

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 1978**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

---

**THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 1978**

---

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

**CLOSURE OF PARLIAMENTARY  
LIBRARY DURING RECESS**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I inform honourable members that in order to facilitate the classification and transfer of library material to the new parliamentary annexe, it has become necessary to severely curtail services offered during January.

The Library Committee has made arrangements for the major newspapers and photocopying facilities to remain available, but research and reference inquiries will be almost impossible to answer in most cases because the necessary books, periodicals and news clippings will be packed away ready for the shift. Members are requested to restrict as much as possible their use of the library during January to enable the staff to complete the shift as quickly as possible. It would also be of assistance if members could return all outstanding books, etc., to the library before Christmas.

It is intended that we take possession of the new building on 19 January, and we are expected to shift on 21 January. I seek the co-operation of all members. I ask that they place in waste-paper baskets that will be provided any material that is not wanted. All material so disposed of will be destroyed and go to the paper mill for conversion. I seek the co-operation of honourable members in that way. I ask that they make arrangements to have thrown into the waste-paper baskets that will be left outside of the various doors any material that is not wanted.

**COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES****ALLEGATIONS BY MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD  
AGAINST MR. BRIAN MAHER**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I wish to advise that I have received the following letter from Messrs. A. Kootsookos & Co., solicitors, of 260 Queen Street, Brisbane, re Brain Maher—

“December 5 1978

“The Speaker,  
“Legislative Assembly,  
“Parliament House,  
“Brisbane 4000  
“Dear Sir,  
“Re: Brain Maher

“We act for the abovenamed. He has instructed us to write to you concerning

the article which appeared in the Courier Mail on Friday December 1 1978 reporting on statements made about him in the House the previous day by Mr. K. J. Hooper (the Honourable Member for Archerfield). This letter proceeds on the basis that the newspaper article correctly reports Mr. Hooper's statements. We are advised that Hansard for the day in question is not yet available and we may therefore have to add to this letter at a later date.

"We wish to deal firstly with the specific statements attributed to Mr. Hooper in the report before treating with his reported submission for the Government 'to act' in relation to Roy Higgins Racing & Breeding Stables Ltd.

"Mr. Hooper alleges that Mr. Maher is a 'white collar crook', and a 'rogue' and appears to base these assertions on Mr. Maher's involvement with tax avoidance.

"In the article there is a confusion between tax evasion and tax avoidance. We are instructed that Mr. Maher has never been involved in tax evasion. He has been involved in various proposals which on implementation reduce or extinguish the incidence of income tax. All of these rely for their effectiveness on actual provisions contained in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 (as amended) and were based on legal and accounting advice. Indeed the State Courts, the Federal Court and the High Court of Australia in numerous authorities (the references to which we can provide if required) has held that similar proposals, when implemented, are legally effective. We are instructed that there is nothing unlawful in Mr. Maher's involvement with tax avoidance.

"The article refers in this context to 'stripping companies'. No specifics are given in the article on the so called 'stripping' which is really a common parlance expression indicating very little. A company may, quite legally, be 'stripped' of assets. It may also, again quite legally be 'stripped' for dividend. We are instructed that none of Mr. Maher's business activities in either context involve anything unlawful.

"The article also implies that so called 'stripped companies' are left with 'dummy' officers and a fictitious address. Our instructions are that these allegations too are quite false. In this context two companies, Helena Patella Pty. Ltd. and Jasmina Kirsten Pty. Ltd. were mentioned in the report. Mr. Maher instructs us that he has never been a shareholder, director or other officer of either company. He instructs us further that he has no connection with any premises at 63 Isaac Street, Spring Hill nor with any business called Candy's Health Studio, both of which were mentioned in the report.

"On the basis of Mr. Hooper's allegations he requested the Justice Minister to investigate the floating of the company Roy Higgins Racing & Breeding Stables Ltd.

"Our instructions are firstly that the allegations reportedly made against Mr. Maher by Mr. Hooper are untrue and secondly and in any event that there is no connection between Roy Higgins Racing & Breeding Stables Ltd. and any proposal to reduce or minimise the incidence of income tax.

"A prospectus for the issue of shares in Roy Higgins Racing & Breeding Stables Ltd. has been registered with the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, Queensland, and is current. Whilst the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs does not take any responsibility for the content of a prospectus, Section 42 (2) (d) of the 'Companies Act 1961-1975' provides that the Commissioner shall not register a copy of any prospectus unless he is of the opinion that the prospectus does not contain any statement or matter which is misleading in the form or context in which it is included.

"Prior to the registration of the prospectus with the Commissioner numerous drafts of the document and the supporting material contracts referred to in it were lodged at the office of the Commissioner and considered in detail by his officers. Many hours were spent in conference by the writer with a team of officers of the Commissioner varying in number from two to four. Each claim made in the prospectus was required by the Commissioner's officers to be substantiated by evidence.

"All the material lodged from time to time with the Commissioner prior to the issue of the prospectus should be available from the Commissioner's file and enquiry of the Commissioner or his officers would confirm the detailed attention which was given to this prospectus—the same attention as is given to every prospectus for the Commissioner to perform his proper function under the Act.

"The statements made by Mr. Hooper of course have the benefit of parliamentary privilege. Our client therefore is left with little redress but to complain to you as the Speaker of the House about the statements reportedly made by Mr. Hooper and the effect that those statements must have upon members of the public particularly in relation to the floating of Roy Higgins Racing & Breeding Stables Ltd. and the prospectus still current. We understand that the Privileges Committee deals with complaints of this nature and we respectfully ask on behalf of our client that the matter be referred to that Committee."

"Yours faithfully,

"A. Kootsookos & Co."

DOCUMENT TABLED BY MEMBER FOR WOLSTON  
BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received the following letter, dated 6 December, from the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs (Honourable C. R. Porter):—

“Parliament House,  
“Brisbane. 4000  
“6th December, 1978.

“Hon. J. E. H. Houghton, M.L.A.,  
“Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,  
“Parliament House,  
“Brisbane.

“Dear Mr. Speaker,

“I advise that today during the First Reading of the Bill to amend the Aborigines and Islanders Act the Member for Wolston misled the House by stating:—

that he was quoting from a letter to him written by a resident of Cherbourg when, in fact, he was quoting from an anonymous document which was not a letter to anyone.

“When asked by me to table the document he was quoting the Honourable Member declined. I then successfully moved the tabling of the document and so ascertained the extent of his deception.

“I informed the House that I would seek to have his action the subject of consideration by the Privileges Committee and I accordingly report this matter to you so that you can submit to the House the matter of referring this grave offence to the Privileges Committee.

“Yours faithfully,

“Charles Porter,  
“Minister for Aboriginal  
and Island Affairs.”

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members will not interject while I am on my feet.

I, too, have inspected the document. I am of the opinion that the honourable member for Wolston certainly misled honourable members in the submission that he made yesterday. I therefore ask Parliament to take appropriate action to allow the Committee of Privileges to investigate this matter. I also believe that the former matter concerning the statements made by the honourable member for Archerfield should be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Before doing so, I draw the attention of the House to the fact that these matters occur not only on the Opposition side of the House but also on the Government side, and to the fact that more privilege matters have been raised in the House in the last couple of years than during the whole of my term in Parliament.

I also draw the attention of the House to the fact that in my opinion Parliament has become a cesspool of misleading statements. The sooner members of Parliament

realise that any evidence submitted from either side of the House should be factual, the better it will be, and that will obviate the stigma that attaches to some actions.

I am deeply concerned about the whole issue. I know that, like me, many honourable members are firmly of the opinion that the privileges of Parliament are being used frequently to embarrass or completely denigrate businesses or people who, because the matters are raised under the cloak of parliamentary privilege, have no redress.

I have appealed to honourable members before, and said that it is about time we put our house in order. In the eyes of the public, there is no bigger mess than that which we have created for ourselves through a lack of decorum and dignity in the House. I ask all honourable members of all parties to ensure that any documents tabled or any submissions made are correct in all details.

I ask the leaders of all parties to make sure, in the interests of their own political organisation, that their members act accordingly. I firmly believe that I have the support of all honourable members in this plea. It is absolutely regrettable that we seem to be doing everything to annihilate ourselves and create a great deal of disquiet in the minds of the public about our behaviour.

The regrettable fact is that complete annihilation of people and firms can be effected by statements made under the privilege of this House, and they have very little redress. Honourable members know, as well as I do, that they are not prepared to make such statements outside.

I again ask for the co-operation of all party leaders to co-operate and take up the matter with their own members. Parliament should not be a tame cat. That is the last thing anyone would want. Our freedom of speech should never be curtailed and every member should be able to use the privilege of this House to make here any factual assertion about a matter brought to his notice. That has been done repeatedly. As a matter of fact, I commend members on some of the forthright denunciations that they have made. However, I say that in some of their submissions made of late, some members have sunk to a pretty low ebb.

I again ask all party leaders to co-operate and deliberate with their party members to ensure that similar situations do not arise in the future.

REFERRAL OF STATEMENT BY MEMBER FOR  
WOLSTON AND ALLEGATIONS BY MEMBER  
FOR ARCHERFIELD

**Mr. WARNER** (Toowoomba South), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That the statement by Mr. R. J. Gibbs, member for Wolston, concerning a document tabled by order of the Committee, and

the letter of Messrs. A. Kootsookos & Co., representing Brian Maher, about statements made by Mr. Kevin Hooper, member for Archerfield, be referred to the Select Committee of Privileges."

Mr. **AHERN** (Landsborough): I second the motion.

Motion (Mr. Warner) agreed to.

#### INTERIM REPORT

Mr. **WARNER** (Toowoomba South) (11.34 a.m.): I table the interim report of the Select Committee of Privileges, with papers referred to in the report, and I move that the report be printed.

*Whereupon the documents were laid on the table, and the report was ordered to be printed.*

#### PAPERS

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

##### Reports—

Health and Medical Services of Queensland, for 1977-78.

Queensland Art Gallery, for 1977-78.

Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, for 1977-78.

Department of Mapping and Surveying, for 1977-78.

Queensland Probation and Parole Service, for 1977-78.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

##### Orders in Council under—

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1974.

City of Brisbane Market Act 1960-1978.

Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1976.

Industrial Development Act 1963-1976 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1975.

##### Regulations under—

The Statistical Returns Acts, 1896 to 1935.

Margarine Act 1958-1975.

Stock Act 1915-1976.

#### MINISTERIAL EXPENSES; USE OF OFFICIAL AEROPLANE

The following papers were laid on the table:—

1. Return in the usual form of expenses of Ministers for the period 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail.
2. Return in relation to the operation of the official aeroplane during the year 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978 showing in detail (a) total flying time (b) total number of flights (c) total number of passengers and (d) names of Ministers by whom the aeroplane was used.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

##### PROPOSED STREET MARCH

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Minister for Health) (11.16 a.m.): I refer to statements in the media indicating that discussions took place yesterday between the Leader of the Opposition and me and that these talks would continue this morning.

It is true that Mr. Casey rang me at my Parliament House office at approximately 3.10 p.m. yesterday and indicated that he wished to see me on a personal matter. No mention was made during the short telephone conversation that he wished to discuss any particular matter. I completed discussions I was having with a Liberal Party parliamentary committee on forward policies for next year and then saw Mr. Casey. He showed me a typed motion and asked me if I would be prepared to move such a motion in the Parliament as he was very concerned about the confrontation that might occur if a march took place today. I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition that I, too, shared his concern, as did all Queenslanders, but I also stated that I could not be part of the proposals, even though legislative proposals were in part consistent with the Liberal Party policy on the right of appeal.

