modular-type construction that would allow later additions.

When modular constructions are spoken of, some people immediately think of the demountable classrooms used in our schools. I hope it will be a little better than that, because we are looking for a permanent structure.

We have been promised a 40-bed hospital. A decision will have to be made fairly soon on how the beds will be allocated. Quite obviously some will be for private patients while others will be for public patients. It would be a great pity if too many were allocated for one use or the other, and people had to wait because beds in a certain category were unavailable. The Government will have to adopt a flexible approach in applying itself to this problem.

I am concerned that the type of facility suggested may place excessive demands on the ambulance service. We have been told that this is to be a holding hospital to cater for post-operative cases and people who no longer require intensive care but are not well enough to go home. Such people sometimes suffer a relapse and doctors often err in judgment, so patients have to be readmitted

to hospital. A great demand could be placed on the ambulance service in transporting patients to and from the major city hospitals and the outlying hospitals.

I hope that, when a decision is finally made on how these hospitals are to be staffed and how they are to operate, every opportunity is taken to incorporate the services already offered by local G.P.s and to involve G.P.s as much as possible in the operation of those facilities. Promises were made in my own area that the hospital would operate with an emergency service day and night. I hope that will be true, but I find it very hard to believe because already the Princess Alexandra and Royal Brisbane Hospitals are overtaxed in trying to provide a full service of that type.

I look forward to seeing the commencement of work in the near future on the provision of that facility in my area. As I said, it is something that has been trotted out like a hardy annual every election-time—every time people were looking for votes. Unfortunately the people in my area have come to regard it very cynically indeed. They will believe it when they see it. While I would welcome the type of proposal that was set out by the National Party, my own attitude is that that would be a little too much to expect. However, I feel that I can look forward with some confidence to having the promises held out by Dr. Edwards honoured.

The promise was made that this would be the first of the four hospitals. I feel sorry for my colleagues who are also looking forward to that facility; but the promise was made that this would be the first of such hospitals provided in Brisbane.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Wynnum has a much higher priority than Surfers Paradise.

**Mr. SHAW:** I think that Wynnum has a higher priority than any other section of the State.

**Mr. Wright:** Except Rockhampton.

**Mr. SHAW:** Including Rockhampton.

In his Opening Speech the Governor referred to the development of the port at the mouth of the Brisbane River. The residents of my area and that of the Leader of the Opposition—the Lytton electorate adjoins mine—view this development with some trepidation. The decision to place the port in the proposed site was taken without

any reference to the associated problems. I believe that the port development is to cost in the vicinity of \$35,500,000. If any firm or company approached a local authority with a proposal to commence a development as large as the port at the mouth of the Brisbane River, no decision would be taken until questions were answered on the effect it would have on the environment. I use the term environment not only in the ecological sense but also as it applies to increased traffic flow and demands on facilities.

Unfortunately, that did not occur in this development. The decision was made to set up the board and construct the new port. We are told that the new port will commence operating next year; yet no decision has at this stage been made about how access will be gained to the new port and what effect traffic will have on the residential areas through which it will pass. We have been told that incorporated in the port proposal is a coal-loading facility. Naturally, there is quite a deal of concern in my area about that.

A seminar was organised for the purpose of answering many questions raised by local residents about the problems they envisaged. The seminar was honoured by the presence of the Premier, who said that he realised how concerned people were over this development. He said at that time—and it was reported in the Press immediately following the seminar—

“It is the road access that would concern you most—the fear of huge trucks pounding through Wynnum on their way to the port.”

I could not have phrased it any better. He continued—

“The Government wants to hear the views and wishes of the people of the area.

“We have set up the Port of Brisbane Authority and we will be planning the port to ensure that road and rail access is kept away from residential areas as much as possible. The new access road will be designed to keep down noise, glare and fumes.

“There will be positive benefits for Wynnum and the Bayside residents in the form of improved roads, better rail connections and improved job opportunities. The amenities to your area will be preserved.”

The new port begins operations next year. We still have not received answers to those questions, which the Premier assured us would be given long before the port began operations.

The Premier said that the road would be designed so as to keep it away from the residential areas and to keep down noise, glare and fumes. Vehicles are already travelling to and from the port and, to date, no design has been commenced. No decisions have been made on where the funding will come from.

That brings me to the next matter the Premier raised when he said—

“There will be positive benefits for Wynnum and the Bayside residents in the form of improved roads.”

To my mind he implied that funds would be made available for roads to the port. Yet at the same time statements were being made by the Minister for Local Government that this was the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council. The Brisbane City Council can raise funds from two sources. The main source is the ratepayers of the city and the other is grants made by other levels of government.

**An Honourable Member:** There are not too many of them.

**Mr. SHAW:** I agree with that interjection. At present there have certainly been no offers of any money whatsoever.

**Mr. Moore** interjected.

**Mr. SHAW:** It was a firm promise by the honourable member's Premier that this would be done. The Premier also said—

“The amenities to your area will be preserved.”

Yet a firm decision has been made that coal will be stockpiled at the port for export. This will be a small mountain of coal. A question was asked at the seminar about the precautions that would be taken to ensure that the residents in the area would not be affected by coal dust blown from this mountain of coal. The answer was that it would be wet down and that when it was wet, dust could not blow from it. A further question was asked about how it was possible to wet down a pile of coal about 400 or 500 ft. high. The answer was that there would not be any problem anyway because

the prevailing winds did not blow that way and therefore the dust probably would not blow over the houses. I have lived in that area for a long time. The prevailing winds and certainly the strongest winds come from the north-east. A north-easterly wind will blow a cloud of dust into the areas of Wynnum North, Lindum and Wynnum. It is not good enough in this day and age to say in regard to pollution control that the prevailing winds do not blow that way. People are entitled to expect a little better than that.

I am concerned at the suggestion continually offered by Ministers in regard to this and all other problems that the answer lies in town planning. The citizens of this area have absolutely no protection under the City of Brisbane Town Plan. Many honourable members have had experience in local government and would know the problems that arise generally with town planning and how difficult it is to correct those caused by people who defy town planning requirements. Town planning is not the answer to pollution problems. It does not offer any protection from developments of this type, particularly when the development is being carried out by the State Government or by semi-government instrumentalities.

Most of the area immediately surrounding the new port has been defined under the Brisbane Town Plan as a harbour industry zone. One of the main requirements is a certificate from the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development that the particular industry requires a harbourside location. There is considerable cause for concern at the way in which those certificates are issued, but I will not go into that at this time.

Courts have held that, if an industry has obtained a certificate from the Department of Industrial Development, it has the right to commence operations in that particular location. It is completely outside the control of other regulations. For instance, it is not required to conform to the town plan pollution regulations, and it certainly does not have to meet the requirements which would normally be asked of a developer who is seeking consent under the town plan to develop a particular area.

It is normal procedure for an industry to at least provide the needs which are created in its area of operation. I think that is fair. Sometimes an industry is asked to provide other things which it should not have to

provide, but I think it is fair enough to ask an industry seeking to commence operations on a particular site to meet the cost of the things that are needed purely as a result of the development of this industry. Yet we find here a loophole whereby people may commence operations where otherwise they would not have been permitted to do so. I think this is a loophole which urgently needs to be corrected.

The cost of the provision of facilities for this new port should not be a further burden on the ratepayers of this city. I think the ratepayers of Brisbane, together with the ratepayers of all other local authorities in this State, are being asked to meet commitments which are already heavy enough, particularly when it is considered that the contribution that a ratepayer is required to make is not in any way based on his ability to pay; it is based on the valuation of the particular piece of land that he occupies. This raises quite a number of problems as to the fields which local authorities should enter and the cost which they should be asked to bear. I think it is quite unfair to ask pensioners and people on fixed incomes, who derive no benefit whatsoever from the development of a facility such as a port, to carry a disproportionate share of the cost of providing facilities for vehicles to get to and from the port.

Unfortunately, it has not occurred yet to people in authority that the Wynnum residents are very concerned about the increased traffic flow through Wynnum on the road link to be built from the port to the Gold Coast and northern New South Wales. Any vehicle leaving the port area will naturally take the shortest route to the Pacific Highway, and thence to the Gold Coast and northern New South Wales.

**Mr. Bishop:** You need another freeway to the Gold Coast.

**Mr. SHAW:** I agree. We need a decent road right from the border to the new port. I think this will cause concern not only to people in my electorate, but to those in the neighbouring electorate of Redlands and right through to the Gold Coast.

Recently I attended a p. and c. meeting in my electorate called by parents who were greatly concerned about the provision of road-safety facilities in front of their school. This is a problem which is exercising the minds of many members, and about which I would like to say more later on. It was

suggested that traffic lights be placed on the pedestrian crossing in front of the school, but present at that meeting were several drivers of heavy transport vehicles who pointed out that the zebra crossing in front of the school is only a couple of hundred yards away from the crest of a hill and that heavy vehicles travelling at the speed limit cannot stop by the time they reach the crossing.

**Dr. Lockwood:** Shift the crossing.

**Mr. SHAW:** This is a matter of great concern.

**Dr. Lockwood:** Who put it there?

**Mr. SHAW:** I think someone said, "Shift the crossing."

**Dr. Lockwood:** You're not going to answer that one.

**Mr. SHAW:** Perhaps the honourable member would like to suggest where the crossing should be placed in order to overcome this problem. The council traffic people are presently investigating the problem. There is no physical problem at all in shifting the crossing a little further away from the crest of the hill, but if this is done it will not then be situated in front of the school and the children will have to walk 100 yards down the road to get to it. Honourable members might think that that would not cause any problem, but anybody who knows anything about schoolchildren will know that many children will not then walk down to the crossing. Others might suggest that traffic lights be installed, but that will not solve the problem either. I think the problem really lies in the fact that vehicles of that type cannot stop in less than a couple of hundred yards, and cost is probably the only reason why something is not done about that.

With the development of the new port, problems have also arisen in the provision of an access road to the residential sections of Wynnum and Manly. I do not think time will allow me to go into that problem in this speech, but I hope that this matter will be considered very seriously by the authorities concerned. We have already had people coming up with quick answers, as was shown by an interjection a few moments ago. The problem arises because no access road has been provided for traffic travelling

to the new port. The solution sounds simple, but the problem will have to be gone into more deeply than it has been at present. If the present arrangement is not altered, people will then make dangerous manoeuvres in the heavy port traffic.

I know that it is dangerous for new members to make suggestions about the procedures of this House and to pass judgment on what occurs, because it is very easy to get into trouble when making such remarks. At the same time there is sometimes advantage in taking a fresh look at things, and perhaps after I have been in this House for some time I might come to accept things. So at the risk of suggesting something which has already been suggested before or which honourable members may feel is ridiculous, I shall take the opportunity to comment on the procedures of the House. Having come from the field of local government, I find that there is one right which parliamentarians do not enjoy and which I feel they should. I was aware of this before entering this House. Parliamentarians do not have the right, on behalf of their constituents, to check on what the bureaucracy is doing. In the field of local government, councillors can discuss in much greater detail with members of the staff why certain decisions have been made, and are able to find out, on behalf of their constituents, whether or not they are being too harshly dealt with.

In an endeavour to overcome this problem, some time ago Parliament appointed a Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations, who had the function of investigating problems that people submitted to him. I think it is obvious from his reports that most of the problems are fairly parochial ones that do not involve matters of Government policy, and that this function could probably be carried out much more effectively by members of Parliament if, with the blessing of the Minister concerned, they were able to view the records relating to a particular complaint and discuss the matter with the members of the bureaucracy who dealt with it. I am aware that this is sometimes done now, but there is a difference between being able to do it as a matter of right and being able to insist on certain things being done on the one hand and placing one's self at the mercy of public servants on the other.

My experience has been that in many of the matters investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner his finding has been that public servants have acted quite correctly. That also has been my experience when I have investigated matters at other levels in government. Usually the problem is not that public servants are acting unlawfully; it is that one wants them to bend the regulations a little and perhaps use a little bit of common sense. Sometimes there is no reason why that cannot be done if matters are investigated properly and talked over reasonably.

The misuse of question-time is a matter that has concerned not only new members of Parliament but also old members. I noticed that the honourable member for Landsborough pointed with great pride to the fact that the right to ask questions without notice has only recently been extended to members of this Assembly. Although I am quite sure that honourable members are grateful that that right has been extended to them, much more needs to be done if people—and it is the rights of people that we are talking about—are to have access to information from Ministers.

I recognise that sometimes questions without notice are asked with the intention of embarrassing Ministers. However, under no circumstances can that be said of questions placed on notice, and honourable members who place questions on notice have a right to expect the Minister concerned to make a genuine attempt to answer questions fully. That certainly has not been my experience in the short time that I have been in the House.

I asked a question of the Premier about the Government's intentions on the very important issue of Moreton Island. It has been very widely rumoured that the Government intends to override not only the opinion of the Brisbane City Council, in whom it vested the very important function of caring for the people who have invested their funds in Moreton Island, but also the opinion and wishes of the thousands of people who have registered objections to certain provisions of the town plan. I asked the Premier whether the Government would table in the Parliament its plans for Moreton Island. I was quite prepared for him

to say, "No." At least that would have been an answer to the question. However, he said—

"A committee of Government officers is examining the boundaries of granted mining leases and is making use of the information contained in the reports which have been carried out."

That answer bears no relationship to the question I asked. The question was on the Notices of Question sheet, so there was plenty of time available for departmental officers to carefully consider the answer.

I also asked whether the Government was prepared to wipe aside the recommendations of the committees of inquiry and the recommendations of the Brisbane City Council. I also asked whether there was any truth in the rumours that a large non-committed zone would be permitted on the island. The Premier could have answered those questions several ways, yet he said, "The Brisbane Town Plan has not yet been gazetted." That is quite obvious; but again the answer bears no relationship to the questions asked.

When questions are placed on notice we are entitled to expect that at least they will be given some consideration.

A similar situation applies in relation to a question I asked about the problem of air pollution in suburbs on the south side of the river. In the last day or so another member of the House put similar questions on notice. It is obvious that he is also experiencing the same problem. From my own experience I know that the Leader of the Opposition, whose electorate adjoins mine, has quite forcefully raised the problem of air pollution and the way it affects those suburbs. In a previous Parliament the responsible Minister announced that action was being taken to look at this problem. My question was not a political one, but one aimed merely at eliciting information on behalf of people who are greatly concerned about the problem. I asked what was the progress of this proposed investigation, to which the Minister replied, "I am not aware of any form of air pollution that generally affects suburbs from Manly to Sunnybank." I suppose he is splitting straws and saying that, while he was aware of a pollution problem in a number of suburbs on the south side, he was not aware of one that spread to Sunnybank.

When questions are of a non-political nature and are aimed purely at getting information which people in the electorate

require, it is fair enough to expect that they be given due consideration. Probably that is not a fair comment to make in all cases. Certainly many Ministers make every effort to see that all relevant information is made available and that all the actions of their department are explained as fully as possible.

I mentioned briefly the problems concerning the town plan. One of the things that must concern all people, particularly in Brisbane, is the way in which the Government is apparently setting out to override objections to the Brisbane Town Plan. In years gone by many members of this House criticised the Brisbane City Council on the basis that not enough was being done to ensure that the people of Brisbane knew what was proposed under the provisions of the town plan. In some instances it was probably fair criticism. However, there could be no criticism of that type of the last proposal concerning the town plan. Every effort was made to ensure that the town plan was debated as fully as possible. Again and again time was extended to make sure that Opposition members of the council were not in any way restricted in what they had to say. Every effort was made to see that meetings were held and that people in the area understood fully what was going on.

There is cause for grave concern when, in spite of meetings and taking care to ensure that people understood what was proposed, changes are now being made behind closed doors and details are being leaked gradually about what is proposed. Some people with vested interests apparently know what is going on, whereas others are being misled entirely because proposals that they investigated while the town plan was on display are no longer proceeded with. The Government now has a responsibility to ensure that the people who will be affected by these changes know what they are and are given the right to object to them.

**Mr. Moore:** The council always ignores the objections.

**Mr. SHAW:** Nobody's objection was ignored. I take that interjection because it is completely untrue and displays ignorance of what happens. It is incredible that people here who made the rules under which the town plan had to be prepared are completely ignorant of what had to be done.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. D'ARCY** (Woodridge) (5.22 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to pledge the loyalty of the electors of Woodridge to Her Majesty the Queen. As Woodridge is a new electorate, its people have not been represented jointly by one member in this Parliament. Being the type of electorate that it is, it will become a major seat in this Assembly.

I congratulate the Governor on the fine job that he is doing. He is proving himself to be one of the best Governors we have had, and, of course, we are well aware that he is related to a former Labor Tasmanian Premier.

The new electorate of Woodridge was considered to be a reasonably safe Liberal seat. Indeed, one Liberal member vacated his seat to contest it. But the Woodridge electorate includes not only Woodridge but also Kingston, Springwood, Daisy Hill and Rochedale and adjoins the electorate of Mansfield. It then runs back to the Redland Bay turn-off. I was pleased to note that one of the supposedly conservative areas of the electorate, which was formerly part of the electorate of Albert, which I represented from 1972 to 1974, polled 51 per cent in my favour. The result was vastly different from that in 1974. I refer to the Loganholme and Slacks Creek areas.

The Government attempted a gerrymander in the Woodridge area to maintain its influence in the seats in the area, but it suffered severe set-backs. It was unfortunate that the A.L.P. did not win the seat of Salisbury. We missed out by a very narrow margin. We will definitely win that seat at the next election. Kingston, which was in the old electorate of Albert, was transferred to Fassifern. The people of that area showed their displeasure at the Government and the honourable member for Fassifern who is in the House, by voting almost 2 to 1 against him. This is a growing area. In the future the A.L.P. will go from strength to strength and we will be looking towards winning the seats of Fassifern and Albert and, with respect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, even your seat of Mansfield.

The election campaign in my area was a very hard-fought one. I had a tremendous amount of help from the very strong Labor Party branches. Some of the members' wives hardly saw them during the campaign. I would like to mention particularly my campaign director and his wife, Dave and Pat Beddall.

**Mr. Wright:** Fine people.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** Indeed. I would also like to mention Councillor Jack Davis of the Albert Shire Council, Peter Lynch, Peter Arnold, George Lang, Ray Parker, Wayne Curtis, George Bennett, John Hewardine, Frank Brinkman, Michael Eborn, Fred Huntress, Frank and Donna Moore, Alan Ashman, Pauline and Brian Milner and all the other people who worked so hard in my campaign. There were also Diane and Graeme Smith, Louie and Margaret Laenen, whom I

will mention later in my speech, Gail White, Linda and Bob Cakebread, Les and Dale O'Brien, Hans and Erica Althoff and Gordon and Shanti Longworth. There were also the donors in my campaign, and my secretary, Ms Kathy Hutchins.

The redistribution carried out by the Government in Queensland is probably one of the most important issues in this State today. This Government has discarded virtually all of its principles in the rules of Government. I am afraid some Government members cannot even spell the word. As has been pointed out before, based on the number of people who went to the polls in November 1977, if the seats in Queensland each covered an equal number of people, there would be only 60 members in this Chamber, not 82.

It is relevant that the Australian Labor Party in this Parliament has representatives in just about every provincial city in Queensland—certainly the coastal cities—as well as a large representation in the Brisbane metropolitan area. Prior to 1972 we also represented about five-eighths of the land mass in Queensland in the Parliament. Of course, that will come to pass again.

The Government must eventually face up to what the people want, and they want representation according to people, not trees and cows. This has even been said by a lot of National Party people, many of whom of course want to rid themselves of their useless members. Governments of all political persuasions in the past have realised that it is a necessity to give people fair representation. After all, isn't that what this Parliament is supposed to be about? Isn't that why the Westminster system was introduced? Queensland has the worst gerrymander in Australia, and our redistribution is one of the reasons why we have become the laughing-stock of the country.

The performance of this Government has certainly left a lot to be desired. I must qualify that by saying its financial performance. The Bjelke-Petersen Government continually tells us that it is a good financial manager—generally because it manages to balance its Budget. What it does not tell us, of course, is that its performance in comparison with the other State's is very, very poor indeed. Let us look at the active, vital Dunstan Government in South Australia, which has done more in the fields of health, hospitals, education and roads than any other State in recent times. It is a State that has a lower taxation than Queensland, despite what the Premier says at election-time.

**Mr. Powell:** Prove it. Give us the figures.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** It is easy to prove. If the member for Isis wanted to, he could. If he were good at division—and obviously he is not—he could divide the total income by the number of people in the State. It is very easy to prove. The figures can be obtained from the Commonwealth Statistician. Those figures rarely lie.

This applies also to the new Lowe Labor Government in Tasmania. Of course, except for a very short period, Labor has been in office for a long time in Tasmania and, even though Tasmania is a very small State, it has done a great deal in the fields of industrial relations, housing and hospitals.

The Wran Labor Government in New South Wales is proving to be a very vital and popular Government. It won office in times of adversity. When it goes to the polls late this year or early next year it will go from strength to strength.

By comparison, the Queensland Government is inefficient. It has not performed well in the field of service to the people. It is not performing on an economic basis. It is slow and tardy compared with the vital Governments of the States that I have mentioned. Its conservatism is making the people of Queensland quite ill.

I have mentioned many of the problems confronting the people of Queensland. Many of those problems are accentuated in Woodridge. The roads in my electorate are a disgrace. While the electorate was being represented by the conservatives, there was no progress in road construction, although this was promised between 1972 and 1974.

Kingston Road, the main arterial road from the Pacific Highway, and Compton Road, which runs from Acacia Ridge to Woodridge, are a disgrace. In the past few months some work has been done on Kingston Road. This work should accelerate following my good representation of the electorate. The Minister is now becoming more aware of the problems. Believe it or not, he even found his way to a fete down there the other day.

Compton Road has created one of the most serious problems we have faced in the area because it has a railway bridge which this Government has not done anything about and does not want to know about. Recently I have been making representations about the bridge, although it is in the electorate of Salisbury. I have been told by the Railway Department that it received no representations in this regard from the honourable member for Salisbury during the term of the last Parliament. It is a disgrace that work has not been done on Compton Road. The Brisbane City Council and the Albert Shire Council, both of which are involved in the work on the bridge, are prepared to negotiate but the Railway Department has not been forthcoming with an answer to the problem.

The Pacific Highway splits my electorate in two in the Springwood area. This fact has caused major problems and many deaths because residents have to cross that road during the major shopping periods, particularly on Saturday morning. They were promised overpasses ages ago. The Minister told me this morning that the planning for an overpass in Park Road is well under way. He has said that before. That overpass is

essential to avoid road deaths. Eventually the freeway will join the Pacific Highway at Springwood and work on the roads will be done. I have been pressing the Minister and he has been co-operative to some extent in improving the service roads which join the Pacific Highway. Many are now serviceable and by the end of this year quite a few more will be. At the moment they are no more than dirt tracks. They have stayed in that condition under the representation that that area has had for the past few years.

**An Honourable Member:** Who was the representative?

**Mr. D'ARCY:** The honourable member for Redlands was the representative for most of that area.

Many of these roads are being improved, but they still create major problems. The Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, who is the heir apparent to the Premier, is introducing a Bill—

**An Honourable Member interjected.**

**Mr. D'ARCY:** No, he has not announced it, but he has told everybody that he intends to create a new shire of Logan, which will be part of the area I represent. He will do this, in the first instance, in order to protect himself. The National Party managed to hold the seats of Fassifern and Albert at the last election, but they will not do so at the next election. The point is that the electorates held by the National Party have retreated into the shires of Beaudesert and Nerang. The creation of a new Logan shire will mean that the residents will have to pay excessive rates in order to overcome the problems created by developers. The Beaudesert and Logan councils were allowed to rape the northern end of what will be the new Logan shire. I believe that the Government has a lot to answer for in the representation of divisions 1 and 2 in the Albert shire. In division 1, for example, two councillors were elected by 13,000 electors, but in one of the divisions held by the National Party fewer than 2,000 electors—I think 1,500 to be exact—also elected two councillors. That means over eight times more electors in one division than the other voted to elect the same number of councillors. That is the type of representation and distribution that this Government allows.

I appeal to the Minister for Local Government to make sure that the people of the new shire of Logan get a reasonable deal financially and that they get reasonable representation within the area. I believe that the Minister intends to take the inane and insane step of introducing preferential voting in local government elections in these areas. We have enough problems as it is without the Minister buying into areas like this.

The electorate of Woodridge contains a large area of Housing Commission homes, both on the Daisy Hill side of the highway and on the other side. Some of these areas have been developed in the last decade and some even before. Many problems have been created by this development. For instance, in the Woodridge area itself, as well as in Daisy Hill, where there have been houses for many years, there is no sewerage. This is a major problem which previous councils failed to face up to. They allowed large companies to set up businesses there and in one case permitted the erection of a large shopping complex. They put the needs of large companies before the needs of the people. That is an attitude typical of this Government.

In this day and age it is shocking that earth-closet outhouses should still be standing. We do not find them in South Australia, Tasmania or New South Wales. The honourable member for Caboolture smiles, but he is not capable of understanding the embarrassment that these outhouses cause the people who live in this area. They do not like inviting friends over to visit them. At the moment the council will not even allow the installation of septic tanks.

**An Honourable Member:** Why not?

**Mr. D'ARCY:** Because the septic effluent seeps up out of the ground and creates a stinking mess. It is worse than having the old thunder-boxes.

There is also the problem that the ground cannot absorb the sillage that comes from sinks, washing machines and so forth. The Housing Commission and the council have the audacity to advise the householder to use a hose and spread the sillage around the yard. What a ridiculous suggestion to make in this day and age. It could only happen in Queensland because this Government is so far behind the times. I make an appeal to the Government on behalf of the electors in the Woodridge area to make sure that the installation of sewerage becomes a major consideration for this area. I realise, of course, that when the new shire council is elected it will be a Labor council and it will become the top priority of the council, but the funds will have to come from this Government.

Another problem facing people in this area, and one that many Queensland cities face, is the provision of hospital facilities. Since this Government took office it has made some dreadful mistakes in not providing hospital services where they are most needed. Even the Minister for Health recognises in private the huge problems created by this Government's failure to keep up with world trends, which is to build a hospital where it is most needed. The nearest hospital to the Woodridge/Springwood area is the Princess Alexandra Hospital, which is many, many miles away from this centre

of population. It is overcrowded and it is virtually impossible to park a car anywhere near it.

Huge sums have been injected into this hospital, as they have been into many of the central city hospitals, but the necessary facilities are still not available. In reasonable States such as New South Wales and South Australia, new hospitals are being built in aesthetic surroundings with huge grounds and plenty of parking facilities. The new Flinders Medical Centre situated in an Adelaide suburb has 700 beds and 2,000 car-parking spaces within the grounds. In is among the best-equipped hospitals in Australia as, indeed, are all the hospitals in South Australia. For example, all four major hospitals in the city are air-conditioned. They all have proper bed facilities and are equipped with \$1,000 Namco beds. The maternity sections have bidets as well as toilets. In Queensland Government members cannot even spell the word "bidet". They have never seen one.

This is the problem—that Queensland is way behind the times. Throughout the summer the spinal units in the central city hospitals experience problems caused by heat and overcrowding. Planning to avoid this should have taken place a decade ago. The new wing at the Royal Brisbane Hospital has been described by staff, doctors, patients, and even many in the Health Department, as a disaster—a tragedy for Queensland—brought about by poor planning, and we urgently need change. In line with present world trends, I am urgently pressing for the establishment of hospitals in the populous areas of Woodridge and Springwood.

