

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1978

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SEAT DECLARED VACANT

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

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Sherwood hath become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of the said Honourable John Desmond Herbert.”

Motion agreed to.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPORT

AIR TRANSPORT OF MEMBERS; ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS (TRAVELLING)

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to advise that this morning I received a copy of the Auditor-General's special report on an audit of the expenditure of appropriations to defray the Contingencies “Air Transport of Members” and “Allowances to Members” (Travelling) in connection with the Legislative Assembly. It will be tabled in the House on Tuesday next.

PAPER

The following paper was laid on the table:—
Regulation under the Fire Brigades Act 1964-1977.

THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1978

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

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF SHERWOOD

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the Honourable John Desmond Herbert, member for the electoral district of Sherwood—

“Brisbane, Q. 4000.

“13th September, 1978.

“The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,
“Parliament House,
“Brisbane.

“Dear Sir,

“I hereby resign from the Legislative Assembly as the Member for Sherwood.

“This resignation is tendered on medical grounds.

“Yours faithfully,

“John Herbert,

“Member for Sherwood.”

WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF MOTION

DISALLOWANCE OF REGULATION 17 (2) (e) OF SURVEYORS REGULATIONS 1978

Mr. GYGAR (Stafford): I seek leave to withdraw the notice of motion on the Business Paper standing in my name.

(Leave granted.)

PETITION

2,4-D AND 2,4,5-T

Mr. JONES (Cairns) presented a petition from 3,560 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take such measures to ensure that the State of Queensland will ban from use in Queensland the chemical sprays 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T and any others which may cause injury and/or damage to human, animal or plant life.

Petition read and received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Will he give an estimate of the number and kinds of handicapped people resident in this State?

(2) Has any attempt been made to conduct a survey to accurately discover the degree of handicap and the difficult conditions suffered by the person so handicapped and his family?

Answers:—

(1) No exhaustive survey for the State of Queensland is available to the present time.

(2) A survey of the Brisbane population for the years 1967-1970 is available. This survey inquired into the degree of limitation of activity resulting from chronic disorders without attempting to ascertain the percentage of people with chronic disorders and did not include people in institutions. Also, the limitation of activity was equated with interference with schooling, housework, occupation or recreation activities. 12 per cent of the population sampled were found to be disabled in this sense, whilst a further 3 per cent were placed in the doubtful category. The following figures were quoted by Silverstone, Smithurst (1972)—

Children (Male and Female)—	Per Cent
0-4 years	3.4
5-14 years	7
Adult—	
15-64 years—	
Male	11
Female	15.7
65 and over—	
Male	21.7
Female	36.8

These figures showed the percentage in each age group suffering some limitation of activity due to chronic medical problems. Whilst the highest percentage appears in the older age groups, the greatest numbers of people who suffered limiting disability in fact occurred in the working age group. Other points which were apparent in the results were—

(i) More than 1 per cent of the population required help from outside their home if this were available.

(ii) There were very few bedridden patients living at home, with the inference that in-patient care in a variety of institutions was adequate.

(iii) Despite limitation of activity, a great majority of the population adapted to their disability and managed to cope.

2. TOW-TRUCK OPERATIONS

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

Is he aware of an article appearing in the "Sunday Sun" of 3 August headed "Greedy Tow Truck Men are Corrupting Police" and, if so—

(a) Has any member of the Police Force had any departmental action taken

against him or her in connection with calling certain tow-trucks to the scene of accidents?

(b) How many prosecutions, cancellations or suspensions of tow-truck operators or their assistants have occurred since the Tow-truck Act came into force, and for what reasons?

Answer:—

(a) This portion of the question should be referred to the Minister for Police.

(b) Since the introduction of the Tow-truck Act there have been three prosecutions for failing to produce a driver's certificate, supplying incorrect information on an application for the issue of a certificate and operating while not the holder of a drivers' certificate or permit. Two tow-truck licences, seven drivers' certificates and five assistants' certificates have been cancelled or suspended for various reasons, including the employment of unauthorised drivers, supplying false information on application for certificate, driving without a certificate and driving whilst under the influence of liquor. Further details concerning the operation of tow-trucks in Queensland are shown in the appropriate parts of the annual reports of the Commissioner for Transport.

3. BREATHALYSER TESTS

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

(1) Are breathalyser tests required to be conducted by medical practitioners?

(2) If so, what charge per test is made by them?

(3) How much money was paid to medical practitioners in Queensland for the tests for the year ended 30 June 1978?

Answers:—

(1) Selected police are specially trained as breathalyser operators and are stationed in all areas where there is a breath analysing instrument. There are some medical practitioners authorised to conduct such tests should a police operator not be available.

(2) Government medical officers are paid a standard fee of \$30 for each test. Non-government medical officers charge slightly more.

(3) \$146.10.

4. TOW-TRUCK OPERATIONS

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

(1) What action is being taken by the Government to investigate the malpractice of some tow-truck operators in bribing police to obtain preference in towing jobs?

(2) Are some tow-truck operators paying from \$10 to \$40 a job to police to obtain preference in towing jobs?

(3) Has the Police Department carried out any investigation into this malpractice and, if so, what is the extent of the investigation?

(4) Has the present legislation regarding tow-truck operators failed to stamp out this malpractice between police and some operators?

(5) Does one member of the Police Force, who was transferred to the C.I.B. Records Section for tow-truck malpractices, now have daily visits from tow-truck operators?

Answers:—

(1) Complaints of allegations of bribery of police by tow-truck operators are investigated by the Police Department's Internal Investigations Section.

(2 & 3) Investigations were made by members of the Internal Investigations Section into allegations appearing in newspaper articles alleging payment to police of amounts ranging from \$10 to \$40, but there was no evidence forthcoming to substantiate these allegations.

(4) No.

(5) No member of the Police Force was transferred to the C.I. Branch Records Section because of tow-truck malpractices. I am unaware of any tow-truck operators making daily visits to the C.I. Branch.

5 & 6. POLICE DRUG SQUAD

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

(1) What action is the Police Department taking with regard to the "slush fund" at the Drug Squad at the Brisbane C. I. Branch?

(2) Does the money for the fund come from dealers and pushers who are not charged by the Drug Squad with offences under the Health Acts?

(3) How is this fund used and who authorised its being set up?

(4) Do raids on dealers produce large sums of money which are never handed in but rather split up for the personal use of Drug Squad personnel?

(5) What action has been taken to investigate a complaint that two senior Consorting Squad members were paid \$5,000 to "forget" a Brisbane criminal's involvement in the recent importation and distribution of some 98 kg of hashish?

Answers:—

(1) I am not familiar with the term "slush fund". In any event, no fund of any kind is kept at the Drug Squad.

(2 & 3) See answer to (1).

(4) No.

(5) There is no knowledge of any such complaint having been made to the Police Department. However, should the honourable member make available any information he might have to substantiate this allegation, I will have the matter investigated.

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

(1) What action does he propose to take to investigate persistent allegations that a man named Paul is dealing in drugs for and on behalf of some members of the Drug Squad at an inner suburban hotel in Brisbane?

(2) What action does the Police Department propose to take to ensure that drugs of which the police take possession are properly and fully accounted for?

(3) What action is being taken to investigate the actions of a Drug Squad agent named "Surf" who openly sells, on behalf of other Drug Squad members, surplus drugs obtained during raids and not handed in?

Answers:—

(1) The Police Department has no knowledge of any man named Paul who is dealing in drugs.

(2) All drugs seized by police are properly and fully accounted for.

(3) All drugs are fully accounted for at the termination of any raids. There is no knowledge of any agent selling drugs.

7. RESIDENTIAL BLOCK, T.A.F.E. COLLEGE, BUNDABERG

Mr. Blake, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education—

Is he aware of the great difficulty in providing suitable board and accommodation for students from the region served by the Technical and Further Education College, Bundaberg, and will he consider the provision of a student residential block adjacent to the college, preferably with planned food preparation facilities to enable catering and food technology courses to be provided?

Answer:—

I am aware of the difficulties that arise from time to time in providing suitable accommodation for apprentices attending block-release tuition at the Bundaberg College of Technical and Further Education. Unfortunately, the establishment of a hall of residence would entail an initial capital expenditure of at least \$16,000 per bed space provided, plus the cost of land. In addition to this, a heavy Government subsidy (approximately \$1,350 per bed in Maryborough) is required annually to operate such an establishment. Capital

funds are not available at present. There is a 38-bed student residence at Maryborough and difficulties are experienced in filling it in some blocks. A reallocation of apprentices from Bundaberg to Maryborough could be made.

Catering and food technology courses are not likely to be introduced at Bundaberg before 1984.

8. FOREIGN PURCHASES OF QUEENSLAND LAND

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

In view of Press reports of the increasing incidence of foreign purchases of Queensland land, will he have a register compiled, for public information, of all land held by, or in the process of being transferred to, non-resident, non-Australian citizens?

Answer:—

A report by a Government-appointed joint committee of senior officers of the Departments of Justice and Lands revealed late in 1976 that, of the 780,250 rateable properties (freehold and leasehold) owned in Queensland by companies and individuals, 10,820 were owned by companies and individuals who have an address for service of notices outside Australia.

These figures indicated that, at that time, 1.39 per cent of the total number of rateable properties in the State were known to be owned by companies or individuals having an address for service of notice outside Australia.

Although the committee's report produced no evidence to establish that foreign ownership of land in Queensland had reached excessive proportions, or was likely to reach such proportions in the future, nevertheless the Government decided, responsibly, to keep the whole situation under review and if it should at any future time see a need to take action legislatively or otherwise, it will certainly do so.

Such need for control, if and when it arrives, no doubt would include consideration of a register of land held by or in process of being transferred to non-resident, non-Australian residents.

9. ACRE-TYPE DEVELOPMENT ON URBAN FRINGE AREAS

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

(1) Is he aware of the criticism by the Queensland University Regional and Town Planning Department of uncontrolled acre-type development on the fringe of urban areas?

(2) Has the Queensland University Regional and Town Planning Department said that this type of development could prove disastrous to the natural environment, reduce the effectiveness of arterial roads, undermine agricultural economy, compromise future urban expansion and impose unreasonable and uneconomic servicing demands on local authorities?

(3) Has his department looked into the claims made by that department and, if so, what is the result of the investigation and, if not, will he order such an investigation immediately?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am aware that certain comments along the lines referred to have been made in the Press from time to time and that the matter has been discussed at planning workshops arranged by the University of Queensland.

The Department of Local Government has not specifically examined the criticisms of uncontrolled acreage subdivision in urban fringe areas made by the university, since the problems of this type of development are well known to departmental officers. In fact departmental officers have been alerting local authorities to the potential problems for several years.

Also, it must be stressed that controls are available and are imposed on all types of subdivision through town planning schemes, local authority by-laws and the Local Government Act. If the honourable member has any specific locality in mind in which he considers there is lack of control, I will be pleased to have the particular case examined.

10. BONDS LODGED BY AUCTIONEERS, AGENTS AND CAR DEALERS

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

(1) With reference to the bonds required to be lodged by auctioneers, commission agents and car sales proprietors, are these bonds designed to safeguard against default by the registered person?

(2) At what stage may these bonds be used to reimburse creditors?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The bonds to which the honourable member refers were discontinued on the introduction of the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971.

This Act provides for the establishment of a Fidelity Guarantee Fund to which all licensees are required to contribute and which provides a facility for reimbursing persons suffering a pecuniary loss as provided for in the Act.

11. COMMUNITY HOME CARE MEANS TEST

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

(1) What means test is used to assess a person's eligibility for Community Home Care?

(2) Does this means test apply to income or assets?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Staff from the Community Home Care Service will visit on request or accept referral of clients without any consideration of financial circumstances.

Home help assistance is provided through the Community Home Care Programme at no cost to persons in receipt of a full age, invalid or widow's pension plus full supplementary assistance pursuant to the Social Service Act.

Applicants for home help assistance other than the pensioners previously mentioned are requested to furnish details of their income, assets and liabilities to enable an assessment to be made of their ability to pay for assistance provided. Staff making this assessment have the ability to waive or reduce the fee for service in necessitous circumstances.

12. ILLEGAL MIGRATION OF PAPUAN WORKERS TO QUEENSLAND

Mr. Hansen, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services—

(1) Have any complaints been made to the Commonwealth Government regarding the number of New Guineans illegally entering Queensland or being brought here?

(2) Has he any information about these people being employed for as little as \$7 per week?

Answers:—

(1) As already indicated to the honourable member, this is a matter within the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. No approaches have been made to the State Migration Office on the subject.

(2) No.

13. PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION BUILDINGS

Mr. Shaw, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education—

(1) How many buildings have been designed and erected in Queensland for the purpose of providing pre-school education?

(2) How many of these buildings are not being used either wholly or in part for the purpose for which they were originally intended?

(3) Where are these buildings situated?

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Answers:—

(1) I would like to answer the honourable member's question in terms of the number of units built rather than the number of separate buildings. As he would know, some pre-school buildings house more than one unit. At present, there are some 505 State pre-school units in operation, as well as 70 early education classes operating in small primary schools.

Some of the units in operation comprise facilities which have been "handed over" to the Department of Education by various kindergarten associations. These number some 24 units. As well, there are a further 24 units which are operating in interim or temporary facilities, located either in existing primary or special buildings or in buildings rented from local organisations. These approaches have provided an alternative and economical approach to the provision of pre-school facilities.

All 70 early education facilities are operating in existing primary schools, and have usually involved some remodelling work rather than separate buildings.

(2) Of the pre-school units which were specifically built for pre-school classes, there are only nine units which are not being used exclusively for pre-school classes. These are in multi-unit centres and in areas where enrolments have fallen off or not lived up to expectation. The facilities are not lying idle, as the honourable member is implying, but are being used for activities associated with pre-school education or other functions of my department. For example, some units are being used by the Special Education Branch of my department. In another case, approval has been given for a Community Health Services Centre to be established temporarily in one unit.

(3) The units being used for other educational purposes are located at Acacia Ridge, Craigslea, Currumbin, Gabbabar, Kenmore South, Mt. Gravatt South, Musgrave Hill, Stafford and Wavell Heights.

14. HOSPITAL FOR WYNNUM

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

As the scheduled time for the erection of a hospital in Wynnum has long since passed, can he advise when it is anticipated that tenders may be called for this project?

Answer:—

As the honourable member would be aware, a site has been selected at Whites Road, Manly, for the construction of a peripheral hospital. Anticipated time for commencement of construction is dependent upon completion of detailed planning and is subject to the availability of finance.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BAN ON STREET MARCHES

Mr. HOUSTON: I ask the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police: Is he aware that the Commissioner of Police, in his annual report dated 31 October 1977, said that public behaviour in the streets had been generally good throughout the year? In these circumstances, why was it necessary in September to change a law that the Police Commissioner a month later believed was obviously working well and enjoying public respect? In view of the commissioner's recent statement to the Press Club that he was overseas at the time of the change and, therefore, not consulted, will he advise Parliament now who the Government's main adviser on the legislation was?

Mr. CAMM: If the honourable member reads the newspapers and is conversant with the activities of his own party, he will remember that before the Government introduced the legislation there was agitation about the shipment of uranium and that a prominent member of the A.L.P. said then, "There will be blood on the streets if Queensland attempts to shift uranium." He said that he would organise marches, that he would have marchers marching to Parliament House, and that if the Government provided for an appeal to a stipendiary magistrate, he would have picketing of the Magistrates Court. That is why the legislation was brought in—to protect the magistrates and ensure that they would not be subjected to the attentions of the radical element associated with the A.L.P.

TOY MANUFACTURED BY DEVENCO LTD.

Mr. NEAL: I ask the Minister for Health: Has he seen a device with a concealable needle, designed to penetrate the skin when pressure is applied to it, which is manufactured by Devenco Ltd., Melbourne, Australia, for distribution through toy shops? Does he consider such a device to be a suitable toy for children? What diseases could result from a skin puncture by this unsterile needle? What action can he take to have this so-called toy removed from sale in shops?

Dr. EDWARDS: It has been brought to my attention this morning by the honourable member that this so-called toy is available in the market-place in the community. Time and time again I have placed on record the Government's policy regarding the availability of such toys within the community. We do have power under the relevant Act to deal with such unsuitable toys or implements that are available in the market-place. I appreciate the honourable member's action in drawing this to my attention. I assure him that I will have my officers look at it and, if necessary, take the appropriate action.

I want to place it on record that this Government will not tolerate this type of misleading and inappropriate action by certain manufacturers in the community. Recently the Government took action regarding a statement made by a leading, world-wide perfume company. It brought a perfume into Australia under the name "Opium", thus giving to that particular illicit drug some semblance of respectability. We deplore that kind of attitude. That kind of senseless irresponsibility is to be deplored. The Government's action is now being supported not only by the majority of people in this State but also by many other States in the Commonwealth and nations overseas where this perfume will now be banned. The whole principle behind the Government's action is to make certain that there are available only those articles that are of value and benefit to the community.

I thank the honourable member for drawing the matter to my attention. I assure him that my officers will inspect the apparatus today and, if necessary, take action later today.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES ON COMMUNITY

Mr. MILLINER: I ask the Premier: In view of the tremendous impact that technology is having on the community, will he set up a select committee of inquiry to investigate all aspects of technological change and bring forward recommendations that will benefit the whole of society, not just a select few?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: All of us appreciate the tremendous impact that technological advances in all directions have had on industry and the community generally. I would remind the honourable member that, as was reported in the media recently, the Commonwealth Government has instigated an inquiry into this matter. We in Queensland are co-operating. I think that answers the the honourable member's question.

POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO BREAKING AND ENTERING OF MR. SERISIER'S OFFICE

Mrs. KYBURZ: I ask the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police: In view of the public disquiet that has been expressed over the facts surrounding the alleged breaking and entering of Mr. Serisier's office on the day before the sitting of the royal commission into the Federal redistribution, when will the police report on the incident be released?

Mr. CAMM: I thought that this case had been dealt with. The police made a thorough investigation of the matter and were satisfied that they had arrested the person responsible for the breaking and entering. However, the matter has been resurrected by the member

for Rockhampton, who has been most outspoken in his comments appearing in newspaper articles. However, I notice that he has been absent from Parliament all this week. I challenged him to put all his allegations in writing and to submit them to me by way of a question in this House. That would have given the people of Queensland an opportunity to see how he feels about the matter. If he were to ask me such a question, I would answer fully the allegations that have been made by him and published in the Press.

I say to the honourable member for Salisbury that the police are quite satisfied that they have carried out all the necessary inquiries and they have reported to me on the case. I can see no reason why the investigation should be widened. Obviously the honourable member for Rockhampton senses a Watergate-type affair or, alternatively, is trying to ward off some adverse publicity that might be coming his way.

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF LICENSING BRANCH

Mr. KRUGER: I ask the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police: Is it his intention to move the officer in charge of the Licensing Branch to another section? If so, what is the reason, especially when that officer is doing such a good job and his honesty and integrity have never been questioned?

Mr. CAMM: The officer in charge or an officer from the Licensing Branch?

Mr. KRUGER: The officer in charge.

Mr. CAMM: It is not my intention to remove the officer in charge. The list of transfers of commissioned officers in the Police Force will be submitted to me by the commissioner and taken to Cabinet next week. Obviously there has been a leak somewhere and the honourable member has been told something that I know nothing about. It is not my intention at the present time to make such a transfer. It will depend upon the recommendations of the commissioner and the assistant commissioners, who confer on transfers and appointments of commissioned officers. The commissioner brings the list to me and we discuss it before I take it to Cabinet. However, at the present time I know nothing about the transfer of any officer from any section of the Police Force to another. Next Tuesday I will be taking the list to Cabinet and endeavouring to have it agreed to by Cabinet. There will be a flying minute and the honourable member will be able to read all about it in the paper next Wednesday.

SUSPENSION OF MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

Mr. KRUGER: I ask the Premier: Will he suspend from office the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads pending a judicial inquiry into his actions and those

of the officers and the administrator of the Gold Coast City Council in the rezoning of Burleigh Heads land owned by the Minister for Local Government?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am sure that the honourable member would have read my statement on this matter, in which I said I have complete confidence in the Minister and that I have no intention—

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You had complete confidence in Milan Brych.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I should like to conduct an inquiry into a few Labor members.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Archerfield under Standing Order 123A. I have told him on previous occasions that I will not countenance interjections while a Minister is on his feet. I ask all honourable members to obey that instruction.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Labor members had their own inquiry. Their executive is most unhappy. I know that they are engaged completely in their own inquiry. But there is no way in the world that there will be an inquiry into the Minister for Local Government. I have made that quite clear. I have also made it quite clear that Cabinet considered the whole matter carefully and that we accept everything completely. Honourable members opposite, instead of going on with all of this hoo-ha, should direct attention to their own fellows, and they might then have more chance of getting on the right track.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PARKS ON BRIBIE ISLAND

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation: Will he assure the House that, before he declares any parks on Bribie Island in response to the representations of some of the ratbags down there who call themselves environmentalists, he will give consideration to receiving deputations from some sensible people, who want parks placed in areas which will suit the majority of people?

Mr. NEWBERRY: Yes.

WINE INDUSTRY ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.4 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Wine Industry Act 1974 and the Liquor Act 1912–1978 each in certain particulars and for another purpose.”

The amendments to each Act deal solely with the production and sale of wine. While it is considered that the changes will have little effect on the liquor industry generally, the Bill introduces significant administrative changes which will substantially benefit Queensland wine makers. The primary purpose of the amendments is to remove some of the problems that our wine producers face in promoting their wines. They are also to facilitate the on-farm sale of wine, particularly to the tourist trade.

As honourable members will recall, the Wine Industry Act was introduced in 1974 to assist Queensland wine growers in establishing a viable wine industry. The Liquor Act was amended at about the same time and it was believed that the two pieces of legislation would complement each other in this regard. However, the benefit gained from the earlier amendments was not as great as was expected, and it is now proposed to amend both Acts simultaneously to remove the problems that have arisen since 1974.

The amending Bill seeks to modify the three-tiered system of wine makers as it presently exists. Under the proposed system, the three categories will now be restricted vigneron, vigneron and vigneron vintner.

Whereas under the present system the restricted vigneron is under the control of the Liquor Act as a "grower and maker of wine", he will in the future be regarded as a restricted vigneron and registered under the Wine Industry Act. The vigneron previously registered as such under the Wine Industry Act was also required to be licensed under the Liquor Act. This situation will no longer continue. Supervision of the vigneron will also be by way of the Wine Industry Act exclusively and there will be no requirement for him to license his on-farm operations. The vigneron vintner classification remains basically unchanged, with his second wine outlet continuing to be licensed under the Liquor Act.

The reason for these three categories of wine maker is that basically the restricted vigneron will be confined to the small-production wineries; the vigneron will be the producer who has moved to a larger scale of operation and is serving the public through premises which will be required to be of reasonably high standard; while the vigneron vintner will be the vigneron whose production and quality standards have allowed him to avail himself of the second outlet for the sale of his products.

The conditions of production and sale of the restricted vigneron will remain substantially as they are now. Since many restricted vignerons operate small family-run operations and have a regular but limited clientele, it is the intention of the Bill to allow these people to continue in this manner. They will continue to be limited to selling on six days a week with a minimum sale quantity of nine litres (12 bottles), which is exactly as it is now.

However, a wine maker who desires to make some investment in the industry and take advantage of the tourist trade, or generally move into operations on a larger scale, may seek registration as a vigneron. He will be restricted to sales from his place of production only and will be permitted to sell only his own wines. Naturally the standards for registration as a vigneron will be higher than those required of a restricted vigneron, but the standards will be consistent with those that exist within the wine industry generally throughout Australia.

Should a vigneron wish to further expand his business, he may seek registration under the Wine Industry Act as a vigneron vintner. By doing this he acquires the right to apply to the Licensing Commission for a licence permitting him to sell any Australian wines from one outlet other than the place of production of his wine. He will, however, be required to sell a prescribed percentage of his own wines from these licensed premises.

The application to the Licensing Commission will be made in the normal manner and will be dealt with by the commission under the provisions of the Liquor Act as they now stand.

All sales from the licensed premises will be subject to a licence fee and the administration of these premises will rest with the commission.

Before a vigneron can apply for registration as a vigneron vintner he will need to meet certain requirements with regard to the area of grapes or fruit under cultivation or the amount of wine produced each year. It is anticipated that only the best wine makers, interested in developing modern marketing techniques, will reach the stage of registration as vigneron vintners.

As a further benefit, a group of growers may form a co-operative association under the Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act and, provided that their combined operations are large enough and provided further that proper standards of production are maintained, the co-operative may seek registration as a vigneron vintner.

All wine sales by all vignerons will be permitted only in unopened containers. No open-bottle sales will be entertained.

The amendments to the Wine Industry Act will provide for the setting of standards of construction and hygiene of premises by way of regulation. As a consequence, it has been necessary to provide for the appointment of inspectors and other officers to carry these standards into effect. It is proposed that these duties will be allocated to existing staff. However, the normal safeguards with regard to the entry to dwelling-houses have been included as has a right for a person to appeal to a magistrate against any order of an inspector.