Mr. Casey indicated that he would keep me informed of his plans. I gave no indication that I would have further discussions, as the position is not negotiable.

I feel that the Leader of the Opposition has given to the media an inaccurate version to try to shift responsibility from him on this matter.

The issue at stake today is that Mr. Casey's supporters have indicated that they intend to march without applying for a permit. This is illegal. It is irresponsible and it must not occur. It cannot occur anywhere in Australia. Mr. Casey has publically indicated that he supports the legislation for the principle of marches only occurring when a permit has been applied for and granted. This is the Government's policy and this is the issue today.

We see the Trades and Labor Council and Federal Labor members of Parliament supporting the concept that people should be allowed to take to the streets without a permit. This is just not on.

The only time the confrontation has occurred has been when people have tried to march without permits or authority. The responsibility in this issue belongs to Mr. Casey and his Trades Hall colleagues. They have the answer to today's concern. All he has to do is to convince his Trades Hall supporters that they should have their rallies and cease at that point, and no trouble would occur. The responsibility is his and his alone and his despicable act of trying to politically ally the Liberal Party in a cheap political grandstand will not go unnoticed by the moderate people who still support the A.L.P.

The right of appeal is another issue. My party believes that the right of appeal should be to a District Court judge or to a tribunal consisting of a judge, the Police Commissioner or his nominee, and a community representative. My party also believes in a coalition Government. It is my judgment as to when this matter is presented to the Government and it will be done in the usual responsible way, which is followed by each coalition party, and then this policy will be considered. We have our differences, and we respect them, but we assure the people of Queensland that the coalition Government is the way by which responsible decisions can be made.

If the right of appeal is an issue—and I do not necessarily think it is—then today there should be protest rallies and marches occurring throughout Australia, as no other State has any right of appeal. I challenge the A.L.P. Federal members who are coming here today at taxpayers' expense to have similar rallies and marches in other States to have those Governments introduce legislation to give a right of appeal in those States. Let them be consistent and not cause the confrontation and law-breaking they are causing in Queensland today.

My party will have no deals with the A.L.P. and I place full responsibility for any confrontation on the A.L.P. members and their Trades Hall supporters.

Mr. Casey is clearly fighting for survival already and trying to cover up the deep chasm that exists between the elected Labor Party in Parliament and the union-dominated and manipulated Trades Hall.

## PETITIONS

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Hon. S. S. DOUMANY** (Kurilpa—Minister for Welfare) presented a petition from 13 electors of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take all necessary steps to see that the laws that exist in the workers' compensation statutes to permit correction of error and injustice are in fact applied.

Petition read and received.

### PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM PORNOGRAPHIC CHILD-ABUSE MATERIALS, PUBLICATIONS OR FILMS

**Mr. AUSTIN** (Wavell) presented a petition from 50 citizens of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will protect all children and immediately prohibit pornographic child-abuse materials, publications or films.

Petition read and received.

### CLOSURE OF NYANDA RAILWAY STATION

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) presented a petition from 193 electors of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland

will take all necessary steps to maintain Nyanda Railway Station as an operational passenger stop.

Petition read and received.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Mr. CASEY** (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (11.21 a.m.), by leave: Mr. Speaker, my personal explanation—

**Mr. Gygar:** You've got a lot of explaining to do, Ed.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You'd be the last one to talk.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Archerfield will cease interjecting. I ask all honourable members to obey the Standing Orders and allow the Leader of the Opposition to be heard in silence.

**Mr. CASEY:** I sought leave to make this personal explanation to clear any confusion still existing in relation to my meeting yesterday with the Liberal Party Leader (Dr. Edwards). It is correct that I did initiate a discussion with Dr. Edwards in my office in Parliament House early yesterday afternoon on the street-march issue. When I contacted him, it was, to use my words then, "on an urgent private and personal basis".

Because of the layout of Parliament House and the vigilance of the Press, media representatives were aware that Dr. Edwards had been to see me. Following inquiries, I issued a very short statement on our meeting, without mentioning the bulk of our conversation. In this Press release I indicated that I had offered Dr. Edwards the opportunity to move the same motion without notice that I sought leave earlier yesterday to propose in this Parliament. The meeting was very brief because Dr. Edwards had to leave to fulfil commitments in Rockhampton. Before leaving, he indicated that he was prepared to discuss the question further this morning, but I told him I feared this may prove too late. The text of the motion I proposed to Dr. Edwards was well known to Government members of Parliament, including the Premier, because I circulated it yesterday before unsuccessfully seeking leave to move it.

I have now taken every possible step to resolve this issue lawfully and peacefully through the democratic processes of Parliament. The motion I offered to Dr. Edwards was, I believe, not only in line with official Liberal Party policy but in accordance with the advice earlier yesterday to Dr. Edwards from the Liberal Party State president (Mrs. McComb). At no stage did I offer Dr. Edwards any kind of coalition or parliamentary alliance with the Australian Labor Party on this or any other issue. All I proposed was the amendment of the street march legislation to restore the right of appeal that applied without argument for 16 years before 14 September last year. In making

this approach, I believed that I was giving the Liberal Party the opportunity to implement its policy in line with the publicly stated desires of its State president and the by-election expression of the voters of Sherwood.

Even here this morning at this 11th hour I am prepared to try yet again to bring a non-violent solution to this frightening situation through common sense and conciliation.

If the 24 Liberal Party members of this House are prepared to support the motion I proposed to move yesterday in this House, I shall immediately confer with the organisers of the march to bring about a peaceful solution to the situation.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore move—

“That leave be granted to move a motion without notice.”

Question put; and the House divided—

AYES, 21

Blake  
Casey  
D'Arcy  
Davis  
Fouras  
Hansen  
Hooper, K. J.  
Houston  
Jones  
Kruger  
Mackenroth  
Milliner

Prest  
Scott  
Underwood  
Warburton  
Wilson  
Wright  
Yewdale

Tellers:

Gibbs, R. J.  
Vaughan

NOES, 49

Ahern  
Akers  
Armstrong  
Bertoni  
Bird  
Bishop  
Bjelke-Petersen  
Booth  
Bourke  
Camm  
Campbell  
Doumany  
Edwards  
Elliott  
Frawley  
Gibbs, I. J.  
Goleby  
Greenwood  
Gunn  
Hewitt, W. D.  
Hinze  
Hodges  
Hooper, M. D.  
Katter  
Kaus  
Kippin

Knox  
Lane  
Lee  
Lickiss  
Lockwood  
McKechnie  
Moore  
Muller  
Neal  
Newbery  
Porter  
Powell  
Row  
Scassola  
Scott-Young  
Simpson  
Sullivan  
Tenni  
Tomkins  
Warner  
Wharton

Tellers:

Gygar  
Miller

PAIRS:

Burns  
Shaw

Hewitt, N. T. E.  
Hartwig

Resolved in the negative.

## STATE HOUSING ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### INITIATION

**Hon. C. A. WHARTON** (Burnett—Minister for Works and Housing): I move—

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

70600—112

to amend the State Housing Act 1945–1978 and the State Housing Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1957–1978 each in certain particulars and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1. GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS ON STREET MARCH

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

(1) With reference to this week's political advertisements on the street march issue, on what date was this advertising campaign approved by Cabinet?

(2) What was the total cost involved in terms of (a) newspapers, (b) television channels, (c) radio stations, (d) any other form of advertising used, (e) production costs of the television films, radio tapes and newspaper advertisements, and (f) charges paid to the advertising agency?

(3) In what newspapers and on what television channels were the advertisements featured, and what was the cost in each instance?

(4) Was the advertising agency hired for this extravagant propaganda programme Leo Burnett Pty. Ltd., and is this company the agency used by the National Party in its election campaigns?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition is obviously once again under a misapprehension as the advertisements to which he refers are certainly not “political advertisements”.

It was considered essential by the Government that the public should be made fully aware of the true facts of the law relating to street marches and the issue of permits.

I can well understand the annoyance of the Leader of the Opposition at the course of action taken by the Government, as he obviously does not wish the public to be told the truth. He and other members of the A.L.P. have, of course, been misleading the public by a misrepresentation of the true facts.

#### 2. SALE OF ADDITIONAL FOODSTUFFS IN BUTCHER SHOPS; PROCESSING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS IN QUEENSLAND

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

(1) With reference to a recent survey that I had carried out following amendments to the meat industry regulations, which allow butcher shops to sell dairy foods, margarine, frozen packaged vegetables, seafood and eggs, which revealed that very few butcher shops have taken

up the option to sell these other foodstuffs, and, furthermore, do not want to, if these figures are not readily available, does his department intend ascertaining in the near future how many butchers have taken up this option?

(2) Is it necessary for slaughtering inspectors to make formal inspections in butcher shops where these additional foodstuffs are to be sold, and what jurisdiction do they have over the regulation of their sale?

(3) As the butchers of Queensland obviously did not want the legislation and as the only gains since its implementation have gone to a New South Wales processing company, what effective action will he take to encourage the processing of Queensland primary industries in Queensland?

*Answers:—*

(1) A survey will be undertaken of butcher shops which have taken advantage of reciprocal legislation to allow them to sell products such as dairy foods, margarine, frozen packaged vegetables, frozen packaged seafoods and eggs. It is considered, however, that a survey at this time could not be conclusive, as many proprietors are still weighing the advantages against the cost of installation of additional facilities.

(2) Slaughtering inspectors will continue to inspect butcher shops as a routine obligation, and the only difference where additional foodstuffs are to be sold will be closer co-operation with officers of the Health Department in regard to conditions under which these foodstuffs are stored and offered for sale.

(3) The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has expressed his concern that processing of Queensland primary products be encouraged, and I am happy to advise him that two Queensland firms have already entered this market. I am optimistic that other Queensland firms will follow this lead.

### 3. PROMOTION OF SALE OF TEXTBOOKS BY MR. H. R. COWIE

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

(1) Is Hamilton Russell Cowie, who is senior lecturer in History Curriculum Studies at the School of Education of the University of Queensland, (a) the educational adviser for history to the commercial firm of Thomas Nelson Australia, publishers, (b) a member of the history syllabus subcommittee of the Board of Secondary School Studies and (c) the author and the editor of Queensland secondary history texts that are cleverly promoted for individual purchase in Queensland secondary schools?

(2) Is he aware that Mr. Cowie promotes the use of his own commercial textbooks for future history teachers through his own Diploma of Education students?

(3) Is he aware that Mr. Cowie has been the membership secretary and custodian of the individual membership lists of the Queensland History Teachers' Association and that Mr. Cowie provided his commercial publisher with access to the direct membership lists of the Queensland History Teachers' Association, whereby unsolicited material was sent by Thomas Nelson Australia Ltd. to individual members, falsely claiming that it was in response to the members' requests?

(4) Is he aware that through these interlocking conflicts of interests Mr. Cowie has been able to obtain several thousand dollars a year in royalties and, as Mr. Cowie is only one of many such persons involved in the textbook racket at all levels of education in Queensland, will he set up an inquiry into this matter?

*Answers:—*

(1) (a) I am informed that Mr. Cowie is associated with Thomas Nelson Australia as an author and co-ordinator of a group of authors.

(b) Yes.

(c) I am informed that Mr. Cowie is the author of textbooks considered appropriate for Queensland secondary school studies.