As I have already stated, there are many Housing Commission homes in the Springwood area and older-established ones in Rochedale, Daisy Hill, Woodridge and Kingston. As other members have pointed out, the occupants of many of these homes have been hit with very steep rent increases, despite the fact that they were erected 10 or 15 years ago and still have no sewerage. Many of them were developed in contravention of local authority by-laws. As we know, this Government has a record of introducing laws enabling it to override local authority ordinances, which is a disgrace. On behalf of the residents of the older-established Housing Commission areas I appeal to the Government to spend some extra money to upgrade the dirt tracks and other roads that were originally built in these areas.

The type of house constructed by the Housing Commission in Queensland is also way behind the times. No doubt all honourable members have been down to the Housing Commission and seen the beautiful new brochures showing the new homes that the Housing Commission is now able to build. To date I have not seen one in Queensland, but if members go to South Australia, Tasmania or New South Wales they will see far more modern homes, built at lower cost

by tender, than they will see here. At the present time in Queensland the prospective buyer of a Housing Commission house—the working man—is faced with a deposit gap of \$8,000 to \$10,000 which he just cannot meet. In other States this problem has been solved by sympathetic Labor Governments.

I now want to discuss the schools in my electorate. It is probably serviced by more and bigger schools than any other electorate in Queensland. We have, for example, two primary schools in one street, one with a student population of 1,200 and the other 800. These schools—the North Woodridge State School and the Harris Fields State School in Smith Road—are only half a mile apart. We will also need another primary school not far north of those two schools in the northern Slacks Creek area. Other schools servicing the electorate include Springwood Central, Springwood North, Slacks Creek, Woodridge North, Kingston, Mabel Park, Woodridge State High, Eight Mile Plains and the new Kingston State High.

One of the problems in schooling that have arisen in this area is the tremendous cut-back in public works funds, not only for maintenance but also for the carrying out of contracts. Some of the contractors now fulfilling contracts for the Works Department have not even had to tender for the work. Of course, it is usual for the Government of Queensland not to call tenders but to hand out work on a platter. Time and time again I have seen instances in which the maintenance men employed by the Works Department have had to clean up the mess left by contractors in schools, police stations and other public buildings in my electorate, and I take it that that is happening throughout Queensland. It is a disgrace.

It is equally a disgrace that in many instances the Works Department is asked to supply a supervisor or a quantity surveyor for the contractor. Because the contractor will not spend the money to have a foreman on the job, that man, paid by the State Government, usually ends up acting not only as supervisor but also as the contractor's foreman. I am sure that the honourable member for Townsville South would agree that that is happening throughout the State.

Another problem in Queensland schools is that we are well behind in the provision of school dental clinics. Queensland was the last State to begin providing school dental clinics.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** We have more than any other State.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** That is not correct. Every school in South Australia and Tasmania with more than 500 pupils has a school dental clinic. Those clinics were established and training people well in advance of other States. Tasmania has been training people in this field for 20 years. Actually, A.C.T. and Northern Territory dental therapists are still trained in Tasmania.

Of course, the only reason we have dental clinics in Queensland is that the Whitlam Labor Government held office in Canberra, and recently there has been a rush to have clinics established with Commonwealth funds. The Queensland Government is now bucking because these funds have been cut back.

I turn now to a very tragic case that occurred in my electorate earlier this year. In my opinion, we should be seriously concerned about the way the Queensland Police Force is carrying out its duties. Recently we saw the Police Force commanded by the Premier of this State to assemble 700-strong to arrest a few demonstrators and to watch demonstrations and street marches. Yet the Laenen murder case, which occurred in my electorate, has not yet been solved.

Let me outline some of the things that occurred in that case. The mother and father of the girl who was murdered, Mary Laenen, were both members of the Woodridge Branch of the Australian Labor Party and worked hard in my election campaign. Mary Laenen was an exceptional girl. She worked for the Australian Taxation Department. However, when the Press got hold of the early facts in the case they virtually besmirched that girl's name. Much of the information on which that publicity was based came from the Police Force, but the information was not correct. They had no right to make any statement early in that case.

The facts were that Louis Laenen, the father of the girl, knowing the sort of girl Mary Laenen was, expected her to return home on the Saturday night, as she always had done in the past. When she did not return, he became anxious and worried and he went to the police station quite early on the Sunday morning. In the first instance he was virtually turned away and told to come back and put in a report. It was claimed by the police at the time that his English was not exactly 100 per cent, but I have always been able to understand everything Louis has said, and I am sure that all members in the A.L.P. branches in my electorate have been able to understand him. He has managed to type out a letter documenting some of the things that occurred.

What actually happened in this instance was that Louis Laenen was virtually forced to go and find his daughter himself. He went to the police station on the Sunday morning and put in a missing-person report. In the mid-afternoon the car was located at Acacia Ridge after he had his relatives and friends looking for Mary and her car. The Woodridge police were telephoned immediately the car was found. It was several hours before any police came anywhere near that vehicle. When they did turn up they asked a couple of people in the street whether they had seen the girl. Although the keys were in the vehicle and the handbag was on the front seat, the police locked the vehicle up, left it there and went back to the Acacia Ridge Police

Station. Surely it must be standard police procedure to search the car when a missing person's vehicle is found. They couldn't even manage to do that. The father had a spare set of keys, and he was driven down by a neighbour. It was left to him to find the body of his daughter. It was a tragic situation. I bring these facts out in the Parliament. Normally I would not do this, but after I rang the Minister for Police I received a three-page letter back. I showed it to Mr. Laenen, who wrote a documented report, which he signed. It was also signed by the people involved, including his neighbours, as containing true facts. He commenced his letter—

"It was with great sadness, to read such a distortion of the facts and truth given to you as answer to your personal representation, concerning what really happened to us, and the way the Police (specially at the Woodridge station) handled this case."

It documents in many pages some of the things I have said. I seek leave of the House to have the letter incorporated in "Hansard". (Leave granted.)

"Dear Mr. D'arcy,

"It was with very great sadness, to read such a distortion of the facts and truth given to you as answer to your personal representation, concerning what really happened to us, and the way the Police (specially at the Woodridge station) handled this case. Do n't misunderstand me, I do n't want to start a big row, nor do I want any body's head to roll. But I cannot accept that people in responsible position as the police, are capable to such a distortion and You can do me a great favour to bring this letter to the attention of the Minister for police, as we hope such things will never happen again, as we are certain, if the Woodridge Police had given more attention to our case, the C.I.B. (for whom we have the highest regard) could have started their investigation at least three hours earlier.

"These are the facts as happened between Saturday 28th, of January and Sunday 29th 1978,

"Our child, Mary Yvonne Laenen (twenty two years old) did not leave her home at noon, but between three and three thirty p.m. on Saturday. I do n't think this is important, but I do not understand, why the Woodridge Police mentioned that She left at noon? Our child was in the habit, never to stay out after midnight, without letting us know, her place of staying and the time She would come home. (this was a habit of all our children till they got married).

"Our daughter Mary was known by all her friends for this habit. Unfortunately, on Saturday 28th, January my wife and I went to bed at about ten thirty p.m.

"As I woke up on Sunday morning at seven a.m. I was very suprized to find Mary's room unoccupied. I asked my wife,

if Mary had telephoned? When my wife told me that she had n't heard anything, we thought at first that we had n't heard the telephone, we where at that time quite certain that She would be home before eight a.m. or otherwise let us know her where abouts, as this was her normal way of doing.

"When at eight a.m. She had n't turn up and we had n't heard anything, we panic and started to telephone everybody we thought She may have stayed overnight, but nobody could help us.

"I intended to telephone the Woodridge Police, but my neighbour Mr. J. Ruthenberg who had come to join us, (at that time, we where already very upset) suggested to go to the police station immediately.

"At a few minutes before ten a.m. we (my wife, Mr J. Ruthenberg and I,) entered the Woodridge police station) We are certain about the time as at that time there was a Woman complaining about some naughty kids and a group of young people reporting a car accident.

"We spoke to a police man who's name we do n't know, but we remember he has some tattoo marks on his arms. We told him our great concern about our daughter and her habit to let us know if She for some reason would stay out overnight, we try to convinced him that something was terribly wrong, but we got the impression that he was not very convinced about the importance of our concern.

"At no time did he tell me that he could not understand me and if necessary Mr. J. Ruthenberg (who is born australian) could have helped in the conversation.

"For nearly twenty years we are living in this country, and for fifteen years I worked in the Hotel business and never did I meet somebody who told me 'that he could not understand me'

"Despite the fact that he was not very convinced, he let me fill a missing Person form and accepted a photo of our Mary, he than told us the police would start an investigation.

"At no time could we possible have been at the Woodridge Police station after fifteen minutes pass ten a.m.

"How it is possible that Constable I/c Riley saw us thereat 11,30 a.m. we do n't know, as at that time we had return home for more than one hour.

"And if what we told the Woodridge Police is not a conclusive reason for our suspicion, than I do n't know what is?????????

"We had a terrible feeling that the police was not going to do very much if anything at all.

"This was the reason that we decided to start our own investigation Our daughters, Jose Matijasevic, and Elisabeth Rietveld started looking at Compton Road,

Beenleigh Road and surroundings, but they came back at about noon without any success. I was still trying to get people on the phone who could possibly know something.

"At about 1 p.m. I got in contact with Mary's old boyfriend, Terry Gallacher, he told me, that Mary on Saturday evening had given somebody a lift home to Coley Street Acacia Ridge. My son in law, Mr. Robert Rietveld, his wife Elisabeth and my wife, decided to go to Acacia Ridge, where my daughter Elisabeth spoke with the mother of the boy, Mary had given a lift and She told her that Mary had driven on after letting her son off.

"Driving through Acacia Ridge my Wife, my Son in law and my daughter Elisabeth, found Mary's car in Limerick Street opposite house No 7. At about 1.45 p.m. I received a phone call from my daughter Elisabeth Rietveld, She told me, that they had found Mary's car but no sign of Mary. I told her to stay with the car but not to touch anything and wait for the police.

"I then telephoned the Woodridge Police, for the first time at about 2 p.m. I spoke to a police man who told me, he was not the same person to whom we had reported Mary as a missing person. I then informed him that Mary's car had been located in Limerick Street Acacia Ridge. He asked if I could spell Limerick Street? I told him I did n't know, but there was only one bl. Limerick Street. in Acacia Ridge. He promised me that he would start an investigation.

"At about 3.40 p.m. Mrs M. Smith (a neighbour of my daughter Elisabeth Rietveld), came at the scene and as my wife was getting sick from worry it was decided that Mrs. M. Smith should take her home, they left Limerick Street at about 3.50 p.m. In the mean time my daughter Elisabeth telephoned me again and asked; 'what is happening Dad, the police has not been here yet?'

"I immediately telephoned the Woodridge Police (now for the second time). In the presence of Mr. M. Whitby, (an other of my neighbours) the following conversation took place.

"I, to the Woodridge Police; Why for heavens sake has nobody gone to Limerick Street, to investigate my daughter Mary's whereabouts? Some body at the Woodridge Police station.

"Mr. Laenen, we have done some investigation ourself, and we have found out, that your daughter Mary was having a good time last night at the Sunnybank Motel, I advise you, to go and take her car home, She will turn up later, at this moment She is somewhere having a good time.

"I thought that I got a heart attack, I started screaming in the telephone, so loud that my neighbour Mr. M. Whitby,

who was standing next to me, took a step backwards. I told the police what I thought about him, he than replied that it was very difficult for the Woodridge Police, to go to Acacia Ridge and as a matter of fact, they where not allowed to do so, as Acacia Ridge was not in their district I asked him, why for heavens sake he had not contacted the C.I.B.?? He than told me that he would do everything possible.

"My neighbour Mr. M Whitby, than telephoned the C.I.B. himself who told him they would be there in about half an hour.

"By that time Mrs. M. Smith and my wife had returned and Mrs. M. Smith made a suggestion that we should have a look in the boot of Mary's car for some possible clues.

"Mrs. E. Whitby than asked if we had a spare key from Mary's car? When we told her, we did, She suggested to go back and have a look. I and Mrs. E. Whitby went to Acacia Ridge, and by arriving in Limerick Street, we saw Mary's car but nobody there, as at that time police from Acacia Ridge station has taken my son in law and his wife Mr. and Mrs. Rietveld to the station to make some statement.

"It was about 4.30 p.m when I opened the boot of Mary's car and got the most horrible shock of my life and which I can never forget my dear child dead and naked body. Something in my head broke down and I started screaming, 'that b. told me to take that car home' I was running up and down Limerick Street, screaming the same words over and over when police started to arrive, a plain clothes police man ordered two Constables to put me in a police car, for the first time in my life I started feeling like being arrested. After a while I got a hold of my self and leaving the police car I told some police man who approach me, not to try to touch me again, he left me alone and somebody give me a glass of water, after a while an other plain clothes police man asked me, to go with him to Acacia Ridge police station to make a statement.

"My statement was quiet in accordance with this letter, but when the detective asked me to sign it, I found out that he had forgotten to write down, the part I have signed A:till B:

"I than refused to sign that statement and he made a new one in wich he included that particular part.

"This is what really happend on the 28th and 29th of Januari 1978. and to give you an assurance that it is the truth, every body who is mentioned in this letter and who where with us the whole day (Sunday 29th of Januari) will sign this letter.

"Yours sincerely.

Louis Laenen.

(Signed)

"We the undersigned, testify that the contents of this letter, written by Mr. Laenen, about what happen in the case of his daughter Mary's disappearance is the truth.

"Woodridge 20th of March 1978.

"J. Matyasevic

"Mayrien. Whitbhy. (Sgd.)

"Elaine. Whitbhy.

"Jh. Ruthenberg. (Sgd.)

"M.H. Ruthenberg.

"E. Rietveld. (Sgd.)

"R. Rietveld.

"M. L. Smith. (Sgd.)"

It is a tragic case and a worry to all of us who have been associated with it. We had trouble getting the body released. We had trouble getting the car back; it has only been back a couple of days. Of course, the murderer of this girl has not yet been found. The police are virtually saying that there is very little hope of solving the murder.

Education in general has been talked about in this debate. The decisions of the Government in recent times, particularly those of the Premier, have stunned the Queensland public to such an extent that many Queenslanders have wondered about his sanity. Even his own party is telling him to take a holiday.

The SEMP issue has been discussed. We have seen some of the SEMP film material. The Minister for Education in this Chamber has completely and utterly bent the facts. The letters published in the newspapers from the Director-General of Education have virtually proved that. The Curricula Branch the the Education Department was responsible for the preparation of some of the SEMP material, and it is tragic that this should now be banned in this State. In his decisions on Tarong, Aurukun, SEMP, MACOS, street marches and many other issues the Premier is virtually out to destroy, not the Labor Party in this instance but the Liberal Party.

The other night the Minister for Education, and today the honourable member for Barron River, mentioned what has become known in Queensland as the Bill Wood case. It is one case that must show the Queensland public that this Government does not have any principles; it does not even live up to the principles of its predecessors. This Government has sunk to the lowest level that any Government could in its redistribution and in its treatment of public servants. I intend to prove to Government members that this National Party Government has sunk to that level.

We all know that Bill Wood was a State schoolteacher who was sacked by the Government after being re-appointed. I will repeat that because the Minister did not really challenge it the other night. Bill Wood was re-employed by the State for

three days at the Mossman school after the Federal election. He was the best man available for the job, and both the Director-General and the Director of Primary Education have said so.

It is important to realise that the Department of Education is more aware of the law than the Premier is. In this context I refer to the Crown Employees Act of 1958, which was introduced by the Nicklin Government. The Premier of the day believed it to be so important that he introduced it himself. It was designed to cover exigencies similar to those affecting Bill Wood.

I will now read some of the things that Mr. Nicklin, the Premier, said on introducing the Bill. The Bill was obviously designed to cover State employees who were standing for Federal elections. Because of the Constitution this was a fairly ticklish subject. Mr. Nicklin said—

"I refer to the provisions of the Officials in Parliament Acts that permit public servants and other Government employees of this State to take up to two months' leave of absence for the purpose of contesting elections for this Assembly.

.....

"I believe every citizen of Queensland is entitled to aspire to becoming a member of either the Federal or State Parliament.

.....

"We have already given that right in relation to our own Parliament with a proper safeguard in the reservation I have mentioned. I am now asking leave to give the same right for the Commonwealth Parliament."

He introduced the Bill that conferred that right.

In summing up after the debate, Mr. Nicklin referred to what all members had said, and at that time there were three parties in the Chamber. In doing so, he said—

"I thank hon. members for the way in which they have received the Bill. I did not expect that it would have any other reception, because I was confident that all hon. members would be happy to join the Government in removing an anomaly that has prevented a very large section of the community from enjoying the undoubted privileges of any citizen—the right to nominate for a State or Federal election.

.....

"It has been introduced to remove an anomaly, one that should never have existed. The Bill will give full citizenship rights to all members of the State Public Service and they are entitled to them. Judging by their remarks, that opinion is held by all hon. members."

That was said by the Premier of Queensland, the leader of a Country-Liberal Government that obviously had many more scruples and principles than the present Government has.

Mr. Jones: This is a few years later.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** That is so.

Mr. Nicklin, a Country Party Premier of Queensland, introduced that legislation to give Queensland public servants the right to stand for Federal politics and not be penalised.

**Mr. Scott:** They have changed their name. It is the National Party now.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** That is right.

The action taken against Bill Wood was sheer, utter victimisation. It has taken the Government, led by Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, to its lowest depths. It is a tragic situation.

In recent times several paper-boys have been killed on roads in Queensland. Not long ago spokesmen for the newspapers and police virtually announced that they had decided to allocate special places for the boys to sell papers from. Evidently the scheme folded and fell by the wayside. I condemn the practice of allowing boys in the early morning and in the afternoon to run up and down among cars on the highways endangering their lives. Two of the boys who were killed came from my electorate. Unless one knows the victims in such cases it is almost impossible to get information from the police.

While on this subject I shall make some comments about road deaths. An anomaly in the Coroner's Act allows people who have been killed to lie by the wayside for many hours, often actually on the road.

*[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]*

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I was referring to the tragedy of the bodies of people killed in road accidents being allowed to lie on the roads. As I said before, evidently under the Coroner's Act police are in charge once an accident victim is presumed to be dead. They are responsible for the certification of death and the formalities attendant thereon. The practicalities are that this entails the time which can elapse until the police arrive at the accident scene, the difficulty of getting a doctor to examine and pronounce upon the state of the body and the eventual transport to the morgue, which could often tie up an ambulance for quite some time.

I realise that the police and ambulance personnel in these cases endeavour to be as helpful and considerate to the bereaved at all times as the pressure of work allows. However, in recent instances in my own electorate in South-east Queensland it has become quite tragic for families whose children have died in road accidents and been allowed to remain on the road for a long period. In the last few months I have had two instances of parents being present when their children have been dead on the road in front of them. One instance last week-end was particularly tragic because of the way in which the body was mutilated. Those minutes during which the body of a young child remains at the scene are particularly hurtful and harmful to the parents.

If a remedy could be found through amendment to the Act, I would appreciate it. The Minister for Justice did not seem to realise it, but there are three sections of the Act that could be easily and quickly amended. In the last few months there have been many instances of this in South-east Queensland. I believe that the Government should help bereaved parents in these cases.

Once again, I pledge the loyalty of the electors of Woodridge to Her Majesty the Queen.

**Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (7.17 p.m.):** In rising to speak to this debate on the Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech to the First Session of the Forty-second Parliament of Queensland, I wish to convey my own personal loyalty and that of the constituents of the Warrego electorate to Our Most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, and to her representatives, the Governor-General (Sir Zelman Cowen) and our own Governor (Sir James Ramsay).

In August last year it was my privilege to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply in the Fourth Session of the Forty-first Parliament, and I said then that in my opinion the Governor would uphold the highest traditions of his office. Since then the Governor has travelled extensively throughout the length and breadth of Queensland and has carried out his duties in a most exemplary fashion. Without fear of contradiction I say that both the Governor and his gracious wife have earned the admiration and respect of the citizens of Queensland.

I take this opportunity to thank the electors of Warrego for returning me to the State Parliament. I take the opportunity also to thank my campaign director and all of the other people who worked so hard to return me. I point out that the Warrego electorate was held by the Labor Party from Federation until I won it from the former Labor member, Mr. Jack Aiken, in 1974. The Labor Party required a swing of some 3 per cent at the last State election to win back the seat of Warrego. I believe that it expended a considerable amount of money and effort on trying to win it back.

**An Opposition Member:** What about the gerrymander?

**Mr. TURNER:** The honourable member speaks about gerrymanders. If he waits a while, I will get on to that subject. He should not be impatient.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the pledge I made in my maiden speech in this Parliament to continue to work in the interests of the electorate of Warrego—for all people, irrespective of race, creed, colour and political affiliations.

I offer my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Southport (Mr. White) and the honourable member for Warwick (Mr.

Booth). I congratulate them on the capable and competent manner in which they performed that very honourable task. They will be good acquisitions to their parties and to this Government. I look forward to significant contributions from them over the years to come. I specially mention the honourable member for Warwick. I believe that he is a good replacement for David Cory. He has a good grasp of rural problems, particularly marketing and milk. I am very pleased to see him take David Cory's place in State Parliament.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all honourable members, old and new, who have been elected to this Parliament. Special congratulations go to the new members. As I did some three years ago, they will find this to be a strange place in many ways. A tremendous amount of work, involvement and dedication will be required of them. The family life of members, particularly those who represent the far-western and outlying electorates, does suffer.

I have endeavoured to listen to every maiden speech delivered since the opening of this Parliament. I commend all of those speakers—members of the Australian Labor Party as well as members of the Liberal Party and the National Party—for their contributions.

This is a new Parliament and one that has a lot of new blood in it. The increased numbers in the A.L.P. and the talents of its members will, of themselves, help to make for better government, because there will be a stronger Opposition.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. TURNER:** Now that the honourable member for Archerfield is back in his usual seat, I ask him to repeat his interjection.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You are a very erudite member; but your ears need cleaning out.

**Mr. TURNER:** The honourable member speaks about ears. I am quite sure that his head is there only to keep his ears apart.

I take the opportunity also to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his re-election unopposed. The fact that he was unopposed is a tribute to him and shows the high regard in which he is held by members of all political parties in this Chamber. He has brought dignity to this high and important office. He has brought decorum and a degree of fairness into this Chamber. I congratulate him on his election.

I join with honourable members who have called for amendments to the Standing Orders in regard to the election of Speaker. I believe it is farcical that no-one controls the Chamber during the election of Speaker. The Clerk of the Parliament has no control over members. They can speak on any matter they like for as long as they like. This is a ridiculous situation. So I join with the other honourable members who have suggested amendments to the Standing Orders in relation to the election of Speaker.

The composition of this Parliament differs greatly from that of the last Parliament. In many ways it is sad that some of the old faces have gone. The former member for Townsville South, Mr. Tom Aikens, was in many ways a legend in his parliamentary career. He had a quick wit and a very cutting tongue. Not many members were prepared to take him on in debate.

I do not intend to go through all past members, but I would like to mention the former member for Cook, Mr. Eric Deeral, who was the first Aboriginal member of State Parliament. It is sad that he has departed from the scene. He had a contribution to make on behalf of his race and his people.

During the last Parliament we were unfortunate enough to hear of the death of four of our members. Because so many other members spoke to the motions of condolence, I did not join in. I now extend my deepest sympathy to the families of the former member for Clayfield (Mr. Brown), the former member for Port Curtis (Mr. Hanson), the former member for Wolston (Mr. Marginson), and the former Minister for Transport (Mr. K. W. Hooper). They will be sadly missed by their families, their friends and their political parties.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. TURNER:** That is the inane sort of interjection we have come to expect from the honourable member for Archerfield. I was passing a comment about deceased members of this Parliament and was met with an interjection of such low standing. It certainly does little to raise the standard of Parliament.

As this is a new Parliament, I think it would be pertinent to make some comments on what I consider to be the achievements of the previous Parliament over the past three years. Firstly, we have seen the abolition of probate duty, which was one of the most iniquitous taxes ever devised. We have seen the abolition of gift duties. The abolition of road permit fees has considerably helped transport operators, particularly those in the western area. The electricity equalisation legislation, which was passed during the term of the last Parliament, is now having its effect. It has been of tremendous benefit to people in outlying areas.

While on this matter of electricity equalisation, I should mention the tremendous capital costs involved in connecting power to outlying properties in the far-western regions of the State. They are far beyond the capacity of individual property owners to pay. I hope that the new electricity board and the State Government will give consideration to substantially increasing the capital contribution the Government makes towards property owners to have power connected to their properties. At the moment the contribution stands at \$3,000. I think that \$3,000 could be paid direct to some of the more

isolated property owners as a subsidy or grant towards the installation of their own electricity plants so that they too can enjoy the benefits that most Queenslanders enjoy from having electricity connected to their homes.

During the three-year period following the Barry report we have seen the reduction of land cattle rentals. Drought concessions have continued to apply to those farmers in drought-affected areas. Local councils have continued to receive State and Federal assistance by way of grants. Road-works have continued throughout most areas. I make special mention of two roads of major concern in my area, the Cunnamulla-Charleville road and the Charleville-Quilpie road. Recently \$150,000 was released for works on the Charleville-Quilpie road and \$240,000 for works on the Wyandra section of the Cunnamulla-Charleville road.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** It's only a goat track.

**Mr. TURNER:** The last time the honourable member travelled over that road he was so drunk I thought he would not remember being on it.

Spending on education has also been increased. I will elaborate on this subject later on. I am proud of the Government's record on education.

I have mentioned before and I will say again that, because we as the State Government and also the Federal coalition Government had what could be termed whopping majorities in the State and Federal elections, we should take that not as an endorsement of all our policies but rather as a rejection of the policy of the Australian Labor Party and its particular philosophies.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** How many votes did you win Warrego by?

**Mr. TURNER:** Enough to beat the Australian Labor Party man.

I would like to devote some of my time to discussing education in Queensland, particularly in western areas. I want to touch briefly on the banning of SEMP and the appointment of the Select Committee on Education.

I have received numerous roneoed letters from school teachers throughout my area complaining about the State Government's banning of SEMP. I have also received letters in support of the ban that has been placed on SEMP. Furthermore, I have received letters about the setting up of the committee of inquiry into education, and I would like to quote from a letter that I received from a principal.

He says he supports an inquiry by politicians into the Queensland education system, and continues—

"I believe this is quite justified after many years of rapid change and heavy expenditure of public money and at a time of widespread concern about the direction taken and standards attained in

schools. I welcome public interest in education and do not like seeing 'experts' and 'professionals' having too free a hand in deciding far reaching Government matters be it in Education, Agriculture, Prisons or any other field.

"This is particularly so in certain areas of education where the 'experts' have had very limited actual experience in the school or the class-room. I feel many professions become inward looking and 'common sense' often becomes a rare commodity. I hope as our elected leaders you and your colleagues can provide the necessary balance and perspective in this matter.

"Having said that I would hope any enquiry held would be seen to be fair and open to public debate and scrutiny. Advice and comment should be drawn from as wide a cross section of the community as possible. The Government should not appear to be linked with reactionary groups or religious extremists such as Mrs. Joyner."

I could have left that last piece out, but I quoted that letter just to show that there are schoolteachers in the western districts who do support the Government's proposal.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** He's telling fibs.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller):** Order!

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Table the letter.

**Mr. TURNER:** I have quoted from the letter and I do not have to table it. I will show it to anyone, but I am not tabling it so that the Labor Party can divulge the name of the principal. After the debate, I will show it to anybody who wishes to see it. I repeat that I made those comments and read that letter to show that there are some schoolteachers who do support the setting up of a committee of inquiry into education.