While the legislation will not directly encourage increased production, it will facilitate the promotion of wines and lead eventually to the recognition of quality wines

made in Queensland. It will allow the vignerons to establish their brand names in the market-place. Consequently, this will allow the wine maker interested in developing and improving his product to invest money in his project and so increase employment opportunities.

The amendments to the Liquor Act introduced by this Bill are of a completely machinery nature. They change the name of the licence currently available to a vigneron vintner from a vigneron's licence to a vigneron vinter's licence. This keeps the description of persons in both of the Acts consistent, and this process accounts for most of the changes to the Act.

A significant change to the Liquor Act, however, is the change associated with licence fees. While the licence fees on the vigneron's own wine sales at his second outlet will be assessed exactly as they are now, sales of wines other than those that he produces himself will be assessed at a substantially increased rate. These licence fees are considered realistic because, in practice, the vigneron vintner will be selling principally his own wines.

The amending Bill will update the legislation and allow Queensland wine makers to participate in the lucrative tourist wine sale trade, particularly tourists returning to southern States.

The provisions to be introduced administratively concerning the purchase of fruit and grapes for wine-making should assist the whole fruit-growing industry, particularly in times of over-production or hail damage.

This Bill, I believe, will enable our wine producers to promote their wines more effectively and will lead to a greater recognition of the types and quality of wines capable of being produced in Queensland. I am hopeful that it will lead to the growth of what could be an important rural industry for our State.

I commend the Bill to the Committee.

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (12.15 p.m.): The Queensland wine industry today faces a considerable number of problems and difficulties, one being that our production is insignificant compared with that of the major producers in other States. The Queensland industry has to compete against the recognised makers throughout Australia such as those in the Barossa Valley and other areas in South Australia, which produce something like 60 per cent of Australia's total production, the Murray Valley, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, the Hunter Valley and even the Swan River area in Western Australia, the wines from which are now building up a very good reputation for quality throughout Australia.

During the period 1967 to 1972 the production of wine grapes in all States increased substantially. There was a tremendous increase in plantings in that period and consequently we now find ourselves with surplus production. We have also encountered great

difficulty in marketing our wines overseas. I think Canada is now our best customer. At one stage it was Great Britain, but our sales to that country have been restricted since she entered the European Economic Community. So we face a surplus, particularly in red wines, and I understand that currently most of Queensland's production is red wine. The other good wines we produce also face stiff competition from established companies.

I was pleased to hear the Minister say that we are not trying to increase production at this stage. I think that would be most unwise. Other States are at present undertaking programmes to cut back on the production of wine. They are encouraging growers to go out of production of grapes for wine, and so there is no point in our helping anyone to expand at this stage. In the past 12 months I think that growers have received from the Commonwealth Government, through the Australian Agricultural Council, \$2,500,000, together with matching grants from the States under the Rural Adjustment Scheme, to allow them to phase out grape production or cover carry-on expenses, as happened under the beef assistance programme. Some of these funds have been used to encourage and promote the sale of Queensland wines within Queensland.

It is regrettable that the Australian Wine Board is really only a promotional and research authority. It does not seem to do a great deal of other work, in this State, anyhow, as far as I am aware. Certainly it does fund the Wine Research Institute, and there is a need for a lot more development in that field if we are going to be competitive on the world wine scene. I am talking in the broad sense about Australian wines, but if they are successful it follows that Queensland quality wines will also be successful.

Unfortunately, the Australian Wine Board really has nothing to do with the marketing side, and yet this is where there is a great void in the industry at present. In that context the Bill does not go far enough. No mention is made of any attempt to overcome the marketing problem. It is all very well catering for the tourist trade, but we do not want to be just selling cheap plonk to tourists, so to speak. We want to establish Queensland wine as quality wine that is recognised as such not only in the areas where it is produced but right throughout Queensland and, indeed, Australia.

The marketing of wine in Australia is in the hands of the big wine makers. They are responsible for over a quarter of Australia's entire wine production and they control marketing tightly. So they have a head start, so to speak, in ensuring that the industry does whatever they want it to do. Unfortunately, in the past and even today the wine industry is subject to even more market manipulations than the beef industry. The South Australian Prices Commissioner has stepped in and now plays a key role in

prices paid to wine grape producers. In fact, he sets a minimum price for wine grapes so that the growers are not being ripped off by the major Australian wine companies.

Even the very conservative Liberal Government of Victoria is now preparing to follow suit, as is the Labor Government of New South Wales. Growers there are being given some protection, and consideration must be given to providing similar protection for growers in Queensland. It is no good talking about three different gradings of vignerons to look after outlets for wine if they are to continue to run into the problems of controlled marketing of table and fermented wines that are already recognised throughout Australia as being of high quality.

At this stage, that appears to me to be one of the big problems. Members of the Opposition will, of course, study the Bill and give it careful consideration, but I do not think that its provisions will stop manipulation from across the border, and the wine industry in Queensland is being manipulated, as it is in other States.

I mentioned earlier the concern that exists about surpluses, and I understand that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is preparing a report—it might even have completed it at this stage—in an endeavour to forecast supply and demand in Australia five years ahead. Such a forecast is essential because of the methods and techniques used in growing grapes and the time it takes to produce new wines. We must hasten slowly in taking action until the report is received from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Minister and his officers and the people engaged in the wine industry in Queensland have had a good opportunity of studying it and appreciating what they will be up against in coming years.

Unfortunately, few areas in Queensland are suitable for growing grapes for wine-making. I know that the Minister has a good taste for wine and usually makes an excellent choice, and he recognises that the better wines come not only from certain varieties of grapes but from areas in which the climate and the type of country are suitable for grape-growing. We cannot alter the land that is available in Queensland, and we cannot produce quality wines if land is unsuitable for grape-growing.

One provision of the proposed Bill that I like very much relates to getting growers into co-operatives—and I think that the honourable member for Carnarvon will agree with this, too—so that they may take out a major licence on a co-operative basis and all benefit. That is a very desirable aspect of the policy that Labor has followed down through the years, and I am happy to see the Minister incorporating good Labor policy in Bills that he introduces from time to time.

We must also ensure—and this will probably be the most difficult task in administering the Act—that places that are licensed in the way in which the Minister mentioned

should try to attain a high standard in wine-making. I reiterate that the industry in this State will not do any good if it tries to sell off cheap plonk to visitors so that they can say they have bought a Queensland wine to try. I know that there are some excellent Queensland wines. The honourable member for Carnarvon has brought samples from his area, and over the years Bassetts at Roma have had a very high reputation for certain types of wine, of which their port was probably the best. It must be remembered that certain areas at Roma have gone out of production. That is one matter that we must look at very carefully in administering the Act. We must continually seek to produce wine of a higher quality.

We are not competing only with other States. The European Economic Community has huge surpluses and the wine growers in the E.E.C. are receiving support subsidies similar to those being given to other industries, and we know how detrimental that is to the two major primary industries in this State, the beef industry and the sugar industry. Our infant wine industry, too, does suffer and will suffer from that policy. Over the last few years we have noticed a considerable drop in the prices of many of the imported wines shown on the wine lists of various hotels and restaurants in this State. It is a grave problem that we have to face.

We are competing against quality wines from all over the world. The administration of the Act has to be right up to scratch to ensure that Queensland produces quality wines and gains a reputation for doing so, which is something that will be beneficial to all Queensland producers.

Mr. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (12.26 p.m.): I support the Bill; it is a wonderful thing for the wine industry in Queensland. I would like to speak about some of the benefits of the wine industry to Queensland. It is well known that the major wine-producing area in this State is in the Granite Belt, which is in my electorate. Probably one of the greatest advantages of the Bill to the Granite Belt is the fact that it will increase the income of that area as a whole. It will help the Granite Belt to become more diversified. In these days of problems in primary industry, diversification is a must if both people and districts as a whole are to survive and gain maximum economic advantage.

I am certain that by encouraging tourism the Bill will bring more people to the Granite Belt. The wine industry has already had this effect. Naturally there will be a similar effect in other areas of the State. However, I believe that the major effect on tourism will be felt in the Granite Belt. I say that because it has a climate that is very suitable for wine-making. In addition, of course, the district has excellent national parks, and it will become a major tourist area—if it is not that already.

The tourist industry can be built around the fascination and the leisure image that the wine industry generates. The wine industry will add to Queensland's prestige, as the public image is enhanced by the production of quality wines. The physical nature of the region ensures that with proper techniques and capitalisation the industry can produce a quality wine of international standard in the Granite Belt. Although I am not saying that that will not happen in other areas of the State, I am sure that the Granite Belt is ideally situated to lead Queensland in the production of high-quality table wines.

The wine industry in the Granite Belt has an interesting background. It has been promoted largely by the Italian community. The people in the Granite Belt—indeed, all the people of Queensland—owe a great debt of gratitude to the Italian community for the pioneering work done in the wine industry. With the hard work and dedication of the wine makers in the Stanthorpe region, especially over the last 20 years, the industry has developed and improved significantly. Australians generally have become more aware of the benefits and availability of wine as a beverage. The sensible and logical way to drink alcohol is with meals, because it is then taken in a relaxed, convivial atmosphere. For those reasons, the wine industry should be encouraged.

In more-recent years the Granite Belt growers have moved from the supply of bulk table wine to the production of a variety of high-quality wines in bottles and flagons. They have achieved this by several means. First of all, they are now planting specialist grape varieties, and this has gone a long way towards improving the quality of Queensland wines. The fact that the people on the Granite Belt have accepted, and spent a lot of money on purchasing, modern wine-making facilities is important. They are using modern wine-making techniques. For example, they now have selected yeast strains; they have modern wine presses; they are adopting modern filtration methods; they have constructed suitable buildings to ensure quality storage; and they are using stainless-steel tanks and equipment.

I hasten to assure the people of Queensland that wine stored in stainless-steel containers, or in fibreglass tanks, is just as good as wine stored in the old oak cask. With modern technology the oak flavour can be derived by putting additives into stainless-steel and fibreglass tanks. The provision of hygienic bottle-washing and bottle-filling equipment is also an important aspect of the wine industry.

I am pleased to see that the Minister and the Government have agreed to bring the on-farm operations of the wine industry in Queensland under the control of the Department of Primary Industries instead of under the provisions of the Liquor Act. I believe that the local D.P.I. officers are fully conversant with the problems confronting the on-farm operation and are better able to

serve the industry than someone in the Licensing Commission. Although I do not wish to cast any reflections on the Licensing Commission, it is a fact of life that the D.P.I. officers live closer to the growers.

The wine industry in my area has taken advantage of the excellent work done by the deciduous section group committee of the C.O.D. and by the Department of Primary Industries in research extension work. I wish to pay particular tribute to the D.P.I. officers who have assisted the wine industry not only in extension work but also in providing the most suitable varieties of vine for cultivation.

In recent times large amounts of private capital have been invested in the development of this industry and many years will pass before profitable returns on capital can be achieved. I know people who have spent thousands and thousands of dollars on upgrading the standard of their wineries and I congratulate them on the pioneering spirit they have displayed in getting this industry off the ground. Some of the pioneers in the production of quality wines are the Zanatta brothers and Angelo Puglisi. They deserve special mention. In later years many newcomers entered the industry and before long their names will become as well known as those of the pioneers.

Currently three vineyards on the Granite Belt have tasting rooms and facilities for bottle sales. Two more will be opening within the next 18 months. Most vigneronns seek to produce limited quantities of high-quality wines for sale to tourists or by mail order. However, the grower and maker of wine may continue to concentrate on selling bulk wine to his traditional buyers. It is very important that we allow the traditional grower and maker of wine to continue to operate and, we hope, as has been the case in the past, without too much Government supervision. When the Bill is printed, I will very carefully check that aspect. However, I am confident that he will be allowed to carry on very much as he has in the past.

With the vineyards at Stanthorpe allying themselves with the development of the tourist industry, the Granite Belt will enjoy increased population and standards of living. The district is one of striking beauty and has great advantages over other areas in Queensland for the production of high-quality wine, which will be recognised by the people of Queensland. The district is very similar to the Beaujolais district in France. For that reason, even overseas people have shown an interest in establishing a stake in the wine industry in Stanthorpe. That ensures that the Granite Belt has as good a future as the Hunter Valley of New South Wales and the Barossa Valley of South Australia. I have spoken with a representative of a very well-known overseas wine company and he has assured me that the production figures of the Stanthorpe region are better than

those of many of the famous wine-growing areas in France. In his opinion, the quality at Stanthorpe is just as good.