(2) No.

(3) No.

(4) I have no information on the matters raised to influence me to consider an inquiry. I would appreciate any additional advice the honourable member can give me on these matters so that I can give further consideration to them.

### 4. EFFECT OF ABOLITION OF DEATH DUTIES ON REAL ESTATE MARKET

**Mr. Milliner**, pursuant to notice, asked the Treasurer—

(1) Did Mr. Brian White, a Brisbane real estate executive, tell those at a Real Estate Institute of Australia function at Surfers Paradise in November that he did not think the death duties situation is as important as some people have made out?

(2) Was Mr. White referring to the effect of the abolition of death duties on the Gold Coast real estate market, and did he imply that the effect had been overrated?

(3) In view of these statements, have any checks been made by the Government on the effects of its death duties legislation on real estate sales?

(4) What additional funds have been raised in stamp duty and other Government charges through the sale of

real estate on the Gold Coast in each year since death duties were removed, and will he provide a comparison with the three previous years?

*Answers:—*

(1 & 2) I did not attend any function of the Real Estate Institute of Australia at Surfers Paradise in November, and therefore cannot confirm whether or not Mr. Brian White made such a statement, let alone inform the honourable member as to what Mr. White was referring to.

(3 & 4) As regards the remainder of the question, I can advise that no check has been made by the Government on how the elimination of death duties has affected real estate sales. The Government has not found it necessary to research this or to attempt to quantify the effect that any additional sales have had on stamp duty revenues.

#### 5. COURT RULING ON LITTERING OFFENCE

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

(1) Is he aware of the ruling by a senior stipendiary magistrate that a young man was not guilty of throwing a cigarette butt from a train as the cigarette he threw away did not constitute rubbish?

(2) Has the department responsible for the Litter Act looked at this particular ruling and, if so, has any action been taken to overcome the problem?

(3) What will result from the ruling?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I am aware of the decision referred to by the honourable member and am having the matter examined to see whether any amendment of the Litter Act is desirable as a result thereof.

#### 6. POLICE BUILDINGS AND COURT-HOUSE, BEENLEIGH

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

(1) Has the building programme at the Beenleigh Police Station been completed and, if not, what work is yet to be carried out?

(2) In the original plan for this police station, was there provision for a house for the inspector and, if so, could he provide the relevant details?

(3) Does he have any plans for the building of a new court-house at Beenleigh?

*Answers:—*

(1) Work undertaken at the Beenleigh Police Station included the provision of additional accommodation, construction

of a new cell block and a new residence and conversion of the existing residence to office accommodation. This work has been completed. The new residence is occupied by the officer-in-charge of the Beenleigh Police Station. No further work is listed for this police station on the three-year forward-planning programme.

(2) As indicated in answer to (1) the new residence is occupied by the officer-in-charge of the police station. There is no provision on the three-year forward-planning programme for the construction of a further residence for the Police Department at Beenleigh. I am advised that the inspector in charge of the police district is presently residing on the second floor of leased accommodation, the ground floor being the headquarters of the police district.

(3) Provision exists in the three-year forward-planning programme for a new court-house at Beenleigh, with construction to commence in late 1980 or early 1981, subject to funds being available.

#### 7. TRAFFIC SIGNALS, HOLLYWELL ROAD/GOVERNMENT ROAD/GOLD COAST HIGHWAY JUNCTION; OXENFORD-HOPE ISLAND ROAD

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

(1) In the light of previous advice from him in a letter dated 29 September 1978, advising that channelisation and signalisation of the intersection of Hollywell Road, Government Road and the Gold Coast Highway would commence early in 1979, has a specific date been determined yet for this work to be completed?

(2) Will he advise me of a commencement date for the reconstruction of the road from Oxenford to Hope Island?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am pleased to advise the honourable member that the signalisation of the Hollywell Road intersection is planned to commence in February 1979. It is expected that the job will take about two months to complete.

(2) It is anticipated that proposed work on the Oxenford-Hope Island Road will be commenced after the Christmas close-down and before March next year, and that the necessary approval for the work will be given in the near future.

#### 8. PARADISE POINT/HOPE ISLAND BRIDGE

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

(1) Is he aware that (a) an advertisement in "The Courier-Mail" of 25 November advertised land at Huntington

Harbour and (b) under the heading "Newsflash" it indicates that "The long awaited bridge linking Paradise Point with Hope Island could become a reality this year and Mr. Gibbs (N.P., Albert) was told by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, Mr. Hinze (N.P., South Coast) in a recent session of Parliament", which was a question and answer on 21 September 1976?

(2) Are the developers of Huntington Harbour, Lewis Land Corporation, going ahead with construction of the bridge over the flood bypass canal as part of their development responsibility?

(3) How does the construction of the developer's bridge affect the timing of the Main Roads bridge?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes, I am aware of the advertisement which appeared in "The Courier-Mail" on the date mentioned by the honourable member. It is a pity, however, that the advertisers' recent "Newsflash" highlights information given in 1976 rather than the later information which I gave in answer to the honourable member's question early in August this year. To bring the matter up to date, I now advise that investigations into the proposed link from the Pacific Highway at Coomera to Paradise Point are in progress at present. There are many complex technical aspects, such as effects on flooding, bridge foundations, etc., which require full consideration before any detailed design can be undertaken.

Aerial photography has been completed and this is being used in the determination of the most suitable route across the Coomera River and the flood plain. Whilst I can assure the honourable member that the links will proceed following full investigation of the technical and financial implications of the proposal, no firm indication of a likely construction date can be given at this stage.

(2 & 3) I am informed that the Huntington Harbour subdivision is not affected by the flood bypass channel. The same developers, Lewis Land Corporation, have a proposal to subdivide another piece of land which abuts the flood mitigation channel. This proposal is currently being considered by the Gold Coast City Council and it is not yet known what council's requirements will be with respect to the subdivision.

#### 9. GRANTS FOR SCHOOL GYMNASIUMS

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

If high schools are to receive subsidies or grants for rowing sheds, which will only benefit a few students, as rowing is not a subject within the school cur-

riculum, will he also consider granting a subsidy or a grant to schools that wish to build a gymnasium for human movement studies, a subject that is included in the curriculum?

*Answer:—*

Subsidy is not available to the parents and citizens' association of a State high school for the construction of a gymnasium if the school has previously received subsidy towards the building of an assembly hall. However, subsidy is available, subject to the availability of finance, for the construction of a multi-purpose building at a high school which can be used as a gymnasium as well as an assembly hall.

Stage I of a multi-purpose shelter is being provided progressively at State high schools. This accommodation is suitable for human movement studies.

#### 10. SHOOTING OF FOXES

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

(1) Is it necessary to obtain a permit to shoot foxes?

(2) Are foxes classed as vermin?

(3) May foxes be shot at night using a spotlight?

(4) What restrictions are in force in the localities where foxes may be shot?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) This question should be directed to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources.

#### 11. ASSOCIATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE WITH MEADOWLAKE PTY. LTD.

**Mr. Mackenroth**, pursuant to notice, asked the Treasurer—

(1) What, if any, is the S.G.I.O. financial arrangement with Meadowlake Pty. Ltd., the developer of the Carindale housing estate?

(2) How many shares has the S.G.I.O. in this company?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) It has not been the practice to provide details of S.G.I.O. financial arrangements with third parties and I do not intend to depart from that practice. However, I can say that the S.G.I.O. does not hold any shares in the company referred to by the honourable member.

12. LAND FOR SCHOOL USE, CARINDALE ESTATE

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

(1) Has his department purchased a block of land on the Carindale estate between Donnington Street and Bulimba Creek?

(2) Is this land to be used as a school reserve?

(3) Is it to be used for a primary or secondary school?

(4) What is the size of the block of land?

(5) How much did the Education Department pay for this block of land?

(6) Is the department still proposing to purchase the land on the corner of Weekes Road and Creek Road on the Carindale estate and, if not, why has his department moved from its original choice to the block referred to in (1)?

(7) Was his department aware that tests carried out by the Local Government Department on the land between Donnington Street and Bulimba Creek showed positive traces of arsenic contamination?

(8) If not, will he investigate this matter to see if this is a safe place to establish a school?

*Answers:—*

(1) My department proposed to purchase a property at the corner of Creek Road and Weekes Road to enlarge an existing vacant school reserve. An advance payment of \$72,000 was made to the owner. Negotiations involving the exchange of these lands for the new site are still proceeding. Final payment has not yet been made.

(2 & 3) The land is intended for use as a site for a future primary school.

(4) 5.44 hectares.

(5) See answer to (1).

(6) No. Investigations led to the conclusion that the new proposed site would be to the advantage of the Crown as the parkland available immediately to the east of that site would be capable of being used for the activities of the school. In addition, the new school site would be situated further away from Creek Road, which is fast developing into a major arterial road.

(7) No.

(8) Yes, I will direct that such investigation be made.

13. GOVERNMENT FINANCING OF AMBULANCE CENTRES

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

Are any ambulance centres in Queensland financed by the Queensland Government and, if so, which centres are they?

*Answer:—*

With the exception of centres from which ambulance services are financed and controlled by hospitals boards, all ambulance centres in Queensland are subsidised by the Queensland Government. The present rate of subsidy on endowable collections is \$1 for \$1. Ambulance services are provided by hospitals boards at Barcaldine (Barcaldine and Alpha), Cunnamulla, Longreach, Maryborough, Mt. Isa (Camooweal), Quilpie and Richmond.

14. USE OF POISONOUS SPRAYS IN URBAN AREAS

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

(1) In view of the publicity surrounding the use of 2,4-D, and 2,4,5-T what advice can officers of his department offer to people in urban areas with regard to the use of these hormones and other poisons?

(2) Will officers of his department give publicity in local areas concerning their use in urban areas and the care that should be taken?

(3) What penalties exist when people who spray hormones and other poisons disregard the comfort and plants of neighbours?

*Answers:—*

(1) Officers of my department can offer advice on the use of these and other agricultural chemicals in order to avoid drift damage to susceptible plants such as flower and vegetable gardens growing nearby. This advice could include the most appropriate and safest chemical and formulation to use, spraying mixture and strength to use, the equipment least likely to cause drift and the best meteorological conditions to work under. Most of this information is included on the label of the chemical and the best advice to users would be to read and understand the label before using the chemical.

(2) Yes. Information on the use and care that should be taken when using agricultural chemicals is often used by the media. This information is mainly derived from Press items written by officers of my department and would be relevant to urban as well as rural areas.

(3) There are no penalties for people who misuse these chemicals on their own property other than a civil action brought on by a neighbour. However, an operator who contracts to spray weed-killers on another person's property must be licensed under the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966-1972 and any proven negligent spraying operation on his

part could place his licence and therefore his livelihood in jeopardy and subject him to a penalty not exceeding \$2,000. Human health problems arising from the misuse of these chemicals come within the province of my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Health.

15. SAVINGS FROM CHANGE OF DATE FOR FIRST PAYMENT TO NEW TEACHERS

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

(1) How much money will be saved by paying first-year teachers as from the first school day of 1979, instead of the normal practice of paying such teachers as from 1 January?

(2) As a result of this saving, how many more teachers may be employed?

*Answers:—*

(1) The savings in the salaries Vote, less the increased expenditure in the scholarship rate, is estimated at \$710,000.

(2) The estimated savings are equivalent to salary payments for approximately 150 teachers for the last five months of the 1978-79 financial year.