**Mr. Fouras interjected.**

**Mr. TURNER:** I thought I made that clear when I read out the letter. Anyway, the honourable member has had his opportunity to speak in this debate, and I will continue.

I believe that many children in isolated areas of Queensland would not be receiving a decent education—in fact, virtually no education at all—if it were not for the various allowances paid by the Government such as the I.C.P.A. allowance, the remote area allowance, and the \$1,000 remote area senior scholarship allowance. In addition, school buses run into and out of country towns taking children to school. Parents receive a conveyance allowance, which is paid in areas where buses do not operate, and this makes some contribution to their daily running expenses. All these things have assisted education tremendously in western areas. The cost of these concessions is over and above the amount spent on schools, teacher accommodation and other education

buildings right throughout the country and, indeed, city areas. The subject I would now like to speak about is the Priority Country Area Programme. This programme is well under way, and I congratulate the committee, the director and all of those involved with this wonderful venture. A car has been purchased for the School of the Air so that the teachers can travel around remote regions to help their pupils. Itinerant teachers travel with them. They help parents with problems associated with education in these remote areas.

There has been some concern that not enough itinerant teachers were allocated to the Priority Country Area Programme, but five positions have recently been advertised, and this will mean there will be six teachers in the area, two to be stationed at St. George, two at Charleville and two at Cunnamulla. Buses have been purchased and they have been put to great use in western areas. There has been tremendous response and children from the more isolated regions like Thargomindah and Eulo have used these buses to go to other schools or to places such as the Yowah opal fields. They have received tremendous value from the buses.

A travelling manual arts scheme is due to open in Tambo shortly, and this scheme will travel the length and breadth of the priority area and give children the opportunity of learning manual arts, whereas, because of the small numbers in some of these schools, this would not normally be possible. Music is also looked after. A music teacher is based in Roma and he travels throughout the area.

Another scheme that has recently been introduced under the Priority Country Area Programme is called Roctapus, which stands for "Really outstanding colour television about practically unlimited subjects". These films are completely different from the schizophrenic SEMP films we witnessed here the other night. They are good films which are sent out to various schools which have purchased video machines on which to play the cassettes. I think it is a wonderful scheme. A few weeks ago some members went down to the Minister's office and viewed some of these films. I compliment the Education Department on the introduction of this scheme.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** What is your definition of the word "schizophrenic"?

**Mr. TURNER:** You are one.

I should like to mention the School of the Air programme. Last year 629 children received education because they were hooked up to School of the Air programme. The honourable member for Salisbury (Mrs. Kyburz) was in my electorate recently, and I think she would agree that it is a wonderful programme. She spoke to children over the length and breadth of inland Queensland. The teachers do a fantastically good job, and their task is a very difficult one.

Each year sports are held at Charleville, and parents whose children participate in the Schools of the Air scheme travel anything up to three or four days to get their children to and from those sports. I think that people in remote areas of the State make a significant contribution to the education of their children, and I compliment the Schools of the Air on the wonderful job they do.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service provides the radio network for Schools of the Air, and I think it would be opportune for me to mention the wonderful job done by that service in Queensland. This year is the 50th year of operation of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which was begun in 1928 by the Reverend Sir John Flynn. It is non-denominational and no charge is made for its services. It operates throughout the inland areas of Queensland 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. TURNER:** The honourable member would find it beneficial to learn a little bit of history.

It does not provide services only in the remote outback areas of the State, either. There is quite a good medical centre in Charleville, where two very serious accidents occurred recently. The lady doctor, Dr. Herbert, suffered critical injuries in a glider accident and the Royal Flying Doctor Service brought her to Brisbane direct and was, I am sure, responsible for saving her life. A man named Cyril McConnell was seriously burnt at Charleville and within half an hour the Royal Flying Doctor Service had left to bring him to the Burns Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. I make those points to show what a wonderful job the Royal Flying Doctor Service does in Western Queensland.

It was my privilege recently to open the Royal Flying Doctor Sports at Tooloombilla, near Mitchell, and I carried out some research in the Parliamentary Library to ascertain what contribution was made by the State and Federal Governments to the service. In 1967-68 the State and Federal contribution was \$117,000; in 1977—nine years later—it had increased to \$643,607. That was almost a sixfold increase in nine years. Although the Government makes a significant contribution to this wonderful service, it is necessary to raise additional funds by appeals, donations and sports days, and I compliment the people who work for this worthy cause.

I intend now to speak on matters affecting my electorate. Many problems have been affecting rural industries for some time, but I believe that escalating costs and oversupply of produce are two of the major problems. The wool industry was in the doldrums 10 years ago. I point out that in 1968 there were 20,000,000 sheep depastured in Queensland alone. Now, 10 years later, prices for wool and sheep have improved, and I believe

that is because only 13,000,000 sheep are now run in Queensland—a decrease of 7,000,000 in 10 years.

However, the wool industry faces the continuing problem of rising costs, and the recent decision by the Industrial Commission to force graziers to upgrade shearers' quarters will drive many producers to the wall. It will also place greater emphasis on chemical shearing, and I believe that further unemployment in western areas will result if it is ever perfected.

While speaking on the wool industry, I believe that I should mention the A.M.I.E.U. dispute in South Australia relating to the export of live sheep to the Arab market. The Arab market takes some 5,000,000 sheep a year, principally old wethers which would not bring very much at all on the normal market, but on the Arab market they bring fantastic prices. I cannot understand the meat union's objections to the export of live sheep to the Arab market. If the sheep were going over there to be killed by cheap or non-union labour, and the meat were to be processed and returned to the Australian market, thus cutting meat union members out of employment, I could understand the union's concern. But that is not the case. Its members are not losing any work opportunities in Australia. All the union is doing is jeopardising the opportunity the producer has in depressed times to increase his return.

The union executive members must have rocks in their head if they cannot understand that the more money the producer makes, the more employment is created in country towns for other trade unionists. The flow-on carries through to everyone in those areas. This dispute with the meat union over the export of live sheep is one that it cannot be allowed to win. I hope it doesn't. The export of live sheep helps other trade unionists as well as the overall economy of the nation.

**Mr. Yewdale:** That was said about pig iron that was being sent to Japan.

**Mr. TURNER:** Was it?

**Mr. Yewdale:** They eventually fired it back at us.

**Mr. TURNER:** The Arabs might fire meat pies back at us.

That dispute is reminiscent of the recent storemen and packers' dispute over the weight of wool bales. In many ways it is tragic to see that at times unions cease to function according to the purpose for which they were created, namely, the betterment of wages and working conditions, and instead, in some instances, become a political instrument. I make those points because the meat union in its attitude towards the export of live sheep is jeopardising the future of a lot of people on the land and a lot of other trade unionists.

Much has been said about the cattle industry. It is experiencing one of the most

depressing declines this century. Many proposals have been put forward to cure the ills of the beef industry—minimum price schemes, stabilisation and classification. Many people are not aware that such schemes must be implemented on a national basis. Other States must come into it. If a minimum price scheme were operating in Queensland only, under section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution meatworks' buyers could purchase interstate on a cheaper market and bringing the live animals back to Queensland. If that happened, we would be even more disadvantaged than we are at the present time.

The Federal Government has done something constructive in one area by providing the \$2,000 grant to beef producers. This has helped a tremendous number of people. The moratorium on loans in respect of the brigalow development area has also helped. I join with the honourable member for Cunningham in saying that this scheme must be extended to all beef producers in Queensland if they are to have any chance of survival. It is most important that long-term low-interest loans be made available to cure the ills of the industry. It is not much use giving someone a Bex powder to cure his broken leg. The actual complaint has to be treated. I hope that long-term low-interest loans will be made available. It was interesting to read in today's newspaper that Mr. Hayden is concerned about the heavily subsidised motor vehicle industry. One would have thought that he might have mentioned something about the rural industry.

**Mr. Casey:** You told us that last year when Mr. Sullivan introduced the new meat Bill.

**Mr. TURNER:** I think it was mentioned explicitly at the time that the Bill could not cure the ills unless all of the other States introduced similar legislation. The honourable member will remember that quite well. Let him read "Hansard".

Rural industry constantly lives with drought. Over the years, whenever a shire has been declared drought-stricken, rural producers have been eligible for assistance for the cartage of fodder, the transport of cattle to market and so on. They have also been eligible to apply for Agricultural Bank loans at low interest rates, which, of course, did not mean that they would be successful if they did not meet all the criteria. Unfortunately, properties in a shire like Murweh, which was not declared drought-stricken because good rain had fallen in the northern section, although it adjoins the drought-declared shire of Paroo, did not qualify for Agricultural Bank drought loans. I am pleased to note that the Minister has made it possible for an individual drought-declared property to be eligible for the Agricultural Bank drought loans.

**Mr. Casey** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Miller): Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** What about that drought-stricken property named "Hillview" at Morven?

**Mr. TURNER:** By the look of him, the honourable member for Archerfield has not witnessed any droughts.

The brucellosis eradication scheme in Queensland has been extended. While I would be among the first to admit the need for the eradication of this disease and the extension of the scheme, I believe I would be neglecting my duty if I did not mention that the scheme will affect adversely beef producers in most of my area. I refer not only to the restrictions placed on the entry of stock to the protected area, which in itself will be a financial hardship, but also to the requirement that all producers outside the protected area test their herds at their own expense to get clean status, although that will not apply to herds tested in the proposed clean area. In real terms that means producers in western areas already burdened with the greatest expense in transport and other costs will now have to meet the cost of brucellosis eradication or testing in their areas, as with the recent T.B. eradication programme, while those in the closer-settled areas will have the testing carried out without cost. I have taken this matter up with the Minister for Primary Industries. He has agreed to look into it. I hope something can be done to relieve the problem.

While discussing rural industries, I shall speak briefly on the future of the dingo-barrier fence. Because of the cost involved in retaining and repairing the fence, it has become a fairly contentious issue. In recent years the poison "1080" has been used extensively to control dingoes. After the Federal Government's ban on mining on Fraser Island, however, I, like a lot of people in my area, am conscious of the possibility that conservationists may have "1080" banned. If that happened, we would be in a terrible position, particularly if the barrier fence was allowed to go to ruin. It would cost much more to eradicate dingoes from sheep areas in the State than it would to maintain the fence.

Western areas have very few industries other than those related to wool and beef production, but one small, important industry operates in most country towns. I refer to the kangaroo industry. Those in the industry are experiencing many problems, most of which were brought about by—

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** The industry or the kangaroos themselves?

**Mr. TURNER:** I thought that the galahs might have been experiencing some problems.

The problems arose when Senator Murphy banned the export of kangaroo skins and products to America. Conservationists in America put kangaroos on the endangered species list. I firmly believe that they are not endangered but they have been listed with, I think, sabre tooth tigers and Tasmanian devils, which would possibly be the first animals in the world in recent times to become extinct.

We have a conservation programme for kangaroos and we are in the Commonwealth scheme. I do not advocate an increase in the killing of kangaroos, but I believe we should work in with the Commonwealth in an attempt to get the American ban lifted, as well as the 30c levy on tags for all shooters in Queensland. The levy is an iniquitous burden on those in the industry. I raised this matter on numerous occasions with the former Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service (Mr. Tomkins), and I have taken it up more recently with the present Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation (Mr. Newbery). He has undertaken to take submissions to the next meeting of the States and the Commonwealth in an attempt to get uniform agreement. I certainly am hopeful that, for the benefit of those interested in the kangaroo industry in western Queensland, particularly in the smaller country towns, he will be successful in removing at least the 30c levy, and I would hope that the American market could be reopened.

While I am talking about wildlife, I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation a proposal that has been put to me by Mr. Lane Peckett of Tambo about snakes. Mr. Peckett has taken a very active and keen interest in snakes and currently, with the permission of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, has an extensive specimen collection of snakes, which he has used in lectures to various schools, service clubs and groups of doctors as well as in talks on radio. I understand that he will be coming to Brisbane tomorrow in connection with a programme on Channel 2 dealing with the identification of snakes. He also speaks about the methods of treatment and the types of anti-venene to be used in cases of snake bite.

Many people, including doctors and others in the medical profession, incorrectly identify snakes. As a result, an incorrect anti-venene could be administered, with a consequent loss of life. Mr. Peckett has put it to me that a real need exists for all hospitals, particularly those in western areas, to have a supply of snake specimens that could be used for the positive identification in snake-bite cases.

**Dr. Lockwood:** There are some very good books on snakes that could help.

**Mr. TURNER:** Yes, but I am amazed at the number of people who cannot identify snakes. Mr. Peckett has spoken to doctors

who have incorrectly identified snakes. I think there is a need for hospitals to carry at least the types of snakes that could be found in their vicinity so that, when a snake is brought in, it can be positively identified and the correct antivenene administered.

In the time remaining I would like to correct one error that I saw in a recent newspaper report. It was in relation to the new member for Sandgate. I do not know whether it was correctly attributed to the honourable member or not. The article related to the honourable member's holding down the position of alderman while a member of this Parliament. The report said that many National Party members held positions as councillors and chairmen in various shires and continued to hold those positions after becoming members of Parliament. I was a member of local government, in the Murweh Shire, although never its chairman, and I resigned at the first meeting after I was elected to State Parliament.

**Mr. Warburton:** I didn't mention that.

**Mr. TURNER:** I did not say that the honourable member did. All I am saying is that it was in the paper, and I just correct that.

**Mr. Warburton:** I mentioned about 20 of your mates, though.

**Mr. TURNER:** My name was in it, too.

The honourable member for Woodridge, who spoke before me, raised the matters of gerrymandering, one vote one value, and how the Australian Labor Party held so much of Queensland in the country and in the towns up till 1972. I could possibly have obtained the figures from the Parliamentary Library—they have been quoted in many speeches and I used them on another occasion. However, for his information, I repeat that the Labor Premier of this State in 1949, Mr. Hanlon, introduced the weighting system giving rural seats fewer electors than urban areas. At that time I think the Australian Labor Party held every seat in inland Queensland. Members were elected to this Chamber from areas such as Charters Towers with only 3,000 electors, while at the same time it was taking 20,000 for the election of a Liberal member in Brisbane. He spoke about gerrymanders and said that Queensland provides the worst example. The fact of the matter is that there is a greater discrepancy between the numbers of rural and urban voters in South Australia—a Labor State. He should verify his facts and figures before he makes such statements. I point out to him that since 1972 the Labor Party has lost ground not as a result of any so-called gerrymander but as a consequence, particularly in western areas, of its anti-rural policies. While conceding that Mr. Whitlam had a tremendous amount of ability—I suppose no politician in more recent times had much more ability—he went bad. He absolutely hated and detested rural industries. One of the first things he did after gaining power was to remove the fuel

subsidy and free milk for schools, cut back money on air services and inland roads and remove other concessions.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller):** Order! I will not allow two Opposition members to interject at the same time.

**Mr. TURNER:** I would take one of those interjections if I could hear it.

**Mr. Casey:** Why hasn't Fraser reintroduced them?

**Mr. TURNER:** In reply to the honourable member for Mackay—the Fraser Government pledged to reintroduce fuel equalisation. It has proceeded with legislation and, unfortunately for the likes of Mr. Whitlam or any future Labor Prime Minister, the legislation is framed in such a way that a two-man Labor ministry will not be able to remove it again.

**Mr. Casey:** Who introduced the floor price plan for wool?

**Mr. TURNER:** Who introduced the floor price plan for wool? Who did more to ruin rural industries than the Whitlam Labor Government when it was in power?

**Mr. Casey interjected.**

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Mackay has had the opportunity of making his Address-in-Reply speech.

**Mr. TURNER:** It is nice to hear some of the newer Opposition members expressing concern about the state of the rural areas. I suggest that the honourable member for Murrumba look through "Hansard" and read some of the remarks of Mr. Jensen, Mr. Melloy and some of the other older Labor members about wool barons and the beef barons in western Queensland driving their Mercedes cars.

The Labor Party members say that we should cross the floor and oppose the Government on certain issues. No Labor member has ever crossed the floor and voted against his party or the Q.C.E. except Mr. Jensen from Bundaberg. He refused to pay the levy imposed on him by the Q.C.E. He was immediately pushed into the Independent benches, was not re-endorsed and, as a result, lost his seat in State Parliament.

(Time expired).

**Mr. AKERS (Pine Rivers) (7.58 p.m.):** I rise to support the motion moved by the honourable member for Southport (Mr. White) for the adoption of the Address in Reply, which expresses the loyalty of this Parliament to the Queen and to the Governor. I express my personal loyalty and that of the residents of the Pine Rivers electorate to Her Majesty and to her representative in Queensland, the Governor.

I join with the many other members who have congratulated the Governor on the job that he is doing in Queensland. Late last year he visited the Pine Rivers Shire and showed himself to be a person who could get on with everybody he met. He showed a tremendous interest in the area and a tremendous knowledge of the area. He had a knowledge of the matters we talked about even though they were not matters of which he had specific knowledge.

I join in the congratulations offered to the Speaker, the Chairman of Committees and the Panel of Temporary Chairmen, including you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the job they have done in the past and their election for this Parliament.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of this motion on their contributions and the thought that they put into their speeches. Both of them have impressed me greatly over the few months that I have known them and certainly since the opening of this Parliament. The honourable member for Southport has certainly made his presence felt already on the street march issue. He has been one of the leaders of the opposition to this iniquitous legislation.

The honourable member for Warwick, whom I have known only while he has been sitting alongside me for the past few weeks, has impressed me greatly as a capable and honest man. I look forward to sitting alongside him for the next three years and learning from him many of the things I do not know about rural areas.

I congratulate the new members on their election and other members on their re-election. I say to the new members that the next three years are going to be the shortest three years in their life. It is a little over three years ago that I made my maiden speech in this Parliament, but it does not seem that long ago at all.

As is well known now, in December last year I was returned to this Parliament by the electors of Pine Rivers. I certainly thank the voters in the Pine Rivers electorate for their continued confidence in me. I thank them for the confidence that they have shown in my holding two positions, one as deputy chairman of the Pine Rivers Shire Council, the other as the member of Parliament for the electorate of Pine Rivers. I think my dual position is in sharp contrast to the dual positions held by the city council aldermen who are members of this House. Both those gentlemen are holding down two highly paid jobs. An alderman is paid at least five times the amount that a local councillor is allowed to earn.

I express my thanks to those people who worked closely with me during my election campaign, and I especially mention two members of that team, Mr. Peter Campbell (my campaign director) and Mrs. Kay Spencer. They both helped me considerably right through the campaign and gave me

tremendous support. My thanks also go to the rest of my campaign committee, who were of great help to me.

In my maiden speech three years ago I called for a redistribution, because at that stage the Pine Rivers electorate was the largest in Queensland, with approximately 21,000 voters. During the life of the previous Parliament the number of voters increased to about 27,000. After the redistribution it was reduced from the largest electorate in Queensland to about the 44th largest, or, to put it another way, about the 38th smallest.

In the redistribution at that time I lost Ferny Hills, Arana Hills and Everton Hills to the Everton electorate; I lost Kallangur, Petrie and most of Lawnton to the Murrumbidgee electorate; and I lost Boondall, Taigum and Fitzgibbon to Sandgate. Those three electorates are now represented by A.L.P. members. One of those members is a council colleague of mine, Councillor Kruger, who represents Murrumbidgee. Having listened to the maiden speeches of those three new members, I despair for my old constituents.

Before the election I did not have much to do with the honourable member for Sandgate, Mr. Warburton, but whenever I did contact him on important matters he always appeared to try to be on a different side from me. It did not matter whether what I said was for the good of the people or not, his politics covered the whole matter we would discuss. He is going to have to strive very hard in this place to follow Mr. Harry Dean. The honourable member for Sandgate said that his short experience in local government should help him to work in this place and give him some understanding in dealing with people's problems.

The letter on SEMP that the honourable member mentioned in his maiden speech was exactly the same letter as was received by every member in this Assembly. One quickly learns to differentiate between this circular-type letter and genuine letters circulated by responsible groups and organisations that are prepared to put their signature to the letters to show that they are sincere.

My council colleague, the honourable member for Murrumbidgee, made a long speech of self-praise, with a small compliment for myself. His only criticism of my representation of the Petrie area appeared to be a minor complaint about the Petrie Railway Station. He chooses to forget, however, the tremendous improvements that were made to facilities around that railway station when I was the member for that area. An enormous sealed parking area was provided, entrance roads were constructed, and flood-lighting was installed to make the parking of cars reasonably safe at night-time. As well the station has been upgraded by work done on the platform itself. In criticising my efforts and in saying the place had not had good representation for some time, the

honourable member for Murrumba is also criticising the former Labor member for Pine Rivers, Mr. Leese.

The new member for Everton complained about the five months' break after the election. He should have gone around his electorate during those five months, because he does not seem to know it very well. For instance, he mentioned a suburb named Bunyaville. That suburb is no longer in existence. He talked about a poll on the secession of that area from the Pine Rivers Shire to Brisbane. Before the State election a few A.L.P. stooges raced around the area drumming up support for this action and demanding that people ask for the right to shift into Brisbane. They told all sorts of lies about what was involved.

One of those people, a Mr. O'Brien, is now spreading fear of large rate increases which, he claims, will follow new valuations that are due. He knows nothing at all about it or is deliberately misleading the people. The honourable member for Everton, in his speech in this debate, agreed with what Mr. O'Brien was saying and said that the revaluations will aggravate the rate problem. Obviously he either knows very little about it or has some foreknowledge of what is going to happen after this revaluation.

The honourable member also mentioned child-care problems in the Pine Rivers section of his electorate. He ignored the good work that the Pine Rivers Shire Council has done in that area. With the assistance of the Federal Government, it provided the Biralee Child Care Centre and a family day care programme. That is an excellent scheme and one that is certainly serving his area very well. He also complained of a lack of trees in the streets. It was as a result of my initiative four years ago that the Pine Rivers Shire Council started planting trees in the streets, and his area has been very well served by this programme. Something like 1,000 trees a year are planted, so obviously he has not been around his electorate in the past five months. If he had he would know something about it and would not have made the statements that he has made.

All three A.L.P. members praised the discredited R.E.D. scheme. The honourable member for Murrumba can be excused for doing so, because the Pine Rivers Shire Council did initiate some good projects under the R.E.D. scheme. But all three ignored the costs imposed on councils by the R.E.D. scheme and the subsequent rate increases that had to be paid by the people.

Over the past few months it has come to my notice that a firm called Purchase Credit Corporation Pty. Ltd. is operating in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. It advertises in the yellow pages, and I have here its advertisement, which I have taken from my loose-leaf edition of the telephone book. It is a full quarter-page advertisement.

I will give honourable members an example of how this firm is gypping the public. A fellow from Strathpine decided that he wanted to borrow \$5,000. He saw this firm's advertisement in the telephone book and went to it to try to raise a loan. One of its staff said it would look after him, and asked him what he owned. He said he owned his car and his boat. He was then asked whether he owned his house, and he replied that he was paying it off. He agreed that his car and his boat would be the security for the \$5,000 loan. I stress the figure of \$5,000 because it will become important later. When the contract arrived it had his house included as part of the security. During the term of the loan he sold his car and the firm demanded that he sign a new contract. So he went into the office and was told, "We haven't had time to type it out yet, but you sign this and we will fill it in for you." When the contract came back he found he owed the firm nearly \$10,000; it had doubled the amount without his approval, and certainly had not paid him the extra \$5,000. Neither contract showed the interest he was paying. The firm mentioned something about 25 per cent interest to him.

I understand that this is a private company owned by a Mr. Ted Smith. Actually, it is supposed to be owned by two brothers, one with a very heavy accent, the other with no accent. I find it very strange that, of two brothers named Smith, one has an accent and the other has not. There is something very crooked about this firm. I did some checking to find out whether the Australian Finance Conference could do anything to help; but this firm is not a member of that conference. I can find no control over the type of fraud that is being perpetrated by it.

There must at least be a code of ethics that it has to follow, and there must be some form of firm, solid control to stop ordinary people being gypped and robbed by crooks of this type.

Another short warning I have received recently is about a fellow by the name of Hans Strik, who runs a used-car lot. Mr. Strik sold a Citroen to a resident of Lawnton as a 1975 model. It was a real bomb; everything went wrong with it. When the man who bought it tried to resell it, he found that it was a 1973 model. Later he found that there was a little disc under the bonnet which showed clearly that 1973 was the year in which the car was made.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Did he buy the car from Hans Strik?

**Mr. AKERS:** Hans Strik.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** He certainly is no associate of mine, but he does leave a lot to be desired; I agree with you.

**Mr. AKERS:** I am glad that for once the honourable member agrees with me. There was no way of prosecuting Mr. Hans Strik

for the fraud that he perpetrated. The plate under the bonnet clearly showed that the car was manufactured in 1973. Even if the person who purchased it did not know the details, Mr. Strik should have known that, yet he sold it as a 1975-model car. As I said, he has not been prosecuted for fraud.

I join with many other honourable members and many members of the public in expressing my opinion on the street march issue. From the time the legislation was brought down in this Chamber I have not been in favour of it, and I am on record in many places as being opposed to it. You may remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that seven of us who dared to express our opinion on it before the last State election were called "The Magnificent Seven".

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE,  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Honourable members, I interrupt the proceedings for a moment to introduce and welcome the Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. E. Olewale.

On behalf of honourable members, I have invited him to take a seat on the dais of this House.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

*Whereupon Mr. Olewale was seated on the dais.*

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

**Mr. AKERS:** I join you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in welcoming the Minister.

In our joint party meeting I supported a motion calling for a ban on street marches that would most likely turn into violence. I certainly did not support a motion that would change the law to eliminate the right of appeal to the judiciary.

People must be able to have a hearing. When anyone has complained to me about matters on which I have had the decision to make, I have listened to them and told them why the decision was made. Even though they still may not agree with the decision, they then agree that the decision was fair. That is what must happen now. We must have a place where people can have a hearing, and this iniquitous provision of the Act must be repealed and an appeal to the judiciary allowed.

When the Speaker of this Parliament was chairman of the Redcliffe City Council some 22 years ago, he signed an agreement between the Redcliffe City Council, Australian Paper Manufacturers at Petrie and the Pine Rivers Shire Council for a water supply. On the

wall of the Pine Rivers Shire Council's offices there are photographs of the Speaker signing the agreement.

At that time the Pine Rivers Shire Council was planning to build a water scheme based on Sideling Creek, between Petrie and Dayboro. At the same time, Redcliffe was planning to build a dam on the North Pine River. I know the details of that because the study for that dam site was taken on my father's farm at Lawnton. When the two got together, the Redcliffe City Council agreed to take water from the Pine Rivers Shire Council's scheme.

To describe briefly what occurred, I shall quote from some notes that I have on the water supply. One of the notes says—

"The agreements are based on a water storage and supply scheme to be constructed by Pine Rivers Shire Council on Sideling Creek and the North Pine River, which included a water treatment plant and other works set out in the agreements."

Redcliffe city was to be supplied with up to 305,000,000 gallons per annum initially, with a maximum rate of 2,000,000 gallons a day up till 1968 and then 3,000,000 gallons a day up till 1 July 1978, which gave a total maximum of 740,000,000 gallons per annum. At the same time the quantities to be supplied to A.P.M. were also set out.

The Pine Rivers Shire Council is satisfied that over the years it has been more than generous in its dealings with the Redcliffe City Council. I certainly agree with that. Even a casual examination of the financial statements dealing with the water funds will clearly reveal that the Pine Rivers Shire Council has been subsidising the Redcliffe City Council for some time. It is surprising, therefore, that the Redcliffe City Council has seen fit to question minor parts of the agreement and take the unprecedented action of referring certain of those matters to the Director of Local Government for his decision as arbitrator.

