

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 1978

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For the information of Parliament, I wish to outline the details of section (e). They are—

(e) ACCOMMODATION, MEALS, DRINKS,
FUNCTION ROOM ETC.

1. Kevin Watson Enterprises, Rockhampton—
Accommodation 26-9-77 to 28-9-77—

	\$
3 singles	135.00
1 twin	57.00
Meals and Room Service	134.70
Drinks	38.40
Function Room	60.00
	425.10
Less Payment by Mr. L. Yewdale	57.10
Financed from Conversion ..	368.00

WEDNESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 1978

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Apprenticeship Act 1964–1974.

The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Statute under Griffith University Act 1971–1977.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. YEWDAL (Rockhampton North) (11.2 a.m.), by leave: Mr. Speaker, in the initial stages of the Auditor-General's inquiry into air fares, I was requested, along with other members of this Parliament, to make myself available for a personal interview with Mr. Peel regarding my usage of airline tickets provided to me through Parliament. I responded to the Auditor-General's request and participated in an interview in the presence of Mr. Peel, Mr. Fitzgerald and you, Mr. Speaker.

As the result of that interview, I requested Mr. Peel to provide me with some explicit details in writing of the matters he referred to verbally. Mr. Peel immediately handed me an itemised document setting out the overall details of his findings as they pertained to me. This information was accompanied by a letter dated 10 August 1978.

One section of Mr. Peel's details, namely, section (e), caused me grave concern as I had no knowledge whatsoever of the matters referred to, and after a short period of time in trying to obtain information about this section, I personally rang Mr. Fitzgerald and asked for more information so as to allow me to make a decision on this specific section of the report. Regrettably, I received no response to my request and subsequently section (e) of the information supplied was incorporated in the official report presented to this Parliament.

The official report to Parliament made no reference to the payment by me, and I accept that as being correct, but it is a vital aspect of this whole matter. As "Hansard" will show, I completely refuted any knowledge of the company mentioned and any personal involvement in any respect.

Further to the official report being presented, I made several unofficial inquiries to identify the company and the venue where the supposed function was held, but to no avail.

Because of lack of information and the fact that the T.A.A. airline company had not conducted any inquiry itself into the matter, it was not able to help.

As late as last Friday, I attempted to contact Mr. Fitzgerald and was not able to do so, but I did contact him after talking to Mr. Peel on Monday last. I received a call from Mr. Fitzgerald, who provided me with some m.c.o.—miscellaneous charges orders—details, dates, etc. Further to that, Mr. Fitzgerald provided some photo-copy material of a receipt, m.c.o.s and a pay voucher. Mr. Fitzgerald also indicated that he would forward a copy of a check when it became available from T.A.A.

My main purpose in raising this matter today is to highlight the circumstances in which I have become involved in a serious charge of using m.c.o. airline credits for entertaining purposes. The fact that this information was presented to Parliament and subsequently published by the Press and other media has, of course, identified me as having used m.c.o. for the purpose as set out in section (e) of Mr. Peel's information sheet.

At this point I would like to reiterate what I said in Parliament at the time the Peel report was tabled—that is, that the report was incomplete because of the narrow areas of investigation. The Auditor-General and his officer showed incompetence or disregard, or both, in not following up the information they had on Kevin Watson Enterprises, which was not available to me some two months ago but was available two

days ago. One could suggest or assume that if this situation prevails in respect of me, it has also occurred with other members named in the Peel report.

I might advise the House at this stage that I have officially requested the Police Commissioner to institute an inquiry into the section of the Peel report that refers to Kevin Watson Enterprises. I inform the House that the Police Commissioner now has the following letter in his possession:—

“Further to our telephone conversation of yesterday’s date, I wish to officially make the following request:—

I ask that you institute an official Departmental inquiry into the Section of the Peel Report to Parliament which refers to my involvement with a Company known as ‘Kevin Watson Enterprises’, Rockhampton. It is my belief that this Company is bogus and the details as outlined in the Peel Report have been levelled at myself deliberately to cover the action of a person or persons unknown.

“I will be happy to co-operate with yourself and your officers with their inquiries and I await your advice in regards to a personal interview on the subject.”

The letter was signed by me.

Finally, I wish to make it known that certain Government members and prominent persons on the Premier’s staff have, according to my information, deliberately highlighted this particular segment of the Peel report in an attempt to denigrate me and the A.L.P. All I can say to the Premier and to the House is that if the Premier wants to institute proceedings as to fraud being practised by members of this Parliament, he should start at the top and investigate himself and the Cabinet.

MARGARINE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

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

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. RELOCATION OF BRAY ROAD RAILWAY SIGNAL LIGHTS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that vehicular traffic on Todds Road, Lawnton, is regularly and seriously delayed by goods trains, which stop at signal lights near the now disused Bray Road traffic gates?

(2) As this signal was sited originally to suit the Bray Road gates at a time when trains were much shorter and as the gates have been out of use for many years, will he take action to have the

signal moved towards the north so that traffic may flow more easily through the Todds Road boom gates?

Answers:—

(1) I am not aware that traffic is regularly and seriously delayed at the Todds Road level crossing at Lawnton, as claimed.

(2) The report furnished following a recent investigation indicates that the frequency of delays at this crossing is not such as to justify the appreciable expenditure which would be entailed in relocating the signal referred to. The matter will, however, be kept under constant review.

2. THE CAVES RAILWAY STATION; COUNTRY STATION CLOSURES

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

(1) Is the closure of The Caves Railway Station, situated north of Rockhampton, contemplated by his department?

(2) During 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78, how many railway stations have been closed on country lines?

(3) Is he aware that many residents and organisations at The Caves will object strongly to any closure of the railway station?

Answers:—

(1) It is proposed to withdraw the night officer from The Caves, and that officer was given formal notification on 20 October 1978 that this decision will become effective six months from that date. Thereafter, The Caves will be worked as an unattended staff station.

(2) Staff were completely withdrawn from 10 country stations in 1975-76, three in 1976-77 and seven in 1977-78. Of the 10 stations affected in 1975-76, six were stations which were manned solely to attend to train staff working and the need for the retention of the employees concerned ceased with the introduction of centralised traffic control.

(3) The department regrets the need to take the action proposed, but the retention of the services of the night officer could not be justified in the light of the very limited amount of business transacted.

3. HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, BILOELA

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

As there is a continual demand in Biloela for Housing Commission houses for rental, will he give urgent consideration to my requests for an allocation for further commission houses?

Answer:—

The situation at Biloela is under constant review. Present demand is from 15 priority cases with an average turnover rate in existing houses of two houses a month in the past six months.

One major employer-tenant has handed back a number of houses which have been re-let, and there are projected moves in other employer-tenancies that may also ease the demand for general-purpose housing.

Once company intentions are clear, re-programming will be undertaken.

4. LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL USE, YEPPON

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

As a steep increase in the establishment of secondary industries at Yeppoon is expected, will he take action to acquire suitable land near the town so that areas may be allocated for industrial purposes when the Iwasaki project gets under way?

Answer:—

I appreciate the honourable member's interest in this matter. The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development is aware of the situation that is likely to arise following the establishment of the Iwasaki project, and for some time has been examining the feasibility of developing a Crown industrial estate at Yeppoon. We are in fact presently in discussion with the Livingstone Shire Council on the matter.

The honourable member may be assured the matter will be pursued with expedition.

5. TREASURER'S OVERSEAS NEGOTIATIONS ON FINANCING OF GREENVALE NICKEL PROJECT

Mr. Jones for Mr. Davis, pursuant to notice, asked the Treasurer—

(1) Will he detail the cities visited and those to be visited, giving the number of days spent in each centre and the financiers approached and to be approached, on his overseas visit to arrange Greenvale finance?

(2) Did the Under Treasurer visit Japan this year and on his return advise that finance would be available to prop up the Greenvale nickel project?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I refer the honourable member to my ministerial statement yesterday.

6. FILMS BOARD OF REVIEW CHAIRMAN

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

(1) What was the date of appointment of Mr. Des Draydon as Chairman of the Films Board of Review?

(2) What sums of public money have been paid to Mr. Draydon since his appointment to the board by way of (a) fees, (b) travelling allowances and (c) other expenses?

Answers:—

(1) 9 May 1974, notification being given in the Government Gazette of 11 May 1974.

(2) Payments in the four and a half years since appointment have amounted to—

(a) Fees—\$6,421.00

(b) Travelling allowances—\$749.78

(c) Other expenses—\$66.50.

7. FILMS BOARD OF REVIEW, MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCES

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

With reference to a question asked by the member for Bulimba on 8 October 1975 concerning the Films Board of Review, wherein he asked how many meetings, with attendances of members at each, the board held in 1974-75 and the factual answers he received giving meetings and attendances, why did he refuse to give similar information in reply to a similar question from the member for Sandgate on 25 October, and what is the reason for the secrecy?