16. EFFECT OF CENTRALISED TRAFFIC CONTROL ON RAILWAY OPERATIONS, MARYBOROUGH/BUNDABERG AREA

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

What effects will centralised traffic control have upon the services and employment opportunities in the area from Maryborough to Bundaberg?

*Answer:—*

Twenty-one officers in the area will be transferred to other positions, but only four stations will cease to be manned. The efficiency of train operations will be significantly improved.

17. MEAT INDUSTRY AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT

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

When will the Queensland Meat Industry Organization and Marketing Authority issue an annual report, as it appears that the old Queensland Meat Industry Authority has failed to issue one for at least two years?

*Answer:—*

I am informed that a report on the activities of the Queensland Meat Industry Organization and Marketing Authority during the period ending 30 June 1978 will be available for presentation in the new year.

18. PROPOSALS AIMED AT REDUCTION OF ROAD TOLL

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

(1) Has any consideration been given to the proposal by the Institute of Advanced Motorists that all Queensland motorists should have to accumulate 35 hours of off-road driving practice before being given a driving licence?

(2) Has this system, which is used in Japan, resulted, as the institute has suggested, in the road toll remaining steady whilst the number of vehicles registered has increased thirteenfold?

(3) What other proposals have been put to the Government to cut deaths and accidents on the road, and what has been the result of the investigation of these proposals?

*Answers:—*

(1) I am not acquainted with the details of the alleged proposal, but there are already provisions in respect to the issue of learners' permits which require the holding of a learners' permit for a minimum period of six weeks before a test is given.

(2) I am not aware that the position is as stated, but I will have inquiries made.

(3) It would be a practical impossibility to catalogue in this reply the numerous suggestions which have been put to the Government over the years for improvements in the road safety position. As the honourable member is interested in the question, I am arranging for a list to be prepared of the more salient suggestions, such as have been ventilated at seminars conducted by the Queensland Road Safety Council and other bodies in various formal governmental and semi-governmental committees, and I will make them available to him.

19. MAREEBA-DIMBULAH IRRIGATION SCHEME, WATER CHARGES AND LOANS

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

(1) In relation to the increased Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation water charges gazetted on 27 May, on what basis were

the old charges set in terms of (a) capital cost, and (b) operation and maintenance cost, what is the value of these components in the new charge, and what is the reason for the difference?

(2) When were charges reviewed previously?

(3) When were the major loans undertaken for the construction of the irrigation scheme, and when will they be repaid?

(4) Do the terms of the loan contain any provision for variation of interest rates and what has been the variation in interest from loan inception?

*Answers:—*

(1) Charges for irrigation water in the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area are structured to reimburse the Government the actual costs of operation, maintenance and administration (including salaries) of the area and, in general, make little or no contribution towards the capital cost of the works provided.

(2) The charges for water in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area remained static from 1 July 1975 until the recent increase applied from 1 July 1978. During this period, costs of operation, etc., had increased by almost 40 per cent, whereas the increase in charges was restricted to 30 per cent.

(3 & 4) All funds for the construction of the scheme were provided from the State's loan fund and the State is totally responsible for the interest and sinking funds payments on such funds.

20. BACARDI TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENT

**Dr. Lockwood**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health—

(1) Has he studied the commercial "Taste Life, Taste Bacardi" that is currently being broadcast on radio and television in time slots giving maximum exposure to teenagers and young people?

(2) Is he aware that a pop song has been released to the same jingle that will subconsciously reinforce the advertisement to have young people identify with the commercial and its objective, which is to get young people to indulge in sex and booze at an early age?

(3) Is this advertisement consistent with the aims of his alcohol-drug awareness programme?

(4) Will he recommend its withdrawal from radio and television?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) There is a Working Party on Alcohol of the Australian Health Ministers' Conference. This working party has

developed a voluntary code of alcohol advertising. A report will be presented to the next meeting of the Australian Health Ministers and I can assure the honourable member that the matter he has raised will be discussed at that conference.

21. SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALLS AND GYMNASIUMS

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

(1) How many State high schools have assembly halls?

(2) How many have applied for assembly halls and are awaiting finance?

(3) How many State high schools are yet to apply for Government subsidy for assembly halls?

(4) How many State high schools also have gymnasiums, and which of these have received Government subsidy towards the construction of a gymnasium?

*Answers:—*

(1) Thirty-nine.

(2 to 4) This information is held by the Department of Works. The honourable member should direct these questions to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing.

22. SUBSIDY FOR SCHOOL ROWING SHEDS

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

(1) Is he aware of the Department of Education circular memorandum, reference RGA 78/21379 dated 21 November 1978, addressed to principals of all State high schools, which states that approval in principle has been given by State Cabinet for a dollar-for-dollar subsidy of up to \$50,000 on the construction of rowing sheds and associated facilities at State high schools?

(2) How many schools have applied for, or have been granted, subsidy towards the construction of rowing sheds?

(3) Where he cannot provide a bay, river or lake and a rowing shed for a State high school, will he consider the use of a rowing shed for a gymnasium?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2 & 3) As the circular memorandum points out, the subsidy scheme is administered by the Department of Works. I suggest that the honourable member direct these questions to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing.

23. INSURANCE CONCESSION AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO AFFILIATE WITH PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL

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

(1) Is it accepted that the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens' Associations serves as a platform for a few officials to spread their particular political poison?

(2) Is membership of that body encouraged by arrangement with an insurance company for cheap insurance, contingent on affiliation of parents and citizens' associations with the so-called parent body?

(3) Is that parent body in breach of the Trades Practices Act?

*Answers:—*

(1) Whilst I do not agree with all the statements made on behalf of the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens' Associations, I also cannot agree with the honourable member's assertions.

(2 & 3) I have no knowledge of the council's association with an insurance company, or whether breaches of the Trade Practices Act are being committed.

24. YORKEY'S KNOB BOAT RAMP; BARRON RIVER DELTA STUDY

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

(1) Now that objections have been heard in the Land Court regarding the construction of the Yorkey's Knob boat ramp, when will construction of this ramp commence?

(2) Is the Barron River Delta study completed and, if not, when will it be made available to departments that urgently await this report?

*Answers:—*

(1) I understand that the Land Court sat in Cairns on 23 November to hear objections to an application by Mulgrave Shire Council to reclaim an area at Yorkey's Knob, which is intended to serve as a parking area for a future boat ramp. I understand further that the Land Court, after hearing some evidence, adjourned the case to early 1979. Since the construction of the proposed ramp must await the provision of the parking area, which in turn is dependent in the first instance on the outcome of the Land Court hearing, I am unable to forecast when construction of this ramp may commence.

(2) The investigation into the Barron River Delta and the adjacent foreshore is proceeding and completion of the report thereon is anticipated in late 1979.

25. UPGRADING OF KURANDA-EMERALD CREEK ROAD

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

(1) When will the urgent upgrading of the highway between Kuranda and Emerald Creek commence?

(2) What section and what length of road will be upgraded first?

(3) When is it expected that it will be completed, and what is the anticipated cost of the work between Emerald Creek and Kuranda?

(4) When is it expected that the complete job will be finished, and when will further widening of the Kuranda Range Road take place?

(5) How much work will be undertaken in this financial year on this range road?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 5) Subsequent to the honourable member's question on 19 October last, future planning programmes have been examined and updated. I am pleased to advise the honourable member that, following this updating, it now appears possible to advance work on the Kennedy Highway to the 1980-81 financial year if present levels of funding are maintained. At this stage, however, the actual commencement date has not, in fact, been determined.

Reconstruction between Davies Creek Forestry Road and Emerald Creek is proposed over a length of 7.3 km and at a cost of about \$1,500,000. At this stage, completion date is uncertain but would be about 12 months after commencement.

No attempt has been made to accurately estimate the cost of road and bridge reconstruction between Kuranda and Emerald Creek, but the likely cost is about \$8,000,000.

Future funding is so uncertain that it is impossible to give any completion date for the total project.

Widening of a further cutting on Kuranda Range will be commenced in the next two weeks and will be completed during the present financial year at an approximate cost of \$105,000.

26. OVERCROWDING OF PETRIE POLICE STATION

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

(1) Is he aware of the overcrowding of staff at the Petrie Police Station?

(2) Is he aware that there are now twice as many police in the station as there were when the last building alterations took place?

(3) Is he aware that the C.I.B. section at Petrie has a room which measures 12 ft. by 10 ft. to house the complete C.I.B. staff?

(4) Will he take steps to overcome the problem?

*Answers:—*

(1 to 4) The matter of providing additional accommodation at Petrie Police Station has been under consideration by both the Police Department and the Department of Works for some time. Technical advice indicates that provision of additional accommodation would entail major extensions to the station.

Because of the commitment of funds for police building purposes to projects of high priority, finance has not been available to date to have these major extensions undertaken. This requirement is being kept under review and the work will be proceeded with at first availability of finance.

27. DISCONTINUANCE OF TEACHER-TRAINING CLASSES

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

(1) Is he aware of an article in a prominent local newspaper of 25 October headed "Course offers diploma, not jobs", which goes on to say that the whole intake of 55 graduate diploma teaching students in the class will not be employed in high schools?

(2) If so, is he prepared to take action to prevent these classes from continuing in 1979?

*Answers:—*

(1) I have seen the article referred to. Six of the graduate class have been offered teaching positions for 1979. It is not known at this stage how many additional graduates from this class will be offered employment during the course of the 1979 school year. The number will depend to a large extent on resignations received during the next two or three months.

(2) Practically all scholarshipholders with a guarantee of employment will have been appointed by early next year. Selection for teaching positions at the end of 1979 can be on an open market basis, as a result of which a significant number of next year's class might be offered positions.

28. PERSONAL GAIN FROM MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE

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

(1) Is he aware that a member of the Health, Building and Town Planning Committee of the Pine Rivers Shire Council,

who is a real estate agent, could be using his position on that committee for personal gain?

(2) Will he investigate the situation and take action to stop the practice?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) Yes, if evidence warranting such action is produced to me.

29. EXTENSION OF RAILWAY FACILITIES, TULLY AND EURAMO

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

(1) What action has been taken concerning my representations for covered fruit-loading facilities within the Tully Railway complex?

(2) What action has been taken by the Manager, Northern Division, concerning a proposed commercial facility at Hewitt Siding at Tully, and when will I be advised of these developments?

(3) What extensions are planned for the railway siding and station at Euramo, near Tully?

(4) Was a new house constructed recently at Euramo and am I to be formally advised of this?

*Answers:—*

(1) A portable shelter constructed to a design acceptable to the banana growers will be provided on a site determined in consultation with the growers.

(2) Investigations are well advanced and the honourable member will be advised of the outcome.

(3) There is no commitment in this regard, but the matter will be investigated.

(4) Yes.

30. SECURITY OF SCHOOLS

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

What provisions has the Works Department made for security at all schools for the holiday period and the 1979 year, with particular reference to schools just completed and ready for the start of the 1979 school year?

*Answer:—*

Security stores are being provided at existing schools progressively as funds are available to enable all valuable equipment to be stored therein. Janitor/groundsmen and cleaning staff ensure that all door locks are working and that window fittings are in order and securely bolted. Some principals

advise the local police when they are on leave so that patrols of the area can be arranged.

With regard to new schools to open in 1979, some Education Department staff are expected to be on duty during the last few days of the holidays for enrolling students. Furthermore, Works Department staff will be on site at various times for the delivery and placement of loose furniture.