After this was submitted to arbitration by the Redcliffe City Council legal advice was received by the Pine Rivers Shire Council. In essence this advice indicated that the Pine Rivers Shire Council is obliged to supply the Redcliffe City Council with up to 740,000,000 gallons per annum by 1 July 1978, with a daily maximum of 3,000,000 gallons by 1 July 1978. The cost of this water was to be determined in accordance with the formula set out in the agreement. Quantities in excess of those figures were not covered in the agreement, and consequently a further or second agreement would have been necessary for the extra supply. I stress that in neither of those lists was any quota ever set for the Pine Rivers Shire Council from that scheme. But now the Redcliffe City Council wants to set a limit on how much water the Pine Rivers Shire ratepayers can get from their own water scheme. Whereas the shire was able to have up to 8,000,000 gallons a

day before paying extra to Brisbane, the Redcliffe City Council now wants to limit the quantity to 4,900,000 gallons a day. That is a substantial figure, because the difference in the cost of water is very great. From its North Pine Dam water scheme Brisbane is charging 65c per 1,000 gallons, whereas water from the Pine River scheme is about 15c per 1,000 gallons.

**Mr. Frawley:** How did the honourable member for Murrumba vote on that?

**Mr. AKERS:** I will come to him later.

Through careful management over many years the Pine Rivers Shire Council has kept the cost of water down. It is only since the construction of the North Pine Dam that costs have risen. Instead of drawing water from the North Pine River free of charge as it could before that dam was built, the Pine Rivers Shire now has to request the Brisbane City Council to release water from the North Pine Dam down the river. The Pine Rivers Shire Council has to pay for every drop that is released into the river, and then try to collect as much as it can. This will increase the cost of water at Petrie next year to something like 23c per 1,000 gallons. But this is still well below the 65c or more that Brisbane will probably charge to top up the scheme next year. Those figures are the things that matter in this debate.

One of the arguments put up by Redcliffe is that it has been paying for it all the time, and therefore it should be able to have equal quantities to those given to the Pine Rivers Shire Council. But I point out that over that time, while the North Pine water scheme was being completed, it was entirely financed out of the Pine Rivers Shire Council's loan allocation. At the same time Redcliffe was diverting its loan allocation to the installation of a sewerage scheme. The Pine Rivers sewerage scheme was delayed because of the water scheme. Redcliffe has a cheap sewerage scheme which is virtually finished, whereas Pine Rivers is about three-quarters of the way through a horribly expensive one. The sewerage rate in Redcliffe is about \$70 and in the Pine Rivers Shire it is about \$134. These costs must be taken into account when discussing the water scheme.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** What is the differentiation between \$70 and \$134?

**Mr. AKERS:** I am sure the honourable member was not listening to what I said.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You were not very articulate.

**Mr. AKERS:** I will repeat what I said, because it is extremely important.

Redcliffe was able to start its sewerage scheme when interest rates and construction costs were low. At that time the Pine Rivers money was diverted to the water scheme and now it has to pay an enormous price. In other words, the Pine Rivers ratepayers are subsidising the Redcliffe ratepayers.

For some time the Pine Rivers Shire Council has supplied water in excess of the agreement I explained. In the first eight months of the year 856,000,000 gallons of water was supplied to Redcliffe compared with the 740,000,000 gallons allowed for the whole year. Because the water has not been needed it has met with no problem in doing that, but Local Government Department officers now say that, through its generosity, Pine Rivers has breached the agreement—breached it in generosity—and therefore it is assumed that the Pine Rivers Shire Council ratepayers must be penalised. I do not call that justice.

I listened attentively to the whole of the maiden speech delivered by the honourable member for Murrumba, who for the same time has represented the same area of the Pine Rivers Shire. Not once did he join in the argument that it would cost the ratepayers many thousands of dollars. I wonder whether it is his new-found alliance with the people of Redcliffe that he is looking after, and I wonder whether the people of Redcliffe realise that just like his A.L.P. colleagues, who are opportunists and will stick to where they think the strength lies, he will drop them if it suits him to do so.

A new area in my electorate is the Samford Valley. Two matters are of particular concern to the Samford Valley—firstly, the D. G. Ogle development and, secondly, the Main Roads Department's planned bypass road.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Do you favour the Russian development in the Samford Valley by the Russian Narodny Bank?

**Mr. AKERS:** The D. G. Ogle development, which is the one the honourable member has referred to, contains a proposed rezoning of 1 600 ha of the Samford district from rural A to residential B. This has split the population in two. The businessmen and many of the landowners strongly favour the scheme because it will increase land and business values enormously—it will certainly increase property values—whereas the people who moved to the area for tranquillity are opposed to it. The Samford District Action Group was formed to lodge objections, etc. These are based on several grounds, including the proposal to have 50-perch allotments in the scheme. Much of this land is subject to landslip and a 50-perch block could slip in one piece. The dangers with such small allotments are quite obvious. There are also allotments without services and certainly there is lack of integration in the whole planning of the valley.

The agreement with the Pine Rivers Shire Council is vague and full of holes. It is based on 1974-75 costs and allows many allotments without services. It was pushed through the council where a group of dissident independents combined with the A.L.P., including the present member for

Murrumba, to oust the really sane element within the council at the time. They passed this agreement, much against my ideas and those of many people in the area. Now the residents of the Pine Rivers Shire are going to pay for it—and they will pay dearly, for a long, long time.

A further concern over the Samford area is the involvement of the Moscow Narodny Bank in the project. It has been denied by the developers that the Moscow Narodny Bank is involved. However, publicly available documents irrefutably tie this bank very closely with the Samford Valley project. It is the doubtful feasibility of the project that worries the protesters in the area, as the bank has first mortgages over much of the land involved. The chances of the scheme succeeding are virtually nil. It is intended to bring a water main all the way from Petrie. If that is a physical possibility, it will be very expensive.

In the last few months of last year the board of D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd., the developer in the scheme, was reconstituted. There are four decision-making shareholders in it—Mr. Ronald Parker, Mr. Richard William Cameron, Mr. Donald Gordon Ogle and Mr. Dennis Lee of Shenton Way, Singapore. Mr. Lee, I am informed, is the representative of the Moscow Narodny Bank; so there is no doubt at all that the bank is very much involved. In exercising its first mortgage rights after the almost inevitable collapse of the project, that Russian bank will own land within 11 miles of the Brisbane G.P.O., with all the resultant economic realities that flow from that. I ask the Minister for Local Government to look very closely at this application—not just at the legal aspects, but at the overall economic aspects—when it comes before him for approval.

The other problem that is facing the residents of the Samford Valley is the bypass road that is proposed for some time in the future by the Main Roads Department. I refer members to the answer I received from the Minister for Main Roads to the third question of the questions on notice this morning.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** What did he tell you?

**Mr. AKERS:** He did not tell me very much, unfortunately. He gave me a lot of information, but not the final result that I need. The people there must know what is going to happen. It is causing great concern. One of the various maps being circulated shows a scheme with the road running directly through at least one house. There used to be a song about a train coming through the middle of a house, but that was a joke. This proposal is frightening. I believe also that the residents in the area are being stirred up for purely political reasons, causing them even greater concern over this matter.

Several lines are shown on one map that I saw. Other people have been shown a map with one line on it, which they have been told is the final design. The shire council has received a map with two lines on it and has been asked to approve both. There is too much vagueness, too much indecision—and too much concern for the residents to live with. I urge that the Minister clarify the matter as soon as he can or else drop the scheme completely. Let us not have people worrying about something that may not happen.

One other problem in the Petrie/Strathpine area is a vile smell.

**Honourable Members interjected.**

**Mr. AKERS:** It is not coming from the A.L.P., either. I have been around and sniffed a few of the members.

**Honourable Members interjected.**

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt):** Order! The honourable member is dealing with a very pungent subject.

**Mr. AKERS:** The source is not officially known, but it is my strong suspicion and that of many, many other people that it is coming from the waste of Australian Paper Manufacturers at Petrie and not from the sewage.

**Mr. Kruger:** I'll back you on that one.

**Mr. AKERS:** Then why didn't the member raise it in his own speech?

This is creating tremendous problems. People cannot live in their houses. They cannot go to bed at night because they are just about vomiting from the smell. The Air Pollution Council does not appear to have any control over a problem of this type. Therefore, power must be given to that body to exercise control over it.

Recently, one of the other States introduced a scheme to get police back on the beat. We have had this scheme in Brisbane for some time but it is not succeeding in the suburbs and the outer areas and, as the honourable member for Surfers Paradise says, it is not happening at the Gold Coast.

The scheme introduced in the other State is that police using cars as the basic part of control get out and walk through the smaller suburban areas. When in their cars, the police are totally isolated from the public. When they get out and walk around, they see things.

Members of this Parliament who have door-knocked in their own areas would agree that we get a totally different idea of our areas once we get out of our cars and walk through the streets. That is what the police should be doing.

In any case, my electorate has far too little police coverage. The areas of Bracken Ridge, Bald Hills, Albany Creek, Strathpine, Lawnton and the Samford Valley are very

poorly covered by the police. Certainly they are not well covered at night. I have twice called the police and they have arrived fairly quickly. But I have mentioned that I was the State member. Other people have repeatedly complained of long delays before the police arrive after they have reported incidents such as an intruder in the yard.

I have two more smaller but extremely important points. I urge the Minister for Main Roads to get work done as soon as possible on the Cash's Crossing Bridge at Albany Creek. A large area at Eatons Hill and Brendale Hill is being developed for residential purposes. The nearest school is at Albany Creek. To get there the children have to cross the Cash's Crossing Bridge. There is no other way to get there. It is a narrow bridge. It is frightening to drive a car across that bridge and see another car or a truck approaching from the other direction. It must be devastating for children to try to walk across it. People who live only half or three-quarters of a mile away have to drive their children to school because of the danger of crossing the bridge. I am not sure that they are much safer in a car. The bridge is far too narrow and far too dangerous. It has no centre line and no special warning signs about how narrow it is. An unsuspecting driver would be likely to collect someone coming the other way.

The last item I mention is the proposed hospital that was announced for the Sandgate area. I urge the Minister for Health not to provide it in Sandgate but in an area that needs it much more urgently. The areas of Bald Hills, Bracken Ridge, Strathpine and Albany Creek are growing very rapidly. They contain a tremendous number of young people and a tremendous number of people on low incomes, who are a long way from hospital. Sandgate is within a short distance of the Redcliffe Hospital whereas the areas I have mentioned are many miles away from a hospital. There is a much greater need for a holding hospital in the areas I have mentioned than in Sandgate.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I call the honourable member for Ipswich West. This is the honourable member's maiden speech and I ask the House to afford him the usual courtesies.

**Mr. UNDERWOOD** (Ipswich West) (8.34 p.m.): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a proud moment for me on the occasion of this my maiden speech in Parliament. The significance of the occasion is even greater for me, for the A.L.P. is on the ascendancy while the National-Liberal Government is on the decline and is heading for defeat at the next State election.

My congratulations go to my colleague the honourable member for Wolston, Mr. Bob Gibbs, who had a sweeping victory after a short campaign in his electorate. There is no doubt in my mind and in his

mind—and in fact in the minds of the people of Ipswich—that they prefer the policies and platform of the Australian Labor Party and the defeat of the National-Liberal Government.

In the tradition of this Parliament, I pledge my loyalty and that of the citizens of the Ipswich West electorate to Her Majesty the Queen. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Governor, Sir James Ramsay, on the excellent job that he is doing as Governor of Queensland. He most certainly has won the respect of the people of Queensland for the work he is doing as our Governor.

I also take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his election and assure him of my support in the orderly and dignified conduct of this Parliament.

May I express my thanks to him, and also my thanks to those people who have welcomed me here both inside and outside the Parliament. I am very grateful for the assistance that has been given to me by my parliamentary colleagues on this side of the House, and I thank all of them for their welcome.

In addition, I thank the staff of Parliament House for the help and guidance that they have at all times made available to me. Let me assure them that I do appreciate their assistance.

On behalf of myself and the Australian Labor Party I wish to thank the electors of Ipswich West who gave the Labor movement there such a resounding victory in defeating the combined forces of the National-Liberal coalition by a margin of 2,734 votes over our nearest rival.

The seat was redistributed in a vain attempt to hold it for the Government, but the people crushed the Liberals and unceremoniously threw the Nationals out. We achieved some of our best swings of 14 and 16 per cent in areas which are traditionally National-Liberal voting areas.

The Premier was so disliked in Ipswich West that the National candidate, in a last-ditch effort to win votes, pasted his picture over all the posters depicting the Premier outside all the polling booths, but the people of Ipswich West were awake to the Government, as is the rest of Queensland. The people are now beginning to realise the true facts.

I wish to record my thanks to my campaign director, Reg Bond and his wife Carol for their dedicated service to the Labor movement during the campaign. There are many others inside and outside the party who worked in many and varied ways for days and weeks to achieve victory for Labor. At the next State election these people will be part of an even greater victory—the first Australian Labor Party Government in Queensland since 1956.

Queenslanders want honest, down-to-earth democratic government. They don't want to be treated like mushrooms, kept in the dark and fed on the proverbial by an overpowering Government which puts itself above the law and above the wishes of Queenslanders.

We are proud and fortunate to have as our member in the Australian Parliament Bill Hayden, the former Treasurer, and Minister for Social Security, and now Leader of the Opposition—and I believe the next Prime Minister of Australia. It was through Bill Hayden and the Labor Government that so many badly needed facilities and services were provided in Ipswich for the people of the Ipswich and West Moreton districts. Bill Hayden and the Labor Government were responsible for initiating and funding projects such as the magnificent civic centre, the massive hospital expansion programme, the humanities building, dental health clinics, extra pre-schools, child care centres, libraries, disadvantaged school programmes, national sewerage backlog scheme, increased road-works, kerbing and channelling, electrification of the railway and the new technical college—just to name a few of the benefits.

The magnificent civic centre, incorporating an auditorium which can seat 800, the Cunningham Room, which can seat 330 and the Lockyer Room, which can seat 96, is expertly run by its manager, Bob Peet, and his most co-operative staff for the people under the umbrella of the Ipswich City Council.

The civic centre is in constant use as the focal point for social and cultural activities of the community of Ipswich and surrounding districts. A wide range of functions such as wedding receptions, international revues, bingo, balls, ballet, musicals, theatre, art exhibitions, naturalisation ceremonies and conferences are held there.

My wife and I had the pleasure recently of being present at the grand final night of the Country Music Capital Association held in the auditorium. It was a spectacular night where more than 500 people wined and dined while they witnessed the fabulous display of local South-east Queensland talent, utilising the dazzling and magnificent stage lighting, who battled for the title of the champion country music entertainer in Ipswich, the country music capital of Queensland.

In the Ipswich West electorate four child care centres have been established by the Australian Government through the Ipswich City Council. This was a pilot project based on the concept of community involvement and control. Like all innovations we had our teething problems, but these centres have developed into wonderful assets for our community. The centres are located at 84 Hill Street, North Ipswich; 4 Clem Street, Brassall; 8 Berry Street, Churchill; and 28 Cribb Street, Sadliers Crossing. These centres provide high-quality care for pre-school children

from 0 to 5 years of age. This is a wonderful service to mothers and fathers who are away from home for all or part of the day, who need a break from the kids or just need someone in whom they can place full trust to look after their children when they go shopping. The children are cared for in a secure, motherly and stimulating environment under the care of highly skilled people such as fully qualified nurses. These centres are certainly a far cry from some of the backyard centres which allowed young children and babies to vegetate, lying and sitting around all day with nothing to do, and given no attention. When these children, who have been brought up in a colourless and unstimulating environment, go to school they have often been so badly deprived during their formative years that they have difficulty with grade 1 studies. This bad start sometimes affects them for the rest of their schooling. So honourable members can see what a boon these centres have been to Ipswich. I urge all citizens to support and use these centres so that they may continue to give service and prosper.

Another great selfless community service carried out in Ipswich West is the work done by the parents and citizens' associations and parents and friends' associations of the following schools: Amberley, Blair, Brassall, Churchill, Glamorgan Vale, Ipswich Grammar, Leichhardt, Mt. Crosby, North Ipswich, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Ipswich State High, Ipswich West, St. Edmunds and Leichhardt Catholic Schools, and the Seventh Day Adventists School. I am also associated with Fernvale and Walloon State Schools and Ipswich Opportunity Schools. All of the people who attend to the affairs of these bodies do a marvellous job for our schools, children and teachers. They handle tens of thousands of dollars annually which they raise and distribute to provide essential commodities, articles and projects so necessary to provide the best possible education facilities.

The Australian Government Schools Commission helped ease the burden upon organisations such as p. and c.s and p. and f.s giving the parents more time to concentrate on the other important aspects of community involvement in our schools. However, since the defeat of the Australian Labor Government the Schools Commission has been slowly but surely dismantled and the funds quickly dried up following cut-backs by short-sighted government, both Queensland and Australian and the pressure to spend all its time worrying about money has been reapplied to these parents and citizens' bodies.

I can boast without fear of contradiction that Ipswich has the greatest array and depth of sports available in any community in the State. Ipswich is a great sporting community having produced many representative sportsmen and women at both State and National levels. One can participate in sports such as football, canoeing, horse-riding, archery,

gliding, T-ball, table tennis, hockey and dirt-biking. The list is almost endless. Not only that these sports are available to the widest possible age groups. All these sports are ably supported by the community, for the Ipswich community has a great love of participatory sports and pride in its prowess in them. The children of our area have this wonderful depth of activity provided and maintained by themselves, their parents and their supporters. This is just one of the reasons why Ipswich and district is a great place to live.

Ipswich with its streets lined with flowering trees and its parklands has the best of both city and country living. Ipswich has the facilities of a modern progressive city coupled with open spaces, nearby paddocks, forested mountain ranges and the beautiful upper reaches of the Brisbane and Bremer Rivers. Our country areas provide welcome refreshment. The Ipswich West electorate takes in some of the most scenic and pleasant views in South-east Queensland including the D'Aguilar Ranges, the Brisbane and Bremer Rivers and, in the distance, the Great Dividing and Liverpool Ranges.

However, in the lower reaches of these rivers we suffer from the pollution problem that is common to too many of our beautiful watercourses. This occurs because of the refusal by the State Government to do anything constructive to clean up our valuable rivers and water resources.

We have many fishermen who ply their skill on the south and north coasts, Moreton Bay and Fraser Island, and to the west on the great western rivers such as the Condamine and Dumaresq. Ipswich is a beautiful place which is ideally situated, and I would encourage anyone who is looking for value for money to buy or build in the Ipswich district. We will welcome them to our great city and surrounding countryside.

The centralist policies and thoughts of the State Government, which drags all power snugly around itself in Brisbane, is affecting the decentralisation of industries and services throughout the State. This is detrimental to the further enormous development and expansion which is possible in the Ipswich and West Moreton regions. Our city and region is an area of wealth and great potential.

Let me now mention one such inhibiting centralising policy of importance to my electorate and to the city of Ipswich generally. At Gailes, which is on the boundary between the city of Ipswich and the city of Brisbane, a weighbridge has been established and road transports using the highway must be checked at this weighbridge when entering or leaving the Brisbane area. Industry in the Ipswich area is being strangled by the operations of the weighbridge and the ridiculous restrictions that are imposed on the carriage of goods between Ipswich and Brisbane.

A Government-sponsored industrial estate has been established at Wacol, which is on the Brisbane side of the weighbridge, and, consequently, industry in that estate can transport goods to and from the port of Brisbane or anywhere else within the metropolitan area without having to comply with the requirements of the weighbridge whilst industry situated immediately to the west of the weighbridge and the area of the city of Ipswich must meet these requirements.

One industrial estate that is suffering greatly from this situation is the Wulkuraka Industrial Estate in my electorate. Surprisingly enough, because of the progressive policy of the Ipswich City Council, it has managed to obtain a number of industries. However, there is room for plenty more, and the weighbridge is stopping them from going there.

When I remind honourable members that, with the exception of vehicles carrying coal and sugar, road transports from Ipswich are free of road tax, surely they must admit that a gross anomaly exists if these transports have to pass through the weighbridge on every trip that they make. Ipswich transport operators are forced to wait up to 50 minutes for each truck to pass through the weighing area, and on many occasions that period of time is longer than the actual running time involved in the journey that the trucks have to make. This delay means extra costs in transport, and these extra costs are passed on to the Ipswich-based industries. It is contended that this weighbridge is proving to be the biggest single drawback to the establishment of further industries in Ipswich because prospective industrialists closely examine transportation costs when considering sites at which to establish their industries.

Owing to the absurd axle-load regulations and interpretations, goods that are carried from Ipswich to the Brisbane wharves or other places in the metropolitan area often have to be carried on two vehicles, whereas similar loads from the Wacol Industrial Estate can be carried on only one vehicle because that vehicle does not have to pass through the weighbridge. The situation has been aggravated further with the advent of containerisation, because the transport driver has no control whatever over the distribution of his load weight. If a transport driver takes delivery of a container he cannot specify where the actual weight distribution within the container will be, and he could run foul of the regulations that apply to axle loads even if the overall weight is below the maximum allowed. I call upon the Government to correct that situation so that decentralisation can occur in cities such as Ipswich.

When one thinks of Ipswich, one thinks automatically of railways. The principal mechanical workshops of the Queensland Railways have always been located at North Ipswich. The original building was constructed in 1865 not far from the first railway bridge. Assembly of the first engines, wagons and carriages from England in 1864 was

carried out in the open air on the north bank of the Bremer River. What was intended to be a replacement building built in 1880 really proved to be an extension of the first, such was the large volume of work being handled. Both were south of the present workshops, which were erected from 1903, about three quarters of a mile from the original workshops.

Nowadays the railway industry in Ipswich is an industry under stress caused by the State Government policy of neglect and penny-pinching. The Queensland Railways have never really recovered from the sterling service, and the consequent wear and tear, that the railwaymen and their machines gave to Australia during the second world war.

Public transport is part of the solution to the world energy and resources crisis. Train travel and transport is an integral part of any public transport scheme, but in Queensland it is a major part. The railways are suffering from too many short-term cures imposed on them. Since it took office this State Government has tried annually, with fancy bookwork, to make a profit without any regard to long-term planning.

Ever since this Government came to power the standing of the Ipswich Railway Workshops has been gradually lowered. In 1960, 3,004 persons were employed; by 1978 the number of employees has dropped to 1,883. In the same period the number of tradesmen has dropped from 1,431 to 842.

The Government has little regard for the people of Ipswich. The only reason the Minister gave the other day for this dramatic drop in the importance of the Ipswich Railway Workshops was the establishment of the workshop at Redbank. That is only part of the real answer. The remainder includes the letting of contracts overseas and interstate and the winding-down of the workshops and the railways it supports. I call on the State Government to reverse its shameful railways policy and to provide an expansive update operation of the railways in Queensland so that this State will have a transport system second to none.

This would provide in turn apprenticeships and jobs for some of the 3,600 people out of work in Ipswich and district. Through sensible public investment in the railways we can provide these jobs and apprenticeships. However, at the moment the policy is to cut back the intake of apprentices at the Ipswich Railway Workshops. The facts speak for themselves. They were given the other day in this House by the Minister. At the present time indentured at Ipswich Railway Workshops there are only 24 first-year apprentices, 72 second-year apprentices, 81 third-year apprentices and 80 fourth-year apprentices. Yet 1,248 candidates sat for the apprenticeship examination throughout the South-eastern Division of the Queensland Railways.

The refusal of the State Government to work with the Labor Australian Government has cost the Queensland Railways and Ipswich

train travellers dearly. 1978 was the year that the first electric train was to service Ipswich and Brisbane areas. But because of that refusal and the inactivity of the State Government over four years it will not be until the late 1980s that electric trains will run to Ipswich. To try to cover for this shocking waste of public money and resources Ministers have made several conflicting statements about the electrification project and various associated contracts. However, they have not hidden their deceit from the people, and they will not be able to hide it. The only way out for them is to boost the scheme so that the completion date can come back to somewhere near what was initially proposed and funded for.

In the south-west sector of the Ipswich West electorate is situated one of Australia's major military installations at which approximately 2,600 men and women are employed. This is the Royal Australian Air Force Base, Amberley, home of the F111, Chinook, Canberra and Iroquois Squadrons. Economically this is the biggest industry in Ipswich. The men stationed at the base have a proud history of preparedness and efficiency. Recently I had the honour to be present at the presentation of the Gloucester Cup by the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen. The cup was won by No. 12 Squadron, which flies the Boeing Vertol Ch-47C Chinooks—the largest helicopters in Australia—for being the most proficient flying squadron of the R.A.A.F. The primary role of that unit since the introduction of the Chinook has been that of Army support. With a lift capacity of 9 072 kg the Chinook has proved invaluable for the short-range transport of equipment and personnel. Equipment, including guns and vehicles, can be carried internally or slung externally from a hook. The squadron has also figured prominently in the civil aid role and, to a lesser extent, flood-relief work.

As awareness of its unique capabilities increases, the Chinook is being recognised as one of the more versatile aircraft in the Air Force, and extensions to the limits of its operational role are continually being considered. The winning of the cup by No. 12 Squadron was an honour not only for that squadron and the Amberley Air Base but also for Ipswich to be associated with and part of the squadron's victory. The city of Ipswich salutes No. 12 Squadron.

I now refer to education accommodation and provision of facilities for the children in the Ipswich West electorate. There is a desperate need for the construction of a new high school to serve the suburbs of Leichhardt, One Mile and Churchill. This school would also service Amberley and rural areas south-west of Ipswich. At the moment approximately 340 high school students travel by bus across the city from the Leichhardt, One Mile and Churchill side to the Ipswich State High School at Brassall, which will have an enrolment of approximately 1,600 students by the end

of this year. This results in a less than optional educational-and-discipline situation for all concerned.

As in so many other fields, the State Government has been found lacking in not having previously set aside suitable land in the Leichhardt, One Mile and Churchill areas. However, there is sufficient land in a reasonably suitable position at Churchill. I call upon the Government to commence work immediately on the provision of a new high school in this area. This will bring immediate benefits to the families with children in the Ipswich West electorate. Simultaneously, this will create a lower student population at the Ipswich State High School. Educationists recommended a secondary school population of 800 as being the best to provide all students with the best and fullest education. The Ipswich State High School has a population of nearly twice that figure. But the dedication and professionalism of the schoolteachers, students, staff and parents are providing high standards at this great school.

The school has been successful in winning a \$400,000 grade 8 centre to assist students in the important transition period from primary to secondary school. We need to give our children the best education so that they may have the best chance in life in a world which is becoming more and more difficult for young people.

I must bring to the attention of the House a serious problem that is facing hundreds of people in my electorate where the suburbs of North Ipswich, Tivoli, Brassall, Chuwar and Karalee meet. These residents, in their own words, are faced with loss of life, possible damage to property and intolerable destruction of suburban life styles by the establishment of an open-cut coal-mine in a well-populated area. These people have organised themselves into two organisations to fight their cause, namely, the North Ipswich Residents to Defend Homes and the Chuwar Progress Association. They have raised moneys, sent petitions and letters to M.L.A.s, made representations and sent delegations to the Minister, and hired top solicitors and barristers to represent them in the Mining Warden's Court.

One of the life-blood industries of Ipswich is coal-mining and we should do everything possible to halt the decline of this industry and so save the jobs of the hundreds of workers involved both directly and indirectly in it. The State Government has a number of options open to it to preserve this vital industry now, which it has refused to implement. Instead, it has placed on it a death lock in its recently imposed quota system for the next 15 years on local supplies of coal to Swanbank Power Station. Unless the mines can get other contracts, they will be forced to dismiss men, let expensive machinery lie idle, and reach levels which will be nearly uneconomic. The

State Government's lack of planning and care for the Ipswich and West Moreton coal industry and those employed in it is the source of the distress of the residents, who are objecting to the granting of coal-mining lease applications Nos. 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755.