Answer:—

As I read the honourable member's rather confused question, I assume he wishes to know why an answer I recently gave the honourable member for Sandgate on a particular matter last month was in a different form from that given to a similar question from the honourable member for Bulimba by the then Minister for Justice and Attorney-General in October 1975.

In reply, I point out that I was not administering the relevant legislation in 1975. As the responsible Minister in 1978, I consider the answer I gave on 25 October regarding meetings of the Films Board of Review was entirely adequate for the purposes of the question directed to me.

8. WAITING TIMES FOR DRIVERS' LICENCE TESTS

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

Is it possible to undergo a drivers' licence test in Brisbane within two days and, if so, why does it take in excess of six weeks to obtain a licence at the Surfers Paradise station?

Answer:—

The issue of drivers' licences in Brisbane is under the control of my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Transport. I understand that there is a waiting time of approximately one week at the testing centres in Brisbane.

The waiting time at Surfers Paradise at present is nearly three months. This has been aggravated by the granting of leave to civilian testing officers.

The Commissioner for Transport has indicated that an additional testing officer will be provided at the Gold Coast for a period of four weeks from 20 November 1978 to 15 December 1978. This action should have a marked effect on the waiting time.

It is not possible to provide additional police staff for this work, as this would be to the detriment of urgent police duty. There is no provision in the Police Department's Estimates for the appointment of an additional testing officer this financial year.

The Department of Transport is to establish a regional office on the Gold Coast for the issue of drivers' licences, and I understand that the Department of Works is currently obtaining estimates for construction of that office.

9. RELOCATION OF DRIVERS' LICENCE TESTING STATION, SURFERS PARADISE

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

With reference to conditions of work at the Surfers Paradise Licence Testing Station, when is it proposed to relocate the station in a more appropriate building more suited to the needs of Queensland's second largest city?

Answer:—

It is proposed that on completion of construction of new premises in Upton Road, Bundall, the work presently undertaken at the Surfers Paradise Licence Testing Station be transferred to the Department of Transport and administered from the new offices. I am advised that plans for the building have been finalised and the cost estimates are being obtained by the Works Department prior to calling of tenders for its construction.

10. DENTAL CLINIC, SURFERS PARADISE STATE SCHOOL

Mr. Bishop, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health—

(1) With reference to his answer to my question of 15 October concerning the timetable for the introduction of a dental clinic at the Surfers Paradise State School, is it planned that primary schools will receive dental clinics by 1981 and, if so, why has his department not set up a schedule of priorities in order to complete the introduction of clinics by the planned date?

(2) When will this be done, and when will the Surfers Paradise State School be included in the programme?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Long-term planning for the expansion of the School Dental Service to include all primary schools has been carried out. The programme has, however, had to be curtailed and revised in the light of reduction of the level of funding by the Commonwealth Government.

The expansion of the service and the timing of the inclusion of specific schools are dependent upon funds from both State and Commonwealth sources which can be made available each financial year. I am unable to be more specific regarding the expansion of the service to the Surfers Paradise State School, but within the next day or so I will discuss the matter with the honourable member.

11. ALLOWABLE TOLERANCES IN TYRE CONSTRUCTION

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

What are the allowable dimensional tolerances set down by Australian Standard Design Rules for tyre construction?

Answer:—

Australian Design Rule No. 23 specifies standards of strength, construction and standard pressure/load relationships for tyres of particular size designations to facilitate the choice of tyres for passenger cars and derivatives thereof.

The design rule lays down the test procedure to determine tyre physical dimensions under uniform ambient conditions and requires each tyre to conform to each of the following when measured in accordance with those test procedures—

(a) Its actual section width and overall width shall not exceed by more than 7 per cent the section width specified in Table 1 or approved supplement for its size designation and type; and

(b) Its size factor shall be at least as large as that specified in Table 1 or approved supplement for its size, designation and type.

Table 1 sets out the tyre load ratings, test rims, minimum size factors and section widths for the various types of tyres.

However, this design rule does not specifically relate to the roundness of tyres. The Tyre and Rim Association of Australia standards provide that the overall diameter of new tyres may exceed the new tyre overall diameters by 4 per cent of the difference between the design overall diameters and the nominal rim diameters.

I am advised that vibration effects of some tyres are occasioned by the mechanical instability of the materials used in their construction, which can respond to varying degrees to the effects of temperature, storage conditions and surface contamination as well as varying speeds of vehicles.

It will be appreciated that any test is subject to controlled conditions, which cannot reproduce all the elements which may give rise to tyre vibrations.

12. ILLEGAL TAKING OF MUD CRABS

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

(1) Since the amendment to the Fisheries Act in 1977, how many persons have been caught with female or undersized mud crabs in their possession in (a) Queensland and (b) the Gladstone area?

(2) How many consignments of such crabs have been detected en route interstate by rail, road or air transport?

(3) What was the total number of persons involved in these illegal consignments and how many crabs were involved?

(4) What was the total amount of fines imposed?

(5) How many persons were fined the maximum penalty of \$400?

(6) Did any person fined also have a vessel confiscated for committing the offence?

Answers:—

(1) (a) 90 persons; (b) five persons.

(2) By rail, one consignment; By air, one consignment.

(3) Two persons, and 14 female and five undersized male crabs.

(4) Total fines in Queensland in relation to prosecutions involving unlawful crabs, \$4,920.

(5) Nil.

(6) No.

13. ACTION AGAINST TOWN CLERK, GLADSTONE CITY COUNCIL

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

(1) As he stated in his answer to a letter dated 6 October from a concerned Gladstone resident that various corrective

measures were instituted following the Auditor-General's report and as the summary of audit findings on page 15 of that report clearly showed that the town clerk had not carried out the function of the position in a responsible manner, has action been taken against him by the elected mayor and aldermen or by his department and, if so, what action was taken?

(2) In the light of the summary of audit findings on page 15 of the report, if no action was taken against this officer, what is the reason?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) As a result of an audit carried out by officers of the Auditor-General's Department on the books and accounts of the Gladstone City Council, a number of recommendations were made to the council as to the action which it might take to improve its accounting systems.

I am informed that various corrective measures have been instituted by the council in the light of these recommendations and this action should prevent a recurrence of problems recently experienced by the council.

14. PRE-SCHOOL, KIN KIN AREA

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

(1) When will a new early childhood unit be available to the pre-school children of Kin Kin, Cooran and Kin Kin Junction area?

(2) What is the anticipated number of pre-school children in these areas?

Answers:—

(1) It is unlikely that early education classes could be established in the Kin Kin area before the next financial year. Preliminary plans are to place the project on the 1979-80 draft capital works programme. However, the availability of funds and the competing needs of various parts of the State will determine whether the project will go ahead.

(2) The combined year one enrolment in the schools at Kin Kin, Kin Kin Junction and Cooran was recently 14. This can be taken as an approximate indication of the pre-school enrolment potential.

15. PRE-SCHOOLS

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

(1) How many pre-schools have been established in Queensland?

(2) How many children are being catered for?

(3) When is it expected that the finalisation of the pre-schooling of children will be completed?

(4) In what various ways will they be catered for in various situations?

Answers:—

(1) At present, there are 326 State pre-school centres, comprising 505 units, in operation in Queensland. In addition, there are 70 small primary schools in which early education classes comprising pre-school and year 1 children are operating. As well, the pre-school correspondence unit caters for children who are, in general, in remote areas of the State. Handicapped children of pre-school age are catered for in 18 special pre-schools and through the special correspondence unit.

(2) At the August census of schools, there were some 22,490 pre-schoolers being catered for in the four types of facilities outlined above.

(3) I would expect that the provision of State pre-school facilities will be a continuing process for a number of years to come. For example, as new primary schools continue to open, there will obviously be a continuing need to build pre-schools associated with the majority of them. For existing schools, the provision will be a gradual and planned process. Its "finalisation", as the honourable member puts it, will depend on the availability of funds for capital works.

(4) As I have indicated in the first part of this answer, there are three main thrusts to State pre-school education, namely through pre-school centres associated with primary schools, through early education classes in smaller primary schools and through the pre-school correspondence unit. As well, special pre-schools are operating to cater for handicapped pre-schoolers.

16. POLICE OFFICERS, GOLD COAST, TOOWOOMBA, TOWNSVILLE AND CAIRNS

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

How many police officers are stationed in (a) the Gold Coast area, (b) Toowoomba, (c) Townsville and (d) Cairns?

Answer:—

The established strength of police stations is as follows:—

(a) Gold Coast area—Southport, Broadbeach, Burleigh Heads, Coolangatta, Surfers Paradise, total 148.

(b) Toowoomba (including Drayton), total 77.

(c) Townsville (including Mundingburra, South Townsville and Stuart), total 168.