What this infant industry needs—I call it an infant industry because, although it has been in existence for some years, it is only relatively recently that it has become known in Queensland—is a spread of trading hours that takes into account tourist patronage. For example, there is a need to trade on Sundays. I am pleased that the Bill takes account of that by allowing vigneron to trade on Sunday, as they have done in the past. Because of its very nature, this legislation will encourage more wine makers to take up the advantages offered by registering as vignerons.

There needs to be scope within the legislation for the establishment by producers of retail outlets on main highways as demand grows in the future. The Minister has given the assurance that vignerons, when they reach a certain stage of development, will be able to apply to the Licensing Commission to register as vigneron vintners. I was pleased to hear him say in his opening remarks that the licence fee for the vigneron vintner's produce sold at the second outlet will act as an incentive to sell. I hope that that will encourage people to register as vigneron vintners in the future.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. McKECHNIE: Do I drink any of their grog? I would not call it grog. I think it is much nicer than that. It is wonderful and I enjoy drinking it.

The CHAIRMAN: I am so offended by the use of that word when the honourable member is speaking about Australian wine that I am tempted to call order.

Mr. McKECHNIE: That is true. It is a very tasty drink and I would not refer to it as grog.

There needs to be a moratorium on charges and levies on vineyards to allow recovery of the large amount of capital investment in equipment and to offset the cost of freight on materials such as bottles and corks.

I am particularly pleased that the Minister has accepted the need for co-operatives of vignerons and vintners because a very large outlay is required to establish the second outlet, which may be beyond the capacity of some of the small wine makers. It will be wonderful for them and for my district as a whole if they can form co-operatives.

The hotel industry, in my area at least, will be assisted by the provision restricting sales to wine. Beer will not be sold. Even if hotels lose a little on the sale of wines, their future sales of beer will be increased vastly because the wine industry will attract more tourists to the Stanthorpe area. Because some of them will drink beer as well as wine the hotel industry stands to benefit from this legislation.

The main check on the steady development of this important and adventurous primary industry would be a premature attempt to make it a source of State revenue. The industry is in a position to provide Queensland with a bright new facet to its commercial and tourist image, both nationally and internationally. It can provide the base for building a viable, decentralised tourist industry on the Granite Belt.

Some time ago I brought from my area some wine for honourable members to sample. I am very pleased at the wonderful reception it was given by most of them.

Mr. Sullivan: Unfortunately I was away that day.

Mr. McKECHNIE: I can assure the Minister that he will receive some in the future.

Because honourable members come from all parts of Queensland, it is important that the wine available in the House be of top quality so that it can be promoted by them in all parts of the State. Therefore, I will be suggesting to the Queensland Wine Makers' Association that it exercise voluntary control over the types of wine brought here so that only the best are served in the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms. That is a very sensible suggestion.

I pay a tribute to the Queensland Wine Makers' Association. When we were seeking suggestions on how this legislation should be amended, I suggested to some of the people involved in this industry that they form an association to represent the industry rather than have it represented by individuals who would not necessarily speak for all producers. I believe that the Queensland Wine Makers' Association, led by Preben Jacobsen and John Robinson, have done a very good job in putting up a case for amendments to the Act and they have been a great help to the Minister for Primary Industries (Mr. Sullivan), the Honourable Ken Tomkins and me in the discussions that we have had with D.P.I. officers.

I would also like to thank Herb Bonny, the D.P.I. officer who has been responsible for doing most of the work on this Bill. He has displayed particular dedication, and I am sure the industry would like me to pass on its thanks to Mr. Bonny.

I commend the Bill to the Committee and look forward to making further comments on the workings of the Act during the second-reading debate.

Mr. VAUGHAN (Nudgee) (12.46 p.m.): I feel I must say a few words about this Bill because I believe there is a great necessity for Queensland to have its own wine-making industry and to be able to produce good wines at a reasonable price. They should be marketed efficiently so that the general public are able to attain them at a reasonable price in restaurants throughout the State. I felt I had to say a few words about this topic because until a few years ago there

was a vineyard in the Nudgee electorate called Childs' Winery. I was a bit young to know much about it, but I understand that although it produced only a modest amount it ran a very good winery. It was situated on Nudgee Road on the route to Cribb Island and quite a few residents of Cribb Island partook of the products of that winery.

Mr. Frawley: My grandfather used to buy it for his hotel.

Mr. VAUGHAN: It was very good wine, and I understand Childs ran a very good winery. In fact, Mr. Childs still lives in the area.

An Honourable Member: It was plonk.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Some people called it plonk, just as some people today refer to even the best wine as plonk. And some of what are supposed to be the best wines are in fact plonk.

I make the point that the quality of wine should not be judged on the price that may be charged for it. Quite a number of wines sold in restaurants at very fancy prices do not in fact live up to the price.

Mr. Frawley: We used to buy it for a shilling a bottle in Mildura when I was in the Air Force. It was good wine.

Mr. VAUGHAN: That was quite a long time ago. I can see that the honourable member has aged, as all good wine should, and that it has had the desired effect on him.

I commend the people in the Stanthorpe area for entering this very competitive industry. As my colleague the honourable member for Mackay said, we are all aware that the wines produced in South Australia and in the Hunter Valley are regarded as some of the best in Australia. I am sure most of us have been down to those areas and have partaken of their wines. I am glad to see the industry developing up here, but I would emphasise that, while it is one thing to develop and produce a wine, it is another to market it successfully. The most important thing, particularly from the consumers' point of view, is that the price charged for the wine must be in keeping with the costs of its production.

Mr. McKechnie: Would you agree that, if you sell good wine cheap, a lot of consumers won't buy it?

Mr. VAUGHAN: I was going to touch on that point. We have all had the experience of ordering from wine lists in restaurants. The head waiter comes to the person at the head of the table and produces the wine list, and the person to whom the wine list is produced is obliged to go down the list and select a wine. If a customer is distinguished looking, and asks the head waiter which wine he recommends, the head waiter, to make an impression, will rattle off some name like cabernet sauvignon. I believe that restaurants trade on that. If the customer

looked down the wine list, probably he would find that the wine recommended by the head waiter was among the dearest on the list.

Mr. Frawley: They rob you; they are a mob of thieves.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I sincerely believe that wine is grossly overpriced, and I suggest seriously that that is having a detrimental effect on the wine-making industry. One of the reasons why I participated in the debate was that I wished to make that point to Queensland wine makers. I think that all honourable members who have sampled the wines produced in Queensland would agree that, if not of the highest quality, they are at least comparable with wines produced interstate or overseas. They are very good wines and will stand the test among wines listed at any restaurant.

Let me get back to the price structure. If you go to some of the wine wholesalers, Mr. Hewitt, or those who are supposed to be wholesalers, you will see advertisements stating that wines are available at wholesale prices. I say "wholesale" advisedly because, in my opinion, the prices that they charge are not true wholesale prices. If you are in the know, of course, you may be able to get wine through people who can buy it in dozen lots at a reasonable price. Recently I ordered two dozen bottles of wine and I was surprised at the price at which they could be purchased—something like \$20 for a dozen. It was not plonk; it was good-quality wine. If you go to a wine merchant and see the same wine on the counter, it will be much dearer than that. If you go to the bottle department of an hotel, you will see that there is a further mark-up on it.

A wine that I found rather pleasant to drink was Seppelts' Spritzig rosé.

An Honourable Member: Crackling rosé.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Yes, in the fancy bottle. It is like Mateus rosé, but it is certainly nowhere near the same price. I think one can buy Mateus over the counter in a bottle department now for about \$4 a bottle, but if one goes into a restaurant the price is \$7 to \$9 a bottle. \$7 to \$9 for a bottle of wine! Anybody who wishes to drink imported wine must expect to pay for it. However, let me get back to Spritzig rosé.

Mr. Bishop: Haven't you heard of penalty rates in restaurants?

Mr. VAUGHAN: I have heard of penalty rates in restaurants, but I have not heard of penalty rates to any extent in the wine-making industry. People involved in the production of wine work only 40 hours a week, as I understand it, through the wine-making season. I must confess that not long ago I went through the Orlando vineyard in South Australia while the wine was being processed. I was very impressed by the efficiency of the operation, and I do not think that penalty rates come into it.

When one looks at the bottle of wine produced by the winery, it is produced at a reasonable price. Probably an ordinary bottle of moselle or Riesling would be produced for much less than a dollar—perhaps as little as 50c. However, if one follows the price structure of that wine through to the restaurant, one sees how the price increases. For example, Ben Ean moselle can probably be bought for much less than a dollar a bottle when bought by the dozen, at the bottle department of an hotel it costs about \$1.86 to \$1.96, and in a restaurant it will probably cost in excess of \$4. I suggest that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise have a look at the wine list in the Parliamentary Refreshment Room at lunch-time.

Mr. Bishop: It costs you \$5 an hour to serve it.

Mr. VAUGHAN: If the honourable member goes to the "Allegro" or one of the other restaurants in town at lunch-time, during ordinary working hours when no penalty rates apply, he will find that there is no difference between the price of a bottle of wine then and the price that is charged if he has a similar bottle of wine there at 11 o'clock tonight. In my opinion, penalty rates have been imposed many times over, and I do not believe that it is for the good of the industry for people to go to restaurants and be charged up to \$4 and \$5 for a bottle of wine that probably would be available for much less than \$1 a bottle if bought in dozen lots or at wholesale rates.

I will come back to the point I was making when I was distracted. The person ordering for a party in a restaurant is handed a wine list and then the wine waiter hovers around. Usually that person feels that if he chooses a cheap wine he will be regarded as a bit of a peasant. In those circumstances people try to bung it on a little bit, particularly in the flash restaurants. They act as if they know what they are talking about and say, "We will take that one, and that one."

A Government Member: The honourable member for Woodridge bungs it on a bit.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I won't come into that. No, he doesn't do that. As a matter of fact, he is rather a connoisseur of wines.

Mr. Austin: If you throw a bunch of grapes up into the air does it come down "plonk"?

Mr. VAUGHAN: It depends on whose head it lands on.

In a recent Press report there was a suggestion that there should be some price control on wines. I think something should be done about the prices that are charged for wines in restaurants. If the discriminating diner wants to look after his pocket and not be slogged with a 300, 400 or 500 per cent mark-up on wine prices, he goes to a B.Y.O. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise posed a question about penalty

rates. When a person patronises a B.Y.O. restaurant, the only extra he pays for his wine is a modest corkage fee. A person can buy a bottle of Ben Ean moselle at the wholesale price, say less than \$1, chill it himself at very moderate cost, and then take it to a B.Y.O. restaurant and have it with his meal without being slogged. It is my advice to all wine drinkers that it is not always the dearest wine on the list that is the best wine. Personnel of the Wine Information Bureau are always prepared to advise anyone who wants to organise a wine and cheese party. I am proud to say that I have conducted successful wine and cheese parties. Every possible assistance is given by the people at the Wine Information Bureau. They provide a very good service for the wine-consuming public.

As to the winery in the Stanthorpe area selling beer—

Mr. McKechnie: No.

Mr. VAUGHAN: They are not going to sell beer. That is good, because I think they should retain their identity as wine producers.

I do not think it will be too long before we see the brand name of that company on the shelves in local bottle departments. A lot of promotion should be carried out. I would be more than happy to assist in promoting Queensland wines. By the time the current brewery dispute is over, we may all be drinking wine. This could be a great opportunity for people in the Stanthorpe area to promote their wine.

One of the best wines I have tasted was named Burns's Blood and Redbank Red. It came out of a cask. We are misguided about wines. Of course, there are non-alcoholic wines. I have tried them and they are very good. They are easily purchased.

Mr. Gunn: They're not the same.

Mr. VAUGHAN: They are just as good. They do not have to have alcohol in them to be good wines. Perhaps people in the Stanthorpe area should give consideration to marketing a non-alcoholic wine. We all know the problem with drink-driving.

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

Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (2.15 p.m.): As at one stage of my life my family lived fairly close to some people who were what I might term the foundation-stone of the infant industry of wine-making in their area, I have particular pleasure in rising to speak to the Bill.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: They don't make wine in Pittsworth.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Is that right? It is good to see that the honourable member for Archerfield knows his geography.

I have seen the industry in that area grow from one that provided what some people unkindly described as "vinegar" in

bulk to the people in the North, particularly members of the Italian community, to one that is capable of producing products that win gold medals. Over the years the wine industry in this area has advanced tremendously and the area has the potential to produce wine of even higher quality. We would not expect the honourable member for Archerfield to understand the finer points of the wine industry; I believe that he is prepared to drink anything.