Arrangements will be made for the Police Department to be informed of the location of these new schools so that a check can be made when patrols are in the area.

### 31. MINING LEASE APPLICATIONS

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

(1) Concerning mining lease applications 750 to 755, County of Stanley, Parish of Chuwar, have any of these leases been granted and, if so, which ones have been granted and what conditions have been laid down for each?

(2) When will a decision be made concerning applications for which no decision has been made?

*Answers:—*

(1) Of mining lease applications Nos. 750 to 755, Ipswich, one, mining lease No. 750, has been granted. Conditions for this lease have been formulated in terms of the provisions of the Mining Act 1968-1976 and include special conditions to take into account among other matters protection of the environment, existing public facilities and private property. Other conditions relate to rehabilitation of any mined land.

(2) Several matters pertaining to the other lease applications in question are still under consideration and the grant or otherwise of these applications awaits determination of such matters.

### 32. RAILWAY APPRENTICES

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

(1) With reference to railway apprenticeships, how many applicants sat for the examination held on 7 October for each division?

(2) How many vacancies will be offered in each division for these applicants?

(3) How many passed the examination in each division?

(4) How many apprentices on completion of their training in 1979 were to be dismissed at the Ipswich Railway Workshops and Redbank Railway Workshops prior to industrial action being taken?

(5) How many were to be re-employed in unskilled and semi-skilled positions?

(6) What were the reasons for dismissal?

(7) Has he reconsidered the dismissals, how many will be now sacked, and for what reasons?

(8) How many will now be re-employed in unskilled or semi-skilled positions?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 8) The detailed information sought by the honourable member is now being extracted and I shall communicate with him on it.

### 33. WULKURAKA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ACCESS ROADS

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

(1) Is he aware that the two access roads from Brisbane to the Wulkuraka Industrial Estate illustrated in the D.I.D.'s brochure about the estate are (a) a secondary road named Wulkuraka Connection Road, which is scarcely more than a corrugated potholed bush track and (b) Brisbane Street, which carries all the arterial traffic from the estate and the western suburbs of Ipswich and which is frequently congested?

(2) Is he aware that the Wulkuraka Connection Road is the only access road to the estate during flooding of the Bremer River, as well as the shortest route to the northern Ipswich bypass?

(3) Will he, in the interests of development of the estate's industries and those located in the Moreton Shire, take steps to encourage the Moreton Shire Council to give top priority to the sealing of the Wulkuraka Connection Road?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I am aware of the roads that provide access to the Wulkuraka Industrial Estate. For the honourable member's information, I would advise that in the establishment of industrial estates the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development accepts responsibility for all developmental costs, including road-works internal to the estate, whilst it looks to the local authority concerned to provide external services such as road access to a mutually agreed point on the estate boundary.

### 34. BURDEKIN DAM FEASIBILITY REPORT

**Mr. M. D. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Has the inter-departmental committee, which has been analysing the feasibility of the construction of the

Burdekin Dam, finished its deliberations, and has the report been presented to Cabinet?

(2) If so, when will the recommendations be made public?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) It is anticipated that the committee will report to Cabinet shortly.

### 35. TOWNSVILLE URBAN BUS SERVICES STUDY

**Mr. M. D. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

When will he make available for public scrutiny and consideration a transportation study, particularly in relation to urban bus transport services in Townsville, which was completed in 1976?

*Answer:—*

Subsequent to the receipt of the Townsville Transportation Study by my predecessor, the Honourable K. W. Hooper, approval was obtained from Cabinet for the limited release of the report on a confidential (not for publication) basis, having regard to the confidential nature of some of the financial data involved. Copies were sent to both State Government departments and local authorities that had responsibilities in the area. A copy was also sent to the Bus Proprietors' Association (Queensland) for its comment. Replies have been received and are currently under examination by the Commissioner for Transport who is considering them in conjunction with the report. It is expected that the Commissioner for Transport will arrange for discussions early in the new year with operators of urban bus services in Townsville and other interested parties in relation to the report's findings.

### 36. CARPET IN NEW PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER

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

(1) Is he aware that the Legislative Chamber to be used in the Parliament House extensions does not have the traditional green carpet?

(2) As colours affect efficiency in the work place and as the present red carpet is not in keeping with the traditions of the Westminster Government, will he have it replaced with a carpet of a cool, green colour?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) Because of the temporary nature of the accommodation of the Legislative Assembly Chamber in the new

building, it was originally intended to use the same carpet of russet colour throughout the whole area of lower floors, including the Assembly area. It has now been decided to use green carpet in that area to conform to the Westminster tradition.

### 37. RESTORATION OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE

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

(1) When will work commence on the restoration of the present Parliament House?

(2) Will he table a list of any changes in the layout of the building?

(3) Will he also outline the nature and purpose of the restoration work?

(4) When is it expected that the work will be completed, and how will the renovated Parliament House be co-ordinated with the building and services in the new Parliament House extensions?

*Answers:—*

(1) Planning for restoration is in progress and it is expected that, subject to approval of funds, some restoration work will commence towards the end of 1979.

(2) The layout of the old building will remain largely unchanged.

(3) The purpose of restoration is to preserve the building externally and internally and to adapt it to present-day needs by the provision of air-conditioning and other improvements to building services.

(4) The restoration will be carried out in stages and is expected to take, overall, about three years. The building is intended to accommodate support functions directly related to the needs of the Legislative Assembly.

### 38. PROVISION FOR ATTENDANCE OF CHILDREN IN NEW PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBER

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

(1) As the attendance of schoolchildren in the Legislative Assembly gallery is an important education requirement for citizenship-training, what provision is being made in the new temporary chamber for schoolchildren?

(2) How many people can be accommodated?

(3) Will it be possible to have the proceedings of the House televised to, say, the late Legislative Council Chamber where children may ask questions?

*Answers:—*

(1) Proceedings in the Legislative Assembly can be viewed from the Visitors' Gallery.

(2) The public gallery accommodates 76 fixed seats, with a possible addition of 40 moveable seats. However, the actual number of children who will be permitted to view parliamentary proceedings from this gallery is a matter for determination by the Honourable the Speaker.

(3) As the old building will undergo restoration prior to its continuing permanent use, no facilities are being provided in that building at the present time to receive televised transmissions of the proceedings from the temporary Chamber.

39. COOKTOWN COURT HOUSE; OVER-CROWDING AND PRESERVATION OF BUILDING

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

(1) Is he aware that space in the Cooktown Court House has been severely restricted by having Department of Health staff allocated space in what was originally a small room for court purposes, so that it is now almost possible for a person on trial to touch the magistrate?

(2) When will this accommodation argument between the Health Department and the Justice Department be resolved by the Public Service Board?

(3) Has consideration been given to construction of a new court-house in the township, and will consideration be given to the relocation of the existing building to a suitable site so that it may be preserved as an historical relic?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) As court hearings in Cooktown require the use of the courtroom for limited periods only, action has been taken to utilise part of the space as temporary accommodation for the Aboriginal health team pending the provision of more permanent office accommodation.

Having regard to the paucity of court work at Cooktown, the construction of a new court-house has not been included on the Works Department forward planning program.

40. SALE OF TAILINGS, IRVINEBANK STATE TREATMENT WORKS

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

(1) With respect to an item in the Auditor-General's report for 1977-1978 stating that receipts from the sale of tailings at the Irvinebank State Treatment Works in that financial year amounted to \$25,000, who purchased the tailings and what quantity were sold in that period?

(2) What is the total quantity of tailings involved in the transaction?

(3) What proportion of these tailings is considered to have come from public crushings of ore?

Answers:—

(1) The purchaser of tailings from the State Treatment Works, Irvinebank, was Loloma Mining Corporation. In the financial year 1977-78, the payment of \$25,000 covered a quarter of the total purchase.

(2) Approximately 160 000 tonnes.

(3) All of them.

41. NEW CROYDON HOSPITAL

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

(1) What is the present position regarding the proposed new Croydon Hospital?

(2) Have plans and specifications now been finalised and has the location of the new building been set out on site?

(3) Does the new complex incorporate any of the existing building, or is the old building to be completely removed?

(4) Is a morgue included in the new complex?

(5) Does the new hospital complex include living accommodation for hospital staff?

(6) What is the anticipated date of commencement of construction?

Answer:—

(1 to 6) Sketch plans for the proposed new Croydon Hospital are almost complete, approval having recently been given for the inclusion therein of certain minor additions requested by the Normanton Hospitals Board.

All old buildings are to be completely removed on completion of the new complex. No morgue is included. Living accommodation for staff is to be provided. Commencement of construction will be dependent upon the completion of working drawings and specifications.

42. PINE PLANTINGS, GOOMBURRA VALLEY

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

(1) With reference to the reported plans to plant pine plantations in the Goomburra Valley in the south-eastern Downs, what area of planting is anticipated for this year and next year, and what varieties of trees are involved?

(2) What area of rain forest will be affected?

(3) Will his department take steps to save staghorns, ferns, etc., from the affected land?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) There are no current proposals to establish pine plantations on State forests in the Goomburra Valley.

43. PAY-ROLL TAX RECEIPTS

Mr. Bourke, pursuant to notice, asked the Treasurer—

What pay-roll tax was received by the State in 1977-78 from (a) the Education Department, (b) the Railway Department, (c) the Health Department, including hospitals, (d) other Government departments, (e) local governments, (f) the University of Queensland, (g) colleges of advanced education, (h) non-government schools and (i) non-government hospitals?

Answer:—

As I indicated to the honourable member in my preliminary reply to this question, most non-government schools and hospitals and all public hospitals are exempt under the Act, as also are local government authorities, in respect of all wages except those paid in connection with business undertakings.

In response to the honourable member's request for details of payments by certain departments and instrumentalities, research has been undertaken by officers of the Treasury Department, the individual departments and instrumentalities concerned and the Pay-Roll Tax Office, and it has been ascertained that the following amounts of pay-roll tax were paid in 1977-78—

	\$
Education Department	17,570,615
Railways Department ..	12,621,701
Health Department ..	1,152,943
Other Government departments ..	18,974,241
Local governments ..	2,645,099
University of Queensland ..	2,452,067
Colleges of advanced education ..	1,968,185

44. FAUNA SEIZED BY WILDLIFE OFFICERS

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

What is the fate of birds and other fauna seized by wildlife officers that are not suitable for release back into the wild state?

Answer:—

Fauna not suitable for release is usually deposited with authorised zoos, a procedure that assists the tourist industry and benefits Queenslanders generally by providing opportunities to view these species. Where appropriate, royalties are charged on fauna so placed.

45. CARPET CONTRACT FOR NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

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

Has a contract been finalised for the provision of carpet for the new Parliament House building and, if so, were Queensland carpet manufacturers given a chance to tender?

Answer:—

Provision of carpet was specified in the head contract, which was accepted on 13 November 1975 on a public tender basis. It was the head contractor's responsibility to supply and lay carpet in accordance with the requirements of the specification.

I am advised that there are only two firms in Queensland with facilities for carpet manufacture and that the capabilities of these firms are limited to the production of lightweight domestic-quality carpets. I believe that it is not possible for either firm to produce a heavier-duty commercial-quality carpet as was required for Parliament House.

46. POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

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

(1) If policemen who are issued with revolvers discharge those revolvers while on duty, are they required to report the action to their superiors?