(d) Cairns, total 90.

17. SOUTH BUNDABERG STATE SCHOOL LIBRARY

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

Has construction of the South Bundaberg State School library been included in the 1978-79 works programme and, if

not, when is it considered that the postponed construction of the library will take place?

Answer:—

Funds have not been allocated for this project in the 1978-79 works programme and no indication can be given at present as to when the work will be put in hand.

18. ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

(1) How many people are directly employed in all aspects of the administration and collection of contributions to road maintenance and what was the total sum expended by way of (a) salaries and (b) other expenses directly or indirectly connected with the scheme?

(2) How many people are indirectly employed in all aspects of the administration and collection of contributions to road maintenance, and what was the total sum expended by way of (a) salaries and (b) other expenses associated with the operations of these people?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I am advised that the department does not maintain the sort of records and statistics necessary to answer in detail the honourable member's question, as the cost of doing so would not be warranted. Departmental staff are not solely engaged all of the time in work associated with road maintenance collections but, so far as a reasonable estimate can be obtained, an apportionment of staff and other costs would represent 12.5 per cent of the road maintenance revenue collected.

As the honourable member will appreciate, the present rate of .17 cents per tonne per kilometre, apart from decimal currency conversion, has remained unchanged since the Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) Act came into operation on 1 February 1958, despite substantial increases in the costs of road maintenance and of administration, particularly in the area of salaries and wages. Any increase in the rate would, of course, reduce the percentage of administration costs to revenue collected.

19. PROSECUTIONS FOR AVOIDANCE OF ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

(1) In view of the answer to my question on 24 October, is it possible to prosecute company employees, other than directors of transport companies, under section 8A (i) and (ii) of the Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) Act?

(2) Is it possible to prosecute a person who has acted as an agent to help other transport companies avoid their contributions to road maintenance?

Answers:—

(1) The first question seems to relate to employees other than those in a position to influence the policy of the company. Under the Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) Act 1957–1958 the offences prescribed relate to the keeping of records, furnishing of returns and payment of charges by the “owner” of a vehicle. In the normal course of events, it would only be the owner who could commit an offence under the Act and therefore an employee would not be liable to prosecution for a breach of the Act. It is possible to envisage circumstances where an employee might be liable jointly with an owner as, for instance, in a conspiracy. However, one would need to be in possession of all relevant facts in order to make a determination. In general, therefore, it could be said that employees are not, by virtue of section 8A, liable to prosecution.

(2) The exact scope of the question is not clear. In respect of the Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) Act, the offences as set out in that Act relate to actions or omissions by an owner. In the normal course of events, an agent could not commit an offence which could only be committed by the principal. The honourable member may have in mind something in the nature of a conspiracy by agents and others to defeat the execution of the statute. Such an offence would not be one under the Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) Act but would be one under the Criminal Code. In the realm of conspiracy, it is possible for agents to commit offences.

I am advised that there is currently a case before the court in Victoria in relation to a conspiracy to defeat the execution of a statute. I should emphasise, however, that prosecutions always depend upon the existence of evidence to establish all necessary elements of the offence in question. At the moment, any answer based on a non-factual situation must be a general one.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

QUEENSLAND BREWERY STRIKE

Mr. I. J. GIBBS: I ask the Premier: In view of the seriousness of the further extension of the brewery strike and the effect this will have on employment throughout the hotel industry, the glass industry, the tourist industry and other associated industries, can the Premier advise me what action can be taken by the Government to overcome this stalemate? Secondly, is there any provision in the current Queensland legislation under which a compulsory secret ballot can be ordered and, if not, will the Government

consider introducing the necessary provision in the current Queensland legislation to provide for compulsory secret ballots?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am deeply concerned about the effect of the strike on employment and the suffering of many people who have lost their jobs. This has concerned many people and I have received deputations on the matter. The Government has been prepared to consider a ballot on the issue, but I had discussions again yesterday on the matter and it was thought that, because of the negotiations that had been taking place in the Industrial Commission, it was better to pursue that avenue in the hope of finalising the matter quickly, satisfactorily and peacefully. In those circumstances the Government has refrained from ordering a ballot.

INTERNAL REVOLT IN QUEENSLAND BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Mr. GYGAR: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health: Has his attention been drawn to the action of the Queensland Central Executive of the A.L.P. in calling on six prominent A.L.P. members to show cause why they should not be disciplined for attempting to foment an internal revolt in the Queensland branch of the Labor Party? Who are the six members who face possible expulsion from the A.L.P.? Is it true that the A.L.P. is striving to keep this rift secret until after the Sherwood by-election and what are the possible ramifications of this rift on the survival prospects of Mr. Hayden?

Dr. EDWARDS: My attention and, I am sure, the attention of all Queenslanders, has been drawn to the continuing internal rift within the A.L.P.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: I am sure they will continue.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Wolston will cease interjecting.

Dr. EDWARDS: I am sure the Labor Party will continue to try to hide this problem. This morning the honourable members for Wolston and Archerfield identified themselves very closely with the Queensland Central Executive by indicating that they intend to march when the Trades and Labor Council conducts a march in the future. It is a very sad state of affairs that the Labor Party is still being controlled by the Queensland Central Executive. One cannot help recalling the situation in 1957 when the A.L.P. was split asunder by the efforts of the Queensland Central Executive. I am unaware of the six names, but rumour has it that one is the secretary to Senator Georges and another the secretary to Mr. Humphreys. Of course, Mr. Humphreys was the man who gained endorsement in preference to a candidate selected by plebiscite. We

all know that the Queensland Central Executive overruled the result of a plebiscite in which the grass roots section of the A.L.P. had its say.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I advise honourable members on my right and on my left that I will not tolerate interjections while a Minister is on his feet.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Interjections will not be tolerated while I am on my feet. The Leader of the Opposition knows the rules of the House as well as anybody else. I ask all honourable members to obey Standing Orders.

Dr. EDWARDS: It is true, of course, that Opposition members are trying to keep all their problems secret until after the Sherwood by-election.

Mr. Burns: What is wrong with that?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to obey the rulings of the Chair. If he does not do so, I will have to deal with him under Standing Order 123A. That is the last thing I want to do to him. I ask all honourable members to do the right thing and to obey the rulings of the Chair.

Dr. EDWARDS: The A.L.P. is trying to hide these problems from the people of Sherwood. The absence of most members of the A.L.P. during the Sherwood by-election campaign is quite evident. The only time we have seen the Leader of the Opposition in Sherwood was when he was travelling up and down the river. One wonders why he is keeping away from the people of Queensland. I want to place on record, because I think it should be recorded—

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member for Wolston interjects again, he will be dealt with under Standing Order 123A. The next time he interjects he will be out.

Dr. EDWARDS: I think it should be placed on the record of this Parliament that parliamentarians should not be subjected to any pressure at all from any outside body. I deplore any effort by the A.L.P. and by the Queensland Central Executive to control A.L.P. members.

Mr. Wright: You are really having a side swipe at the National Party to get back at Joh. That is what you are doing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Rockhampton will cease interjecting.

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member for Rockhampton is again indicating his

great sensitivity in this area, as are all members of the A.L.P., who are quivering in their shoes regarding their own endorsement at the next election.

I want to place on record again that we, as a Government, deplore any interference by outside bodies. This instance is indicative of the conflict within the A.L.P., which will be brought to the surface and which everybody will know about after the Sherwood by-election. I want to warn the people of Sherwood that they should know by now that the A.L.P. is not a party that can be trusted. It is not a party that should be given any powers whatsoever. I am sure that the people of Sherwood will not place any faith in the A.L.P.'s nominee for the forthcoming by-election.

VOTING BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PARTY

Mr. HANSEN: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health: Would he like to comment on the report in today's "Courier Mail" that block votes must be recorded by members of the National Party, and that this direction to members to vote in block comes from the president of the National Party?

Dr. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Wright: This will test him.

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

Dr. EDWARDS: If the honourable member for Maryborough is suggesting that I believe everything that I read in the Press—

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. I will deal under Standing Order 123A with the next person who interjects.

Dr. EDWARDS: I have noted the statement to which the honourable member refers. I have discussed the matter with the Premier and I am sure that that matter can be quite easily clarified.

"BUY QUEENSLAND MADE" CAMPAIGN

Mr. HANSEN: In directing a question to the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services, I refer him to the "Buy Queensland Made" Campaign and congratulate him on his success in this area. I will do all in my power to help him. I also bring to his notice the fact that car stickers on sale in Queensland stores to promote the town of Kingaroy are, like the Premier, produced in New Zealand. I now ask the Minister: Is he aware that these stickers are not only printed in New Zealand but also produced on behalf of a Melbourne company, Goodwill Products Consolidated Pty. Ltd.? At a time when this State has its worst unemployment in over 40 years, will he take whatever steps are

possible to ensure, where practicable, that products to promote Kingaroy or other Queensland centres are, in fact, Queensland-made, rather than a source for overseas and interstate job creation?