The people in this area do not try to ape those in other areas, nor do they produce wine that is exactly the same as anyone else's. They have set out to produce fairly distinctive wines, which I believe will become very well known.

The Bill is the result of co-operation, appreciation and goodwill. People worked together and, with the backing of their local member, the honourable member for Carnarvon, they will see their industry fostered to such an extent that the quality of its product will improve tremendously. Furthermore, I am sure that the Bill will induce more producers to enter the industry and it will also enhance the tourist potential of the area.

In the past tourists used to turn up on Sundays at the front door of local producers asking to buy their wine. They had to be turned away with the comment, "We are very sorry, but it is against the law to sell our wine to you." With the passing of this Bill, however, the producers will be able to cater for both intrastate and interstate tourists who visit the area for the express purpose of seeing for themselves the type of wine industry that we have in Queensland.

Mr. Miller: It is most desirable, isn't it?

Mr. ELLIOTT: My word it is!

We have in the industry a type of three-tier arrangement. The first tier comprises those who produce and sell only their own wines; the next, those who sell their own wines as well as those imported from other areas. As a result of this amendment, we will probably see in the future a co-operative movement working for the betterment of the wine industry and for those growers who cannot afford the equipment and the back-up necessary to take them to the top. I believe that some of them will get together and operate in a co-operative way. The Bill will allow them to do that.

We must realise that the Bill will not only help individual producers but will also do a great deal to further foster employment opportunities in the whole of the Granite Belt area, which has a tremendous potential. The soil in the Granite Belt has the potential to produce very, very good wines. They are different from those produced in some other areas. Although I am not a heavy wine drinker myself, I have been interested to taste some of the Granite Belt wines, which are rather unusual when compared with the South Australian wines.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Wolston should know the geography of the Chamber a little better. He is not in his own place.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Previous speakers have covered most of the technical aspects of the Bill. As a person who has had something to do with that area, I felt that I should speak to it. Recently I was down there and spoke to quite a few of the principal wine makers. I asked them for their opinions on these amendments to the Act. They all expressed a clear appreciation and understanding of it. Obviously the honourable member for Carnarvon has done his homework well. As I said before, the Bill is a clear indication of how good co-operation between the Government, producers and various organisations can overcome practical problems that prevent an industry from gathering momentum. I commend the Minister and those involved in the presentation of this Bill.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (2.23 p.m.): In addressing myself to this Bill, I am mindful of the representations made by the honourable member for Carnarvon on behalf of his electorate. I am also mindful of the encouragement this measure will give to wine producers on the Granite Belt. Because of its climate, that area is suited to the production of wine; but other areas should not be discouraged from wine-making because they do not have the altitude of the Granite Belt. If grapes can be grown in areas as far apart as Stanthorpe and Roma, there must be a lot of land in between where good wines could be made. One of the reasons why Stanthorpe has stolen a march is that its cool climate has enabled not so much the growth of a healthy grape but rather the making of good wines after the grapes have been harvested.

A great deal of technology has been introduced in wine production these days. It is no longer a case of tread the grapes and store the juice. As the honourable member for Carnarvon mentioned, a great deal of technology is employed in getting exactly the right yeast for the grape variety being used. Even more technology is involved in controlling the fermentation of the juice to make the wine. It is in this area in my view technology has brought tremendous advances. Wines can now be produced in warmer areas through the use of refrigeration to cool the wine during fermentation. Insulation and air-conditioning can be used to keep sheds cool, and that is being done to great effect at Roma.

Oxidation comes into the process of wine-making. All members would know that if alcohol is oxidised in the air, it turns to vinegar or acetic acid. Oxidation can be prevented or retarded by spraying with carbon dioxide. Grapes picked on a hot day can be chilled rapidly by being sprayed with carbon dioxide. This causes a little dry ice to form on the grapes. Then they

can be crushed and the juice can be put down. In this way fermentation will commence at the correct temperature.

The hit-and-miss methods that perhaps led to wine-making being referred to as an art are rapidly being replaced by a great amount of technical skill and knowledge, and the men who now make wine are, indeed, chemical scientists.

It will be a long time before bulk carriers haul 2,000 or 3,000 gallons of wine from the Granite Belt to other parts of Queensland. These carriers are used in the irrigated areas of New South Wales and South Australia but, as I said, it will be a long time before they are used here.

The Minister said that small growers who have, say, two, three or five acres will be able to get on with their production of wines by forming co-operatives. This move is to be applauded because it will give the small men a chance to become established in this industry.

It is perhaps true that some of the earlier wines produced in Stanthorpe had a local flavour. Wine buffs might have called them nondescript wines. They could have been described as a blend of a sauterne, a sherry and a tawny port.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: It was known as suicide red.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: It would not be red at all. The honourable member does not know anything about his wines. In fact, it would have been a golden brown.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Mr. McKechnie brought a bottle down for me and it was not the best-tasting wine.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: He was probably trying to get rid of the honourable member. Perhaps the bottle should have been referred to the Minister for Health for analysis.

From those beginnings, Queensland is now showing the early signs of producing champion wines. The wines from this region, under their various labels, are starting to carry off prizes at shows. We can look forward to a small volume of extremely good wine now and, as more and more grapes come into production, we can look forward to wines from this region making an impact on the Australian wine scene. With present-day technology, if the growers in the areas in between can grow the grapes, good wine can be produced.

I do not think that the legislation should encourage the sale of spirits or bottled beer through these wine-selling outlets. They should, at all times, keep to the sale of wines. In this way they will do a great service in promoting the industry in their districts rather than simply setting out to make a profit and make inroads into hotel bottle sales.

I commend the Minister and his department on the great deal of work they have done in the preparation of this Bill. I hope that, following the passage of the Bill, the production of wine in these two areas of the State will increase.

Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (2.29 p.m.), in reply: Because of the condition of my voice, I shall not speak at any length. I thank honourable members on both sides of the Chamber for their acceptance of the Bill. The honourable member for Mackay, who is Opposition spokesman on Primary Industries, and the honourable member for Nudgee accepted the principles of the Bill. The honourable member for Carnarvon, who made a very good speech, was very much involved in the development of this legislation. This is natural because of the importance of the wine industry in his electorate. I am not surprised at the ready acceptance of the Bill. Most of the measures that come forward from the Department of Primary Industries are accepted by members on both sides.

I content myself with those comments and reserve any further discussion on the points raised until the second reading.

Motion (Mr. Sullivan) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Sullivan, read a first time.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (2.33 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Health Act 1937–1976 in certain particulars.”

The definition of an article is to be amended to include toys. This will enable samples of toys to be taken to determine whether they are a potential danger to children and, if so, to enable their removal from sale. This is presently provided for but the Bill will make the legislation clearer.

It is proposed that tattooists be omitted from the definition of “barber” as a new section is to be inserted in the Act to deal with tattooing and ear-piercing. I shall refer further to this later in my speech. The definition of “pesticides” is to be broadened to include rodenticides.

Provision is to be made in the Act to enable agreements which have been entered into for the discharge of waste process water into watercourses to be varied, as this cannot be done at present. These agreements were entered into prior to the commencement of the Clean Waters Act 1971 and are, with the approval of the Governor in Council, between

the Director-General of Health and Medical Services and the companies concerned. Before any variation is of effect, the provisions of the Act required to be complied with in regard to a new agreement will also have to be complied with in respect of the variation.

Division VI of the Act provides for the treatment of leprosy. With modern methods of treatment of this disease and the small number of new cases presenting, an average of four per year, it is considered that the existing provisions are unnecessary. Leprosy is included in those sections of the Act dealing with notifiable and communicable diseases and adequate provision exists in those sections to control the spread of this disease. The Bill therefore provides for the repeal of Division VI of the Act.

The Act does not provide at present for the suspension and cancellation of licences to operate private hospitals and an amendment is to be made to provide this power. The circumstances under which a licence may be suspended or cancelled are to be included in the Act, together with a provision that the licensee must be given an opportunity to show cause why his licence should not be suspended or cancelled before such occurs.

The problem of child abuse is one of considerable concern to the Government. As a result of this concern, a co-ordinating committee was formed to investigate the problems of child abuse and to recommend on legislation which might be enacted to deal with this serious health and social problem. This committee comprises representatives of the Health, Children's Services and Police Departments and medical practitioners from hospitals.

As a result of the deliberations of the committee, this Bill provides for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse to the Director-General of Health and Medical Services by medical practitioners and for the protection of medical practitioners against legal proceedings in respect of such reporting. On receiving reports, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services will consider each case and, where necessary, refer it to the appropriate agency. As cases of child abuse span the spectrum from grievous bodily harm to excessive punishment with minor consequences, the management must vary from punitive action to minor support and counselling.

Mandatory reporting will not disturb the doctor-patient relationship. A medical practitioner will be reporting a medical problem to another medical practitioner, as is done, for example, in the case of certain communicable diseases.

Provision is also to be made for medical superintendents or other medical officer in charge of a hospital or their nominee, who must also be a medical practitioner, to order the detention of a child in a hospital for a period not exceeding 72 hours notwithstanding the wishes of the person claiming to have

legal custody of the child. A detention order would be issued only where the child was considered to be at risk if allowed to leave the hospital or where detention was necessary to enable a proper assessment to be made of the child's medical condition and the consent of the parent or other person in charge of the child was not given.

It is considered that the provisions outlined in relation to child abuse will contribute substantially to its detection and to the protection of the children concerned.

A new section is to be inserted in the Act to provide power for the Director-General of Health and Medical Services to make regulations with regard to tattooing and ear-piercing, including registration of premises, structure, floor area and ventilation of premises and cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation of instruments. Such regulations will be made to control the risk of persons becoming infected because of unsatisfactory standards of cleanliness of premises and instruments.

The reference to a food containing more than two parts per centum of proof spirit being an adulterated food if customs or excise duty has not been paid is to be omitted. The reference to "customs or excise duty" appears to date back to when the State levied its own customs and excise duty and is no longer considered relevant.

The Act presently provides that labelling requirements for each disinfectant, germicide, antiseptic or deodorant be notified in the Government Gazette. The National Therapeutic Goods Committee has recommended that standard labelling requirements in relation to disinfectants and antiseptics be adopted by regulations in each State. The Bill will give power to make such regulations.

The definition of pest control operator is to be amended to exclude those persons who, for payment or reward, use pesticides for agricultural, horticultural or pastoral purposes. It is considered unnecessary to license persons using pesticides for those purposes, as adequate control can be achieved under the provisions of the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966-1972 and the Poisons Regulations 1973.

The definition of pesticides is to be deleted as it is necessary to amend the Order in Council each time a new pesticide is placed on the market. Instead, a definition of prohibited pesticides is to be inserted, and the Act will provide that a pest control operator shall not use a prohibited pesticide. This will ensure that toxic substances that are considered to be of particular danger to persons or the environment are not used as pesticides.

Further amendments are to be made to require that an applicant for a licence shall state in the application the pesticides that he wishes to use and to demonstrate his knowledge of those pesticides before a licence is issued. Provision will be made for the

Director-General of Health and Medical Services to impose a condition on a pest control operator's licence that the licensee shall use only certain pesticides or shall not use certain pesticides.

The existing section relating to powers of inspection provides that any inspector may order a licensee to discontinue using any equipment or pesticide. The section is to be replaced by a new section which will provide that inspectors specifically authorised by the Director-General of Health and Medical Services may enter and inspect any premises, which includes vehicles kept or used by pest control operators, and order that the operator discontinue using any equipment, apparatus or pesticide if in the inspector's opinion it may prejudice the health of the person using such or the health of another person within the premises where the pesticide is being used. Inspectors will also have power to take samples of pesticides to ensure that the substance is a pesticide that the operator is licensed to use and not a prohibited one.

The power to make regulations has been extended to cover the types, labelling and disposal of containers used for holding pesticides and the storage and disposal of pesticides.

An amendment is to be made to provide that the cost of an examination of a prohibited plant by a State botanist shall be paid by a person convicted of an offence in relation to that prohibited plant.

The Act defines poisons, restricted drugs, dangerous drugs and biological preparations as substances prescribed as such. The regulation-making power of the Director-General of Health and Medical Services provides that those substances be defined as such. An amendment is to be made to remedy the inconsistency of wording.

The Solicitor-General has advised that regulations to register pharmacies cannot be made unless the pharmacies are first licensed. It is not proposed to license pharmacies, and therefore an amendment is to be made to enable the registration of pharmacy premises. It is desirable that standards be able to be established in respect of pharmacy premises.