(2) Is a record kept of ammunition issued to police officers?

(3) Are policemen required to account for ammunition issued to them?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) See answer to (1).

47. VEHICLES AND FIREARMS USED BY POLICE IN ARREST

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

(1) How many police vehicles were involved in the pursuit and arrest of Michael Bond on Wednesday, 27 September 1978?

(2) How many police officers were involved, and which of the police officers involved carried revolvers with them on that night?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Six police vehicles, each with a crew of two, were involved. The crews of five vehicles were carrying firearms.

48. INVESTIGATION OF EXCESS POLICE  
DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE

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

In view of the comments by the Auditor-General on page 17 of his annual report upon the Treasurer's Annual Statement that \$1,800,000 excess expenditure by the Police Department during 1977-78 was attributed principally to the large numbers of police placed on duty to control meetings or gatherings where legal infringements were anticipated, as this amount of money represents an expenditure of approximately \$6,360 per day for 283 days since September 1977, when the street march legislation was introduced, and such expenditure seems to be extremely excessive having regard to the number of street marches involving confrontations between citizens and police that have occurred, and as no detailed cost analysis of duty time of police officers is kept, according to answers to questions given to me by the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police, will he arrange to have the Auditor-General conduct an investigation as soon as possible into the manner in which the \$1,800,000 was spent?

Answer:—

Surely it must be quite clear even to the honourable the member for Nudgee that, in order for the Auditor-General to make the comments that he has on the excess expenditure incurred by the Police Department, he would clearly have had to scrutinise fully the manner in which the expenditure was incurred. I have every reason to be confident that the Auditor-General is quite capable of carrying out his duties most competently, as some of the honourable member's colleagues are already well aware.

If the honourable member is concerned at the expenditure incurred by the Police Department in ensuring that law and order is maintained in this State, he would be better occupying his time in endeavouring to encourage his fellow members within the Labor movement to observe the law instead of blatantly breaking it.

In any event, the honourable member should be aware that the Auditor-General is an Officer of Parliament and is not subject to my direction in the execution of his statutory responsibilities.

49. TRANSPORT AND DATE-STAMPING  
OF EGGS

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

(1) What mode of transport is used by the Egg Marketing Board to transport eggs to North Queensland and North-West Queensland?

(2) How long does it take for eggs to be transported to Mt. Isa, Townsville and Cairns?

(3) With reference to his answer to my question on 5 December regarding the "use by date" of eggs, when were eggs marked "use by 16 December 1978" shipped or stamped by the Egg Marketing Board?

Answers:—

(1) Refrigerated rail wagons.

(2) From Brisbane, the approximate times taken to transport eggs to Mt. Isa, Townsville and Cairns are four days, one and a-half days and two and a-half days respectively, under normal conditions.

(3) Any egg carton stamped "use by 16 December, 1978" would not have been stamped specifically by the Egg Marketing Board. As I am sure the honourable member would agree, the Egg Marketing Board is a highly efficient organisation. However, it is not normal for the board to conduct its operations on a Sunday.

However, as approximately 45 per cent of eggs received by the board are packed on farm on the board's authority, it is quite possible that the carton referred to was packed on Sunday, 26 November 1978.

50. MAROOCHY SHIRE COUNCIL; TOWN-  
PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

(1) Who are the councillors of the Maroochy Shire Council, and what is the composition of that council's town planning committee?

(2) Who is the chairman of the town planning committee?

Answers:—

(1) The composition of the Maroochy Shire Council is as follows:—

Chairman: Cr. E. O. De Vere.

Members: Division 1, A. H. Sims; N. A. Templeton. Division 2, H. G. Williams; T. V. Shaw; C. M. Bambling. Division 3, H. E. Steinhardt; G. P. Lavender; G. E. Orpin. Division 4, K. St. C. Matheson; (Mrs.) E. Daniels. Division 5, K. R. Steinhardt; L. G. Webb.

The composition of the Town-Planning and Subdivision Committee of the Maroochy Shire Council is as follows:—

Cr. N. A. Templeton, Cr. H. G. Williams, Cr. T. V. Shaw, Cr. G. E. Orpin, Cr. K. St. C. Matheson, Cr. L. G. Webb, Cr. E. O. De Vere (ex officio).

(2) The chairman of the Town-Planning and Subdivision Committee is Cr. K. St. C. Matheson.

51. HOUSING COMMISSION LAND AND DWELLINGS, SANDGATE

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

(1) What are the property descriptions of parcels of land in the Sandgate electorate that have to date been purchased or are in the process of being purchased in the name of the Queensland Housing Commission?

(2) What type of dwellings does the commission propose to erect on land held in Flinder's Parade, Sandgate, and when is it proposed that building development will take place?

*Answers:—*

(1) Commission records are not kept by electoral divisions. The immense task of cross-checking every land transaction for years back to answer the question fully is not justified.

Since 1 July 1977, the commission has purchased:

(a) 0.1012 ha being sub. 2 of portion 72 (corner Fourth Avenue and Flinders Parade);

(b) 0.1060 ha being lot 3 on R.P. 14162 (64 Flinders Parade);

(c) 0.0895 ha being resub. 1 of sub. 17 of portion 73 (corner Third Avenue and Flinders Parade) on which settlement awaits litigation between vendor and a third party.

(2) All purchases are zone B and will be used for medium density housing of one or two bedroom units at some time after July 1979, depending on finance.

52. PURCHASE OF LAKEFIELD STATION FOR NATIONAL PARK

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

(1) With reference to his answer to my question on 25 October concerning the State Government's reported purchase of Lakefield Station for national park purposes, did the solicitors for the vendors confirm in writing that the sale conditions were acceptable, and has the documentation towards finalising the transaction been completed?

(2) What is the current position regarding the whole of the transaction?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) Settlement is being arranged.

53. DEATH OF POLICE BLACK TRACKER

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

(1) With reference to his answer to a question on notice by the member for Lytton on 16 November concerning the death of the police black tracker, Neville Brian Burns, on 17 June while on a drug investigation in the Upper Daintree area of North Queensland and, in particular, section (6) of that answer relating to details of the post-mortem, namely, "small superficial haematoma left occipital area", is it believed by investigating officers that Burns was unconscious, or very close to it, at the time of entering the water following his fall and that he subsequently drowned?

(2) Are we to assume that Burns, who was 18 stone in weight and described by friends as healthy, was rendered unconscious to the point that contributed to drowning by an injury that resulted in only a small superficial discolouration to the left side of the back of his head?

(3) Will he now report whether this was the only mark on his body or were there other bruises consistent with a fall from a degree of height and with sufficient force onto rocks to knock him immediately unconscious?

(4) Will he also inform Parliament if in the course of the post-mortem, the brain was removed and examined for contusions, which I am advised is normal pathological practice in cases such as this and, if so, what were the findings?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) The death of Neville Brian Burns is presently the subject of a coronial inquest which is to be re-opened at Cooktown on 20 December 1978 for the purpose of taking evidence from one witness, after which it will then be adjourned for further hearing at Mossman. Consequently, I consider it would be improper for me to comment at this stage.

However, should the honourable member have information which may be of assistance to the coroner in reaching his findings in this matter, I suggest that he communicate such information either to the coroner concerned or to my colleague the honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

54. ROUTE-MARKING AND ROAD DIRECTION SIGNS

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

(1) Is he aware of the continuing complaints of Queensland motorists about the lack of suitable direction signs on main roads throughout the State?

(2) As the lack of adequate guide signs causes traffic accidents and unnecessary traffic congestion, particularly amongst strangers to the area, is there any master plan for guide signs for cities, towns and shires in Queensland?

(3) As more than 1,000,000 tourists visit Queensland each year and as most of these are strangers to the State, will he act to extend the State route-marking system to provincial centres and improve the location of signs to facilitate traffic flow?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that some motorists express difficulty in respect of finding the direction to their particular destination. This would seem to apply particularly to all classes of roads in cities and towns.

(2) I am unaware of substantial evidence of the effects of guide signs on accidents or traffic congestion. However, in 1976 the Main Roads Department prepared a master plan for the implementation of guide and direction signs. This plan is being implemented throughout the entire State as rapidly as practicable, bearing in mind relative priorities of other works and funds available.

(3) This action is already in hand by the Main Roads Department, and in fact substantial progress has been made in most areas. Might I suggest that the honourable member call on the Main Roads Department's district engineer in Cairns at some suitable time. I am sure that officer would be pleased to discuss progress made in this matter in that area.

requirements at Cairns (a) for which tenders are current and (b) which are vacant for future construction?

(6) How many applications for units under the Dwellings for Aged Persons Scheme are at present registered as outstanding, and how many have been allocated during the same period?

Answers:—

(1) (a) A common wait list is kept for rental or purchase applicants consisting of:

100 points	..	..	Nil
80 points	..	..	Nil
60 points	..	..	Nil
40 points	..	..	35
No priority	..	..	57
			—
Total	..	..	92
			—

(b) Five applications for mortgage finance are being processed in Brisbane.

(2) (a) (i) 1977-78—44; (ii) Since 1.7.78—24. (b) (i) 1977-78—6 clients obtained mortgage finance loans; (ii) Since 1.7.78—Nil.

(3) (a) (i) 1977-78—25 houses; 8 pensioner units; (ii) Since 1.7.78—12 houses. (b) (i) 1977-78—6 mortgage finance cases; (ii) Since 1.7.78—Nil.

(4) (i) 1977-78—\$450,000, representing 25 houses; (ii) Since 1.7.78—Nil.

(5) (a) 7 sites (6 duplex and 1 block of 14 pensioner units); (b) 37 sites plus 33.18 ha raw land.

(6) Applications on hand: Couples 17; Single 26. Allotted (i) 1977-78—8; (ii) Since 1.7.78—1.

## 55. HOUSING COMMISSION STATISTICS, CAIRNS

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

(1) How many applications for housing accommodation, in their respective categories of priority, are at present registered as outstanding with the Queensland Housing Commission through the Clerk of the Court, Cairns, for (a) rental and (b) house purchase?

(2) How many applicants have been allotted houses for (a) rental and (b) purchase for (i) the year to 30 June 1978 and (ii) to date?

(3) During the same periods how many new houses were erected for (a) rental and (b) ownership?

(4) During the same periods, what amounts of money and how many houses were provided by direct Government-funding allocated through the co-operative housing societies at Cairns?

(5) How many building sites are presently held by the commission for housing

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL-LEAVERS

Mr. CASEY: I ask the Treasurer: What special funding proposals does the Government plan to introduce to create job opportunities for the hundreds of schoolchildren in Queensland who are about to enter the work-force?

Mr. KNOX: First of all, the Budget provided the sum of \$30,000,000 for certain works to be carried out. This created a lot of job opportunities that otherwise would not have existed. We have done that over the past three consecutive years and we have set the pace for the rest of Australia to follow in our footsteps. We have effected savings in the financial management of the State so that funds could be diverted into capital works, thereby creating job opportunities. Ours is an impressive record, and other States have followed our example, as they do in so many other matters. Any special arrangements must be taken into account with the overall arrangements that the State has from day to day.

As to job opportunities—a Government committee has toured the State and examined this matter. It has presented an interim report to the Government. I am quite sure that, as a result of its recommendations, further job opportunities will be created.