Mr. LEE: I will take note of what the honourable member has said. I believe that it is this Government's intention—and of course, it always has been—to have products, where possible, manufactured in Queensland.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. LEE: Like the Hong Kong dong that the honourable member brought home from there, I meant.

The Government is always trying to promote Queensland products, and I assure the honourable member that I will certainly have the matter investigated. If it is possible to have the sticker printed in Queensland, it will be done here.

ALLEGED COMMENTS BY PREMIER ON PEEL REPORT

Mr. TENNI: I ask the Premier: Will he please advise whether comments reported in the Press and supposedly made by him, that any member named in the Peel report would not become a Minister while he is Premier of this State, are correct?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I assure the honourable member that I have never made any statement in relation to any member on this side of the House in that connection. I have never even thought about it. I know that there have been reports at Mt. Isa and in the honourable member's electorate in North Queensland stating that I had said things of that sort in relation to my own colleagues. Of course, that is mischievous propaganda to try to cause problems within our party.

I did say in this Chamber, during a speech when the honourable member for Mackay was sitting on the benches opposite, that there was no way in the world that he could ever become a Minister of the Crown in the dim and distant future because of what he had hanging around his neck in that regard. Out of that grew the statement that I had said this about my colleagues. I assure the honourable member for Barron River that I have never said anything like that. It would not apply to him or to any other member on this side of the House, anyway.

HIBERNIAN MEDICAL & HOSPITAL BENEFITS FUND

Mr. BOURKE: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health: What is the current situation concerning the operation of the Hibernian Medical & Hospital Benefits Fund? When will contributors to this fund have final information concerning the fate of their money?

Dr. EDWARDS: The Hibernian Medical & Hospital Benefits Fund has been in some difficulty for a time, and has not been undertaking any business. It is a Commonwealth responsibility in that the licence for the operation of medical and hospital benefits funds is issued by the Federal Minister for Health. I have been in touch with the Federal Minister over the period the fund has not been operating. I have been informed that an inspector has investigated the operations of the fund, and I believe that a report has recently been made available. Some time ago I was told by the Federal Minister that he was hopeful that details of settlement would be announced in the very near future. I assure the honourable member that I will again take the matter up with the Federal Minister as soon as possible, and give him an answer in writing.

DOSSIERS ON SCHOOLCHILDREN

Mr. MILLINER: In directing a question to the Minister for Education, I refer to an allegation made by Mrs. Rona Joyner of the Committee Against Regressive Education that some dossiers are being kept on Queensland children, and his confirmation in "Sunday Sun" that dossiers do exist. I now ask: Can he advise what information is kept in the dossiers, who compiles the dossiers and whether any outsider has ever been privileged to see the information compiled?

Mr. BIRD: I am amazed that the honourable member takes any notice of what is printed in "Sunday Sun". In that newspaper it was alleged that I said that dossiers are kept on children. I am at present asking "Sunday Sun" to clarify that and to print what I really said. It is not true that dossiers are kept on school students. There are indeed records of their performance and of any problems that they may have. These are recorded and are discussed from time to time with the parents. They are available for the parents to peruse at any time they desire. It is simply a record kept of the child's progress as he goes through school. It is for the benefit of the children and also to help the parents.

ALLEGED SPLIT IN LIBERAL PARTY, IPSWICH AND SHERWOOD ELECTORATES

Mr. MACKENROTH: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health: Is it true that the State President of the Liberal Party, Mrs. McComb, was recently locked out of and refused admission to a meeting of the Liberal Party in Ipswich? Is it true that the Liberal Party in Ipswich is hopelessly split over his weak leadership? Is this also the position in Sherwood following the resignation of Mr. Graham Vann, a faithful and popular member of the Liberal Party for many years?

Dr. EDWARDS: It is incredible that the honourable member for Chatsworth should make allegations based on such absolute nonsense. As to the selection council in Ipswich—I am sure that every political party has rules for its selection councils. The rules of the Liberal Party state that members must be at the selection council prior to the commencement of the meeting. What happened was that the president, Mrs. McComb, was held up in the traffic between Brisbane and Ipswich.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member for Wolston does not come to Ipswich often enough to know what the traffic is like between Brisbane and Ipswich. It would be a good idea if he came up occasionally. He would then know how long it takes to travel between Brisbane and Ipswich.

Because she arrived in Ipswich about 5 minutes past 7—the selection council meeting commenced at 7—Mrs. McComb was unable to attend. She did not even apply to become a member of the selection council.

The position with Mr. Vann is, of course, well known. Again the honourable member obviously does not know any of the details. Mr. Vann was a hard-working member of the Liberal Party for many years. He was not selected as the candidate for Sherwood and he decided to resign from the party for that reason.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (12 noon): Today I wish to call upon the Government to transfer the administrative control of the Government aircraft from the Premier's Department to either the Treasury or the Department of Transport. This is in line with the Premier's recent call for tighter control on Government spending and in order to bring the Queensland Parliament into line with the Parliaments of other States, as the Premier puts it, auditwise.

No Government spending is shrouded in more secrecy than that on the so-called Government aircraft, which is no longer being used in accordance with the original Cabinet decision of 12 January 1971 when the original aircraft was purchased supposedly for ministerial use. The official aircraft has now become merely a winged chariot at the beck and call of one man, to be used as he desires, whether it be to ferry him backwards and forwards between Brisbane and Kingaroy or to take him on National Party campaigning, even interstate.

Despite the Premier's recent statements on radio and television and in the Press on the accountability of members of Parliament to the people, not even the Parliament is told

when the Government aircraft flies, where it flies, why it flies or who flies in it. All we know is that, according to the Auditor-General's latest report, it is now costing almost \$2,500 a week to run the aircraft. It cost a total of \$121,333 in 1977-78. Since then, of course, the Federal Government's Budget fuel rises have pushed the cost even higher. This amount of \$2,500 a week is virtually the equivalent of a round-the-world ticket with Qantas each week plus a flight to Singapore, with change left over for tucker and entertainment along the way at any stopover places.

Let us compare this with the method used by the Commonwealth Parliament which, incidentally, is the only other Parliament in Australia that has its own aircraft for the use of officials. The aircraft are from what is known as the V.I.P. fleet or the V.I.P. squadron. That squadron is under the administration of the R.A.A.F. section of the Defence Department. The procedure is that ministerial secretaries phone the R.A.A.F. section to make the necessary requests for the use of the aircraft.

Following the use of the aircraft in the V.I.P. fleet, reports from the R.A.A.F. section of the Defence Department, which are cross-checked with the records of the duty officers at Fairbairn air base, are tabled monthly in the Senate. These reports show all flights undertaken, the names of all passengers, the times of take-off and landing and all places of take-off and landing, including any detours made along the way.

In addition, quarterly reports, which consolidate all of those records, are tabled in the Senate showing all travel undertaken by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and all other Ministers, so that they can be cross-checked with the monthly reports. Everything is under the full and complete scrutiny of the Parliament itself.

It must also be noted that, in the Federal sphere, the Leader of the Opposition has the same access to the V.I.P. aircraft as that enjoyed by the Prime Minister and other Ministers. This contrasts completely with what happens in Queensland where, as was pointed out in the Peel report, the Leader of the Opposition, in order to visit places in the State to which there is no regular air service, has to arrange some form of charter. This, then, makes it appear that he is doing something wrong in carrying out his duty to take the alternative point of view into any area of Queensland that does not have a regular air service.

The worst feature of the secrecy that surrounds the use of the Government aircraft in Queensland is the alarming increase in operational costs in recent years. The figures show that, while inflation rose by 109.2 per cent between 1 July 1971 and 30 June 1978 and wages rose by 158.1 per cent, the operational costs of the Government aircraft, based on flying costs per hour, which is the normal method used by virtually all airlines, increased from \$56.77 in 1971-72 to \$289.01 in 1977-78. Authority for those figures is

found in the reports of the Auditor-General to this Parliament for each of the financial years I mentioned. This is a rise per flying hour of \$232.24 or, over that period of seven years, 410.8 per cent, compared with an inflation rise of 109 per cent and a wage rise of 158 per cent.

A thorough examination of the meagre information that is available from all the various reports the Auditor-General has released on this aircraft over this period reveals some further very strange occurrences. Despite the increase in pilot's wages and insurance, their percentage of operational or maintenance costs fell from 46.2 to 29 per cent over this six-year period. Despite the huge increase in fuel costs, as a percentage of operational or maintenance costs they have dropped from 22.3 to 21.8 per cent. But—and this should be noted—during this period servicing costs rose from 21.6 per cent of the overall cost of running the official aeroplane to 42.7 per cent.