There is no provision in the present Act to control dangerous substances such as household detergents, cleaners and polishes, all of which are outside the scope of the Poisons Regulations. The Act is to be amended to provide power to make regulations in respect of packaging and labelling of such dangerous substances. Penalties for breaches of the regulations are to be increased to more realistic amounts.

Because of the inconsistency referred to earlier in relation to the defining and prescribing of poisons, restricted drugs, dangerous drugs and biological preparations, a

section is to be inserted in the Act to ensure the validity of regulations made in respect of those substances.

The Queensland Radium Institute is vested with the responsibility for preparing specifications for X-ray and other electro-medical equipment and for making recommendations on tenders received for such equipment. This responsibility was previously that of the X-ray and Other Electro-Medical Equipment Advisory Board, and in 1944 its duties, functions and responsibilities were vested in the Queensland Radium Institute. It is proposed that these functions will be undertaken by advisory committees of the Hospitals Drugs and Equipment Advisory Council, and the Bill therefore provides for the Queensland Radium Institute to be divested of the powers originally held by the X-ray and Other Electro-Medical Equipment Advisory Board.

Schedule C of the Act is an Order in Council which constituted the Queensland Radium Institute and prescribed its powers, rights and obligations. These powers, rights and obligations are also laid down in section 154I of the Act. Schedule C is therefore superfluous and is to be deleted from the Act.

The general penalty provision for breaches of the Act is to be increased from a maximum of \$200 to a maximum of \$500.

Whilst some of the amendments are of a machinery nature, there are others I have mentioned that have as their object additional protection of the health of the people in this State.

I commend the motion to the Committee.

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (2.44 p.m.): The Bill contains many and varied machinery provisions. I was very disappointed when I heard that part of the Minister's speech that dealt with child abuse. From the Minister's comments it would appear that the proposed provisions are not in line with the provisions introduced in other Australian States.

Dr. Edwards: Some of the other States.

Mr. D'ARCY: Some of the other Australian States, not all. They apply in all the States of the United States of America. From what I could understand of the Minister's speech, this is a wishy-washy part of the Bill. The A.L.P. was looking for something far stronger, particularly after what appeared in the Press. I am very disappointed to think that the people of Queensland will probably be let down by the Bill. It appears that the Minister has bowed to some of the pressures exerted by the A.M.A. and to doctors who have commented on these provisions. I hope that is not so.

Dr. Edwards: The medical profession supports fully what I have said all the way through.

Mr. D'ARCY: That is the point I am making; I would be very disappointed to learn that the Minister had bowed to the medical profession in relation to some of the provisions in the legislation.

The Minister stated that the reporting of child abuse will be mandatory, but other than saying that the reporting would be to the Director-General of Health he did not explain that aspect fully. Later on he said that it will be from a medical man to a medical man.

In speaking about punishment of persons involved in child abuse, the Minister referred to nothing directly. Instead, he merely skated across the top, saying that the abuse may have been inflicted by way of over-severe punishment and that punitive action might constitute even minor support and counselling. Whilst I do not deny that some minor child abuse is inflicted by way of punishment, I am aware of cases in which very serious offences of child abuse have been committed. Of course, none of us should endeavour to make political capital out of this issue, but I suggest that, although the high incidence of child abuse is acknowledged by the community, after the implementation of this legislation only a very few cases, even fewer than at present, will be reported. What I am suggesting is that probably only the most serious cases will be reported.

Dr. Edwards: Are you saying that they should be reported to another authority because they constitute an offence?

Mr. D'ARCY: To some extent we are saying that, but first of all we say that they should be reported to the Health Department. Obviously the Health Department is the authority that will be called upon to make the decision. It is quite obvious, however, that action has to be taken in the interests of both the parent and the child. But the point that seems to be ignored is that the injured child is the patient. It appears that the Minister is frightened that a parent will not report child abuse or will fail to take his or her child to a doctor.

Dr. Edwards: I think you are confused on the whole thing. I had better explain it to you.

Mr. D'ARCY: I will be interested to read the Bill, because the Minister's comments have been very wishy-washy indeed. In fact, they lead me to become worried about the contents of the Bill.

The Minister did not mention any provision covering sexual activity in the home when it constitutes child abuse. I hope that the Bill includes some provision covering V.D. in children when it is contracted as the result of child abuse. The Minister did not mention that at all.

Recently there has been a spate of cases of child abuse. In fact, as recently as last week "The Courier-Mail" referred to a case

involving a father who assaulted his two children and was tried and convicted. There is great need for detailed law on child abuse in Queensland, particularly on mandatory reporting. We have all heard of instances of child-bashing in Queensland. Three-month-old babies have suffered broken thighs and two-month-old babies have been bashed against walls. Some children have ended up as paraplegics or quadriplegics as a result of bashing by their parents.

Laws dealing with this have been introduced in the Labor States—South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania. It is important that Queensland follow suit and introduce laws to protect our children. With changes in the socio-economic conditions in this State, we are worried that child-bashing could become even more prevalent.

I honestly believe that the responsibility should rest with the doctor to report injuries sustained by children. I realise that that involves difficult decisions. I heard the A.M.A.'s case. In many instances a doctor is not prepared to say that an injury has been caused by bashing, particularly when he has been told something else by a parent in the surgery. However, because this is such a serious matter, doctors should be compelled to make a report. If a report is not made, further abuse often follows. There should be a provision enabling the doctor to see the other parent and obtain the full story behind an injury. It appears that a doctor is not permitted to go into the home.

The Minister did not mention any provision for the reporting of child abuse by people such as teachers who are in daily contact with children. Will doctors be the only ones able to report to the Health Department or will teachers and others who have close contact with children in their day-to-day lives also be able to make a report? As members of Parliament, we occasionally get reports of child abuse. Under the present law, very rarely is the Department of Children's Services—or any other department, for that matter—able to follow up that information. Will the Bill include a provision enabling people other than doctors to make complaints to the Health Department that will be followed up? I realise that this also can become a grey area. How far such an investigation should go could be within the discretion of the Health Department.

I wish to touch on one principle of some of the legislation introduced in America on this matter. I will mention a report that illustrates what I mean. A doctor in California failed to comply with the Act and did not report injuries suffered by a child as a result of being abused in the home. At a later date the child was rendered quadriplegic by further ill-treatment and was foisted as a charge on the State of California, virtually as a vegetable. The State then took action against the doctor. The case was recently determined—honourable members may be aware of it—and the State of

California under its Act was awarded damages of \$325,000 against the doctor for the care of the child. Is there any similar provision in this Bill under which a doctor who refuses or fails to comply with the reporting provisions can be sued by the State or whoever else may have to look after an injured child? The medical fraternity surely must consider that principle.

The section relating to penalties could be elaborated on. No doubt the Act will prescribe the penalties and how they will be administered. Presumably the Health Department will work out the charges that will be laid following any act of child abuse.

The Minister did not say whether children are protected only until they reach a certain age.

Dr. Edwards: It is in the Bill.

Mr. D'ARCY: That is good. We will have a much better understanding of the Bill after we study it.

At long last something is being done about the packaging of poisons used in the home. This has been a serious problem throughout Australia and particularly in Queensland. A young child in a home has access to cleaning fluids and poisons which could burn his abdominal tract. These accidents have been costing the State a tremendous amount of money and, of course, they are very distressing for parents. One of the problems is that the extent of the burning is not apparent unless the child is taken immediately for medical attention and kept overnight for observation.

I hope that the type of packaging required will be similar to the containers that are virtually impossible for a child to open. It is quite possible for products like this to be put into that type of container. It should have been done a long time ago.

It is pleasing that at long last something is being done to inspect places at which tattooing and ear-piercing are carried out.

The other amendments outlined by the Minister are more or less machinery. He mentioned the exclusion from the definition of pest control operators of primary producers who use certain pesticides and herbicides for agricultural, horticultural and pastoral purposes. This will be satisfactory provided they are properly covered by the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act.

The operations of pest exterminators have been a problem in Queensland for some time. Many of them have been fly-by-night operators. Their businesses have been quick to grow and they have not been properly registered. They have not had a good knowledge of the substances they have been using. According to the Minister, these people will now have to know what they are using, and inspectors will have the power to take samples at any time of what they are using. This is a necessity.

A problem that has been raised in this Parliament before is the use of insecticides and pesticides by the Department of Works in school buildings. I have been told by the Works Department and the former member for Sandgate (Mr. Dean) of the problems associated with the main opportunity school in Brisbane and the primary correspondence school. The operator was hired by the Works Department to spray insecticides. He would not give to Mr. Dean or to me a sample of the product being used. Teachers and other people using the building claimed that the substance was having a serious effect on their health. As we could not obtain a sample of the chemical being used, it was difficult to prove whether or not the teachers were right. It appears that the Minister is doing something about this, and I commend him for it.

I will be very interested to read the provisions of the Bill, particularly the section dealing with child abuse, because, on the Minister's explanation of them, they seem to be somewhat disappointing.

I commend the Minister on his introduction of provisions relating to the packaging of poisons and other chemicals used for cleaning in the home because they can be dangerous to young children, particularly those between the ages of 1 and 3 when they are just beginning to move around. I suggest that the provisions should be such that manufacturers will be forced to produce a container which is unable to be opened by a young child.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (3.1 p.m.): This is a composite Bill that covers many facets, and some of them deserve particular attention. The Minister briefly mentioned leprosy. When one looks at the history of the treatment of leprosy, one sees the whole history of preventive medicine unfolding to a very successful conclusion. In the Middle Ages when leprosy was an acute fulminating disease it took a very heavy toll, and the attempts of noblemen and churchmen to isolate this terrible disease created the embryo of the hospital system as we know it today. When the incidence of leprosy declined, the people were left with huge monasteries and wayside inns that had been used by lepers. They were converted into hospitals, and thus over the years our present hospital system gradually evolved. I do not think that there is any better hospital system in the world than the Queensland system. It is efficient and extremely well run and it serves its purpose very well.

The Minister also mentioned the licensing of those who tattoo and those who pierce ears. I read somewhere of an association between tattooing and leprosy. The Minister may be able to check that because I have not been able to find again the reference to it. It concerned an American serviceman who had a tattoo done in the Middle East. Some years after he returned to

America he developed a nodule in the tattoo, which was excised and sectioned, and it was discovered that it had a leprous bacilli in it.

He remembered another serviceman who had been tattooed at the same establishment on the same day. The authorities traced the other serviceman and found that he, too, had a leprous nodule. This rather belies the old saying that one cannot catch leprosy. Obviously it can be transmitted. It is now considered to be transmitted in early youth, so our latest attempt at early prevention is to take children away from leprous mothers, thus preventing them from being inoculated with the bacillus early in life. I would be very pleased if the Department of Health could trace that reference for me because I have not been able to find it again.

I am a little disturbed by the Minister's reference to private hospitals. Private hospitals are essential because some people like to be treated privately. I hope the registration of private hospitals is aimed mainly at continuing high standards and not at restricting growth in the number of private hospitals. Standards must be maintained in all hospitals, and I do not think that the number of private hospitals should be restricted by legislation.

I now turn to the proposed changes to the Queensland Radium Institute. I sincerely hope that the expertise of the members of the Radium Institute is maintained on this new advisory committee. I consider it would be a great loss to the profession if the use of their expertise was not continued in the handling of radioactive substances and if the ordering of X-ray machines and other electrical equipment was done by others not so highly skilled and experienced.

I now want to deal with a subject which seems to cause the honourable member for Woodridge a great deal of concern, namely, child abuse, or the maltreatment syndrome as it is now called. It is becoming extremely common and it is difficult to assess. Unfortunately, the question of the notification of child abuse has been shrouded by a false notion of what constitutes medical ethics. I have discovered that the medical profession as a whole is inclined to resist this legislation, mainly because members of the profession are confused about medical ethics and statute law. Medical ethics are a moral code; statute law is the law of the land, and the law of the land is made to protect individuals and also the community as a whole.

I have gone into the ethics of the medical profession. They are based on what is called the Hippocratic oath, on which many doctors lay great stress. So that they will be on record, I shall read certain parts of the declaration adopted by the General Assembly of the World Medical Association at Geneva in September 1948. First—

"I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity."

Later it reads—

"The health of my patient will be my first consideration."

Later again, on another aspect—

"I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient. I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of conception; even under threat I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity."

In the Hippocratic oath, as taken from an old translation, Hippocrates' students and the followers of Hippocrates said—

"The regimen I adopt shall be for the benefit of my patients according to my ability and judgement and not for their hurt or for any wrong."

So it is pretty plain and straightforward that the oaths do not completely allow the doctor to be a law unto himself. The patient also comes into it, as does the law of the land.