The State Government's approach to its affairs is haphazard to say the least. The hotchpotch of decisions, counter-decisions and lack of decisions which make up its management of the coal industry is a body blow to hundreds of people in my electorate who have invested their life savings, borrowed, mortgaged, and worked their guts out to buy a patch of land and build a home. In fact some hundreds of homes will be affected by their close proximity to the proposed open-cut mines.

I have here a submission from the affected residents that contains matters which should concern honourable members—indeed, all people who believe in government of the people by the people for the people. I seek leave of the House to incorporate the submission in "Hansard". (Leave granted.)

"An Order in Council published in the Queensland Government Gazette on 14th April, 1970 proclaimed 6,250 acres to the north of the city of Ipswich to be not available for mining. Part of the area had already been mined extensively and publication No. 279 of Department of Mines Geological Survey of Queensland reported that the remaining coal was of poor quality low yield and the area should be reserved for future residential development. It recommended that further mining development take place in areas, south, south west and south east of Ipswich.

"Acting on this Order in Council and report the Ipswich City Council and the West Moreton Shire Council encouraged residential development to extend into this area. The Roma to Brisbane Natural Gas Pipeline was built through it as was the Warrego Highway by-pass around Ipswich. But, just as the residential development in the N. Ipswich/Tivoli Heights areas began a rapid increase, a second Order in Council published in Government Gazette 81 page 1518 on 26th July, 1975 the entire 6,250 acres was made available for mining by the rescinding of the original order—although Dept. of Mines Geological survey publication No. 94 published in 1975 specifically confirmed and added to the conclusions of the earlier report. Developers, home buyers and the two local authorities, unaware of this, continued with the rapid development of the N. Ipswich/Tivoli Heights/Tivoli/Whispering Gums suburbs. Some of the finest homes in south east Queensland took shape in Cranes Road, Tivoli Heights Estate mushroomed quickly and developers advertised Whispering Gums in a similar way to Karana Downs and Little Aspley. The largest old persons home in Ipswich was built on the edge of the area.

"But now a Mining Company has applied for 5 leases on private land, not owned by it, in the midst of this residential area for open cut mines enclosed on 3 sides by modern new homes. The Gas pipeline cuts through two of these lease areas and runs along the border of a third. They propose to mine up to and under the pipeline.

"We the residents of the area accordingly wish to draw your attention to the following points.

"1. Proposed mine likely to be sub economic.

"Because the best of the coal has already been mined by 3 separate mining operations up to 1948, and because of the low extractions and washing rate and relatively low quality reported in publications 279 (1955) and 94 (1975) residents believe that the mine could be sub economic and may be abandoned leaving the area besmirched and polluted due to its unprofitability. On pages 9 and 10 of publications No. 94 this low economic worth is stated as fact.

"2. Old people's home.

"Many of the 78 residents of Bundaleer Lodge Old People's Home already have respiratory and nervous disorders. Dust and loud noises from mining will almost certainly adversely affect them physically, psychiatrically and psychologically and upset their whole physical and mental balance. Life is hard enough for our old people without this.

"3. Type of population in the area

"Large numbers of residents live in the area because the rural setting has an attraction to people with health problems such as asthma, emphysema, sinusitis, cystic fibrosis, and bronchial problems and consequently a disproportionate number, especially in the under 15 years age bracket have these very afflictions. Many invalid pensioners are included in this category. All such will suffer for more than the ordinary but the young child in particular will have even their growth and development adversely affected by increased dust from mining.

"4. Pollution of drinking water

"Right alongside these proposed open cut mines are a number of homes which rely solely on rain water for drinking. The high bituminous content of the coal in this area as reported by Dept. of Mines publication No. 94 and admitted by the Mining Co. in their alleged Environmental Impact Study mean that dust reaching their water supplies will contain coal tars which are known carcinogens together with numerous other pollutants which will grossly endanger the residents health.

"5. Destruction of life and living environment

"Numerous residents moved to the area specifically to escape high noise problems which prevented them from sleeping after

working shift work. Many investigated the area thoroughly first and planned their homes in fact on the strength of the 'not available for mining' classification prior to 27th July, 1975. Their life style will again be disrupted and their sleep and enjoyment of their homes destroyed.

"6. Loss of value of residential property.

"Already the knowledge of mere application for mining leases has prevented some people, who have been transferred in their jobs, from selling their homes to move to take up their new jobs. And the depressing of real estate values from the proximity of mining operations will prevent people such as pensioners from being able to move because of health or other reasons and buy elsewhere. Their age, their low income, invalid conditions and the erosion of their existing property values will make any more impossible.

"7. Danger to Roma/Brisbane Natural Gas Pipeline

"Several years ago a gas leak into mine workings at Box Flat caused a huge explosion which killed 21 miners. Vibration and for blasting shock from the proposed open cut and underground mining operations in the vicinity of the 870 pounds per square inch, 10 inch diameter high pressure gas pipeline could result in a much worse disaster and completely cut off the supply of natural gas to Brisbane. The alleged Environmental Impact Study admits this possibility but nothing constructive is advanced to prevent it especially in view of the evidence that a 20 foot earth subsidence from old workings has already occurred in the pipeline lease area. The pipe may from this alone already be stressed close to its limits. The alleged Environmental Impact Study admits that any leak will almost certainly result in an explosion and a fire.

"8. Increased public risk of serious traffic accidents

"The proposed haul route for coal from the proposed mine presents a greatly increased traffic hazard with entry and exit from Warrego Highway with right hand turns across a high volume of traffic, past the Dinmore School on a steep incline, across the 4 lane Brisbane/Ipswich Highway against already high numbers of heavy trucks turning into it. The entry point to Warrego Highway has poor visibility and is close to 2 already high accident rate intersections.

"9. Large Numbers of residents affected

"Within the boundaries of severe noise and dust nuisance drawn by the Mining Company's consultants in their alleged Environmental Impact Study are 244 houses occupied by 744 people. However these boundaries are believed to be drawn too close to the proposed mine and that an even greater number will be adversely affected. In particular the effects of blasting in and near the huge plates of faulted

sandstone on which the thousands of homes in N. Ipswich now stand is unknown and potentially dangerous. Already at least one resident had his home badly damaged by blasting in the development of the Tivoli Heights Estate approximately 0.8 klms. from his home and a shock was recorded 23 miles away at Mt. Nebo seismic recorded coinciding with the blast. If mining is allowed in this area what safeguard does any resident living in N. Ipswich have against damage, even personal injury.

"10. Precedent for future intrusion of mines into residential areas

"If this operation is allowed a dangerous precedent will be set for further intrusion of mining operations into other residential areas at the expense of the welfare of residents so that no one's home will be safe, be they resident of Ipswich, Toowoomba, Brisbane or Gold Coast.

"11. Stated purposes of proposed mine self contradictory

"In the opening paragraph of their alleged Environmental Impact Study the mining company states that the proposed operations will provide a source of coal to develop other markets as their quotes for supply to Swanbank are reduced yet in the same paragraph it also states it is to provide additional supplies to meet new contractual arrangements entered into for supply to Swanbank.

"The main argument advanced is that it will maintain employment for 30 people, 10 on open cut and 20 more underground yet it is admitted that these will be from their existing staff, that open cut mining is expected to continue for 2 years, and that under-ground mining will be from the bottom of the largest of the 8 pits—number 4. In addition it was admitted that the open cut work would be carried out by contractors. This would seem to be very tenuous grounds on which to base a claim of maintaining employment of 30 persons.

"12. No true Environmental Impact Study carried out.

"The Queensland Government has published a booklet with a forward by the Premier, Mr. J. Bjelke-Petersen giving guidelines for Environmental Impact Studies. Not much study has to date been carried out. The majority of residents were unaware of the lease applications at the date on which objections closed on the first—number 750, Ipswich—and only 12 persons lodged objections in time. To answer to these objections the mining company engaged Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey and a document titled by them Environmental Impact Study, admitting within itself that it was restricted to answering these objections was lodged with the court.

"This document does not follow those guidelines and was stated in sworn testimony by Mr. T. Hundloe of the School of Environmental Studies at the Griffith University to be not a true Environmental Impact Study at all.

"13. Residents who were unaware of 750 would have objected had they known of it.

"After discovering too late that the closing date for lodgement of objections to No. 750 had passed 350 residents lodged objections to 754 and 755 and signed a petition to the Minister for Mines, Mr. Camm. An affidavit from a number of these objectors stating that had they known about 750 in time they would have objected, was tendered to the Mining Warden but not accepted by him. We therefore, representing the residents of Northern Ipswich, knowing and agreeing that Ipswich is a mining town, and supporting the mining of coal in the Ipswich coalfield as a national and local necessity, however believe that if coal mining is allowed to take place in an area in the midst of and surrounded by the homes of so many people, where such mining has been reported by Geological experts in recent official government publications to be uneconomical because of low yields and poor quality, whilst vast reserves are available of better coal in undeveloped areas to the south. All residents of Queensland must tremble at the implications of the precedent thus set for the future.

"We believe further that a government consisting of responsible men such as yourselves will not allow any mining company to profit in the short term at the expense in the long term of so many individuals and that you will see that the proposed mine occupies only 140 acres of the full 6,250 reopened for mining by that rescinding order of 27th July, 1975, and that there is a need for a searching investigation to re-evaluate the position to see just how much of that 6,250 acres should be closed permanently to all mining operations.

"If this is not done the cost to the community, and to mining companies of litigation, the overloading of our courts, and the waste of parliamentary representatives time on such controversial issues could be avoided if the granting of these leases is withheld pending such an investigation, and, on its being carried out promptly and properly, appropriate action taken to allow mining operations to continue to benefit the whole community whilst also protecting the community from unnecessary hardship, loss, nuisance and detriment."

These residents—my constituents—have put their case well and I, as the member for Ipswich West, call upon the Minister for Mines and the Government to study very carefully coal-mining lease applications 750, 751, 752, 753, 754 and 755 before making

a decision, taking into account the long-term and short-term effects on the people of Ipswich and the long-term and short-term investments in those lease areas. I am sure that, if this is done, the Minister will make the right decision—a decision that will benefit the greatest number of people over the longest period.

I now turn to the Ipswich and West Moreton coalfields. There are at least 400 000 000 tonnes of coal reserves in the West Moreton field. In today's world-wide economic crisis it would be shameful, in my opinion, if this coal-mining industry, which is so close to the essential infrastructure, were allowed to decline and men were retrenched. Considering that Swanbank Power House has an economic life of 20 years, only 37 000 000 tonnes in the West Moreton field will be used. Surely an alternative must be available. The coal-mines of Ipswich need guaranteed orders for the future, in addition to the 15-year quota system. No company will spend millions of dollars without some reasonable likelihood of a return.

The feeble attempt by the State Government to put up a scheme of such guaranteed orders earlier this year was pathetic. The main aim of this, I suggest, was to eliminate Ipswich and West Moreton from the powerhouse race, and to gag any criticism which would emanate from the Ipswich and West Moreton fields over the siting of the new powerhouse.

The coal-mines will know what their future is for the next 15 years under the scheme—but it is a yearly reducing percentage scheme. This means that every year output is guaranteed to drop, men are guaranteed dismissal and the Ipswich economy is guaranteed a great loss of income. This state of affairs is a scandal when it has been reported that the State Electricity Commission has said that peak coal requirements of Swanbank and Brisbane power-stations from 1982 to 1987 will have to be met by maintaining a high level of supply from West Moreton coalfields from 1979, with stockpiling to meet the higher consumption period. The State Electricity Commission also said that, if there was a significant increase in energy demand, the short-term capability of the West Moreton fields could be exceeded and the import of coal from other areas could be necessary. This situation is intolerable when one considers the lack of assistance to the Ipswich and West Moreton mines to improve their coal-producing capability.

The Government has provided no export coal-handling facilities. We heard a lot of hot air and half-hearted promises prior to the elections, when the previous National Party member for Wynnum said that there would be no coal-loading facilities and the former National Party member for Ipswich West said there would be. A number of mines are looking to the small quickie-order export market as the saviour for the maintenance of markets for their coal; but, with no coal-loading facilities, these orders will not eventuate. If they

do, there will be great difficulty in handling the coal. The State Government has extravagant, grandiose plans and sketches—but they are only sketches—for a coal-loading facility; but all that the Ipswich and West Moreton mines are seeking is assistance to construct a simple facility which can speedily handle their small quickie orders.

At the moment the State Government is doing everything to assist multinational companies establish \$1,000 million operations at the Tarong, Millmerran and Central Queensland coalfields. But Ipswich and West Moreton are fobbed off. The decision to site the new powerhouse at Tarong means that the Tarong mine will be developed quicker than Millmerran; thus coal imported to Swanbank could come from Tarong. That coal from Tarong exhibits pollution characteristics necessitating stringent anti-pollution measures that would cost \$17,000,000 more for Tarong than for Millmerran.

The pollution problems thus experienced by Ipswich residents will be excessive if Tarong coal is supplied to Swanbank powerhouse, as has been suggested by the S.E.C. The State Government's approach to its affairs is haphazard, to say the least. I call on the State Government to realise its responsibility to the people of Ipswich and West Moreton to immediately implement management procedures which will halt the decline in coal production from the wealthy and viable and highly infrastructured Ipswich and West Moreton coalfields.

I now turn to dairying. Ipswich is the site of the proud Q.F.C.A. dairy factory, which produces the famous Jacaranda dairy products. They are top quality products of superb taste and value. After the cessation of the school milk scheme, which was fraught with waste, disruption and hostility, Jacaranda was the trail-blazer in having flavoured milks sold in school tuckshops. Jacaranda approached schools with a highly successful marketing scheme, which it has now developed to include its other products, to sell flavoured milk in place of the free pasteurised plain milk scheme. The plain milk scheme was turning more people off milk than onto it.

The State Government made a shoddy election promise to reintroduce the free milk scheme into pre-schools. The dairy industry saw this cheap gimmick for the empty vessel it was. That proposal will not increase returns to the producer to any degree and will only burden the industry with a costly distribution system.

What the Government should do is introduce a flavoured milk scheme free to all primary and pre-school children. This would be a fair-dinkum move to assist the health and dietary habits of our children and give a great boost to the milk producers of this State. The Jacaranda shareholders recognised the importance of, and future in, supplying milk for home consumption and manufactured products.

Jacaranda produces products that other factories have tried in vain to copy in taste and quality. They are flavoured milks, creamed rice, custard, baker's powder, bottled and cartoned milk, butter and cream. Owing to the Federal Government's decision, the Jacaranda factory has lost its export market in America. It was selling skim milk powder to the Butter Marketing Board for the production of JUNEX, which was sold to America. In fact, Jacaranda supplies 35 per cent of Australia's baker's powder.

This demonstrates the positive approach, energy and sheer hard work by the shareholders in promoting and diversifying the manufacture and sale of their basic product—milk. This professional approach to their industry by the producers of the Ipswich and West Moreton District many years ago has resulted in millions of dollars being invested in the factory plant to produce the many products. This has stabilised and strengthened our local dairy industry in comparison with other dairy co-operatives in other parts of Queensland.

Excessive, unrealistic and bureaucratic laws and restrictions by both the State and Federal Governments are in the process of partially destroying the high standards, investment, stability and progress of the Ipswich and West Moreton dairy industry. The new legislation on the redistribution of milk quotas is the most destructive weapon ever used by any Government against any rural industry. What is occurring and will occur is the mass exodus of current dairymen and their families from the industry as a result of the proposed redistribution of dairy quotas. Strong dairy factories such as Jacaranda and Caboolture will suffer through the loss of suppliers owing to quota distribution. They are currently making a go of it, but for several reasons will leave and are leaving the dairy industry. The State Government is presiding over the destruction of the already hard-pressed dairy industry.

This local destruction will bring with it the laying off of dozens of employees, the laying waste of expensive factory plant, further escalation of production costs and further decreases in returns to surviving producers. Mark my words: this is nothing but thuggery by the State Government, as it drives home one body blow after another upon this section of the rural industry, which has traditionally supported the Government economically and politically.

The family farm is an asset we must seek to protect. The dairy industry policy is a disaster, for in Queensland between 1970 and 1974 the number of dairy farmers fell by 39 per cent. I predict that the number will rise with the introduction of the new quota distribution scheme of the State Government. The rural policy is characterised by measures to assist farmers to adjust to economic change. This Government, to

use the words of its constituents, can count itself to be the greatest failure and Indian-giver in the history of rural policies.

I shall now turn to what I call the proposed "right to scab" legislation. The Bjelke-Petersen propositions have dismayed significant sections of employers, who see the dangers in the crudity and heavy-handedness of the proposals. The "right to work" notions have also created differences within the State Government parties—the National (formerly Country) Party, which Mr. Bjelke-Petersen heads, and the Liberal Party, with one Liberal back-bench member having gone so far as to describe the proposed legislation as "madness".

But Mr. Bjelke-Petersen appears deaf—so far at least—to all that. The man who has made his Government notorious by its gerrymanders, its anti-democratic bans, its misuse of police, its disregard of elementary standards of civil rights, and his own furious intolerance of any who differ from his opinion is now determined to impose a style of industrial relations which, as the Queensland Trades and Labor Council has told workers, would "remove not only your right to strike but also your right to disagree industrially with him or the boss."

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, by his own words, has shown himself to have designs on going even further than weakening trade unions. He wants to be rid of them altogether. That is the meaning of his statement in "The Courier-Mail" of 2 February 1978, when he said, "Unions may have been necessary in 1880, but it's a lot different now." What rot! Unions are more necessary now than they ever were.

The Premier's right to work proposition is one of the means by which he hopes to move towards eventual elimination of trade unions. The time to intervene against his design and to stop it is now, before it is allowed to gain any momentum. It is an issue of immediate and direct concern to the nation's 2,500,000 trade-unionists and to their families. More than that, it is a matter for all the Australian community.

To sum up, I say that the right to work legislation means—

- (1) the right to work long hours for low pay;
- (2) the right to employers to employ women to do the same work as men for less pay;
- (3) the right to refuse to hire or promote workers because of the colour of their skin or their religion;
- (4) the right to employ children on dangerous work without effective legislation;
- (5) the right to pay substandard unemployment insurance;
- (6) the right to pay inadequate compensation to workers who are injured on the job; and
- (7) the right to much lower wages.

In fact, in America, which already has right to work legislation, wages are up to 80 per cent lower.

If this proposal really did mean a right to work, if it really did mean more jobs for the scores of thousands of unemployed Queenslanders, then the trade union movement and all progressives would applaud and support it, even if they would first have to overcome their astonishment that such a proposition should come from the Premier, who seems so smugly unperturbed that Queensland chronically has the highest rate of unemployment of all States. In fact, during the State election campaign the Premier said, "There is no need to worry about this unemployment problem; nearly 95 per cent of the work-force is in employment." The fact is that in Queensland there are 70,000-odd unemployed people who are desperately looking for work but cannot get it.

But the fact is that Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's right to work does not mean that at all. It means anything but that. His right to work would still allow an employer to say to any applicant, "There is no job for you." The employer could still say to any or all of his employees, "You're sacked." The victims would find no comfort or help under the Bjelke-Petersen right to work proposal. This professed right to work is an empty slogan designed to camouflage the reality of a proposed piece of legislation that will not give workers any right to new jobs but will be aimed to make them even worse off than they are now.

In the time I have left I will devote my attention to the uranium industry. Uranium is guilty until proven innocent. I abide the Federal policy of honouring all present contracts, including the Mary Kathleen contract, but after that I believe that no more uranium should be exported until it is proven innocent. We should consider what will happen with our coal exports if we supply Japan with sufficient uranium to allow Japan to stockpile uranium. The possibility would be that Japan would not then require as much of our coal as it does today.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. ARMSTRONG** (Mulgrave) (9.14 p.m.): The honourable member for Ipswich West is a young, enthusiastic and virile chap. He has given us a very interesting address, which I will try to cover later.

Firstly, let me pledge the loyalty of my electorate along with mine to Her Gracious Majesty, the Queen, and also to her representative in this fair State. As honourable members know, our Governor has not served this State for very long, but in the short time he has been here he has made a very favourable impression. He has used the time available to the best advantage in travelling around the State and making himself familiar with the many problems which face us today.

I also whole-heartedly support the mover (the honourable member for Southport) and the seconder (the honourable member for Warwick) of the motion before the House. I am certain that these two members will be an asset to this Government and indeed to this Parliament. I have known the honourable member for Warwick for many years, as I did his predecessor, and I feel sure that he will carry out his duties as well as, if not better than, his predecessor, who worked very hard for his constituents.

I would also like to congratulate all the new members who have entered this House. I am sure they recognise their responsibilities and I hope that they will approach the problems of this State in a manner becoming to members of this Legislative Assembly. When I see the way that we, as representatives of the people, conduct ourselves, sometimes I feel that it is not much of an honour to belong to an institution such as this. If we want the image of this Parliament to be elevated to the height where it belongs we should examine ourselves critically and try to set some sort of an example to the people who send us here and who expect much better things from us. I do hope that our new young members will not emulate some of our older members in that regard.

I also congratulate Mr. Speaker on his re-election and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your reappointment as Chairman of Committees. During your period of office you and Mr. Speaker have done your duty very ably and well. You have in many ways been helpful in making the lot of members of this House better than it was before you achieved your respective offices.

Even though I hear many rumblings around the corridors about some of the conditions we still have to put up with, and I share that concern to some degree, when I look back over the years I recall the marked changes that have occurred since I first came to this place. But I should not like to be taken as suggesting that we should now rest on our laurels.

I should like also to pay my respects to my old friend the honourable member for Windsor, who has played his part in this Parliament very ably and well and without fear or favour. It has been a better place for his entry, and I am sure that he will keep on working in the manner in which he has done in the past.

I would remind the honourable member for Ipswich West, who seemed to be very elated about the great gains that his party has made, that if there was to be a change surely it had to be upwards and not downwards. After all, the Opposition had only a cricket team; so I suppose one could understand his joy at now having some reserves. I hope that they, too, will play their part as an Opposition should, because under our parliamentary system we really need a strong Opposition. The stronger it is, the better Government we will get. In fact, at times

during the last Parliament I felt sorry for the A.L.P. with its 11 members and the load they were trying to carry. I thanked God that I was not one of them. I would not like to find myself in that position. A member of the Opposition served on a committee with which I was associated. We did all we could to assist him, and we were very grateful for the contribution he made in the very difficult circumstances under which he was labouring.

The honourable member for Ipswich West made mention of the white hope of the A.L.P. in the Federal sphere, Mr. Hayden, who, I understand, comes from the same fair city as the honourable member. Mr. Hayden will leave lasting memories in the minds of the people of Australia, and Queenslanders in particular, for introducing the hospital system with which this State is now burdened.

**A Government Member:** We are paying for it, too.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** We will continue to pay for it. I would have thought that, if Mr. Hayden wanted to do something to improve hospitals in Australia, he, being a Queensland, would have had a good look at the system operating in Queensland at the time and endeavoured to introduce something on that pattern throughout Australia, perhaps upgrading it a little because the Commonwealth Government had more access to finance than did the Queensland Government. But what has happened? All the rackets that one could conceive are being worked, and I think that even Blind Freddy could have seen when the scheme was introduced that that would happen. When I was supplied with a Medibank card, I thought to myself, "You would expect a man who was Treasurer of this nation and who had had a certain amount of experience to at least do something better to preserve and protect the finances of this nation."

**Mr. Yewdale:** You are talking about Mr. Lynch, are you?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** No, I am not talking about Mr. Lynch; I am talking about the A.L.P.'s white hope, the chap who honourable members opposite are foolish enough to think might one day lead this nation. God forbid that ever he should! I do not know where he will lead us and I do not know who will finance his schemes.

**Mr. Yewdale:** Don't talk about Treasurers.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** If the honourable member wants to persist, I will say that I would have hated to be the Treasurer who took over from Mr. Hayden and his predecessor. I remember the taxation and the many other imposts they inflicted on this country. Honourable members opposite speak about unemployment and many other matters. If they want to be truthful and fair dinkum, they have only to take their minds back to the coalition Government

that was in office in the Federal sphere before Labor came to power. There was then absolute stability and over-full employment and things were going along quite rosily. But then in came the A.L.P., with its airy-fairy socialistic ideas. It was going to give wage justice and all sorts of other things to the people. Those things might be all right for those who have a job, but they are not much good to the people who are now unemployed. I would have thought that honourable members opposite would hang their heads in shame and not mention what happened under the Federal Labor Government. It is something that I wish we could somehow obliterate from our history. However, we have been left with this heritage, and I do not know how we are going to get out of our difficulties.

There certainly are problems in primary industries, and I was heartened to hear the honourable member who preceded me in the debate shedding tears on behalf of the dairy farmers in his area.

**Mr. Yewdale:** They haven't done too well under your Government.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Of course they have not done very well—we are well aware of that—but it is not the fault of this Government. The honourable member should look at the policies followed by his Federal colleagues from 1972 onwards and compare the situation of dairy farmers then with their situation today. It is no good trying to blame the present Government. The Federal Labor Government cost the dairying industry every market that it looked like having.

**Mr. Yewdale:** The coalition had 23 years in office down there.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** It is a pity it had not been 43 years. This country was going along very nicely. At least one could buy a home for a reasonable price and a motor car for a reasonable price. The price of a home was not \$40,000 or \$50,000, as it is today. When one goes to buy a successor to the car that one of the good leaders of the A.L.P. introduced into this country as the worker's car, one gets no change out of \$10,000. If that is the type of government to which the honourable member subscribes, I think that the longer the A.L.P. sits on the Opposition benches in both State and Federal Parliament, the better it will be for this country, and for the young people in particular.

**Mr. Doumays:** Permanently.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** If they were there for ever, that would hardly be long enough.

Our Federal colleagues have inherited an awful problem, and it is going to take many years to overcome it.

**Mr. Moore:** And a lot of will, too.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I was just going to say that. They will have to show a little better form than they have shown up till now.

I find some of the policies they are pursuing very hard to understand. I often wonder if they are not following to some degree the policy they inherited from Mr. Whitlam and his gang.

**Mr. Moore:** Either that or they are faint-hearted.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I would rather think that they were very badly advised. I am not going to excuse them for that. As somebody said earlier tonight, at least when Whitlam was there he knew what he wanted and he knew how he was going about getting it. If someone stood in his way—even if he was a Cabinet Minister—he quickly pushed him out of the way. It is a pity that Mr. Fraser and some of his men did not inherit a little of that.

One thing that comes readily to my mind, and something which is pretty close to me and a lot of my colleagues on both sides of the Chamber, is the deal being handed out to the sugar industry at the present time. The sugar industry is probably the model industry of the world. I know of no industry that is better conducted, better controlled or more efficient. In all the years I have been associated with the sugar industry I cannot remember any Commonwealth Government disregarding the advice of this State Government. What has happened is not to the credit of the present Federal Government. It doubts the honesty and integrity not only of the sugar industry but also of the Queensland Government. Surely to goodness anyone with a brain in his head would not expect the Queensland Government to ask for something airy-fairy for the sugar industry. It has never done it in the past and I feel sure it will never do it in the future.

Perhaps the Commonwealth Government has been somewhat confused by cases put forward by some of the great unions that were mentioned a while ago. If they want an extra \$5 a week they ask for \$50 a week. The Commonwealth Government might be looking at it from that angle. It is a terrible thing to inflict on an industry that has done so much for Queensland and provided the people of Australia with cheap sugar for many years. It is well known that our overseas markets have been subsidising home consumption for a number of years. It does not please me that some people, particularly in the southern part of the nation, think that the sugar industry is subsidised. Instead of that, the sugar industry is subsidising other industries, and has done so for many years to enable them to compete on world markets.