**Mr. CASEY:** I had intended directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, but he is not in the Chamber.

**A Government Member:** He is attending an Executive Council meeting.

**Mr. CASEY:** I shall therefore direct a question to another Minister.

NOISE LEVELS IN KINGSFORD SMITH DRIVE AREA

**Mr. CASEY:** In directing a question to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, I refer to a report in today's "Courier-Mail" of a statement made by a Queensland Institute of Technology physics lecturer, Mr. W. C. Middleton, to the effect that average noise levels in the Kingsford Smith Drive area were above previous years' figures. I now ask: As that area is only one of many in Queensland in which complaints are made about excessive noise, will he advise how many noise pollution inspectors have been appointed by the Government and whether any have been appointed outside the metropolitan area?

**Mr. HINZE:** In reply to Mr. Ed, the talking horse (he makes more noise than anybody)—he would understand that the legislation is quite new. The director, Dr. Graham Cleary, is in control of the Noise Abatement Authority. All necessary steps will be taken to obtain sufficient staff to carry out the Government's wishes. I saw the report in this morning's paper and I will be discussing the matter with Dr. Cleary to determine whether anything can be done about it.

**Mr. Casey:** Will you advise me in writing?

**Mr. HINZE:** In due course.

MEAT PROCESSERS' CONTROL OF MARKET

**Mr. CASEY:** In directing a question now to the Minister for Primary Industries, I refer to a statement made yesterday by the Cattlemen's Union's national director, Mr. Barry Cassell, who said that consumers and cattle producers were being ripped off to the tune of millions of dollars by meat processers. He said that, by controlling the live cattle market through a number of rackets to keep producers' returns down, big processers can also control the retail markets in Australia. I now ask: Does he agree with the statement made by Mr. Cassell that processers could pay producers up to 100 per cent more for their cattle and still maintain profitability?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Before answering the honourable gentleman's question, I would point out, in reply to his reference to my not being in the Chamber, that I was attending Executive Council.

In answer to his question—I read the statement made by Barry Cassell. Of course, people are entitled to their own points of view. The honourable member knows as well as I do that an inquiry by the Prices Justification Tribunal is under way. We will await the recommendations.

**Mr. Casey:** Have you made a submission to it?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Of course we have made representations. I think I have told the honourable member three times what has been going on.

HAIRDRESSERS' TRADING HOURS

**Mr. GOLEBY:** I ask the Minister for Labour Relations: Is it a fact that women's hairdressers, many of whom cut male and female hair, can open for late-night shopping, while gents' hairdressers cannot? If that is true, will the Minister undertake to take the necessary action to have the matter rectified?

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** Speaking generally, hairdressers operate under a trading order of the Industrial Commission different from the recent order concerning the extension of trading hours for retail outlets. It is my understanding that under the trading order hairdressers' salons, in the Brisbane metropolitan area at any rate, are not permitted to open beyond 6 p.m.

STERILISATION OF ABORIGINES

**Mr. GYGAR:** I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs: Has his attention been drawn to statements by A.L.P. spokesmen calling for the sterilisation of Aboriginal Australians? Are these statements representative of Australian Labor Party policy in this area?

**Mr. PORTER:** The A.L.P. has some very peculiar policies on Aboriginal peoples. Some of them are very barbaric. It is a fact that not so long ago Dr. Everingham of the Federal Opposition made a statement in this regard. It was the subject of a very famous cartoon of the period which showed the A.L.P., as an alligator, snapping at two Aboriginal people and—well, threatening them, anyhow.

Opposition Members interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask honourable members on my left to refrain from persistent interjections, or I will have to deal with them.

**Mr. PORTER:** The fact of the matter is that Dr. Everingham, on behalf of the A.L.P., said that the Aboriginal birth rate was excessive and that one way of controlling it was by "free sterilising operations, which I advocate." The same Federal gentleman is the spokesman on Aboriginal affairs for the Opposition in Canberra. As the honourable member for Stafford indicated, one must assume that A.L.P. policy is still to try to control what they see as a problem with the Aboriginal birth rate. We most certainly do not see it that way. The A.L.P. does, and they would like to try to control it by enforced sterilisation—an abominable proposition.

#### RETROSPECTIVE COMPENSATION FOR RELINQUISHED MILK QUOTAS

**Mr. GUNN:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: Are the amendments relative to compensation for relinquished quotas, which are contained in the Milk Supply Act Amendment Bill that passed the third reading yesterday, to be retrospective and, if so, from what date?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Yes. To validate the activities of the Milk Board and the entitlements committee, they will be retrospective to the date of proclamation of the original Act, which was 20 May.

#### EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF DECREASE IN SPECIAL PROJECT ALLOCATIONS

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I ask the Treasurer: As the amounts allocated, and used, for special projects last financial year amounted to \$65,000,000—and naturally created work—will he now explain what is happening to those employees who will have no work to do, seeing that the amount allocated has dropped to \$30,000,000?

**Mr. KNOX:** The honourable member has overlooked the fact that in the intervening time many more job opportunities have been created in the State. In the past 18 months, we have got off the ground a number of major projects, many of which had been held up because of delays deliberately created in the Whitlam years under the policies at that time.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. KNOX:** Well, for four years we did not get a major project going in Queensland.

**Mr. Houston:** That is not true.

**Mr. KNOX:** That is absolutely true.

All that the honourable member and his colleagues can think of are job opportunities created by the State. Thousands of job opportunities are created in the private

sector, and that is where we want to see them created. It is not that everybody has to work for the State.

#### ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING DURING QUESTION- TIME

**Mr. HOUSTON:** In directing a question to the Premier, I remind him that two days ago in this House he criticised the Leader of the Opposition for being absent during question-time. I now ask him: Why did he see fit to arrange an Executive Council meeting at the same time as question-time in this Parliament, which meant that some Ministers were absent from the Chamber?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The Leader of the Opposition knows that it has been traditional down through the years to hold Executive Council meetings at 12 o'clock on Thursdays. As it was evident that the delay would be longer than I could expect to keep His Excellency, who has other appointments, waiting, I asked the Deputy Premier to take some Ministers and attend Executive Council, which they did for a quarter of an hour. They then returned to the Chamber. In the meantime, other Ministers and I attended to questions asked of those Ministers.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I have a supplementary question to ask of the Premier. Will he agree that honourable members were denied the right to direct questions without notice to those absent Ministers? Will he agree also that if it is right for Ministers to leave the Chamber for one reason or another, it is also right for the Leader of the Opposition or any other member to leave on legitimate business?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I did not want to say this, but I must thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the opportunity of pointing out that those Ministers were attending to State Government business with His Excellency, whereas the Leader of the Opposition was out with some Communist mates, talking to them and shaking hands with them. That is what he was doing, and that is the difference.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION'S INTENTION TO ADDRESS RALLY

**Mr. LANE:** In directing a question without notice to the Premier, I refer him to a Press announcement that the Leader of the Opposition intends to address a rally to be held in King George Square later today while Parliament is in session. I now ask him: Is it essential to the proper functioning of this Parliament, as expressed in the Constitution Act and the Legislative Assembly Act, that the Leader of the Opposition give preference to his parliamentary duties, so providing an adequate Opposition in this Chamber, over attending mass rallies in outside places?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** This is a flow-on from the question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It again highlights the fact that the Leader of the Opposition vacates this Chamber, where he should be representing the people on behalf of the Opposition, to go out and talk to people who are openly defying the law.

**Mr. CASEY:** I rise to a point of order. The Premier is deliberately misleading the House. I do not know whether he can see me. I am not that small. I am here now in Parliament carrying out my duties.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I am referring to this afternoon, when the Leader of the Opposition will be going out to address other people and further incite them to defy and break the law of this land. That is what he is out to do when he goes out and addresses people in the square. Because of the example that he has set in this State in matters of honesty and decency, it ill becomes the Leader of the Opposition to go out and get together with his Communist mates. It is all very well for him. He will never shake it off.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The next honourable member on my left who interjects will be dealt with under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The Leader of the Opposition and his deputy should be the last persons to attack or criticise other honourable members for not carrying out their duties. The Leader of the Opposition has a record that I would hate to have hanging round my neck. He associates with people who do not believe in law and order or in the democratic system of government. That ties him closely with that part of the community that will never get very much support at any election, or at any other time. He should be downright ashamed of himself for what he is doing.

#### CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health: As this parliamentary session draws to a close following a year of scandalous character assassination and smears in this Chamber against both members and the public, will he, as we approach the holy season, express a desire that the spirit of goodwill towards all men will return to the councils of members of this Parliament, and a hope that a more Christian year will prevail in 1979?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I share the marked concern of the very honourable member for Merthyr about the attitudes expressed by, and the actions of, certain members of this Parliament. The issue you raised this morning, Mr. Speaker, of the need on a number of occasions to refer matters to the Committee of Privileges has caused great concern to all responsible members of this

Parliament. I think one way of starting the message of goodwill would be for the Leader of the Opposition to talk to his Trades and Labor Council friends down the road and ask them to cease their demonstration at the end of the rally and not to try to march. That would be the first sign of goodwill that could be expressed by the honourable member.

The Government has expressed its desire for goodwill. These people have the right to protest, but after they have made their protest they should disperse and not try to confront the police, as they obviously intend to do. I share the honourable member's concern, and I will support every effort that is made to improve relationships in the community, and certainly within the Parliament.

#### BIRTHDAY OF MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

**Mr. POWELL:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: In view of the fact that today is an important day to him, does he consider that today's anniversary makes him better equipped for his service to the State?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** It is true that 60 years ago today a bouncing baby boy weighing 10½ lb. was born in the Launceston Hospital and later christened Victor Bruce Sullivan. So I am 60 years young today and feel pretty well equipped to deal with any problems that might arise any time in the future.

**Mr. Casey:** Happy birthday.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Thank you very much.

#### SHORTAGES OF FULL-TIME SPECIALISTS, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITALS

**Mr. D'ARCY:** In asking a question of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, I refer to a report that the Princess Alexandra and Prince Charles Hospitals are facing critical shortages of full-time specialists. I therefore ask: Is it true, as the "Telegraph" newspaper reports, that the position is so serious that hospitals could lose their authority to train young doctors in specialist fields? Have two specialists working in the four operating theatres at the Prince Charles Hospital resigned, and is it also true that two of the three psychiatrists in the psychiatric unit at the same hospital have resigned?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** It is true that there is a shortage of some full-time specialists in the major teaching hospitals in the Brisbane area at present, but there is no shortage of part-time specialists, resident medical officers or registrars. This sort of shortage often occurs at this time of the year, when specialists who have been employed in a

full-time capacity leave the hospitals either to enter private practice or take up positions elsewhere in Australia, or even overseas.

As I indicated, this is a problem that the hospital boards face at this time of the year. It has also been exacerbated by a world-wide shortage in the speciality fields of anaesthetics and radiology. At the moment we are short of some radiologists and anaesthetists, but certainly the way in which hospitals are able to continue with patient care is not being interfered with. I am not aware that two of the three psychiatrists at the Prince Charles Hospital have resigned. If they have, no doubt applications will be called for such positions and they will be filled in due course.