When we look at the battered child syndrome, Mr. Miller, it goes rather against the ordinary grain, because the mother-child or parent-child relationship should be one of love, trust, nourishment, affection and protection. However, it is interesting to note that statistics show that that is not always so, and I think that child abuse happens more frequently than we know. Many of us hide our eyes from it and turn our back on it. Not only as members of the medical profession but as citizens of the community, we turn our back on it and do not report these things although we notice them. In New York, in the United States of America, one child a week is killed by battering by one of its parents. We have no figures showing the number in Australia, but that is a fairly composite group of 12,000,000 people and one child a week is battered to death there. That is known as a result of autopsies.

Many members of the community do not take this problem seriously. It has not really been considered. People say, "It is not my business. I am not going to buy in on it." That applies to schoolteachers, as mentioned by the honourable member for Woodridge. Schoolteachers are in a good position to notice children suffering from malnutrition. I have seen a child who looked a wreck, yet the brothers and sisters of that child were well dressed and well fed. That child was not picked up until the next-door neighbour made a report to the hospital. The schoolteachers were just as guilty as the mother and father because they did not report the obvious neglect of one child in a family. It was not until a conscientious neighbour reported the case to the hospital at Townsville that I reported it to the police. I do not see that there is any responsibility on me to protect parents if they damage a child's life and health. I must say that at that

time the local officer of the Department of Children's Services was a very fine man, and he held the same opinion as I did. That child was rapidly taken from the parents, placed under the custody of the court and later made the foster child of a very good family.

In one particular case with which I was associated, a child was actually beaten across the face with a batten—it had a compound fracture of the nose—and was then locked up in a wooden box for three or four days. Had the milkman not looked in the box the child could have died. He heard it whimpering and thought it was a dog. When he went to let it out, he found locked in the box a child with a shocking compound-fractured nose and broken teeth. The parents could give no reason why they did it.

Why do people do that sort of thing? The mother is usually the more culpable and does it more often than the father. Such people are immature, often insecure financially and often addicted to alcohol. Many of them were themselves battered when they were children. It gets almost to the state of a syndrome; a person who was battered has, in turn, battered children. Many of the badly battered ones die, so the theory cannot be followed through to see whether they produce battered children. Some battered children become subnormal and end up in institutions.

The most common injuries they receive are fractured femurs, fractured long bones, sub-arachnoid haemorrhages and subdural haemorrhages. They may die from the more serious injuries. Ruptured spleens, from punching or kicking, are quite common. Children can die from this injury, too. Unfortunately, those who survive will suffer psychological as well as mental trauma, and often become subnormal. Many of those subnormal children have to be institutionalised, and they become a burden on the community from then on.

That brings home the point that it is the duty of the doctor, the schoolteacher and the next-door neighbour to report these happenings. Child abuse is a social disease and a community problem, and it should be accepted as such. The blame should not be put only on the medical profession. I agree with this law: if they are reluctant, make them toe the line.

It is interesting to note the reasons given by psychiatrists and psychologists why people do these terrible things. But that does not come within the ambit of the Bill. The Bill deals with the treatment in an accepted case of child abuse. Psychiatrists and psychologists can find a reason for doing everything, including the stringing up of one's mother-in-law by the toes. They can always find some justification for any action. They forget the injured person—the victim. After reading psychology books about why people murder, torture and act sadistically, one thinks, "I can't see why we are in this world and why

we do good for people because it does not seem the right thing to do." Psychiatrists and psychologists always find some reason why someone should hurt someone else.

Mr. Underwood: There must be a reason every time.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: No, there isn't. A lot of people who inflict these injuries are emotionally psychopathic.

Mr. Underwood: They have a reason.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: No, they haven't got a reason. It can't be worked out. Reason is a thing that is balanced and can be followed in sequence from one mental process to another. Emotionally psychopathic people cannot do that. Mothers who do this sort of thing are often of a psychotic nature. Very often their I.Q. is much lower than that of an ordinary person. Many of those mothers later suffer a certain degree of remorse and will attempt to commit suicide.

As the previous speaker said, this raises the big problem of punishment. Punishment is extremely hard to assess in these cases because of the attitude of the culprit. I believe that the prescription of punishment should be left to the Criminal Code and not included in a medical Act. If a child dies, a charge of manslaughter or homicide can be brought against the person concerned. Other provisions of the Criminal Code would enable the child to be taken from the parents and cared for.

It is the duty of all members of the medical profession to be fully aware of this syndrome, of the signs and symptoms of a neglected child. It is no good their pushing the problem aside, saying it is not their concern. It is their concern. They should be a part of the community. They should not remain aloof, saying, "We are medical professional men and we don't have to involve ourselves in these problems." They have to involve themselves and they have to remember that child-battering is a social illness that calls for preventive as well as therapeutic measures. They must remember that the medical profession alone is incapable of preventing and treating this social malady, so they should be compelled to notify authorities that will come to their aid and handle the problem in a totally impersonal manner. The doctor must not become emotionally involved. The problem must be handled by an institution or department that will adopt a rather impersonal attitude but will nevertheless see that justice is done and that the child is properly taken care of.

I consider this Bill to be first-class legislation. It restricts no-one; it leaves the door open for further improvements. It goes as far as it possibly can at this stage.

Mr. FOURAS (South Brisbane) (3.16 p.m.): I rise to speak particularly about child abuse. There is no doubt that child abuse is a grave community problem, but it is

one that can be obviated to a certain extent. I am concerned at the fact that the Bill is introduced by the Minister for Health. I consider that the reporting or notification of child abuse should be to officers under the control of the Minister for Welfare.

We have no statistics available on the magnitude of this problem. However, Professor Kemp of the University of Colorado Medical Centre suggests that each year there are 400 cases per 1,000,000 of population. On that basis, each year in Queensland there are 840 cases of child abuse, and it may be that we have a problem of that dimension.

Child abuse is by no means a modern problem, nor is it related to the social conditions under which we live. Each case of child abuse involves trauma, and this trauma goes beyond the injury that is inflicted upon the child. I disagree with the previous speaker, who said, in effect, that we should just treat what we see and not worry about what happened.

If I were to criticise the Bill, I would do so on the ground that, although the legislation makes the reporting of child abuse mandatory, it does nothing to prevent child abuse, nor does it do anything to educate the community or to carry out evaluation and research.

If one looks at what the psychologists and others interested in child abuse regard as the causative factors, one will see that they boil down to factors arising from community attitudes, from family attitudes and from the attitudes of both the abuser and the abused. The community has an apathy or an indifference towards violence. We see that on the T.V. screens and in the community generally. Furthermore, we are pre-occupied with materialistic things; we are not as concerned now about the care of children and ourselves as we once were.

Patterns of physical violence and emotional cruelty have emerged in successive generations. We have seen a strictly punitive upbringing in successive generations, and in our "dog eat dog" society there is little love within the family. Over successive generations we have seen the repetition of poor patterns of behaviour.

If we look at the abusers, we see that they are faced with many problems. Some of them are significantly emotionally isolated; others lack the capacity to be good parents. There are some, of course, who when children had a history of maltreatment by their parents. Abuse may be directed at a child because of some unfortunate physical or mental characteristic. Quite often the person responsible for the abuse sees the child as in some way different. This may be real or imaginary. For example, the child may be adopted or born out of wedlock, or be the issue of a previous marriage or of a de facto relationship. The child could be a little slower in walking than others or bed-wetting at a later age. These are all underlying factors behind child abuse.

I repeat that this is a large problem. It is a community problem. Under this legislation we have a provision for the notification of cases—it is referred to as "reporting"—to the Director-General of Health and Medical Services. It is said that these cases will be referred to the appropriate agency. I would like the Minister to explain in his second-reading speech the process by which that will be done.

I was very impressed with the child life protection unit that I saw working in New South Wales. That unit was set up specifically to handle the problems resulting from child abuse.

Although we will have mandatory reporting, I do not see any provision for voluntary reporting. I myself believe that there ought to be a lot more than just our medical profession—

Dr. Edwards: You obviously do not understand that 300 cases a year are voluntarily reported now. When you talk about New South Wales, you obviously don't know about the unit that we have set up. It is working very well.

Mr. FOURAS: I would want to see mandatory reporting from people such as nurses, social workers, teachers, kindergarten teachers and members of the Police Force.

An Honourable Member: Voluntary?

Mr. FOURAS: No, mandatory. I presume that people who voluntarily report now would have the protection of the law and could not be sued.

An Honourable Member: No.

Mr. FOURAS: If they haven't, I suggest that they ought to have.

The major point I make is this: I am not convinced that we are doing enough to get to the root cause of child abuse. It is not enough to wait for cases to be notified. As the previous speaker said, those cases notified fall a long way short of presenting the total picture. We need to have community-based educational programmes and clear, set guide-lines as to what happens when there is a notification. That is a welfare problem. Although we are not aware of all the children who are being abused, we ought to be able to ascertain the information through educated means—crisis prevention centres or groups to which parents can talk about their problems, especially those parents who have low levels of tolerance to stress.

A friend's wife once said to me, "I nearly belted my child today." She was frustrated. Her husband was studying. He was not coming home often. She was a good person—a person not inclined to violence—yet she reached such a low level of tolerance to stress that she almost belted her child. She was concerned for herself. People such as that ought to have somewhere to go to discuss the problem. It is not simply a

matter of treating the child or having the doctors report the ill-treatment. It is much more than that. I would be pleased if at some later time the Minister could tell me how educational processes could be set up. We can have instances reported; we can treat the children; maybe we can hold them for 72 hours; but surely we must take proper action to cope with what is happening at the other end.

While I commend the Minister on the introduction of this Bill, I criticise the Queensland Government for being one of the last Governments to introduce such a measure. I treat this as a welfare matter and I am a little annoyed that Queensland forever lags behind in introducing such measures. I suppose, being up in the North, our communications are not good. However, if the Minister sets up the mechanism that I mentioned before, I will commend him for introducing the Bill. If I can see that it will do the things that it ought to do, I will be very pleased to support it at the second-reading stage.

Mr. LESTER (Peak Downs) (3.25 p.m.): I commend the Minister on the introduction of this Bill which in many ways is a good step in the right direction. The two matters that I should like to refer to are toys that can create problems for young children and child abuse. Previous speakers have covered most of the points admirably, but because I have written to the Minister about these matters it is fitting that I make a few comments on them.

Children have been injured by some of the toys made available to them. Some manufacturers have been quite unscrupulous about what they have put on the market. It is good that there will now be some control over this matter. We should also ensure that toys do not have any adverse effects on the upbringing of children. Some toys have a bad effect on them.

Child abuse must be reported earlier. This is where we have been missing out in the past. We heard today about a child having its nose bashed in and being put into a box. Would that stage have been reached if previous instances had been reported? The big problem with child abuse is that parents are usually the culprits.

I am sure that it is a disease that causes people to do this. No human being in his right mind would belt a child. Anybody who does it in a moment of low tolerance has a heavy conscience. He will admit how sorry he is, but he will try to justify what he has done. If parents can be counselled and cases reported earlier, there is perhaps some chance of overcoming the problem. Unfortunately it will never be overcome completely, but whatever we are doing here today will be of help.

I hope that teachers can be encouraged to report instances of children being either neglected or physically abused. That would be

a very big help. Complications would arise if this reporting were made mandatory. As I said, the Bill is a start. If all of the problems are not solved by it, it could be amended to provide more power.

Mr. Frawley: What about big children who belt their parents; what would you do about them?

Mr. LESTER: If the honourable member's children tried to belt him, I would say he could look after himself.

Mr. Scott: Would you extend much sympathy to them if they belted up the honourable member for Caboolture?

Mr. LESTER: I think we should get on with the Bill, which is a serious one.

I am sure we are unanimous that everything must be done to ensure that defenceless children are not harmed as much as they are at present. It is against Australian tradition to go around belting people who cannot defend themselves. If we want to try to belt somebody bigger than we are, fair enough, because it is our fault if we get into trouble, but it is not funny at all when young children are maltreated. Whatever the Minister can do to improve the lot of young children will be welcome. We want early reporting by medical practitioners so that parents can be helped to rid themselves of this dreadful habit. If we can do this, we might achieve something.

Mr. SCASSOLA (Mt. Gravatt) (3.31 p.m.): This afternoon I desire to address some remarks to that part of the Bill which relates to children. It is true to say that in the past society has been preoccupied with the rights of parents and not so much with the rights of children. If we look at legal history we see that children in some instances have had no rights at all—for example, children who were born out of wedlock. We also had instances where, until recent times, in the awarding of custody the position of the child was very much secondary to that of the parents, and the only views that were taken into account and the only evidence that was listened to, generally speaking, was that of the parents.