The cost structure in the cane industry over the last few years has been astronomical, yet we are trying to grow sugar and sell to the Australian consumer at a price which is less than what we were getting in 1967. I would have liked to hear the attitude of honourable members opposite if this were happening to some of the people they represent.

I must remind the nation that primary producers still play a very substantial part in the financing of Australia—about 50 per cent. We have to tell our city friends in Parliaments, particularly in the Federal Parliament, that if they rub these industries out they are going to find themselves in dire trouble. That point in time is not far away. I heard a member opposite talking about what is happening in Ipswich. Let him get out and look at some of the remote areas of this State that are being quickly denuded of population. It will not be easy to get people once they enjoy some of the privileges enjoyed by others employed by industry in the cities, to go back into those areas. Just compare the conditions they work under with the lot of those who are battling today in the meat and almost every other primary industry. In the past few years the gap between the price they receive and the cost to the consumer has grown so much that even the wisest of us could not have foreseen it. I do not castigate our Government in any way, as I know that every man sitting on the Cabinet benches knows the problems full well and loses no opportunity to impress them on his counterpart in Canberra. I only hope and pray that before long the message gets through to Canberra and they start to give this industry justice.

As I said, the sugar industry has spent millions of dollars in bringing its equipment up to the best standard in the world. Bulk terminals have been provided at great expense, but instead of the industry gaining the benefit the consumers are doing so. The industry is not without blame. It pussy-footed along without asking for its just dues, until it became obvious that it had to ask for about \$80 a tonne, which represents a substantial rise. The position should have been watched more closely and an effort made to keep the price in line with spiralling inflation.

The industrial set-up in the Federal sphere concerns me. We seem to have embarked on an airy-fairy system whereby wages and salaries are tied to the cost of living. If we sit down and think about it, it becomes obvious that even people in an asylum would not adopt a system in which, as prices go up, wages go up in a never-ending spiral. As all honourable members know, the sad part of it is that every time wages increase employment decreases. We are all very concerned about it. It is doing untold harm to the small towns and provincial cities. After an increase of \$2 or \$3 a week in wages any employer will say, "There goes another two jobs." Is that what we want in Australia? It is not much good screaming about unemployment and doing nothing about it. The plain, hard facts are that we have simply priced ourselves out of the field. At one stage I used to employ people, but I say in no uncertain terms that, in the light of conditions inflicted upon employers and the low price of the

product, I just cannot now afford to pay a man. That is common to every other primary producer.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Your father used the same argument 40 years ago.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** He did not. I have said previously, and I repeat, that I do not want honourable members to think that I am a union knocker or a low-wage man. I believe that the man who works for a wage should get a just wage, because the worker is the best market in the country. What is the good of costing him out of the field? He cannot buy anything when he is on the dole.

Things have reached an absurd stage so far as the interests of young people and the nation are concerned. Surely to goodness it is not too late for people who lead unions in Australia as well as those leading other groups to sit down and straighten things out. We have an airy-fairy system of arbitration that unionists abide by when it suits them, but they have reached the stage where they tell the commissioner, before he starts hearing the case, that if he does not give them what they want they will go on strike. I heard someone say that they must have the right to strike. That is fair enough, but if employees should have that right, surely to goodness the boss should have the same right. If he wants to do a bit of bargaining he should be able to sack one or two people. To my horror, I find that the employer today has lost total control of the show. If he sacks someone for a misdemeanour or other act that does not conform to his policy, the matter is taken straight to the Arbitration Commission and the commissioner says, "Put that man back on."

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You don't know what you're talking about.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I know what I am talking about. I have lived in this country a little bit longer than the honourable member has, and under harder conditions than he has experienced.

**An Opposition Member:** It's a pity you haven't lived.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I will reserve that for another day; but the honourable member shouldn't start talking that rot to me. I have lived too long.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You don't know what you're talking about.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I know what I'm talking about, all right. It's a pity that the honourable member, as an active man in the unions, did not know what he was talking about and did not advise some of his people accordingly, so that he could have kept them in the work-force and thereby kept this nation on its prosperous footing of a few years ago. He is one of these fellows who want bans and strikes and all sorts of other

things. I have never seen any worker gain anything in that manner. He knows that as well as I do.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** That's not true.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** It is perfectly true. I just wish the honourable member would have a bit of damned sense before it's too late. I hope that some of those things I have told my friends on the other side sink in.

It is time that the Federal Government started to back out of the State Government's activities into which it has intruded and leave them to the people who know a little bit more about them than it does. We ought to remind it more often that there were State Governments before we had a Federal Government.

Those members who care to read through history will note that the Federal Government was set up for a specific purpose, but in Canberra the politicians seem to have forgotten that. They now seem to think that they are Big Brother and that we have to be subservient to them. We should talk to the people who represent us in the Senate, whichever side of the House they are on.

**Mr. Moore:** It's a States' House.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Of course it is. I do not care which side of the House they are on, but I do expect our senators to stand up for the rights of this State.

From some of the speeches made by members opposite it might be thought that this fair State of ours is making no contribution whatsoever. However, if Queensland were suddenly to disappear from the face of the earth tomorrow, our friends in Sydney and Melbourne would not be living in quite as luxurious circumstances as they are at the moment.

While I am on that theme, I remind my friends on the other side of the House—and a lot of people they associate with—that if they would pull off the streets the people who are protesting against the mining of uranium, the mining of bauxite and the mining of many other things, we would have a lot more prosperity and a lot more people in work. I would like honourable members opposite at some time when they have the opportunity to go up and look at Weipa—this Government has made it possible for them to do it—and then, when they come home, look through the records and see what some of their leaders had to say about that operation when it was first mooted. We were told that it would be a hole in the ground. This is on record in "Hansard".

All I can say is that it is a great pity we do not have a few more Weipas. If some of these people who espouse all sorts of grandiose ideas exhibited a bit more moderation—they want to conserve everything except the human being—we would be a lot further along the road to prosperity, we

would have a lot more of these projects off the ground and we would have a lot more of our people gainfully employed. I hate to think what sort of a nation we will have when young people coming out of school start off on hand-outs, getting money for nothing. Surely to goodness we have lived long enough to realise what is the destiny of a nation that embarks on that type of system. If we look back through history this will be brought home forcefully to us.

I heard my colleague the honourable member for Ipswich West talking about companies that would not come here if certain things did not happen. I was heartened to hear that, because so often, if the word "profit" happens to be mentioned, we hear the reverse. I must remind the honourable member for Archerfield of this, because he is one of those non-profit advocates. He should tell some of his colleagues that, if there are no profits, there are no jobs and no prosperity. His colleagues have driven industry into the situation where it is spending countless millions of dollars on automation and putting people out of work. That is not doing the nation or anybody in it any good.

**Mr. Moore:** Chrysler is going broke.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I thank the honourable member for that interjection. Not many years ago we witnessed the advent of that famous man Whitlam, who, together with one of his colleagues, governed this country for about six weeks. I think he would have liked to keep doing that. Prior to his advent Australia was exporting motor cars. Our motor industry, which is a very big employer of labour, was very prosperous. What have we today? As my friend reminded me a moment ago, it looks as though Chrysler is folding up. We are importing more cars than we are manufacturing. We cannot compete with the imported cars even with the terrific tariff protection the industry is given. Where does the future of this nation lie?

I remind Opposition members, particularly those connected with unions, that if an industry enjoys tariff protection or subsidy and the unions go for higher wages and better conditions—

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Why shouldn't we?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** What happened to the shipbuilding industry? We were subsidising each man to the tune of \$20,000. What country can stand that? With strikes, bans and everything else the unions folded up the shipping industry. Again it was a labour-intensive industry. We should have been building ships and other things and exporting them. But the unions have exported the capital and the jobs to countries in Asia, such as Japan. The people in those countries are prepared to work. That is different from the advice given to unionists.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You are living proof of the old adage that Tories never learn.

61215—18

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I will have the honourable member understand quite clearly that Tories, if he likes to use that name, built this country.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** They didn't.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** They did indeed. The worker is wrecking this country and the honourable member damned well knows it. He should not for one minute think that this Government is a low-wage Government. If he will give me a little time I will tell him what his Government did when it was in office. I heard the honourable member for Cook speaking on this matter the other day. He said that we were bossy and that if anybody did not go along with our political philosophy we would side-track him and would do something to him. I thought to myself that if we had followed Labor's policy that is precisely what we would have done.

I have many friends in the Public Service and in the teaching profession. They are not game to utter one word. The union numbered the ballot-papers. This cannot be denied. Then union leaders could find out how the voting went and say, "I thought Fred Jones was voting for me and he is not." The next thing, he would find himself out in Burketown. The honourable member knows this to be a statement of fact.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You people gerrymandered the boundaries.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** The honourable member should have a look at the last redistribution done by the Labor Government. If ever he sees a gerrymander, he will see one there. Some electorates had 3,000 people and others had about 22,000. The Labor Party was not very interested in one vote one value in those days. He should not start talking to me about gerrymanders. I have lived too long to swallow that sort of stuff. All I wish is that our fellows had taken a few lessons from Labor Party members. Then the Labor Party would never govern. If we had carried out a redistribution along the lines of Labor's last one, the Labor Party would not have got even 11 members in the House. The honourable member should not talk redistribution to me.

I should like to mention the terrible shemuzzle with our coloured folk at this moment.

**Mr. Moore:** Are they black or coloured?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** They are coloured.

I wish the Federal Government would get back to doing the job it was elected to do instead of playing around with these people. It is an unfortunate set of circumstances. It is pitiful to see what has happened since the Federal Government entered this field of activities. I happen to know a little about these coloured people. I have served on committees.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.**

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** They were not hungry. At least they all got good food and everything else. Today, all they get is grog and the honourable member knows that. The part that annoys me is the fact that I am helping to pay for it. My colleague the honourable member for Pine Rivers expounded some of the facts on this. He was with me when we decided that we would go and see what the Federal boys were doing in the Territory, seeing they wanted to do so much for our Aborigines in this State. If we look at their track record there, we can see why they should all retire in shame. At least nearly every Aborigine in this State was reasonably well cared for, with the exception of a few fringe dwellers in various towns who were obviously victims of the nasty habits that the white people have taught them.

I have been going around these settlements for a long time and I have seen what has been done for the Aborigines. In fact, I am sure the honourable member for Windsor and some of the good members opposite—although I don't think there are many good honourable members left over there now—will remember the occasions when we used to go around and look at the situation ourselves. We saw evidence of these people beginning to help themselves. There was evidence that a few of them were willing to do a bit of work. Somehow or other we fell for a referendum in 1967. It is a pity that we were not a bit smarter then and did not take the word "Aborigine" out of our Constitution. That is all we had to do to really get these people to the same level in all respects with us. I am sure that would have overcome the problem. Somehow or other these people think they have a God-given right to spend our money any way they like. Half of the money that they have been given cannot be accounted for. Many honourable members who have been around the settlements have seen evidence of this. If they were achieving anything, that would not be so bad, but what have they done? I think they have put the clock back at least 25 years.

What is seen in many of the towns today is that when these people get their hand-outs they are immediately on their way to the hotel. We have had young Aboriginal children coming along asking us if that benefit could be taken from their mother and father because it is ruining their home. Admittedly, there are not many who do this, but there are some.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Did you give them a stick of sugar-cane?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Honourable members opposite made a very substantial contribution to this problem and I think they should be ashamed of their efforts in that field. These people are still human beings. Surely they can work their own destiny out

to some extent. However, we have taught them to become a useless race. We care for them; we feed them, and we look after them.

I often read in the papers, much to my horror, where Aborigines are reported as saying that they want to get back their tribal lands, and all this sort of tripe. I have lived a long time and I have yet to see any tribal lands. I have yet to see an Aborigine grow anything. He has always lived off the land. But surely we do not want to get back to that stage.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You're a dreadful racist.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I am not a racist at all. I will have the honourable member know that I have lived, eaten and worked with the Aborigines. There is no racism in me. In fact, I would regard some of them as being a much better friend of mine than the honourable member is, and I would trust them a lot more than I would trust him. He need not start telling me that I am racist. Fancy honourable members talking about racists! I think it is a tragedy. I hope that our new Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs can knock some sense into his counterparts in Canberra so that he can get on with the job of caring for these people.

I admired the courage of the previous member for Cook, who told us in his maiden speech, and very truthfully, that his people were sick and tired of being investigated like animals.

**Mr. Scott:** What have they done?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** The honourable member knows what they have done. If he wants me to tell him what they have done, I will tell him.

**Mr. Scott:** Why didn't they vote for him?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I will tell the honourable member why they didn't vote for him—because fellows of the interjector's calibre, including his predecessors, got in among these people and did not tell them the truth. I have had some of them come to me and say, "Look, boss, we have been very kind to you. We give you the three votes; we give the other fellow the one." That is what honourable members opposite did. I have seen them operate—they and their henchmen.

**Mr. Jones:** What about Yarrabah?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I did a little bit for Yarrabah and I was once proud of Yarrabah. The last time I was over there I nearly cried. I think the honourable member is neglecting his duty. I had a fair regard for his ability, but perhaps he needs advice. If I can help him—

**Mr. Scott:** What a dishonest statement that was.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** What was that one? I did not hear it.

**Mr. Scott:** Clarrie Grogan was called a Communist today.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Doesn't the honourable member think he is? I know Clarrie Grogan and I knew his father and mother before him. I can assure this House that if his mother and father were alive today they would not be very proud of him and what he is doing at the present time.

**Mr. Scott** interjected.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Don't tell me that. That fellow was brought up the same way I was.

**Mr. Scott:** Do you think he's a Communist?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Of course I do.

**Mr. Scott:** You do?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Well, he would do me for one the way he acts.

**Mr. Scott:** You've been listening to Mr. Porter too much.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** No, I did not get this information from the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, strangely enough. I have known the Grogans, as I said, for a long time, and if he is not a Communist he might as well be, because he acts precisely the same as one.

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** If you are going to sing out like a crow, a magpie or a cockatoo you cannot blame someone for shooting you for one.

**Mr. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** The people I am slandering are people who need slandering. As I say, I wish they would leave the affairs of these people to those who understand them. It is not going to be an easy task getting back to the way we were a few years ago. As I was saying a while ago, the last time I went round a settlement I was horrified—

**Mr. Scott:** They're townships.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** The honourable member might call them townships, but if he can tell me the sense, reason or anything else in spending countless thousands in some of these places where there is no work opportunity whatsoever—

**Mr. Scott:** You don't give them opportunities.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Well, how can we give them opportunities? Surely to goodness the honourable member has grown up, hasn't he? I thought he had a bit of damn sense. How can we give them opportunities in

places like Bloomfield River and elsewhere? What are we going to get them to do, chop up firewood or something?

**Mr. Scott:** It's your policy.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** It is not our policy at all. Members opposite are very good at blaming the Government when it suits them. Honourable members will recall that there was a cyclone at Mornington Island 12 months or so ago which blew down many, many buildings. I heard many Opposition members castigate the Government for doing nothing, but all of a sudden we find that it is the Uniting Church's responsibility to do something in that area. But when there is any adversity it is the Government's fault.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Don't you attack the Christian church.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** I would like the honourable member to give me a few lessons on Christianity when he has a bit of spare time because I think his views on Christianity and mine just do not parallel. I know him well. It ill behoves him to talk about Christianity.

I would like to discuss another subject that is getting totally out of hand at the present time. We have heard much about street marches during the past few weeks. Anybody would think it is not possible to march in this fair city the way the law has been publicised.

**Mr. Jones:** I am frightened to even walk up George Street.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** The honourable member knows what the law is as well as I do. If he is prepared to behave himself he can march. I heard one of my colleagues defending this protest a while ago, and I must take issue with him.

**Mr. Yewdale:** He was criticising the Government and its attitude.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Of course he was.

**Mr. Yewdale:** Are you?

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** No, I am not. I will never support protest marches, because if somebody has the right to march and protest I have the right to get around and attack him, and once we get to that situation—

**Mr. Jones:** Rubbish! It's not that simple.

**Mr. ARMSTRONG:** Of course it is as simple as that. Is the honourable member going to let people clog up the streets as we have seen them do with some of the moratorium marches? If that is the sort of order he wants, I do not subscribe to it.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. DAVIS** (Brisbane Central) (9.55 p.m.): I recall that I made my maiden speech in this Assembly in 1969. Unfortunately for the Assembly I have been absent for 36 months—

**Mr. Frawley:** Your speech was made then by the Trades Hall.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Shut up!

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. DAVIS:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker; it has been 36 months since I have had to listen to the member for Frawley.

**A Government Member** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIS:** No, the member for Frawley.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** If the honourable member does not behave himself, he will not be here listening to him at all. I ask him to get on with his speech.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I was going to congratulate you; that was the next item on my agenda.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That will not win the honourable member much approbation, either.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I was going to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, I was one of those who supported you last time I was here. Unfortunately, I had to vote for that other chap. Actually, I was sold a bit of a pup, because, as you will recall, I did fall foul of that former Speaker and I did not get a chance to debate some of his rulings. However, I congratulate you on your election, and also Mr. Hewitt, the Chairman of Committees, on his election. In the short time that I have been back here, I have observed that his rulings have been much fairer than those of other officials that we have had in this Assembly. You can rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that I will do my best to uphold the decorum of the House. I have noticed since I came back that there has been a fair bit of loutish behaviour in the Chamber. The behaviour of the honourable member for Merthyr has not improved, and I thought that it might have improved in my absence.

**Mr. Moore:** Do you want us to play "Hearts and flowers"?

**Mr. DAVIS:** Of course, the honourable member for Windsor has not improved, either. As I said, you can rest assured that I will do my best to uphold the dignity of the House.

I have noticed also that the crying, whingeing and screaming of the National Party has not lessened. The speech of the honourable member for Mulgrave tonight was typical of what I was accustomed to when I was here before. "Don't worry about the city dweller. Blame everything onto the trade unions.", has always been the attitude of members of the National Party and their colleagues in the Liberal Party.

**Mr. Porter** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I found it quite amusing after the last election to watch each edition of "The Courier-Mail" and see how much the honourable member for Toowong was

slipping back on preferences. In a safe blue-ribbon seat, it showed the popularity of the honourable member for Toowong. His extreme Right-wing attitudes and views have always been the same. I thought I might mention this, Mr. Speaker. I think I mentioned it when I was here previously and I was called to order. The honourable member for Toowong, who so crudely mentions Communists, was a member of the British Communist Party—not the Australian Communist Party, but the British Communist Party.

**Mr. Porter:** Who?

**Mr. DAVIS:** You. You have been a member of the British Communist Party. Now, deny it.

**Mr. Porter:** If I was in it when I was five, I must have been the youngest member on record.

**Mr. DAVIS:** The honourable member has not taken a point of order, so I say that we have surely got him this time, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that the rules of the House have not altered since he was here last, either.

**Mr. Lane:** Particularly Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Is that rule still in being?

**Mr. Lane:** That's right.

**Mr. DAVIS:** During my absence from the House, I took the opportunity of going into business for myself. I often heard the hue and cry about small businesses going to the wall, but I found that if a business is well run and you have the right accountants and the right business acumen, there are no problems in running it successfully. However, I found a change between 1974, when the Whitlam Government went out of office, and 1975. That was when the problems of small business really arose.

I introduced cheap petrol to Brisbane, which gave the greatest benefit to the working class in this State in the last two or three years. In fact, if cheap petrol had not been introduced to this State by the A.C.T.U. group, the cost of living would be 4 or 5 per cent higher.

**Mr. Frawley:** You used to mix the standard with the super.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Mr. Speaker, did you hear that ridiculous statement by the vintage veteran from Caboolture?

At 10 p.m.,

*In accordance with the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 19 April, the debate stood adjourned.*

CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENT BILL  
INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (10.1 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Clean Air Act 1963–1976 in certain particulars.”

This Bill is a quite straightforward measure aimed at updating provisions of the Clean Air Act in respect of membership of the Air Pollution Council of Queensland, and streamlining certain procedures. Honourable members would be aware that I foreshadowed these provisions late last year in reply to questions from the Leader of the Opposition and other members.

The Bill is essentially divided into two parts. The first part (section 3) involves alterations in the constitution of the Air Pollution Council of Queensland, as foreshadowed. The second part (sections 4 and 5) deals with streamlining procedure and reducing applicants' costs in preparing certain applications for submission to the Air Pollution Council.

Promulgation of the latter amendments will necessitate complementary and concurrent changes to the Clean Air Regulations, and it is intended that these two amendments should take effect simultaneously from a date to be proclaimed. The timing of amendments to both the Act and regulations will thus be co-ordinated.

The Act presently provides that the Director of the Environmental Control Section within the Co-ordinator-General's Department is, *ex officio*, a member of the Air Pollution Council. However, following changes in the organisation of the Co-ordinator-General's Department, that office no longer exists and consequently the department no longer has a representative on the council. The amendment in section 3 is designed to ensure that the Co-ordinator-General's Department continues to have representation on the Air Pollution Council. The representative will be nominated by the Honourable the Premier, as Minister administering the department. Representatives of the Departments of Commercial and Industrial Development, Health, and Local Government already are nominated in the same manner.

Sections 4 and 5 of the Bill propose amendments to the Clean Air Act dealing with applications for licences, and for the prior approval of the Air Pollution Council to carry out certain work. Under the law as it now stands, applicants for a licence to operate scheduled premises have to satisfy the Air Pollution Council that the use of the particular scheduled premises would not contravene the relevant local authority town

plan or by-law governing the use or development of land. A literal interpretation of the present law means that before furnishing a certificate to the applicant a local authority would not only be obliged to examine records on the relevant zone and consent use under the town planning scheme, but would also have to determine the applicability of all its by-laws. The checking of a large number of by-laws is a time-consuming task, adding to the fee chargeable by the local authority for researching the town-planning materials.

The proposed amendment is for the information tendered by the applicant to be limited to evidence that the particular use of the premises would not contravene the relevant town plan or town planning by-law (or interim development by-law where a town plan is in the course of preparation). This is considered to be sufficient information for the purpose of the Clean Air Act. Less work would be entailed by a local authority in supplying this information, and this should lead to lower fees.

A proposed further amendment would provide that an applicant, when applying to the Air Pollution Council to carry out work or to construct a building which would cause the premises to become scheduled, also would be limited to supplying evidence that the work involved would not contravene the town plan, the town planning by-law or an interim development by-law. This amendment is complementary to the one already referred to. For the purpose of the Clean Air Act the submission of town planning information with applications for prior approval to establish scheduled premises is considered to be sufficient. Such information would not be necessary for other types of applications for prior approval—for example, approval to erect a chimney, or to alter the type of control equipment.

The present Act, which was passed in 1963, referred to the provision of evidence that any necessary approval required under the Local Government Act or the City of Brisbane Act has been obtained. Honourable members will appreciate that the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act, which now governs town planning in the Brisbane area, did not exist at that time. The amendment now provides for recognition of the existence of the Brisbane Town Plan in respect of applications in the city of Brisbane.

Clauses 5 (b) and (c) of the Bill are machinery clauses, renumbering the existing provisions of the Act.

I commend the Bill to the Committee.

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis) (10.6 p.m.): The amendments outlined by the Minister are of a machinery nature. The first relates to the appointment of a representative from the Co-ordinator-General's Department because the title of Director of Environmental Control has been changed. As the legislation stands, he is an *ex officio* member of the council. The other amendment is also an

improvement. A licence application can be lodged for a minimum charge by a local authority. All that will be needed is the signing of the application form saying that the proposed use is in accordance with the town plan.

In September 1963, when Dr. Noble introduced the Bill, he said that the purpose of the Bill was to control the amount of impurities emitted into the air by fuel-burning equipment and industrial plants. At that stage, he regarded it as one of the most important measures to come before the Parliament. That was 15 years ago. To date, only one firm or person has been proceeded against, namely, Mount Isa Mines, which was fined \$50, plus \$2.50 in costs. In answer to a question concerning the cost involved, it was stated that air fares cost \$156.20, and on top of that there was staff time, for which no estimate of cost was made.

In 1975-76, 598 complaints were received by the department, but I cannot see where anyone was proceeded against. There was one conviction in 15 years.

I read in the Press that the Minister intends to fine motorists at least \$20 for littering our highways. One report stated that the fine would be \$500, yet the people polluting the air are getting off virtually scot-free. Either everyone is playing ball or the legislation is not being implemented fully.

In March 1976, amendments to the Act increased licence fees and penalties. In 1963, Marty Hanson spoke on the Bill at the introductory stage. I am always pleased to read remarks made by Marty on any Bill. His contributions were always of value. At that time he spoke about Gladstone and its pollution problems. Since then the town has become a city. It will in the future become a big industrial city. In fact, I heard on the news tonight that it seems certain Comalco will be going ahead with its smelter. From what I have seen of the smelter in New Zealand, I am certain we will not experience pollution problems from a Comalco smelter in Queensland. When Marty spoke at that time, he was referring to the steam-driven trains using coal that were billowing out smoke. Today we use diesel trains—which contribute to air pollution—to bring much heavier tonnages of coal to the port.

The coal dust still creates a very big pollution problem in the city of Gladstone. It is a problem not only in the city but also in the towns along the route. The coal dust causes problems to some businesses in those small towns. Only the other day I had a complaint about it from a businessman in the small town of Mt. Larcom. I appreciate that it is a very difficult problem to overcome. Even though the Railway Department is a Government venture, if something could be done about the pollution resulting from coal trains, it would be a wonderful thing.

The largest power-station in the State is being built at Gladstone. It is still a source of annoyance to those people who live close to the stacks. Some of the farmers at Yarwun have said that the smoke from the stacks is causing them a lot of concern. The fall-out is also having an effect on the fruit in the area. I agree that in the early stages of such a project teething problems are to be expected; but those problems must not be allowed to continue. Even though that is a Government project, the Air Pollution Council must do everything in its power to ensure that it does not become a source of massive air pollution.

These problems must be corrected as soon as possible. Until the fall-out is stopped, there will be discontented people. I am told that the fall-out from the power-station adversely affects the fruit, especially papaws. The papaw flower is not pollinated by insects. Pollination results from the action of the wind. If the air is not clean, the pollination of the papaw flower is affected.

In the near future we may have a clinker plant in the Yarwun-Targinnie area. If that plant is allowed to emit dust into the air, the Yarwun farmers will be faced with a very serious problem. Heaven knows, the people on the land today have enough problems without having pollution adding to their problems and making worse the serious plight they are already in.

We are very concerned about this. We want effective administration of the controls of air pollution. That is why the Leader of the Opposition asked three questions about the Air Pollution Council in the latter part of 1977.

We agree with the amendments. I am quite certain that they will take care of some of the problems and make life more pleasant in the State of Queensland. After the Bill is printed and we have studied it, I am sure we will have much more to say at the second-reading stage.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER** (Townsville West) (10.14 p.m.): I support the Minister's introduction of the Bill. I agree with his remarks that the amendments are minor and should not cause much excitement. Generally, the intention is only to streamline the application by industries for approval under the Clean Air Act to operate. Applicants now merely have to satisfy the local authority that their operations will not conflict with the town plan in the area in which the application is made.

Terms like "environment" and "quality of life" seem to be hand-me-downs from the Whitlam era, which gave lots of ratbag pressure groups and political activists the opportunity to prey upon the sentiments and feelings of people, under the guise of being conservationists. They were concerned mainly with organising themselves against Governments and local authorities and the establishment in new areas of industry that would create employment. We found that the

people who were always behind these pressure groups were generally associated with the A.L.P. Whereas they should have been concerned with the jobs of the people, they certainly were not. They were more concerned with closing industry down than with trying to get it started.