It should be especially noted that there was a huge lift—from \$19,306 to \$40,963—between 1975-76 and 1976-77. Incidentally, during that same period the miscellaneous costs (what they are we do not know, because we are not informed by the Auditor-General or the Premier) rose from \$5,745 to \$13,000. In other words, they more than doubled. No official explanation has ever been given for these amounts, and aviation experts who are familiar with this model of aircraft say there was no explainable movement in charges associated with servicing this type of plane to justify the sudden upward servicing costs.

Strangely, flight numbers, passenger numbers, flying times and fixed operational costs were virtually the same during this period. Why did the servicing and miscellaneous costs rise by such huge amounts at this time? Is there any truth in the rumours that have been floated around this Chamber by dissident National Party members that the Government aircraft was severely damaged during a landing whilst under the control of someone other than the usual pilot, and that the incident was never reported?

In verification of the figures I have just cited and various other facts associated with the purchase of the aircraft, I lay upon the table a report that contains data compiled from the various Government reports which show, from available information, the facts that I have partly detailed.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

I believe that the Premier must be made accountable for the use of this aircraft, and this can be done only by the following means: firstly, the transfer of its administrative control to either the Treasury or Transport Departments; secondly, the establishment of a Government committee comprising the Chairman of the Public Service Board, the Secretary of the Premier's Department,

the Under Secretary of the Treasury and the Auditor-General, to submit draft guide-lines for its future operations with the Premier being given similar priority rights to those available to the Prime Minister in the Commonwealth sphere; thirdly, the appointment of a senior officer within the controlling department to administer the operations of the aircraft; and, fourthly, the complete records of the use of the aircraft including details of all flights, all points of landing and take-off, all passengers, flight times and mileage, the purpose of the use and the servicing and maintenance details and costs to be kept by this officer and tabled in Parliament twice yearly.

One thing that must certainly happen is that interstate use of the official aircraft for party-political campaigning in elections where Queenslanders have no vote or parliamentary connection must cease immediately. The Government aircraft is not being economically used or fully utilised. From the few facts we are able to gather, almost 50 per cent of its flights are between Brisbane and Kingaroy. It would be interesting to find out how many of the remainder could be just as easily made by the use of normal commercial domestic airline services. Major discrepancies in the published records of the cost of the second Government aircraft and the huge fluctuations in its servicing and maintenance costs have either been overlooked or ignored by both the Premier and the Auditor-General in their reports to Parliament.

(Time expired.)

QUALITY OF EGGS MARKETED IN NORTH-WEST QUEENSLAND

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (12.10 p.m.): In March 1977, I stood in this House and criticised the Queensland Government for tolerating the double standards in Queensland practised by the Egg Marketing Board and the Hen Quota Committee. At that time my argument was that the local producers were not allowed to supply the local market with locally produced eggs. I also stated that the eggs coming into Mt. Isa were stale, and inferior to those sold on the Brisbane market. The Egg Marketing Board is keeping as many hens as possible in production in South-east Queensland for materialistic and selfish reasons. It is also completely disregarding the needs of the people in the remote, isolated areas and the Government's decentralisation policy.

On 30 March and 1 April 1977, Mr. Slaughter, the chairman of the Egg Marketing Board, challenged me on the A.B.C. radio programme "Country Hour". When asked by the interviewer, "Are Mt. Isa people getting in fact inferior eggs?", he replied—

"I would say no. Any problems which Mt. Isa people are having with quality of their eggs, are entirely due to the transport delays, caused by Mr. Berton's Government railways and roads."

So today, again in this House, I challenge the chairman of the Egg Marketing Board to explain to the Brisbane people how it is possible that, according to the latest Department of Primary Industries' quality survey, more than 50 per cent of all eggs retailing in Brisbane are in fact of inferior quality, without the Government's Transport Department being involved.

In an article headed "The Golden Egg" in a recent edition of "Farm Note", which is published by the Department of Primary Industries, G. Stewart and K. Orange of the Poultry Section of that department in Brisbane urged housewives not to store eggs on refrigerator doors because the frequent vibration has a remarkable influence on the quality of eggs. The vibration caused by closing a refrigerator door breaks away the chalaza that joins the yolk to the ends of an egg. Imagine what happens to eggs that are transported all the way by rail to Mt. Isa or to North Queensland! Once again, this supports my original claim that eggs distributed by the Egg Marketing Board to the areas in the north and north-west of Queensland are inferior to those sold in Brisbane. As a matter of fact, they can be thrown out; they are completely stale.

I now refer to comments by Mr. K. McKenzie, the technical services manager of the Egg Marketing Board. He claimed in a paper presented to a meeting of the Poultry Information Exchange, held at the Surfair Hotel on the Sunshine Coast, that eggs delivered to the Egg Marketing Board floor by egg producers reached, by January 1978, a level of 69 Haugh units. The Haugh unit is a measurement of freshness related to the thick white in the egg. The minimal acceptable level of Haugh units is 60.

In another paper, Mr. McKenzie stated—

"A minimum Haugh Unit value of at least 60 is desirable at the retail level. Eggs having a Haugh Unit Score of less than 60 could be considered as unacceptable."

He also claimed that only eggs with a Haugh Unit value of 67 or higher are sold on the local markets.

Therefore, we ask ourselves: what happens to the 54 per cent of small eggs, or the 64 per cent of medium eggs, or the 74 per cent of large eggs that are not in an acceptable condition for Brisbane retail stores? I will tell honourable members what happens to them—they are sent to the north and north-west areas of Queensland. The people in these areas have to accept the eggs that are sent there by the Egg Marketing Board, which adopts this materialistic approach of sending stale eggs to country areas.

This fact is clearly stated in a paper presented by Mr. K. Pugh, an officer of the Department of Primary Industries. He made a survey in December 1977, and again in

January and February 1978. We are wondering in what condition are the Egg Marketing Board eggs that are marketed in North Queensland and in my electorate of Mt. Isa.

On the last occasion on which I claimed in the House that Egg Marketing Board eggs in Mt. Isa were stale, I met strong opposition from the board. The board knew from statistics released by the Department of Primary Industries, which were available to it but not to me at that time, that over 78 per cent of the large eggs were not acceptable for retail sale in large shops and that over 50 per cent of the small eggs were not acceptable, yet it sent these eggs to North Queensland and out to western areas.

Because of the acute shortage of fresh eggs in my electorate, egg producers in Mt. Isa asked for larger hen quotas, but they were flatly refused. Why were they flatly refused? Because of the structure of the Egg Marketing Board and the Hen Quota Committee. Of course, a few members of the Egg Marketing Board also sit on the Hen Quota Committee, and their primary interest is in peddling as many as possible of their board's low-quality eggs to the North in order to get the best possible return for the producers. As a result, children in the decentralised north have no access to locally produced fresh eggs.

For years the people of Mt. Isa were promised self-sufficiency in locally produced eggs. They were asked only to be patient, to give the Egg Marketing Board and the Hen Quota Committee time to organise themselves. And what happened? The Hen Quotas Act Amendment Bill of 1978 closed the egg industry in Queensland. When 54,000,000 eggs were overproduced in South-east Queensland in 1977-78, 13,200,000 eggs were sold in North Queensland.

Mr. Casey: What did the Minister do about that for you?

Mr. BERTONI: I will come to that.

The result of these policies is a vast overproduction of eggs in the over-quota districts in the south-east corner of Queensland. As I said, 54,000,000 eggs were overproduced last year, and 13,200,000 eggs were sold in North Queensland. That was in spite of the recommendation by Messrs. G. Stuart and K. Orange, officers of the Department of Primary Industries in Brisbane, to housewives not to store eggs in refrigerator doors because the frequent vibration has a remarkable influence on the quality of eggs.

Once again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I come to the recommendations that were made by the D.P.I. representatives at the Surfair conference, which clearly state—

(1) Cut back the "use by date" from three weeks to two weeks. This, however, could present marketing problems.

(2) Oiling of eggs to preserve quality. There are additional costs involved in marketing.

(3) Insist that eggs sold in retail shops are kept in specially constructed refrigerated cabinets. Again the high cost of refrigerated cabinets is generally beyond most retailers.

(4) Market eggs through butcher shops.

(5) Pack eggs in materials that slow down egg quality deterioration.

(6) Put more pressure on retailers to improve the conditions under which eggs are kept.

To summarise quickly, I beg the Government of Queensland to stop immediately the discriminatory practices of the Egg Marketing Board and the Hen Quota Committee against the decentralised population, as has been done in Western Australia. Secondly, I call on the Egg Marketing Board to reduce its "use by date" to 14 days or less, to ensure the quality of eggs in the retail stores. This will enable an increase in hen quotas in the smaller areas. Thirdly, each of the egg producing areas in the northern and western regions should be self-sufficient. Fourthly, the board should ensure that only fresh eggs are sold in all the towns and cities throughout Queensland.