I believe that the provisions outlined by the Minister in his introductory remarks reflect community concern for the rights of children. I believe that the legislation will be a significant step forward in the recognition of their rights.

Perhaps in time the Government will look at more general legislation relating to children because abuse can take many forms. I do not know whether it was intended that the provisions of this Bill would be directed principally towards physical abuse. As I said, abuse takes many forms, including deprivation of affection and emotional abuse. It can also take the form of deprivation of the right to things like medical care and proper tuition in education that would enable

potential to be realised. It can take the form of deprivation of all sorts, so it is a very wide general concept.

I would now like to direct some remarks to one section of the community which may be said, in a sense, to have been battered for a long time, and that is the mentally retarded. It is true to say that in some ways the mentally retarded have been abused by society for a long time. They have been deprived of their position in society alongside their peers. In the past, most of them were incarcerated in institutions where they languished until their premature death. The retarded are now in the throes of a long struggle to obtain a place in society. Much has been achieved, but much more can be achieved.

Some of the changes that we have seen have been very welcome. For example, the Government's approach to the residential care of children is one of the significant changes that have taken place in recent times. Here again, I believe that more needs to be done if we are to ensure that these deprived people can take their place and fulfil their proper role in society. They are still subject to preconception and prejudice. The problems that are confronting them raise very fundamental questions as to the rights of mentally retarded people, and in particular mentally retarded children, and there have been a number of resolutions in the United Nations, for example, that advert to the rights of mentally retarded people. There may be a need to legislate to protect disadvantaged people, including the mentally retarded, against degradation, exploitation and abuse in all its forms.

There has been a growing interest in the welfare of the retarded as one group in the enlarged disadvantaged group. We have seen an enormous upsurge in the research into the education of the retarded; some of it is going on now in Queensland.

It is probably true to say that the medical questions are gone once a child leaves the hospital; but what happens whilst the child is in hospital immediately after birth is of very considerable importance. It is of particular importance in the planning for the future of that child and for determining what sort of programmes ought to be provided.

One of the things that one finds is that there are no accurate statistics, for example, as to the number of handicapped people born in society. The recent census made an attempt to find the numbers, but certainly I believe that more needs to be done. I suggest that there ought to be an investigation into the feasibility of having what I call an at-risk register, a register in which the particular problems of children are recorded and the data, which obviously would include name, date of birth and particulars of the disability, could be of enormous benefit to people whose task it is to care for and educate children in later life. I believe that, with the consent of parents of those

children, that information ought to be made available to other agencies such as paramedical agencies, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and education people, and in particular education authorities, for the planning of future educational needs. I believe that there is a need to educate parents in the benefit of having such a register and of having that sort of information made available.

There is a need, too, to educate the medical profession in the need for innovation and progress in the care and education of the handicapped. For example, there are still medical practitioners in this State who believe that all mentally retarded people should be institutionalised.

There is a need to foster the counselling of parents. I believe that there ought to be an inquiry, perhaps by the Health Department, into the feasibility of having counselling of parents immediately after birth, as it were, to prepare them for the problems and the pitfalls that they are likely to encounter. In short, I believe that the register I propose would be of enormous benefit in planning for the education of children, in planning for future health needs and in planning to overcome the problems they are going to encounter in the future.

This legislation, particularly that area related to child abuse, is of significant importance. Much has already been said about it. I congratulate the Minister on its introduction.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (3.41 p.m.): The hour is getting late so I shall be brief. There is, and always has been, a need to look after the interests of children who are at risk. But this need is no greater than the need to provide care, help and comfort for their parents when they are unable to cope. This has always been so, and it will continue to be a problem as long as there are men, women and children. There is a need to identify as quickly as possible those children who are at risk, and certainly those children who are in any way handicapped.

There is a need in this State, as in other places, to regularly visit handicapped persons who cannot attend a health centre, a medical practitioner or a community health nurse. If they cannot attend what is their normal first contact in health services, there is a need for someone to visit them. The State needs to be certain, just as parents need to be certain, that everything that can be done for a handicapped person is in fact being done. If it appears that it is not, the parents can get all sorts of problems. They can feel guilty. When people feel guilty, they become tense and introspective, and are well on their way to becoming potential child bashers.

But it is not only those who have handicapped children who come within this category. Every parent in the world is a potential child basher. All that is required

to make a parent a child basher is the taking of that person beyond the limits of his endurance. If a parent gets very little sleep night after night and cannot rest during the day because a child or someone else is ill, that child and other young members of the family become persons at risk.

I have long said—and the department knows it—that there is a need for mental health visitors. That is particularly so when persons are discharged from mental hospitals and general hospitals on psychotropic drugs that are used in the treatment of mental conditions. A person does not need to be a parent who bashes or batters before visits by a mental health visitor are necessary. Such visits are necessary to a mother who is the sole parent/guardian of a child. If she goes to sleep on her medication for a major part of the day, then her child is at extreme risk, particularly if it is only a toddler.

When I was Government Medical Officer in Toowoomba, the case came to my notice of a woman who was unaware of the extent of the drowsiness caused by her medication. She slept during the day and a child died because of it. The child played with matches and a drum of petrol in a doorway of the house. An explosion occurred and no-one could reach the child. It was burnt to death.

There is a need for mental health visitors throughout the State. They should be available to patients discharged from special hospitals and general hospitals; they should be available on referral by general practitioners, psychiatrists, maternity hospitals, doctors in out-patient departments, various nurses and every welfare agency in the State.

There is no doubt that the quick detection of a parent with problems protects the child from battering. Doctors need to be alert to the potential problems. Anyone who is really astute can see them well beforehand. Typical problems that spring to mind are mental health problems and ante-natal depression. Some women, through no fault of their own, experience very severe depression when they are pregnant. Even worse depression can occur after the baby is born. In the first month or so after birth the baby and the mother's other toddlers are at risk.

One infant whom practically no-one considers when talking about battered children is the infant who is born to a mother who has concealed her pregnancy. In some instances a girl who is terrified to admit that she is pregnant gives birth to her child and then either smothers it or batters its brains out. It is time that society confronted young single girls who give the appearance of being pregnant and took them to a diagnosis centre so that it can be established whether or not they are pregnant. Anything less than that results in such a girl living in a terrible situation fearing discovery. She knows that when she has her baby she will be accused of

having played around with her boyfriend. Perhaps her boyfriend is no longer around, so that she will be left as a single parent to face the consequences. It is that type of girl who, after the birth of her child, is sometimes inclined to batter it to death.

A realistic attitude needs to be adopted by the parents of such a girl, by her flatmates and her neighbours. All too often the first a doctor knows of a case of child-battering is when he is called to the girl's home to find her baby dead. There is damned nothing he can do about it at that stage. The community has to accept its responsibilities. If a young girl is found to be pregnant, the wheels of community support should be put in motion so that she can be protected and so that the infant she is carrying can be protected.

Tattoos have long been applied quite illegally to young persons in this State. My objection to tattooing is that very often it is carried out on young persons who are unable to give permission to do the tattooing. Quite often tattooing is carried out by a person under the age of 16 years who has no skill whatever in the art. Tattoos are sometimes applied quite crudely, they are no joy to behold and very often convey a foul or suggestive message. Of course, most tattoos are applied to parts of the anatomy that cannot readily be excised. Tattooing, particularly among young persons, should be stamped out. Persons who are tattooed and who wish to have the tattoos removed can have them ground off by skin specialists using dental-type drills. They may also be removed by other means.

Acupuncture needs to be not outlawed but certainly controlled so that persons who practise it understand the need to sterilise needles and to prepare the skin as well as it can be prepared.

I am afraid that ear-piercing is still being carried out by persons who do not pay adequate attention to hygiene. Some young girls have staphylococcal abscesses on the ear lobes. These are quite nasty and are something like carbuncles in the ear lobe.

I have been in touch with the Minister concerning insecticides. Frequent scares arise from their use. I doubt whether the insecticides that are used today by licensed operators will cause a great deal of harm. However, some people still apply them far too enthusiastically and instead of depositing a fine spray, apply too much and it drips and runs.

I believe—and I have told the Minister this—that a card should be left stating quite clearly the name of the operator, the spray used (its chemical name and its trade name), the date of the application and the toxic symptoms, which could be printed on the card. The operator could place a ring around the appropriate symptoms—nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea—according to the type of spray he used. The danger symptoms should also be printed on the card. People would then

seek treatment if they were pale, trembling or short of breath, which amounts to a danger symptom. In the course of my medical practice before I entered Parliament, I saw people with those conditions after the use of commercially available sprays.

One of the biggest problems with many of the sprays commercially used is that they are not as effective as Baygon. Operators can be called in three or four times to spray a house for cockroaches, yet there will still be cockroaches about. With a can of Baygon, a person could do the job himself and get rid of the wretched things. Perhaps we need to look at repeat performances by some of the pest firms so that, if there is a difficulty, they can go to an effective spray. Perhaps we have erred on the side of safety with the sprays that can be used. However, if an operator is called in, surely he must be allowed to use an effective spray, particularly if the spray of his first choice has not controlled the pest. With those few comments, I thank the Committee for its indulgence.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Ipswich West) (3.52 p.m.): I would like to touch briefly on three of the points in the Bill mentioned by the Minister. The first concerns dangerous toys that have been marketed from time to time. After listening to the Minister, I believe that the step being taken by him is necessary, especially in these days of pressure selling through the media, particularly television. One only has to watch the programmes screened before children go to school in the morning and when they come home in the afternoon to realise the degree of pressure exerted. Children are virtually indoctrinated into buying the article displayed on the screen. People need to be protected by some sort of Government regulation or legislation from this pressure selling. A parent is literally forced by this means into buying a toy for his child.

Secondly, I refer to the packaging and labelling of household chemicals—pesticides and various other poisons, kitchen products, bathroom products, cleansers and various toiletries. I was very disturbed recently to read in the Press that an expert on antidotes and poisons said that if a person used the antidote suggested on the labels of a number of products marketed, the resultant chemical reaction in his stomach would cause temperatures in excess of boiling point. That would immediately cook the stomach and the person would die a very agonising death. It is disturbing that lists of antidotes carried from time to time in women's magazines and other articles—and even on containers—are incorrect.

One of the major problems faced by the community is a lack of information and understanding of the inter-reaction of chemicals. Quite often chemical reactions result in the discharge of energy. With some chemicals now being used, the extreme

amounts of energy released result in temperatures of over 100 degrees centigrade. Besides changing deceptive packaging and labelling, we need to educate people so that they have a better understanding of household chemicals.

Again, there is a problem with high-pressure marketing. In fact, often the most interesting show on television is the advertisement and not the scheduled programme. Advertisers spend a good deal of time researching advertisements and making them colourful so that people will watch them and take notice of them.

My third point is one that is very personal for most people—the care of their children and their family life. The problem of child abuse is one of the biggest hurdles to be overcome. Child care is very close to people's hearts. Regardless of how well informed is the person who is trying to help people with a problem, they feel that they know best. As a Parliament, we need to offer as much care, help and comfort as possible to people who are having family problems, including the problems of coping with children. I do not know the mechanics of the proposals put forward by the Minister but I hope they will achieve what is desired. Any step in an effort to overcome the increasing problem of child abuse is a step in the right direction and I compliment the Minister on taking this one. I hope it will work. In a matter such as this, there will be teething problems. Some of them will be big and some will be small. We will need a period of trial and error to sort out the problems.

Tied up with the problem of child abuse is the problem of the consumer society and commercialism on television that is being pumped down people's throats every day and every night. People are fed the concept of the billboard family living in the T.V. commercial house. By that I mean a mother with a fresh face and permed hair, a father with broad shoulders and a young, bronzed appearance, two children and a dog in the back of a nice, shiny car. They live in a house that is full of goodies, flash furniture and all mod cons. Most people never achieve that state. They never look like the billboard family and never own a T.V. commercial house. Yet they are indoctrinated to believe they will. This causes tension in a family and disturbs people's social aspirations.

Governments throughout Australia have introduced child care, which gives mothers and fathers a break from the strains and stresses of looking after their children. These stresses are increasing and there is a problem in trying to help people overcome them by a too liberal dispensing of drugs such as valium. They put people into a state of euphoria and when they come out of it they find that the real world is still not very nice. This again causes stress.

Time is short today. I wanted to bring out those factors that are causing so much strife in families and are giving food to the evil disease of child abuse.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (3.56 p.m.), in reply: I propose to reply fully to honourable members on Tuesday.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 4 p.m.