I have always found the operations of the Environmental Control Council to be somewhat unwieldy and slow. It is very hard for a member to get information if he is not established in Brisbane. For example, three or four years ago, a large new export company—Queensland Phosphate Ltd.—was being set up in Townsville. It was created to export rock phosphate through the port of Townsville. It established a dumping area and loading facility and learned, after they were established, that most of the nations prepared to accept the rock phosphate had discovered that our rock phosphate had a water content of approximately 8 per cent. The design of their factories for the manufacture of fertiliser required a moisture content as low as 3 per cent.

The company asked the Townsville City Council if it could establish a drying plant in the Townsville wharf area. The Townsville Harbour Board and the Townsville City Council requested that an environmental impact study be carried out by experts in the southern parts of Australia on the type of plant that should be used, what fuels should be used and how fall-out from the chimney stack could be minimised. A very costly environmental impact study was undertaken and produced to the council and the harbour board.

Suddenly the A.L.P. became very concerned. We had the Communist groups (such as the Trades and Labor Council in Townsville) led by the present honourable member for Townsville South—he knows what I am talking about—protesting strongly to the Townsville City Council of the day against the establishment of the drying plant in Townsville.

We know very well how the honourable member went to water when the A.L.P. council took over in 1976. As Townsville then had a Labor council, the honourable member for Townsville South, the Trades and Labor Council and the other Communist unions thought they could stand over the A.L.P. mayor of Townsville. Much to their surprise, they were shown the door. I was told by Ben Bloom, who was then chairman of the development committee, "You should have seen them run. They came and saw Perc Tucker. He said, 'I put up with you bludgers for 16 years while I was in Parliament. You are not going to stand over me now. Get to hell out of here and let me give this town a go. That plant will go there because it has been proved that it is a viable industry and it is going to establish in Townsville.'" He threw out all of the Trades and Labor Council delegates, as the honourable member knows.

Another industry that had a hard time trying to establish itself in Townsville was the aluminium smelter at Yabulu. About three or four years ago it was having a lot of industrial troubles when it was trying to get started. I was then mayor. I received a deputation from "Red" Fred Thompson, the honourable member for Townsville South as we know him now, and Jack Hutton, another prominent Communist in Townsville, about a minor city council matter. I said, "Why don't you blokes go out to Yabulu and get the men working again and get the plant started, because the jobs of 1,000 men are at stake?" The only comment from the Communist union delegates was, "That plant will never open. We will make sure it is closed down from the day the contractors finish." They were determined that the plant would never open. That plant had been properly investigated by the Government.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I should be pleased if the honourable member would relate his comments to the Clean Air Act.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** I intend to talk about the Clean Air Act.

The matter had been investigated and the text of the complaint was that the emission from the chimney stack would not be acceptable under the Clean Air Act. They had special Government permission to discharge not more than 3½ per cent of sulphur from the chimney. The World Health Organisation standard is 3 per cent, and the company was allowed only half of 1 per cent more than the World Health Organisation standard. The unions tried to keep that plant closed rather than have it open and give employment to 600 men.

Our major industries are among our greatest conservationists. In Townsville the North Australian Cement Limited has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in installing electrostatic precipitators. Foxwood Timbers in Townsville have installed large machinery so as not to inflict hardship on the residents nearby. Honourable members opposite are wasting their time in saying that industry is not trying to make the working conditions of employees far better and not trying to help the people who live near the factories.

I would like to see the control of clean air go back to local authorities. I think all the Government should do in this respect is to set a schedule of standards with which industries would have to comply in a particular local authority. Members of local government are closer to the residents, and if they were given a schedule of standards they would know what standards they could insist on. And if those standards were met, they would have no hesitation in issuing a permit to a particular industry if it complied with the town plan.

I fully support the Bill.

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (10.21 p.m.): On 14 September last year I asked the Premier a question in this House in relation to the particular subject-matter of this Bill. My question was—

“Can he advise if the position of Director of Environmental Control within the Co-ordinator General’s Department has been abolished, and, if so, is he aware that it is clearly set out in the Clean Air Act that the Director of Environmental Control, Co-ordinator General’s Department and the Director of Air Pollution Control shall be members of the Air Pollution Council? Under these circumstances, does he consider that urgent legislation is now required to amend the Clean Air Act, and, if so, when will this be introduced?”

Like the previous speaker, the Premier showed the lack of regard that the Government has for air pollution control and the protection of the environment by talking about Fraser Island, so I asked him, “You have done away with the job?” He then replied—

“No. The honourable member is thinking of a slightly different area.”

Seven days later I directed the same question to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, and his answer was—

“I would confirm that the office of the Director of Environmental Control in the Co-ordinator General’s Department has been abolished, and that the Clean Air Act states that the holder of such office is ex officio a member of the Air Pollution Council.”

He further told me that “An appropriate amendment to the Clean Air Act is at present under consideration.” Then he forgot all about it until about March or April 1978. That is a measure of the interest that this Government and the Minister’s department show in air pollution control in this State.

I think the previous speaker made it very clear where the Government stands on this matter. He said it was shameful for anyone to ask that the Government should control pollution, that anyone should be stopped from spewing dirt and dust and foul odours over local housing areas, and that industry should be required to spend a little money in protecting the people who live in the area nearby and the homes of the workers in the industry.

I want to mention the Metropolitan Abattoir that was built by this Government in the electorate of Lytton at Cannon Hill. Abattoirs have been in the area for years, and people who live nearby and work at the fish markets, the tannery, the chicken works of Provincial Traders, the bacon factory and the margarine factory have learnt to live with the smells that are associated with the cooking of food, but the people today are saying to me that never before in their life have they had to put up with the present level of pollution. This problem has become worse during the period that this Government has been in

office. The Government built the Metropolitan Abattoir Board’s premises at a cost of \$19,500,000, although originally it was supposed to cost \$7,000,000.

Some \$600,000 has been spent on pollution control, but on a summer’s night the odour is so foul and rotten that local people never go out into their yards.

**Mr. Moore** interjected.

**Mr. BURNS:** Smoke, too, creates problems.

I see that the honourable member for Merthyr is going to speak next. He would agree that complaints are received consistently about the powerhouse at New Farm when it is started up at 4 o’clock during the winter months. I get the same complaints about Bulimba B Power House. It happens regularly in these areas. The answer is simple: if it annoys people and if cinders and ash from it rain down on people’s homes, we should try to do something about it. That is what the Clean Air Act is all about.

**Mr. Lane:** We need a big fan to blow it down to Lytton.

**Mr. BURNS:** The honourable member’s version of clean air relates to only one area. I think it is protection of the whole environment. We say that people and their families are entitled to the enjoyment of their own homes without being disturbed by industry. As the honourable member for Port Curtis said, the Government is talking about a \$25 fine for throwing a 5c lolly packet on the road, but these industries spew five tons of filth into the air every night and the Government imposes no fine at all.

The second pollution prosecution is coming up in the near future. The second prosecution, and this Act was introduced in 1963! In fourteen years the Government has picked up two offenders. Government members should not talk about pollution control. They have not been fair dinkum, as I can show by their inaction in respect of the premises of the Metropolitan Abattoir Board. On 9 December 1976, I asked the Minister a question about pollution control at Cannon Hill. On 1 March 1977, about three months later, the Minister for Primary Industries wrote to me saying that I had asked some questions of the Minister for Local Government and he now had some answers for me. The letter read—

“Question: What is the reason for the continuing problems with the pollution-control equipment at the Metropolitan Abattoir premises at Cannon Hill?”

“Answer: Periodical mechanical and electrical failures in some of the components of the plant.”

I am suspicious of that answer. The trouble always happens after 6 o’clock at night or on the week-end when there is no inspector around to check up and people have nowhere to ring and therefore nothing is ever done. The equipment never seems to break down at 11 o’clock in the morning when people

can ring the inspectors of the Air Pollution Control Council. It always seems to happen after hours.

The same thing happens with water quality in creeks for which the Water Quality Control Council has responsibility. I have made requests of the Minister day in and day out for a 24-hour 7-day week reporting and checking service so that someone can go out and pinpoint these polluting industries. Some of the mechanical breakdowns are just too convenient to be accepted without question as they continually happen at 6 o'clock on a Friday night when people cannot get an inspector to have a look at the pollution.

**Mr. Moore:** You're right.

**Mr. BURNS:** I am glad the honourable member for Windsor agrees with me. I am right; it happens too regularly. I asked the Minister—

“What was the cost of this plant?”

He said that the pollution plant cost \$567,764.

I asked—

“Is it of sufficient size to handle the effluent discharged to it?”

The answer was—

“The designed capacity of the plant is believed to be adequate to handle the inflow.”

The authority spent \$560,000, but it is only believed that it is adequate to handle the inflow. I do not think it is. I asked further—

“Has it operated without breakdown since its installation and, if not, on what dates and times was it out of order?”

I knew the Minister could not answer that. He would have used six or eight pages in listing the breakdowns. He said—

“Components of the system have been out of order at various times and operational problems, as a result, have been encountered on those occasions. None, however, have meant a complete stoppage of the process.”

I also asked when the equipment would be capable of handling the polluted waste and water. I will not read the whole answer. The Minister referred to the earliest possible date. That letter was dated 1 March 1977. On 5 April 1977, the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads and the Minister for Primary Industries issued a joint Press statement. This followed inspections at the works. The statement read—

“... it was apparent that a full-time in depth study by a top authority in this field was needed, immediately.”

That was on 5 April 1977, 12 months ago.

The statement continued—

“Mr. Sullivan said the Abattoir Board accepted that it had a problem and that it had a responsibility to overcome it as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Abattoir Board was attempting to come to

grips with the problem, as quickly as possible. To this end, it was seeking further recommendations from the Air Pollution and Water Quality Councils, and some research had been carried out also, in recent weeks, by officers of the C.S.I.R.O.”

That was twelve months ago! The two Ministers went on to say that the board did not want to be a bad industrial neighbour and the fact that there were recent odour nuisances affecting people in suburbs near the abattoir was not denied. They accepted it! So here we have a Press release of 5 April 1977 saying that something was going to be done about it. We waited and waited.

In the past week I have written letters of complaint on behalf of the local parish priest, who has lived in the area for 30 years, and meatworkers, people who started work in the Cannon Hill saleyards at 14 when the yards began operating and have lived through all the pollution associated with the old meatworks there, and they all say it has never been worse. And yet we have had a Clean Air Act for 14 years. They were better off before we had the Act. Last year I waited till Christmas and again wrote to Mr. Hinze. He wrote back and said—

“With further reference to your letter of the 27th October relative to the alleged pollution”—

alleged pollution!—

“problems at the Metropolitan Public Abattoir Board . . .”

He had already told me that all the complaints were there. He had already issued a Press statement saying, “We know the odours are there, and we must accept our responsibilities. We are going to set up a committee to look into it. We are going to get the C.S.I.R.O. to assist.” But six months later he talks about the alleged pollution problem from the rendering-down plant and the waste-water-treatment plant. He goes on and on for two pages, and it is not worth my while reading it into “Hansard” because it is the same waffle that we have had day in and day out.

The problem is still there. Nothing has changed since the Press release of April, since the statement before that in December 1976. There have been continuing promises. We have been told that they have had some trouble; that, in conjunction with the design for the new abattoir, the board retained consulting engineers to prepare documents for the required waste-treatment plant. The contract for the treatment plant was in effect a performance-guaranteed contract, and we were told that the board was having some trouble because of legal difficulties. We were then told not to worry, that new equipment was on its way.

There was a water-treatment plant at the works. All the muck that comes out of the meatworks goes into the aerators and is stirred up. Eventually the filth forms hard lumps. It is dried and taken away and dumped

in the paddocks. The water is eventually supposed to clear and go into the river. Probably the river has improved as a result of the pollution control equipment that has gone into the abattoir, but the people in the area have ended up much worse off.

One of the problems that we have here is the passing of the buck from one department to the other. I am pleased to see that air pollution and water pollution are now under the one Minister, but there is still a bit of buck-passing going on.

In the same abattoir board area, the tails, hoofs and pieces of skin and hair are still dumped in the paddock out in the open. If you write to the Minister for Health, he says, "I am in charge of the flies. I can do something about the flies for you. The smell is air pollution. If you put the effluent in the water, that is water pollution." Everyone has a little bit of responsibility, and the people still have to put up with the problem. The foul and rotten odours are there, and they are there because the Government is not doing anything about them. The problem goes on and on.

When the hides are taken off the bullocks, they are hung on the fence along the main road at Murarrie and the maggots and the flies are all over them. It is said, "That is not a scheduled industry. We do not do anything about that. It is not manufacturing." But it creates the problem and the people have to live with it. It is time the Act was amended to do something about that. Instead of making these little tiddly-winking amendments to the Air Pollution Control Act year after year, isn't it time we began doing something about the real problem? Isn't it time we did something about appointing inspectors and people on the job to check on these industries? Isn't it time we said to them, "We are going to prosecute if you don't do something about it"? The police do not pull a fellow up on the side of the road, use a breathalyser and say, "Oh, you are only a little bit over, old fellow. We will give you 12 months to get over it." That is what we are saying to people who are polluting the air—"We will give you another 12 months to fix your problem."

A. J. Bush, the tannery, Ampol Refinery, Petersville, the woodchip factory at Geebung, Darra Cement—I could name them all—have been polluting the air all over this city for years and we let them off.

The ordinary worker is not let off. He lives with the pollution. Down in my electorate the value of his home goes down. Three or four miles out of the city, Murarrie is one of the nicest suburbs you could live in. If you go to the top of the hill tonight and look out over the city, you will see it is a beautiful area. But the price of a block of land there is about half the price of a similar block of land in any other suburb in Brisbane. What is the reason? Because you will bring your stomach up if you have to sit there some nights after the rendering-down plant gets under way.

That is a problem of town planning. So what we are saying in the proposed Bill is, "Look, we are going to make it easier. You just get the council to say that you comply with the town plan. You get a certificate from them and then send it in to the Air Pollution Council." I believe it is about time that people in the air pollution section had a look at town planning themselves. It is about time we talked of buffer zones. It is about time we said to industries, "Before you get an opportunity to open an industry you have to show us that it is going to be properly controlled and that the equipment will be there before you begin."

I must say that although A. J. Bush still create a lot of problems, they are much better than they were. But A. J. Bush came there after the town plan was implemented and after we began to enforce the regulations under this Act in the early 1970s. The town plan provides for an industry on one side of the road there. That is harbour industry, and all of that area down to the port is built that way. On the other side of the road there is a long-standing housing area.

I will give the Minister this: he is one of the few Ministers who has shown any interest in this particular problem. He did come and talk to the people. He assisted us with the town plan. I have not seen the final decision on it yet but I hope he stuck to his guns and said that there was to be an open space zone around that area of Murarrie. It does jut out into an industrial area.

The problem is going to get worse. It cannot get any better for the people in that area. The Government and the city council authorities have made the decision that from Cairncross Dock to the river mouth, bounded by the railway line and Lytton Road, that area is going to be harbour industry. If an industry gets a certificate from the Department of Industrial Development to say that it fits in with that sort of zoning, and the required certificate from the Brisbane City Council, it will be allowed to establish itself there. We will get more and more of them. People in my area are not complaining about the industries. We want them, but we want them clean. We want good neighbours. We want industries in the area that we can live and work with. No-one in the area is saying, "Get rid of the meatworks. Close them down."

What I am saying is that when they spent \$19,500,000 on those works, it should have been possible to spend enough money to make sure it was clean at that time. It is not like talking about the old meatworks that have been there 30 or 40 years. I have been in this Parliament six years. I went out there with the Minister for Primary Industries when he turned the first sod. He drove a bulldozer to clean up the area. It is not something that has been there for years; it is something new. It is something that has been established there since the houses

were built. Some of the letters I receive say, "But the people should not have built there." The people built there after World War II. The new Metropolitan Abattoir Board building was built there in the '70s. It is causing most of the trouble.

The Bill does not go anywhere near solving the problem I am talking about. It does nothing to make certain that there can be control over the hanging of hides on fences, the dumping of waste and the controlling of industries that do not come under the heading of "Manufacturers". The Bill does not indicate to me that the Government is going to get fair dinkum about inspectors. It does not indicate that people are going to be able to ring up and get some action from the Government.

I welcome any action that the Minister can take to combat pollution in the Lytton area or anywhere else. The people pay. I know that industry pays when it has to install pollution control plant, but the people in my area pay day and night, day in and day out. They pay not only in the reduction in the value of their homes but also by the embarrassment of having to explain to their friends when they have a barbecue in their backyard on a summer night. They pay through the rotten, foul smells that their kids have to inhale in their class-rooms by day and in their homes by night. They pay because the Government has shown no interest in them, and it is about time it did.

**Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (10.39 p.m.):** The greatest contribution the temporary Leader of the Opposition could make to the cleaning up of air in this city would be to close the orifice in the front of his face and thus stop emitting hot and unclean air.

My contribution will be a very brief one. I merely rise to seek an assurance from the Minister that the Bill will bind the Brisbane City Council in its many and various activities. I speak particularly of the emission of diesel fumes and petroc carbons from the large council buses which travel around the city. I invite honourable members to visit the centre of the city during peak hours when buses are taking workers and shoppers home. I suggest that they taste some of the polluted air that hangs in Queen Street at 5 o'clock any afternoon. It is emission from the exhausts of Brisbane City Council buses. Apparently the Brisbane City Council spends no money or time on, and has no consideration for, the keeping of reasonably clean air in the city. There are great rows of these large vehicles right down Queen Street in the afternoon. They all emit smoke from their exhausts onto passengers waiting on the footpath and others walking by. What is emitted is enough to choke a duck. Green growth is ignored by the Brisbane City Council but if there were any it would be short-lived under the barrage from the buses. I would like to know that the air pollution

control people will move on the city council to prevent the emissions from council buses. I should like a testing machine—

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I suggest that the honourable member does not respond to that interjection.

**Mr. LANE:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr. Hewitt.

When eight or 10 large buses are pulled up in Queen Street it is virtually impossible to breathe. To withstand the barrage one has to retreat into one of the air-conditioned stores for a breath of fresh air. Testing of council bus emissions in Queen Street in peak hours should be undertaken as soon as possible. Exhaust emissions from these large vehicles affect business.

This problem arose only after the trams were removed from Brisbane some years ago by an unthinking Lord Mayor. In these days of a fuel crisis we all know of the benefits of conserving petroleum. Emphasis should be put on the use of electricity that we have in abundance thanks to our excellent coalfields. If the trams were still running in Brisbane we would not be faced with this pollution. It was a short-sighted move to remove trams from our streets at that time and replace them with buses that cause bad pollution problems. They pour smoke and other pollutants into the city shops. The cost of cleaning shop windows and the inside of shops and keeping goods free from dust and black soot is incalculable.

The city council car-park has its own pollution problems. I should like a testing machine to be taken to the bottom floor of that car-park so that a reading may be taken to determine how bad it is. On a few occasions I have had the misfortune to park in that monstrosity. When on the bottom floor of the car-park one hopes that the escalator is working so that one can get out quickly to take a breath of fresh air. People almost collapse from the fumes. I should like one of the first tasks of the Air Pollution Council to be the testing of the air in the basement of the Brisbane City Council car-park. I should like the Minister in his reply to give an assurance that the Bill binds the Brisbane City Council and that he will not be daunted in taking any necessary action against the council.

**Mr. MOORE (Windsor) (10.44 p.m.):** To some extent my comments will be contrary to those of the honourable member for Merthyr inasmuch as the devices fitted to motor vehicles in many areas where they are unnecessary increase fuel consumption. The air-to-fuel ratio is critical in motor cars and diesel buses. When their engines are tuned correctly most of the problems are overcome. As has been claimed, exhaust emissions from diesel buses are not nearly as harmful to humans as those from petrol motors, but they are far more offensive to

the nostrils than the exhaust gases of motor cars. Most of the problems with a diesel engine are overcome by having the engine properly adjusted. If the injectors are clean and are tuned correctly, the exhaust will not be thick black smoke.

In everything we do these days, we seem to be going too far. We have placed controls on air pollution up at Weipa. In that town, far away from anywhere else, there is a brick chimney a couple of hundred feet high. The owners apologise for a puff of white smoke rising from it. Although there is not a soul within hundreds of miles of Weipa, electrostatic precipitators are installed in the chimney-stack. We forced that on industry up there. There is not a need in the world for them. It would not matter how much smoke was created up there, and it doesn't matter which way the wind is blowing. What type of stupidity is that?

The Leader of the Opposition made some reasonably sensible remarks about the smells in his area. When I worked in the Railways and went past Doboy Station, the air was so bad that if anyone left the window down the air would blister his face. It used to blister the paint on the houses. They just will not keep their paint. While the remark about blistering faces might have been a joke, that about the paint on the houses is certainly no joke. The smell is so bad that if a person were to expectorate out the train window—spit out the window—he would vomit. That is how bad it is.

I have a similar situation in my area with Gibson's tannery at Stafford. I have written to this Minister; I wrote to the previous Minister and to the one before that. Until now, that tannery has not been in my territory. It has always been in someone else's, so I haven't been able to give it a kick in the guts. However, since I have been the member for the area containing the tannery I have been down to see the management and asked, "What's your problem?" They said, "We're short of funds. We can't put in the water control required. If we do, we will have to put people off. We won't be able to employ as many." I asked, "How much money do you need?" They said, "\$60,000 will about do it."

I made approaches around the place and attempted to get them a loan of a reasonable amount of money. I do not care how the Government subsidises it—whether the firm gets a loan at 6 per cent or is not charged any interest at all—as long as the job is done. What happened? When I got to the final stages and I had made certain arrangements so that they might get \$60,000, I found that they only need \$20,000—\$20,000 to get rid of a stink that spreads for three miles around! At present they are using an anaerobic system, whereby the pond gets a great film of muck over it. The solids convert themselves into a marsh gas and dissipate into the air. What we are doing in this stupid business is allowing the solids to turn into a gas to pollute the atmosphere.

That is the only way they are getting rid of the solids. There is no need for that. All that is necessary is an aerobic system. In effect, all that is necessary is the pumping of the water into the air. As it comes down it becomes aerated and then it is pumped up again. Oxidation gives the same result as is being achieved by turning the solids into marsh gas.

To save a lousy \$20,000 we are allowing Gibson's tannery, with all its excuses, to pollute the area. Anyone who drives along Stafford Road on a night such as this knows that the air is so thick that it can be cut into blocks and put into the construction of a house. It's that bad.

Write to the Minister; plead; do as you like—nothing happens! Gutless! He's going to play merry hell when someone throws a lolly paper out of a motor car; he's going to pinch motorists who do not keep in line one behind the other—but where we have a situation in which if the Government gives Gibsons \$20,000—

**Mr. Burns:** They have been doing it for 10 years.

**Mr. MOORE:** They should do it in Lytton, too!

If the Government gave Gibsons \$20,000 the problem could be overcome.

If a little puff of smoke goes into the air because someone is burning a few leaves in the backyard, all the airy-fairy people around say, "Look at that smoke there." They can see it in the distance, but it has no effect on them. Complaints like that should not be allowed.

I told the Gibson's tannery people, "Don't you worry. You've got a different member now." They said, "We got along with Harvey and we got along with Gygar." I said, "Well you are not getting along with me!"

I am not saying this lightly, and I ask the Minister to go out to Gibsons. It is quite simple; give them the money. It's only \$20,000. Arrange a loan at no interest to get the job done.

Nobody should have to put up with the stink that local residents have to contend with. Some people buy a new house in the area at a time when, because there is no disturbance of the water, there is no smell. There have been no storms. But when visitors come along on Sunday, the people open the door, and in comes the stink! They are ashamed of themselves, and then they get on to me. After three, six or 12 months they are not noticing the smell as badly.

**Mr. Lane:** It affects the olfactory nerve.

**Mr. MOORE:** Yes, it is the old factory.

**Mr. Warburton:** Do you think that they should be given a certain time to close down?

**Mr. MOORE:** No. I am not closing them down; Opposition members are closing them down. I want those fellows to have a job. If the problem were insurmountable, I would say they should close down. But it is not. It is only \$20,000. I could write the cheque myself.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. MOORE:** I am good for that sort of overdraft. They know that I am going to be here for a long time. I've got a certain take at the end of my time, anyway. There is no problem about that.

I am joking a little about it, but the situation is absolutely serious. It must be viewed seriously. I trust that the Minister will take seriously what I am saying and do something about it. I know the stink is not visible, but it's damned offensive to the nose.

**Mr. SHAW (Wynnum)** (10.52 p.m.): In my earlier speech today I said that I was a little disappointed at the answer I received to a question I asked of the Minister on the problems of pollution. After listening to the Leader of the Opposition put the case concerning pollution in his area, I can understand why the Minister has been a little more preoccupied with the problem in Lytton than with that in Wynnum. Unfortunately there is almost as much air pollution in Wynnum as there is in Lytton.

**Mr. Lane:** What has the city council done about that?

**Mr. SHAW:** Some members continually kick the Communist can. When they have nothing to say they scream, "Communist!" One thing I would say for the honourable member for Merthyr is that he does not do that; he kicks the Brisbane City Council can.

**Mr. Lane** interjected.

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

**Mr. SHAW:** The honourable member said something should be done by the Brisbane City Council to overcome the pollution situation. That was all that he mentioned. He could be right. I think he would have been fairer had he pointed out that it is a well-known and accepted fact that pollution from diesel buses is nowhere near as serious as pollution from motor cars.

What he is advocating when he says that the Brisbane City Council should do something is that the people should do something. The council is not a foreign body. Its money has to be found by the people. If something has to be done, the people have to pay for it on that basis. I am happy to accept his submission; but I think he should be honest about it.

The problem of air pollution in Wynnum and Lytton is certainly not new. The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that it has been accentuated by the establishment of

new industries. In 1967 the former Liberal Federal member for Bowman (Dr. Gibbs) said that he had been investigating this problem and had been making representations. He realised how serious it was, but he was pleased to say that it would soon be diminished. Since then, nothing has happened.

In 1965 the existing industries were given seven years to comply with the Act. Today I think the Government has stopped giving them an extension of time within which to comply with the Act; it has just given up. These days we do not hear about extensions of time. The problem just seems to go on and on, and nothing more is done about it.

Some of the speakers on the Government side implied that the A.L.P. attitude is irresponsible and that it wishes to put demands on industry regardless of the economics involved. I say that that certainly is not true. The Leader of the Opposition, whose electorate adjoins mine, and I have supported the development of noxious industries, or industries which are within the ambit of noxious industries, where adequate safeguards have been carried out. What we are saying is that we want action taken against irresponsible industries.

I believe that the Government has to those industries that do the right thing a responsibility to ensure that it is not possible for irresponsible industries to carry out their activities on the cheap and to undercut those people who do the right thing.

One of the first things I did after I was elected to this House was approach one of the worst offenders in my area, the Ampol refinery. When that refinery began operating it approached the people in the area and said, "If you can put up with the pollution for a little while things will be all right, because it is only going to be a temporary thing. It will cost us money to waste material by burning off in the flue and depositing it all over the district, so within a few years we will be rectifying these faults and you will have nothing further to worry about." This was one of the first industries that I contacted. I did not want to make a public stand, nor did I want to score off the company. I wanted to talk to it to see if it could do something about the problem. I contacted the management on those grounds.