In conclusion, I ask the Minister for Primary Industries what he is doing about this. This is about the fifth time that I have spoken on the subject, and I will continue speaking on it until something is done. I wonder why the Minister continually allows the Egg Marketing Board to colour his thinking. I sincerely hope that by continuing to argue the matter in the House I will gain the support of all members in overcoming the problem. People in the western and northern areas of the State should be self-sufficient, and I will continue repeating that. We have a policy of decentralisation of which we take no damned notice, and I think it is about time the House woke up to that fact.

LEGISLATION COVERING MANAGEMENT OF HOME UNITS

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.19 p.m.): The matter of public interest that I wish to raise this morning relates to the management of home units in Queensland, and I call upon the State Government to introduce at an early date legislation to upgrade the management and supervision of home units. A couple of years ago when Mr. Knox was Minister for Justice and Attorney-General he undertook, at my request, to institute a review of the Building Units Titles Act, which is the legislation that governs all aspects of life in units held under strata title. As a result, I got in touch with my electorate, which is densely populated and has many blocks of home units, and asked for submissions to put to the Government when legislation was being framed. Being a member of the parliamentary Justice Committee, which would have that responsibility, I was in an ideal position to pay due regard to submissions received from body corporates and individuals occupying home units.

As we all know, Mr. Knox was elevated to the Treasurership of the State, and the Justice portfolio passed into the hands of Mr. Lickiss. Of course, one can excuse the fact that Mr. Lickiss did not take immediate action in this direction on assuming his new office because it was probably a matter he was not completely familiar with and, indeed, it was something to which he did not have the same local commitment as perhaps Mr. Knox did. Later on he suggested to us at the Justice Committee level that the Building Units Titles Act should be incorporated in the Group Titles Act, which covers cluster housing, to make one master Act dealing with the joint ownership of properties where common areas and common ownership are involved. Of course, some drafting has taken place along those lines.

I am unhappy about the lack of speed with which this proposal is proceeding. I think it is time that the Government got moving on it. There are matters of deep concern in relation to home-unit ownership. I believe that we should adopt an approach in this State similar to the one that has been in force in New South Wales for many years. This would involve the establishment of a tribunal presided over by a man of the standing of a magistrate, who would have an advisory committee to keep him in touch with day-to-day changes in home units. It would be a tribunal that could adjudicate on differences, a tribunal to which all complaints of a serious nature could be referred, and a tribunal that would have the power to arbitrate and bring down an enforceable decision in respect of disputes over home units. In other States there is a right of appeal against the adjudicator's decisions to a District Court judge. That is what I would like to see the Government of Queensland do by way of legislation. It is not within my capacity as a private member to bring forward legislation of this nature; it must be instituted by the Minister, and I ask him to do so very soon. I hope that in doing so he will consider public involvement in the preparation of the legislation. I ask him to convene a public seminar where interested parties could give their views as to how the legislation should be framed. I would envisage a seminar such as those chaired by the previous Minister for Justice, who adopted this method quite frequently, and relevant bodies were invited to comment. A seminar of this nature should involve people from the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association, the Real Estate Institute and other bodies of that nature, the Home Unit Owners' Association (a newly established prestige body in this State), the Institute of Secretaries, and accountants who practise in this field and act on behalf of bodies corporate and unit companies. In that way we could all get together in one room and hammer out just what is the most desirable form of legislation to meet Queensland's needs. Personally, I favour something

akin to that which exists in New South Wales, where a tribunal is appointed to determine these matters.

Disputes concerning persons who own home units arise in many ways. In the first place, the legislation should establish a person's ownership over the home unit and the strata title. The existing legislation does that, but it needs to be upgraded. The legislation should then move on to outline and make enforceable the method by which the formation of body corporates shall take place. It should reconcile in some way the differences that exist between strata title home units and company-owned home units, that is, where unit holders own shares in a company that owns and manages the property. That is the early form of home-unit ownership.

The legislation should then provide for the proper method of election of the committee of a body corporate and indeed its removal if it is not doing the right thing or if it is not calling regular meetings to ensure that there is proper accountability for the moneys collected on behalf of all the home-unit owners. It should ensure that when a body corporate is set up the developer cannot stack the committee of that body corporate so that he controls the block of units by numbers in perpetuity.

A good deal of politics is involved in some of the major and even minor blocks of home units. It becomes a numbers game between one pressure group and the other, one block vote and the other or one particular interest and another. On some occasions, the minority view is not always given due consideration.

The law should lay down provisions that pay due regard to and enforce clear majority decisions of the body corporate, decisions reached at full meetings of all the unit holders, properly called and duly convened in accordance with the legislation.

If a body corporate comprising 100 members meets and if 99 of those members are in favour of the construction of a swimming-pool in the grounds or the fitting of aluminium awnings along the entrance, they should not be prevented by the vote of one person who holds out against them from having the work done. It should not be mandatory that a unanimous resolution is necessary to effect minor changes.

At the same time, the legislation must protect and pay due regard to minority views. A minority of unit holders who might be ill-equipped to look after their own interests must be protected against being swamped by a hostile committee or a hostile majority.

I know of a block of six home units, of which two are occupied by elderly ladies who purchased their units with their savings so that they could live in them during their retirement, one is occupied by an elderly man who suffers from a severe heart condition, and the remaining three are occupied by people who have one thing in common—the tuning of racing cars and stock-cars. They engage in this practice in the grounds

of this small block of home units. There is no way in which the two elderly ladies and the ailing gentleman can enforce noise-pollution control measures or have banned this activity of stripping cars, leaving pieces spread around the yard and revving engines. That situation has arisen because in this block of six home units these three elderly people do not have the numbers.

(Time expired.)

TORRES STRAIT AFFAIRS; PAPUA NEW GUINEA BORDER ISSUE

Mr. SCOTT (Cook) (12.30 p.m.): I want to use the time available to me in this debate on Matters of Public Interest to talk about the Torres Strait. The Premier of this State has used the people of the Torres Strait as a political football. My main charge relates to the Papua New Guinea border issue. Before I develop that theme, I want to talk briefly about the way in which the Torres Strait people are used not only by the Premier but also by the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs and the Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. They are used for political purposes quite ruthlessly and I will relate briefly an incident that happened to me when I was invited to what are called the Y.D.M. sports held on Yorke Island this year.

I decided that, if possible, I would fly out to the easternmost island, Murray Island, and then come back, with the appropriate approval, on the "Melbidir" to arrive at Yorke Island in time for the sports. That was quite a good idea, as it would have allowed me to see the "Melbidir" in action. I have been asked by many of my constituents to do just that.

When I was elected to this Parliament, I wrote to the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs (Mr. Porter) asking what I would need to do to make use of departmental shipping. He said, "Write to me on any occasion when you see the need and I will answer you." In this instance he said to me that it would be necessary for one person to stay off that boat to allow me to have passage back from Murray Island to Yorke Island. Realising full well the way in which matters go on up in that area, I knew that this was an absolute fabrication. He pointed out in his letter that there were aerial services to almost all of the islands up there and that I could avail myself of them if I wanted to. I wrote back saying that I noted his comments but that I wished my application to be reconsidered. He or his director then told the manager of the D.A.I.A. on Thursday Island to send out certain radio messages. I will read the text, which fortunately was brought to my attention. This emanated from the D.A.I.A. radio network on Thursday Island at some date prior to 26 October, the date of the

sports. It was directed to chairman, deputy chairmen and Government teachers up there. It says—

"As you are aware the 'Melbidir' will carry your children for Y.D.M. Sports at Yorke. Have received request from local member, Mr. Scott for passage on the ship which if granted may make it necessary to off load one of the members of the sporting team in order that Mr. Scott's request be met. Could you let me know today if all the approved team will need the space provided also the number you have going to Yorke Island up to the number approved by the Marine Department. Also, do you agree, if necessary, that one of them be off loaded to meet safety requirements if Mr. Scott is given a passage. Would appreciate your advice today, please."

That was used against me in a very political manner—and the director has acted in that way on numerous occasions, not only in election campaigns but also at other times. Everyone up there knows that quite large numbers of people are carried on the "Melbidir", provided there are sufficient life-jackets on board as a safety measure. That has been quite a satisfactory arrangement. In fact, I know that the Department of Harbours and Marine fought strenuously to get the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement to observe the marine regulations. However, everyone knows that that has not been observed and that anyone, if the necessary arrangements have been made, can get on the "Melbidir" and sail to wherever the "Melbidir" is going.