**Mr. Lane:** In which capacity?

**Mr. SHAW:** It does not matter in which capacity, because I got the same result. I might add that I contacted them previously. I also contacted the Air Pollution Control Council in my capacity as alderman and I got pretty much the same result. I said to the manager, "I think the best thing to do is get together and talk about it." He said, "Yes." As the honourable member for Merthyr keeps trying to insist, I have a busy schedule, and it is difficult for me to make

time for appointments, but this matter was so important that I decided to make time for this appointment. Unfortunately, the people from the refinery could not keep the appointment, so the meeting was postponed. We made arrangements for another meeting, but again it was postponed. Eventually I gave up. It is quite obvious that industries like this one will not do anything until such time as the Government adopts a get-tough attitude and says to them, "Something has to be done, and something has to be done quickly."

We have a problem that occurs only intermittently. I can appreciate the difficulties that confront some industries, and Ampol is possibly one of them. When they get into troubles which occur only intermittently they do not want to spend a lot of money rectifying those troubles.

I have another problem, with Edgell, a division of Petersville Ltd. The honourable member for Lytton mentioned this. This industry is in a similar situation to that mentioned by the honourable member for Windsor. At one time it had a very wide buffer zone around it, but as time has gone on the residential area has closed in around it. Unfortunately, in its activities it has peaks when the anti-pollution devices are not able to cope. The people in that area are suffering as a result. Here again it is necessary for the Government to adopt a very positive attitude by insisting that that company do something about it. We repeatedly hear this solution of buffer zones proposed. Here is one instance where I am not of quite the same opinion as my leader. I do not have much faith in the provision of buffer zones to overcome this problem. I do have a lot of faith, though, in technology and in the attitudes of firms which set out by improved technology to overcome the problems of the pollution of the environment.

I know of one industrial firm that could, under certain circumstances, cause serious pollution, yet it is one that I have been quite happy to welcome to my area. I have visited its plants in other States, and it was very interesting to hear the history of what happened. It had a very primitive plant in one State and the Government said that it had to do something about it. It was at a loss to know just what devices it could install to treat the waste it was discharging. All of a sudden the firm came to the conclusion, which now seems to be quite obvious, that the answer lay not in treating the waste but in fact in not developing it. It decided to use the waste, and found that by so doing its profits increased.

The managers continued introducing economies, and when they built a second plant in another State, one that did not have the same pollution controls, they introduced even more stringent controls than they had in the first plant and they have now gone even further. They have found that they could effect economies if the pollution

problem was approached from the right direction. I believe that that is the way to overcome most of our pollution problems.

In 1974-75 the Air Pollution Control Council put forward the view that in the town plan there should be adequate buffers around industries. One of the reasons why I believe buffer zones are not the answer is that some of the industries mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition as being in his electorate are causing problems in my electorate. The effects have been sufficiently severe to wake me up and to cause bad attacks of hay fever and asthma in my family and in other families in the vicinity. And this is from five miles away! If we are going to say that the answer to this problem lies in the introduction of buffer zones, this means that they will have to extend for a radius of at least five miles. If we apply this to all the polluting industries in Brisbane it becomes pretty obvious that that is not the answer. Buffer zones provide an answer to aesthetic problems and in certain instances where the pollution problem is not severe, but they are certainly not the answer to all pollution.

**Mr. Hinze:** Your leader said they were.

**Mr. SHAW:** I know. I said I am off-side with him.

**Mr. Burns:** I said they had to be investigated. I must admit they are not the whole answer.

**Mr. Hinze:** Who is right?

**Mr. SHAW:** It appears we have now reached agreement on this subject, after all.

What will happen here, if I understand the Minister correctly, is that when the local authority—in this case, the Brisbane City Council—is asked for a report before an industry is allowed to establish itself, the only answer it will be able to give is whether or not the industry complies with the town plan. That will not help one iota; if we are going to set aside in the town plan areas where noxious industries can be established—I believe we have to do this—it follows that we must have controls on those industries which go into those areas. So if we have a noxious industry area and an industry comes along with an application to enter it, the only thing the Brisbane City Council can say about it is, "Yes, it complies with the town plan." The opportunity to require particular things to be done to control the problem, and perhaps overcome it, is lost.

It is necessary that we have a look at this, because the problems which occur with some industries do not occur in other cases. I do not believe it is possible to set out in a town plan a list of requirements that will solve all of the problems. It is not purely a town planning problem, and when statements are made such as the one made recently by the honourable member for Merthyr, I am quite certain that it will not be solved under the present town plan. The honourable member

said that suggestions such as those put forward by the honourable member for Windsor for removing industries and compensating them adequately when they find themselves in an area that no longer is suitable had been overruled. There might be very good reasons why they have been overruled; but I think that when they are overruled an alternative suggestion to overcome the problem should be put forward. If that is not done, it is not good enough to complain about the problem later, as members are now doing.

Many honourable members agree that a problem exists and condemn the Brisbane City Council for not being able to do anything about it. However, when suggestions for overcoming the problem are put forward, they oppose them and say that they would give the local authority too much power. If a suggestion would give the local authority too much power, let us see power vested in an authority under the control of the Minister. Let us see it vested in the Air Pollution Council or some other section of his department.

There certainly needs to be authority to enable someone to overcome the problem. Weakening the provisions of the town plan will not overcome it. In talking about the cost to industry of overcoming the problem, I agree whole-heartedly with the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition. Someone has to meet the costs, and I think it is reasonable that industry should bear them, because it will pass them on to the people who use its products.

If a particular industry is turning out a cheap product by polluting the atmosphere and the community is suffering, someone must bear the cost, and it is unfair for the community to have to bear the cost. It is reasonable that the people using the product should meet the cost of its production, and that cost could reasonably include the cost of producing it without damaging the environment.

Brief mention was made of the problem of emission controls on motor vehicles. The honourable member who raised it should perhaps take the matter up with his colleagues in the Federal House. He pointed out that the present requirements impose an unnecessary burden on the motorist and that a great number of problems have arisen because of them. I draw the attention of the Committee to an anomaly that appears to exist.

All sorts of problems seem to be associated with emission controls on vehicles constructed in Australia. Imported vehicles do not seem to have similar problems. Now, either our technology is deficient or there is a definite underhand move to inflame public opinion against emission controls. I do not think there is any need to do that.

The cost will have to be borne by somebody, and the community bears the cost in many different ways. It is true to say that

the cost of emission controls, as is the cost of pollution control in industry, is to be found in the cost of repairing houses and in the cost to the health of the community. Reports already published show that in many places the health of the community is being damaged by pollution, and unfortunately the area that I represent and the area adjoining it are two of the areas in which this is occurring. People are making complaints about problems that never occurred in the past. The honourable member who interjected earlier will agree with me when I say that in days gone by the worst problem that arose in the Wynnum area was the smell of rotting seaweed. Although the smell was a little unpleasant, it did not damage anyone's health. But today people complain because their homes are being coated with black goo.

There is a very interesting tale attached to that. When complaints were made to the Air Pollution Council about that, a fellow came down and took samples. Analyses were made of the black goo that mysteriously appeared on houses, vehicles and trees all over the district. Subsequently he wrote saying, "This goo seems to contain petroleum products. It is consistent with the fall-out from an oil refinery, and Ampol refinery has been advised accordingly." A week later a rushed trip was made down to the complainants with a hand-delivered communication which stated, "Unfortunately our regular fellow is away on holidays. A terrible mistake has been made. It is not consistent with the fall-out from a refinery, and we have advised Ampol refinery accordingly." It is rather strange that this particular goo appeared about the same time as Ampol refinery started operations. As the Leader of the Opposition said, it is passing strange that these things always seem to occur in the middle of the night, and seem to cause bad attacks of asthma. Unfortunately in the area there have been fatalities from asthma attacks. Certainly an investigation is warranted to determine whether or not there is any connection between the two. Certainly the attacks of hay fever that are suffered by some people I know always coincide with the strange smells that invade the district at night.

The Air Pollution Council needs to be strengthened, not weakened. People have a right to expect clean air.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. POWELL** (Isis) (11.13 p.m.): Most people would agree that it is desirable that we breathe air that is as clean as it is possible to get. What we have to evaluate is the cost of that clean air. I have lived most of my life in an area away from big industry. Therefore probably I can be considered to be extremely lucky. Many people, however, are unfortunate in that they have to live in areas where heavy industry is established. I have sympathy for them, and on their behalf I will support any legislation

which will force industry, within the bounds of reason, to emit only clean air from its smoke stacks.

Previous speakers have spoken about the cost to industry. It is a real cost and one that we should consider carefully before we impose all sorts of conditions on industry. In many cases, of course, the industry was there first and the houses came along later. The honourable members for Lytton and Wynnum have indicated some areas where that is the case. It is very difficult indeed for a Government to legislate to force established industry to change its mode of operation and incur extra costs to make sure that the air it emits is clean. That is not so with new industries.

I believe that the ball should be placed fairly and squarely in the court of local authorities. Local authorities have town plans. I would hope that all of them have some sort of town planning. It should be the local authority's job to advise an industry whether it should establish itself in an area or not. The local authority is on the spot. I cannot accept the idea that this Government should have a massive number of inspectors to snoop around in the night to see that different industries are obeying some law about clean air. I don't like the idea of any Government being a sort of police body over another form of government. If we look carefully at the proposition put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, it is obvious that he had such a proposition in mind. If local government—and a big "if" is involved—obeyed its own laws, many of our air pollution problems would not exist.

I agree with the honourable member for Wynnum, who said that buffer areas are not the answer. I remember living in Brisbane in my student days when air pollution was very much to the fore. I remember complaints from the people of Brisbane every winter about the tremendous smoke haze—it is now called smog—that hung over the city especially in the winter months, when air temperature inversion took place. It was explained that most of the industries in the geographic area of Brisbane run in a south-west/north-easterly line, which is the direction of the prevailing wind or air movement during the winter months. That is the cause of the pollution. The town plan could avoid the problem quite easily by ensuring that new noxious industries were sited in areas away from that south-west/north-easterly line.

The incidence of industries emitting pollutants into the air is lessening. In spite of Opposition comments the Government can take the credit for that. We have tried to clean up industry in a workmanlike fashion. The Government should be commended because it has not tried to bully anyone. We do not have a great number of inspectors going around closing up industries. I am surprised that some members should consider that as a viable alternative.

Surely no-one in the Chamber wants industry closed up simply because it is emitting a smell or smoke.

**Mr. Gygar:** It depends on how bad the smell is.

**Mr. POWELL:** In reply to that—the honourable member for Windsor told us a little earlier about Gibson's tannery. In my student days I used to live in the Stafford area. I certainly remember how badly it smelt in those days. Periodically I drive along Webster Road and I know how bad it is today. It certainly has not improved or changed. I support what was said by the honourable member about this matter. Something must certainly be done about it and similar situations, but we should not forget the cost.

In the Bundaberg/Isis area the sugar mills are to be commended on their attitude to the Clean Air Act. It has cost them millions of dollars to upgrade facilities so that the emissions from their smoke-stacks are less harmful than they used to be. The Bundaberg Sugar Company employs a person whose job is related purely to the environment. His job is to see that the air coming from the mill's smoke-stack is as clean as possible. I repeat that the industry is to be commended on its attitude.

Conservationists are referred to quite often in this Chamber. But for conservationists, we might not have this legislation before us. Some people believe that it would be a good idea not to have conservationists, but we do not hear so much from the true conservationists. They adopt a sensible attitude and make sensible suggestions. We have a few whom I do not regard as sensible. Anyone who has lived in a cane area knows that from about May/June to December cane fires are to be seen almost every night of the week. They create great clouds of black smoke. Women become a little upset when the black "snow" settles on their washing. At the beginning of just about every crushing season there is a spate of letters to the editors of the local papers. People jump up and down claiming that cane should not be burnt. Let us be sensible about this. If the people knew the economics of the industry, they would know that it is very difficult indeed to harvest green cane and, in this country, totally unnecessary. I condemn people who want green cane to be harvested in this State when the burning of cane causes very little discomfort and no permanent damage at all to the purity of the air.

**Mr. Doumany:** It is a very pleasant smell—and nostalgic.

**Mr. POWELL:** It may be nostalgic; but, when the black soot lands on the washing, some of the ladies get a little upset.

If the sugar industry of Queensland were compelled to change from burnt-cane harvesting to green-stalk harvesting it would

cause irreparable damage—especially when the Federal Government will not give the industry its due reward for its product.

When I was in the United States six years ago, the conservation movement was quite strong in the State of Arizona. A new powerhouse was being built there. It rather interested me how they went about selecting a site for it, but that is another story. It is now the Navajo Power Station in Page, right in the north of Arizona, near the banks of Lake Powell, as it happens. The procedures they had to go through to cater for air pollution controls cost them \$80,000,000. Anyone who knows anything about the geography of Arizona will appreciate that the area about which I speak is completely desert. The only industry established right out in the middle of the desert is this giant powerhouse, with great big smoke stacks; yet it costs the power authorities \$80,000,000 to comply with the Clean Air Act of the United States.

Some time after that I was at a place called Flagstaff, which is a little south of Page. It is a forestry area, with a large sawmill owned by South West Forest Industries. I happened to be staying with the manager of the mill. His phone rang. He got quite agitated because some black smoke was coming out of the smoke stack of the mill and someone had rung up complaining bitterly about the tremendous pollution coming over the town of Flagstaff—a town with a population of about 10,000 and a university. As it happened the complaint came from the university.

The point I make is that people can go overboard. We should be careful not only in framing legislation but also in enforcing it that we make sure the problem is looked at fairly and squarely; that it is looked at from the point of view of the cost to the industry concerned as well as the resultant benefit to the community. Opposition spokesmen do go overboard. They have a paranoia about businessmen. They hate the idea of industry making a profit. Of course, what they do not realise is that, if business does not make a profit, nobody gets employed. It is as simple as that.

We must be very careful in deciding what industry has to do and where it has to do it. I come down fairly and squarely on the side of requiring industry to put its house in order to emit clean air, or air that is as clean as possible.

Mention was made earlier about emission controls on motor vehicles, and it was a relevant point to be made. The member for Merthyr spoke about the abolition of trams and the introduction of buses. Of course, he could not be closer to the truth. Had the Brisbane City Council retained trams, I am quite certain that the incidence of air pollution in this city would not be nearly as great as it is.

**Mr. Vaughan:** What about electric trains?

**Mr. POWELL:** This State has undertaken to provide electric trains. They will benefit the city of Brisbane, but it is important to remember that the emission from diesel engines is not nearly as dangerous as the emission from internal combustion engines.

**Mr. Vaughan:** That's rubbish.

**Mr. POWELL:** I suggest the honourable member does some research into the subject.

It is important to realise that the emission from a diesel engine is less injurious to people than the emission from an internal combustion engine. I condemn Australian manufacturers for their attitude to exhaust emission control. It is obvious that, as a vehicle with exhaust emission controls does five miles to the gallon less, it is not operating as efficiently as the vehicle without the controls. The exhaust gas may be cleaner but where does the extra petrol go?

As the honourable member for Toowoomba North said, Brisbane is the place where emission control is necessary. It is needed in the large cities with the confined areas, because engines idle a lot using an extra-rich mixture. Emission control is not needed in country areas. Such is the vastness of this nation that that sort of rule borders on the ridiculous.

I hark back to what I said before. We should enforce legislation sensibly. I believe that the legislation covering exhaust emission control in this country is not sensible and is not being enforced sensibly. It adds to transport costs in the country and provides no benefit at all. Whom does it benefit? It benefits the gimmick makers and accessory makers without relieving the real problem one little bit.

We must continue to enforce the Clean Air Act. As previous members have said, there are industries that blatantly pollute the air without concern for the community. They must be stopped. They cannot be allowed to continue to injure the health of our community. Of course, there are those people who injure their own health by continually smoking—they inhale fumes of their own volition—but we might have some sympathy for them when they complain about a smoky industry in their area. We must make sure that industries do all that they can to lessen the effects of air pollution on the community.

I hope that this Bill, which we will see shortly, will give local government the power that it should have, that is, the power to enact its town plan, the power to make industry behave itself. It should do it in such a fashion that it does not frighten industry off. We need industry in this State. We need decentralised industry in this State. With the conglomeration of a number of noxious industries there is perhaps a case for the State Government to step in and suggest they should shift themselves out of the major areas of population into the areas of less

population so that their pollution will have less effect and employment will be decentralised.

I support the Minister on the introduction of this Bill. I look forward to reading it and perhaps discussing it further at the second-reading stage.

**Mr. KRUGER** (Murrumba) (11.29 p.m.): I am not sure whether the need is for a change to the Act or for better administration of the Act. Possibly there is a need for both.

Over the years, nothing has been done to implement the Act. Quite a few people have spoken along these lines. It is not much good having an Act or a power, whether in the field of local authority or Government—both have been tossed around fairly well tonight—if its operation is not properly administered or policed.

I would like to mention the situation that we have in the Pine Rivers Shire, particularly in the electorate of Murrumba, with Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd., which is a massive organisation. This organisation has over the years, to give it full credit, tried reasonably hard to control the pollution it causes and the smell that exists there. Only a fortnight ago I pointed out to a meeting that I did not think that the smell was as bad as it used to be. The council did attempt to monitor what was causing the smell and the direction from which it was coming, but it came up with very little, possibly because of the size of the company and the fact that the pollution control laws had not been enforced.

When we looked at this particular company we found that it is pumping its waste water into a low flat area at the back of Petrie. The smell from this waste is drifting with the prevailing winds over the Pine Rivers area. In the last week or so the stench has become unbearable. I spoke to the manager of the mill this morning and he said, "Yes, I agree." Some of his men are coming up from Melbourne next week to have a look at it. I believe that after so many years of operation this problem should have been overcome by now. If our pollution control laws had been strong enough or had been enforced, this would not be happening now.

I bring to honourable members' notice also that the smell is not the only problem connected with this manufacturing company. There are houses in the northern part of Petrie and towards the western side of Kallangur, and when a house is painted, it is only a matter of weeks before it is dirty and dingy again. I am not sure whether this is caused by a chemical reaction or whether it is caused by smoke from the chimney stack. However, whatever the cause might be, the situation is not satisfactory when people are forced to paint their homes so regularly in order to keep them looking bright and neat. I think there is a chance that this is caused by a chemical reaction

because I know of the experience of an electrician in Kallangur who, one night some time ago, put down some uncovered copper earth wire and when he returned the next morning that copper wire was black. It no longer had its shiny appearance.

**A Government Member:** Was it sulphur?

**Mr. KRUGER:** It was a chemical of that nature. I know it smelt like rotten eggs, so I would say that it had a large sulphur content. I couldn't be sure what it was, but that copper wire certainly suffered a reaction from a chemical.

We also had a problem with the Delta quarry in Dayboro Road. The Minister would know all about this quarry because he received many complaints from people living in that area. There, of course, we had an air control by-law in operation. The council tried to put heavy controls on this industry. For instance, we tried to get the company concerned to dampen the materials so that dust would not be flying all over the area and causing people to complain. However, the Local Government Department overruled the Pine Rivers Shire Council and did not force the company to follow the regulations laid down by the council, so for the first three years that the company operated the people suffered misery that they should not have had to put up with. I could see the dust rising in great clouds at various times.

I believe that the action by the Local Government Department in not allowing the Pine Rivers Shire Council to enforce the regulations that they wanted to put on this company was a great blunder. It backs up my argument that if there are air control regulations and they are not put into use or policed, there is very little use in having them. It seems it is very easy to control them if they concern a man operating a small business. As has been pointed out, if a person throws a piece of paper out of a car he is going to cop a nasty rap, but it seems to me that if companies are big enough and can pay enough money to fight harder, then it is not quite so easy for the Government or local authorities to take them on and insist on the type of controls that people living around them desire. I trust that the Minister has something in this Bill which will alter the present situation so that we can hope for better controls than we have had in the past. I think we need to look at better administration of the regulations, and so I will be very interested to see the Bill when it is printed.

**Mr. GYGAR** (Stafford) (11.36 p.m.): In rising to speak on air pollution I would like to cover the subject that was dealt with so well by the honourable member for Windsor, and mentioned also by the honourable member for Isis, and that is Gibson's tannery, the local polluter in my area. It now seems to have become notorious from one end of the State to the other. I can assure everyone in this House that having lived downwind

from Gibson's tannery since my youth I can appreciate what problems air pollution can bring to citizens, and no words short of "absolutely disgusting" would cover in any way the sort of pollution that comes from Gibson's tannery.

As the honourable member for Windsor mentioned, Gibsons may well have said at some time in the past that they got along O.K. with Gygar. That is about to come to an end, because when I was first elected to represent that area I did not rush in and start kicking down doors, throwing furniture around and telling them they either had to stop the stink or close down. I realised that in all of these things we had to try to achieve a balance between conflicting interests. If one had told them to stop the smell or close down they would have closed down, and that would have resulted in a lot of good men losing their jobs. The community must put up with some small inconvenience if, in times of high unemployment, this is the only way to preserve the jobs of a lot of good men who have worked there for many years and brought up their families in the area. However, they got along with me only because of repeated assurances that I have been given of how they were proceeding with remedial works and how one unfortunate and unpredictable delay after another led to the situation in which we currently find ourselves, that is, that nothing is being done.

For three years I, and the honourable member for Windsor, who I understand also lives downwind—though fortunately for him, a little further away—have been waiting in vain for something to happen because we believed when we spoke to Gibson's that they were acting in good faith. However, they have shown that they have not been speaking the truth. I have heard stories from them that they would have to spend more than \$100,000, and it was all horribly technical. Now it comes out in the wash that only \$20,000 is required. If the directors of this company, who also happen to be the shareholders, have so little public conscience that they would not voluntarily give some sort of personal guarantee to obtain this small amount of money, and it is small in commercial terms—and when we consider that they are sitting on almost a million dollars' worth of land there alone—to alleviate the great distress that they cause to the local citizens, then they will definitely not be getting along with Gygar in future.

I would like to see these irresponsible characters stopped. I would like to ask, firstly, for an indication from the Minister whether this Bill will do it. If the Minister is unable to give that assurance, then I would like to let the people of Stafford know that other, more direct methods will have to be used against Gibson's to make them face up to their responsibilities, because I guarantee that one way or another that smell is going to be stopped, and soon.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD** (Toowoomba North) (11.39 p.m.): I believe this Bill will make it a great deal harder for potential polluters to receive a licence to operate scheduled premises within the meaning of this Act. I think the chief problem with the Act is that obviously it was introduced 30 or 40 years too late. In order, then, that the public who are having problems with industry receive the maximum satisfaction from this Act retrospective provisions will have to be introduced which force industry to act. Members have said that in regard to various pollutants, particularly odours, gases such as sulphide, soots, petrochemical fall-out, fumes and other accumulated fuel fall-out over Brisbane, there is no such thing as a buffer area because these pollutants cover the whole Brisbane city area.

However, there is a case for having a buffer zones for quarries. Indeed, I think that all quarries should have a buffer zone. There are two quarries in Toowoomba but, as far as I am aware, the trouble is confined mainly to the Harlaxton quarry. As other honourable members have said, we have been stalled off with repeated assurances. Twelve months ago an assurance was given by the quarry managers to the Railway Department, from whom they leased the quarry, that in six to eight weeks the dust nuisance would be ended. It cannot be said that that dust is a health hazard—it does not cause pulmonary disease such as miners get—but, the dust is a perpetual nuisance, day in and day out, six or seven days a week, through the operation of the quarry machinery, its crusher battery, and the trucks moving in and out of the quarry, not only transporting the quarry product but also moving over unsealed roads.

The Toowoomba City Council has played its part by sealing the roads. For a time it was held that watering the roads twice in the morning and twice in the evening would prevent the dust nuisance but it has persisted. The company operating the quarry gave the Minister of the day, the late Keith Hooper, undertakings that it would attend to the sealing of internal roads, and so on, as soon as it was in a better financial position to do so. However, those things have not been done and the dust nuisance remains.

In my opinion, the department must implement measures that enable it to act retrospectively on existing menaces. The Local Government Department, which also comes under the Minister's control, must ensure that all quarries, open-cuts, underground mines, etc., are well and truly separated from residential development. I understand that problems in this regard are developing in Ipswich. The honourable member for Ipswich West has circularised all honourable members on some of the problems that he is having.

Certainly the position is invidious in Toowoomba. Housing goes right to the edge of the quarry, and I am afraid that the patience of the house owners has worn thin. If the

industry is to continue, it will be faced with tremendous expense in dust-proofing. Problems also arise from the nature, size and timing of the explosions and the sound waves from them, and I will be taking these up with the Minister. A great many representations have already been made to Government departments on this subject. The problems are a festering sore and a way must be found to solve them to the satisfaction of all concerned.

**Mr. BERTONI** (Mt. Isa) (11.43 p.m.): In supporting the Minister's proposal, I briefly express my concern about some of the comments made by honourable members in this debate. It seems to me that various problems have arisen, particularly in southern areas of the State, and I am concerned that in formulating provisions that will meet the requirements of people in the south-east corner of Queensland, and perhaps in areas along the coast, difficulties may be created for industries developing in western areas.

In Mt. Isa we have a company that has played its part in air pollution control. It has installed a massive \$1,000,000 sensor system, and sensors throughout the city are monitored 24 hours a day. If there is any chance of air pollution occurring in the city area, the sensors indicate that to the operators, who immediately shut down the mines and prevent them from operating while the wind is blowing in the direction of the city.

I wonder how far we can go in formulating measures for air pollution control. I agree with the honourable member for Isis that we can go too far in the prevention of air pollution. Sometimes the guide-lines given to the Air Pollution Council can be forcibly enacted in areas where the geography and topography indicate that such requirements are not necessary. Anybody who has visited Mt. Isa recently would have seen a massive stack there. It has cost Mount Isa Mines Ltd. \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000. It is not only the tallest structure in Australia but is the tallest stack in the Southern Hemisphere. It was completed early this month. It was constructed by the slip-form method. It has taken about four months to complete. With the mayor of Mt. Isa I recently made a tour of that stack. We went right up the centre of it.

**Mr. Casey:** It is the rudest looking building in Australia.

**Mr. BERTONI:** It is obvious that the honourable member for Mackay knows nothing about the country. It is people of his type who insist that we should have a stack in our area.

**Mr. Casey:** I thought you had a sense of humour.

**Mr. BERTONI:** I have.

**Mr. Casey** interjected.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Gunn): Order! The honourable member is trying my sense of humour now.

**Mr. BERTONI:** We continually see the A.L.P. wanting big companies or industries to spend money on frivolous matters. That amazing stack in Mt. Isa had to be constructed because the Air Pollution Council insisted upon it. Certain tests had been made and it was suggested that there may have been pollution across the city. No-one in the city had complained—I am very sincere about that—yet there was this interference from outside, which resulted in a suggestion that this amazing stack should be built at a cost of \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000.

With the passing of this Bill, I sincerely hope that the Air Pollution Council will recognise that people in country areas have a different problem from that of people living in Brisbane and surrounding districts. I hope the Minister will ensure that some personal little impressions of members of the Air Pollution Council are not being acted on in forcing industries to install safeguards that are not warranted.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (11.48 p.m.), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contribution. It is getting late, so I propose to answer them in detail at the second reading. I must say what a wonderful job the Air Pollution Council has done since its inception. I will take steps to refute with all the ability at my command the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and others who suggested that the council is not doing its job.

I think the honourable member for Mt. Isa has said most of what I want to say. He referred specifically to Mount Isa Mines Ltd., which undertook tremendous developmental expenditure for one company. That sort of thing applies right throughout the State. I will add up just what contribution industry has actually made in order to comply with the recommendations of the Air Pollution Council to meet the needs of the State. I have nothing further to say for the time being.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

#### FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Hinze, read a first time.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Wednesday next.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.52 p.m.