Obviously, this was used against me for blatant political purposes. I was concerned that the Yorke Island sports may have been put in jeopardy. When I heard the content of the radio message, I took the matter up with the Deputy Premier, who has asked the Minister for a report on this very unsavoury matter. I have spoken to the leaders on the islands up there. They know exactly how this came about. In fact, one of them laughingly said, "Oh, that will be my long mate down in Brisbane.", referring of course to Mr. Killoran. So they are quite accustomed to the D.A.I.A. using tactics of this sort in the Torres Strait islands. In fact, the letters D.A.I.A. are used as an abusive epithet up there.

A very serious matter—and one that concerns the whole State—is the way in which our Premier has presided over the removal of part of Australia's territory and the gift of that area to the Government of Papua New Guinea. All of us might have opinions on whether the existing border has been satisfactory to the two nations. I do not agree that it has been but I am very unhappy with the arrangement that will be ratified by the Governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia.

What irks me is that the Premier has continually used the Torres Strait people to stir about this matter. "Border no change"

are the words that have been bandied around up there. Signs have been erected at Government expense that this will be the case.

I can remember the shocking spectacle of the Premier's demeaning the people up there by being carried ashore because he would not wet his feet. People know that if they travel in that area they equip themselves with a pair of plastic sandals so that when the small boat gets close enough to the shore they can do as the people up there do; get out and wade in to wherever they are going. But not the man who is the Premier of this State! He wanted to use those people for political purposes. He led them on and he dangled them on a string. He said to them, "The border will not change. I am looking after your interests."

I now go back to 25 May 1978 when the whole outline of the present border agreement, which will become law, was set out in Federal "Hansard". It was the subject of a small booklet which was circulated throughout Queensland and the remainder of Australia telling people exactly what was proposed by Mr. Peacock. I ask honourable members opposite if they know the terms and conditions of that treaty and if, as responsible members of the Parliament of Queensland, they can tell me what is involved in this new treaty that is being negotiated with Papua New Guinea, which the Premier has now apparently agreed to. They cannot tell me even what is in the very large print. They do not know. That shows how uncaring Government members are in their responsibilities towards Queensland.

My main argument with the proposed legislation is that it is much too complex. That is where it will fall down. Instability has developed in the Papua New Guinea Government. Because I believe that Mr. Somare has resolved the problem for the time being, I certainly do not want to expound that matter. But what will happen in time to come? Will there be a Government in Papua New Guinea that will use the border issue for chauvinistic purposes or will Indonesia move into Papua New Guinea as it moved into Timor? This has been put forward as a possibility and is something that cannot be ignored.

Mr. Bourke: Rubbish!

Mr. SCOTT: The honourable member can say "rubbish". He lives in a safe area in southern Queensland and really would not know what he is talking about on this issue. Thinking people are concerned about it. I do not think that the proposed agreement is good.

Commonwealth "Hansard", on page 2485, reads—

"Similarly there will be a line delimiting the swimming fisheries resources jurisdiction between the two countries, located as indicated on the two maps."

"Australia will recognise Papua New Guinea sovereignty over the islands of Kawa, Mata Kawa and Kussa and the smaller islands appurtenant to those islands . . ."

So that land is being given away. It is claimed that the interests of the people on the islands of Boigu, Dauan and Saibai have been looked after. I accept that Mr. Peacock has attempted to do this, but his solution is not the right one. It will cause Australia and Queensland great concern in the years to come.

The Premier of this State has gone along with that while he has used the people up there when it suited his purposes at election-time and other times. I told the people in the Torres Strait area during my election campaign that the Premier was only using them for political purposes and that matters of real substance were being overlooked by him in his dishonest campaign.

Commonwealth "Hansard", on page 2484, reads—

"There will be an embargo on mining and oil drilling of the seabed throughout the Protected Zone for 10 years from the date of entry into force of the treaty."

How long is 10 years compared with a man's lifetime? It will go, just like a flick of the fingers. Who will then look after our interests? Certainly by that time we will have a new Premier and he will be a Labor man. He will have the intestinal fortitude to look after our interests and not sell us out as we have been sold out by the Premier, who is not in the Chamber at the moment. I was pleased to see the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs come back into the House.

(Time expired.)

DEATH OF POLICE OFFICER AND ALLEGED CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL PARTY; TELEVISION INTERVIEW

Mr. TENNI (Barron River) (12.40 p.m.): The matter I wish to bring to the attention of the House today is of great concern to the electors of Barron River, in particular the people of Mareeba and, for that matter, the people generally of this State and nation. I refer to the misreporting of the A.B.C. on the television programme "This Day Tonight" that went to air in this State last Wednesday. I was interviewed by a Mr. John Barton, and he knew darned well that the interview that I did could not be cut. I was very smart, I thought, because I recorded the complete interview on a cassette. Although I was told by Mr. Barton that the interview would be shown in three segments on either Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights or Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights, this was an untrue statement because the interview was shown on Wednesday night only, and then only a very small segment of it was used.

What annoys me is that the "This Day Tonight" reporters came to Mareeba because of deliberate untruths, misstatements and innuendo uttered on the floor of this House by members of the A.L.P. I refer particularly to a notice of a question by the Leader the Opposition this morning in which he stated that on that programme I said, "I suspect it is murder.", which is totally incorrect and I have a cassette recording to prove it. There is also a video tape in the library that proves it is incorrect. The question put to me by Mr. Barton on that programme was, "Do you rule out murder?" I said, "I don't rule out anything. The police are having an inquiry into it and it is up to those making that inquiry and the report of that inquiry to come up with the findings, and that is what I will accept." Yet the Leader of the Opposition stood here this morning and deliberately stated an untruth. It sickens me to hear the honourable member for Cook making a statement that he wants to see a man such as that as leader of this State.

I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to come out with the truth. I challenge him to state the video tape in the library is incorrect and that my cassette recording of the interview is incorrect. I hope he accepts the challenge. I hope that he shows himself as an honest man instead of one who speaks untruths while using the protection of this House.

I also want to refer to questions asked by the honourable members for Cairns and Ipswich West containing totally untrue and disgusting material that was pulled out of the air to be used against me and the National Party in North Queensland in relation to drug problems in that area, problems that are no worse than those faced by members in most Queensland and national electorates.

Mr. Underwood: If the cap fits, wear it.

Mr. TENNI: I accept that interjection because on many occasions Labor Party members have said that they believe marijuana should be decriminalised.

An Opposition Member: Who said that?

Mr. TENNI: The Labor Party; that is part of Labor's policy. Yet we now have Opposition members rubbishising members of the Police Force in North Queensland for endeavouring to perform their duties in many fields. I am sick and tired of Labor Party members being two-faced, having two bob each way.

Look at the Cedar Bay episode. The Labor Party did everything in its power to stop the police from performing their duties and arresting offenders at Cedar Bay. We have seen what occurred when two schoolteachers in Charters Towers were convicted of taking drugs. We sacked those teachers. But what did the Labor Party do? Its members wanted those druggies, and that is what they were, to be reinstated and teach our kids. This is what they wanted,

and yet they are now putting on a big show by pulling things out of the air and using the protection of this House in an endeavour to politically assassinate people such as me in the hope of regaining a seat that they held for many years. They will never do it.

What they are doing at the moment is only helping me. The sensible, Right-Wing people in the A.L.P. have assured me during the last two weeks that they are absolutely fed up with the members of the A.L.P., and that I have their full support. Members opposite have to get on with playing their part in governing this country, not making innuendoes on the floor of this House, which is what they are doing at the moment. I do not want to be hindered by innuendoes. I do not want to have to be attacking and challenging members of the A.L.P. all the time. I want to do the job that I was put here to do, and it is about time that honourable members opposite realised that.

I turn now to the television programme "This Day Tonight". The reporters from that programme came to Mareeba and interviewed people like Mick Borzi, O.B.E., the magistrate, the inspector of police and the manager of the Tobacco Growers' Association. What did they show on television? They did not show interviews with any of those respected gentlemen, who know what is going on in the area. They showed interviews with two itinerant workers in the street, who did not even belong to the town. Why did they spend thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money—that is what the A.B.C. does—on interviewing sensible people, when they showed on television just the interviews to which I have referred?

The people in Mareeba are very good, clean-living and responsible citizens. We deplore the actions of these "This Day Tonight" reporters in deliberately rubbishing and denigrating our town. We deplore them for denigrating our Police Force. We believe that members of our Police Force are important people to this country. They are very important to the people in my electorate. We want the protection of the Police Force. We want the respect of the Police Force. We regret that people like the members of the A.L.P. and the reporters from "This Day Tonight" denigrated those very capable men and women in the Police Force. It is about time that we did something about it.

They have constantly picked on two police officers in the Far North. Today we heard the honourable the Leader of the Opposition—I do not know that he is so "honourable"—give notice of three more questions in which he attacked the Police Force, and two officers in particular.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: He never attacked them.

Mr. TENNI: He did. He said that this policeman had committed suicide. All I can say is that this police officer, who was a family man and a very good, sensible and extremely capable police officer, was found shot dead in his car. It is about time that

the members of the A.L.P. and the reporters from "This Day Tonight" realised that it is up to those conducting the inquiry to come up eventually with the findings—not me, not the Leader of the Opposition, not the Premier of this State. That is why we have the Police Commissioner and the Police Force.

The members of the A.L.P. and the reporters from "This Day Tonight" accused the National Party in North Queensland of receiving funds from drug sources during the last election campaign. At the end of October and the beginning of November last year, I heard in North Queensland that the A.L.P. in Barron River, in Cook and in three or four other electorates throughout Queensland was receiving funds from drug-gies. Because the A.L.P. condones drugs, I probably could have accepted that. It has recommended that drug offences should be decriminalised. I should have accepted what I heard last year, but, because I did not believe that any political party or any person standing as a candidate in an election would have any involvement in drugs, I treated it as a pack of lies. But these accusations were made very strongly in North Queensland against the A.L.P. Because there was absolutely no truth in them, when the Parliament resumed I did not get up on the floor of this House and attack the A.L.P. on them. There is also no truth in the allegation against the National Party in North Queensland or me.

I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to give the names of the people who presented some \$40,000-odd to the National Party in North Queensland. I want to know where that money came from, who gave it and on what date it was received. I am interested to know where the money came from. I do not care whether it came from a member of the A.L.P., the National Party, or any other party. If he deals in drugs, he is gone. I do not believe in drugs.

I now say to the House: if any person in my electorate or anywhere else in this State wishes to bring any tips on drugs to me, I will take him to the Police Force. His name will not be mentioned. I am one person in this House who will do everything in his power to try to eradicate these terrible people who grow and sell drugs in this State.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. BOURKE (Lockyer) (12.50 p.m.): Although I took part in the debate yesterday on the Education Estimates, I wish to devote more time today to two aspects of education that I think are of critical, even crucial, importance. The basic concept that I intend to develop is the need to provide within our education system opportunities for children who need special education, and it is obvious to me that there are two types of children in this field: firstly, children with handicaps; secondly, children who are specially gifted and who have an intellectual capacity that deserves educational attention above that provided for normal children in the class-room.

The first matter on which I wish to comment is a key feature of the department's policy, that is, that children with special needs should be integrated into normal classrooms wherever possible, and certainly into normal schools. In my opinion, that has much to commend it. Recently, in both motion picture and television films, we have seen a move by the American community to emphasise that negroes are a basic part of society. Negro actors have been given a greater number of roles in films. Something similar could be done for handicapped people. It occurs to me that rarely, if ever, does one see a handicapped person playing a role in a film. That is one aspect of our social policy that we should be looking at.

It is also very important that handicapped children should attend normal schools with other children. That has advantages not only for a handicapped child but also for the other children in the school, who come to appreciate that a handicapped person is much the same as they are. It is pleasing to see that we are at last moving in that direction. Children with special needs have equal rights with every other child in the school, and we must recognise that fully and move purposefully towards giving them the rights to which they are entitled.

There is also a move within the department to reach out beyond the school system and get the message across to parents of these children before they reach school age. There are certain techniques that parents can use to improve the prospects of the children, and the Education Department is to be congratulated for the initiatives it is taking to reach the parents before the children attain the age of 5 or 6 years.

One has only to read some of the case histories of children with special needs to become fully aware of the urgent need for the department to provide all possible facilities for the education of these children through State resources. I have read some case histories—they were supplied through the department—of children at the School for the Deaf. After the school was established in 1955, a young girl from Maryborough was taken to the school by her mother. She was assessed professionally as having no educational prospects and the advice was that there was no point in educating her. Teachers at the school were optimistic and were prepared to put their efforts towards helping that child. The mother was optimistic and was prepared to move to Brisbane from the country, in the interests of the child. The eventual outcome was that the girl concerned went to the university and obtained a degree.

Apart from the fact that she is now a person who contributes fully to the community whereas her services may have been lost, I am immensely concerned about the personal injustice that may be involved in cases such as that if the community fails to provide such people with opportunities for full education and full personal development. It is

not only a matter of the community losing a person who can contribute something worth while; it is also a matter of personal injustice. What a dreadful thing it is for the community to condemn an individual to the life of hopelessness and bitterness that must inevitably follow a failure to develop his full potential.

Therefore, I am right behind the efforts of the Education Department to provide special education. Much more money and many more staff will be needed, and I look forward to meaningful breakthroughs and developments taking place in that field. The educational needs of handicapped children provide valid lessons in relation to the educational needs of all other children within the system.

There is a need for more specialists, and I think that we must endeavour to provide people such as occupational therapists and speech therapists. A problem seems to arise because of the bureaucratic attitude of the Education Department, which traditionally has been teacher-oriented. Perhaps that has led to the exclusion of all other professions that can aid a child in his education. In my opinion, there must be a move towards placing more emphasis on the other specialists, and I commend the State Government for the steps that it has already taken in that direction.

Recently in my electorate special education facilities, which formerly were described as opportunity school facilities, have been provided at Gatton. Previously children had to travel a considerable distance by bus to the opportunity school at Toowoomba, which was a separate school. The present trend is away from separate schools, and that is commendable because children should be integrated in normal schools.

At the other end of the scale of children with special educational needs—

Mr. Scott interjected.

Mr. BOURKE: I do not think that by any stretch of the imagination the honourable member for Cook could be included among the gifted children with special educational needs.

At the other end of the scale of children with special educational needs come those children who are particularly gifted. There is no easy way of identifying them. Their I.Q. is one basic guide, but other aspects of their abilities have to be considered. There are children in the community who are gifted far above the average. They are fully entitled to consideration of their special needs in education. We are moving, as I understand educational philosophy, towards having each child's educational needs assessed on an individual basis. This is the ideal, although I do not think that we will ever get there for every child. But we are moving that way. It is particularly appropriate that gifted children should have their needs assessed on an individual basis.

I raised this matter in my speech yesterday on the Education Department Estimates. In reply, the Minister said that these children were catered for under the present system. He said that they are assigned more work. With due deference to the Minister—I congratulate him on the effort he has made in the department; it has not been easy—I suggest that the answer is not to give these children more work of the same type. It has to be recognised that they are not children who need more of the same stuff that they can do easily in order to keep them occupied and out of the teacher's hair; they need special curriculums tailor-made for their own requirements. Within the education system we have to look towards recognising this. It has to be admitted that in Queensland we never have recognised it.

In other States, special schools are provided. I would oppose that concept. As with children with handicaps, these particularly gifted children have to be integrated into a normal school. Their presence also is to the advantage of all other children. Special classes should be provided for these children within a normal school, in the same way as special classes should be provided for children who have learning difficulties and need remedial work. They should have their needs and potentials examined on an individual basis, taking into account the fact that they are particularly highly gifted. These children, when fully developed, will contribute much more than their share to the future of the country.

I had a look at a primary school along these lines at Gabbinbar in Toowoomba, under the headmastership of Mr. Colin Crane. I understand that that is the only class of its kind in Queensland. In the one class structure are 15 to 20 children with high potential. They range from the basic grade to the top grade of the school. They are given their own sort of curriculums. I repeat that it is essential for these gifted children to have their own curriculums that can develop them to the limit of their abilities. In the education system in Queensland we have been against elitism as such, and we have neglected this approach. It is time for a total review so that we will recognise the potential of gifted children.

A special case was put in America. The suggested programme there was—

1. Children should be grouped by ability.
2. Part of the school day should be given over to special instruction.
3. Talented students should be allowed time to share their talents with children of other schools in the area or even of other schools throughout the State. (Transportation costs were to be paid)
4. A child should be advanced according to his talents rather than according to his age.
5. These children should have special teachers, specially trained and highly salaried.

If such a programme were suggested here, there would be a roar of objection to it. But that is exactly what we are doing for children who are gifted on the sports field. If a person is a gifted swimmer, we provide special tuition and travelling facilities, but we do not do that for children who are gifted with brains. Such children can contribute far more to the community than any gifted swimmer.

We should have different curriculums for gifted children. We should have specialisation in their teachers. If they are being taught maths, they should be taught by a teacher who has had special training in mathematics. Of course, this would mean a large variety of specialised teachers. I would suggest here that we could be using teachers from tertiary institutions for these small groups of children. That would be beneficial to both groups.

Further, in an expanded field, we could have the use of computers and specialised equipment. Of course, this would involve extra expense. Perhaps it is easier to get specialised equipment than specialised staff. Certainly we should not have separate schools. Until we adopt the policy I advocate, we are not going to get to the basis we should have in our education system of recognising excellence and promoting personal ability. We should come up with a programme that has the definite aim of giving them justice by enabling them to take full advantage of their potential, and giving the community a return for its investment. Those children will be giving us the breakthroughs and leads to carry us forward into the future.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.