#### FLUOROSIS IN CHILDREN

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health: Is he aware of the concern in the community at the present time over the use of fluoride and over a disease called fluorosis, which is affecting children? I have had several complaints about it, and I believe that the Minister's answer to me when he said that he would get manufacturers to mark toothpaste labels is not good enough.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I would have thought that as the spokesman for the Opposition on health matters the honourable member would have undertaken some investigation and research into this matter. The case that has been cited in the newspapers and in radio broadcasts has caused a great deal of controversy. It has been stated by certain people that the person concerned, Georgina—I cannot remember her surname now—is, in fact, suffering from fluorosis. The widespread expert opinion of various people throughout Australia is that, on the information available to them from video tapes and so forth, this girl is not suffering from fluorosis. Fluorosis can occur only with the ingestion of large amounts of fluoride prior to the age of two years. This girl did not receive fluoride until she was two years of age. According to the information available, this girl is not suffering from fluorosis.

Of course, we have taken up with the manufacturers the matter of the ingestion of fluoride tablets and asked them to immediately regularise the dosage instructions on bottles. No doubt most of the manufacturers have complied with the request, and others will be complying in due course.

#### USE OF POLICE UHF RADIOS

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I ask the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police: Is it not an offence for people other than police officers to officially or unofficially use a police UHF radio? What is the maximum penalty for such an offence? Is he prepared to take immediate action against such persons if they are named?

**Mr. CAMM:** It is not my responsibility to fix whatever penalty is imposed. I shall look at the subject-matter of the question that the member has asked.

#### DELIVERY OF MILK IN BRISBANE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: Is he aware that the Brisbane Milk Board has decreed that all Brisbane milk vendors have to work on Christmas Day and are not allowed to make a double delivery on Sunday, the day preceding Christmas Day? Has that decision been reconsidered? If not, why not?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The matter was considered by the Brisbane Milk Board yesterday. The decision has not been conveyed to me yet. When it is, I will inform the honourable member.

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

#### CITY OF BRISBANE (WATER SUPPLY) ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That this House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend The City of Brisbane (Water Supply) Act of 1959 and the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Act 1974 each in certain particulars and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

##### INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (12.38 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend The City of Brisbane (Water Supply) Act of 1959 and the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Act 1974 each in certain particulars and for other purposes.”

The purpose of this Bill is to correct an anomalous situation that has arisen in connection with the rating of lands acquired for constructing the Somerset Dam, and the apportionment of rates on this land between the Brisbane City Council and the lessees of the lands.

To explain the legislation, it is necessary to briefly set out the background to the valuation and rating of Somerset Dam lands.

Honourable members may be aware that, under the City of Brisbane (Water Supply) Act, lands acquired for the construction of the dam are deemed to be rateable in the hands of the Brisbane City Council. Most of the lands concerned are located in the Shire of Kilcoy, but there are small areas in the Esk and Caboolture Shires. Many of the lands concerned are leased by the Brisbane City Council, as successor to the Co-ordinator-General, who acquired the lands for the building of the dam.

In terms of the lease, the lessees are required to reimburse the council for the amount of rates payable on the leased lands. A number of lessees felt it was inequitable that they should be required to reimburse rates on land which was under the waters of the dam and which they could not use.

Following representations made by these lessees in 1974, Parliament passed the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Act. The effect of that Act was to provide for the apportionment of rates between the lessees and the council on the basis that the council should meet the proportion of rates attributable to submerged lands and the lessees should meet the proportion of rates attributable to emergent lands.

To make this apportionment, the Act contained a formula under which the council was required to pay an amount of rates calculated by dividing the unimproved value of the submerged land by the unimproved value of the whole of the land, and multiplying the result by the amount of the rate to be apportioned. This apportionment was to be carried out by the Valuer-General and notified to the parties concerned so that the necessary adjustment of rates could be made. However, I am advised that, because of litigation that culminated in a recent decision of the High Court of Australia, the apportionment has not yet been made.

This decision related to the method that should be adopted in determining the unimproved value of Somerset Dam lands that are submerged by the waters of the dam. The practice of the Valuer-General, following previous court decisions, has been to value the submerged lands as if they were not inundated by the waters of the dam. However, the recent decision of the High Court is that the inundation of such lands by the dam must be taken into account when determining their unimproved value, and the net result is that the court has applied a nominal value of \$1 per acre on the submerged lands.

The effect of the decision of the court is that there will be quite a significant reduction in the rateable value of lands in the Shire of Kilcoy, which will mean a considerable loss of rate revenue to that council. The decision will also have a marked bearing on the apportionment of rates between the Brisbane City Council and lessees.

In order to clarify the position, this Bill provides for the making of appropriate amendments to the City of Brisbane (Water Supply) Act and the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Act.

In effect, the amendments provide that the unimproved value of Somerset Dam lands be determined without regard to the fact that the lands are inundated by the waters of the dam. The Bill further provides that, if the unimproved value of such lands has already been determined on any other basis, the Valuer-General is authorised to alter the valuation accordingly.

The effect of the Bill will be that the position that was intended to be created by the passing of the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Act will be restored, and this will ensure that the council and the lessees have to meet their proper shares of rates payable on Somerset Dam lands. The Bill will also ensure that the Kilcoy Shire Council will not suffer a substantial loss in rate revenue.

I commend the Bill to the Committee.

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis) (12.43 p.m.): I must say at the outset that the Opposition is surprised that a Bill such as this is being introduced without notice on the final day of the present sittings of this session of Parliament. It is a Bill that should be discussed extensively, especially by honourable members representing electorates in the Brisbane area. Members of the Opposition believe that ample time should be available to discuss amendments to such an important Act, but it is obvious that this Bill will pass through all stages today.

To a degree, the proposed amendments outlined by the Minister seem reasonable. They are being made to ensure that the rate revenue of the Esk, Kilcoy and Caboolture Shires will not be too greatly reduced as a result of the High Court's upholding an appeal against the valuation of land. The court ruled that all land inundated by the Somerset Dam should be valued at \$1 an acre. It is reasonable that people who are drawing water from Somerset Dam, and who have, in effect, caused the problem arising from inundation of land in the shires of Esk, Kilcoy and Caboolture, should pay a fair and reasonable amount in rates.

As the Opposition knows so little about the proposed amendments, it will have to wait till the Bill is printed to express an opinion on whether or not they are controversial and whether or not they will have a big effect on water charges in this part of the State.

We realise that water is a very important commodity. Its provision is a great burden on local authorities throughout the State. They have to ensure an adequate water-supply for domestic and industrial purposes

to meet present-day and future requirements. Charges for water vary throughout the State. I understand that in the region under discussion the charge for water is about \$70 a year. I do not think that the charge of \$74 or \$75 a year for the Brisbane area is excessive.

In the early part of the year there was great concern about this city's water-supply, and harsh restrictions had to be imposed on the citizens of Brisbane. Fortunately, during the period when we do not normally expect rain, Brisbane and surrounding areas received substantial falls, and it was possible to lift the restrictions. Nevertheless, the water-supply can become critical at any time, and adequate provision must be made for water for Brisbane and the surrounding shires.

We are more than somewhat surprised that the Bill should be introduced at this late stage of the session. If it will be for the benefit of all, and not result in an imposition on any one shire or city, we will go along with what is proposed. After perusing the Bill we may have more to say about it at the second-reading stage.

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (12.47 p.m.): I was pleased to hear the honourable member for Port Curtis speak in that tone. The Bill is brought in to correct a situation that is causing quite a deal of concern to the little shire of Kilcoy in my electorate. I would like to briefly run through a resume of events which occurred before the shadow Minister (Mr. Prest) came into this Assembly.

In 1974 the Government found it necessary to introduce the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Bill. The Bill was brought in because of a technical mistake that was made by the Stanley River Works Board many years before that. It was introduced to provide for the payment of rates levied on lands acquired by the Crown for the construction of Somerset Dam.

Somerset Dam was constructed on the Stanley River as a water-supply and flood-mitigation project for the city of Brisbane and its environs, pursuant to the Bureau of Industry Acts 1933 to 1943. The proposed works were designed by the Bureau of Industry and supervised by the Stanley River Works Board. Later the function of the Bureau of Industry was transferred to the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works under the Labour and Industry Act of 1946. Originally the State bore the cost. Subsequently the Brisbane City Council and the Ipswich City Council were apportioned certain instalments of capital and interest. This took place at a time when the dam was almost completed. The Stanley River Works Board was abolished in 1959 and the dam was then taken over by the Brisbane City Council.

From January 1944, leases were only of 12 months' duration. They were only of short duration at that time because there was no water in the dam. However, in 1952

the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works offered the lessees an extension over 25 years, with the right to a further term.

Under the Brisbane City (Water Supply) Act of 1959, the lands transferred are rateable. That meant in effect that the Brisbane City Council was obliged to pay rates to the local authority in which these lands were situated. Under the leases, the lessees were liable to repay the Brisbane City Council for the rates payable on the leased land. The lessees complained bitterly about being charged rates for land under water. Legal proceedings were instituted against this requirement. The High Court held that, under the terms of the leases, the lessees were responsible for the whole of the rates on the land, including the submerged land.

I get back to the technical point I mentioned before and to the fact that at the time of the leases there was no water over the land. As a result of that decision, in November 1974 the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Act was passed in this House. It enabled the Valuer-General to value all land, including submerged land, as if the dam did not exist. That is the way it was leased. A recent decision handed down by the High Court ruled that this formula was not correct and valued submerged land at the rate of \$1 an acre. This would mean that the Kilcoy Shire Council would sustain a large loss. It is most unfair, and cannot be condoned by the Government. These amendments will correct the position. The Brisbane City Council will pay rates on the submerged lands that it is using. The Valuer-General's unimproved value on all land, including submerged land, will be upheld and the High Court decision will be negated.

Honourable members would realise that the Somerset Dam covers a vast area of the Kilcoy Shire. It is claimed that the volume of water in the dam is one-third greater than that in Sydney Harbour. I would add that the area that was covered by the dam included some of the best land in Australia. It consisted of river flats along the Stanley River. Photographs exist showing the land before it was submerged. It was a highly productive area.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. GUNN: I am sure that the honourable member for Brisbane Central will recall the late-night sittings when that Bill was introduced.

I commend this measure and hope that honourable members will give it their full support. It corrects something that should never have been condoned.

Mr. AKERS (Pine Rivers) (12.53 p.m.): Because of personal experience that I have had in my area, I rise to support the Bill. There is a great need for it. The honourable member for Somerset has detailed the history of what led up to its introduction. His comments could apply also to the North Pine

Dam. The effect of the North Pine Dam legislation, which was passed many years ago against the wishes of a lot of the people in the Pine Rivers Shire, was twofold. Firstly, it strictly limited the growth of about one-third of the area of the shire and, secondly, it severely limited the shire council's income in that a lot of the area was taken over by the Brisbane City Council, thereby depriving the Pine Rivers Shire of many thousands of dollars in rate revenue.

**Mr. Gunn:** It is generally the best land.

**Mr. AKERS:** It was beautiful land. It extended along the North Pine River up to Samsonvale and Whiteside. It was perfect farming and dairying land. As well, lovely picnic spots close to Brisbane were lost.

The construction of the North Pine Dam severely limited the growth of the Pine Rivers Shire. Everything that can be said of this Bill can be said of the situation that prevails in the Pine Rivers Shire. This Bill should lead to the introduction of a similar Bill to cover the North Pine Dam. When something is built for the benefit of the community, the community should pay for it.

**Mr. Warburton:** Who will pay for it now if the amendments go through?

**Mr. AKERS:** The people who use the water. That is precisely the point I am making. If something is built for the benefit of the community, the community should be prepared to pay for it. In this instance, the people who use the water—the people of the city of Brisbane, the Pine Rivers Shire, the city of Redcliffe and some parts of the Caboolture Shire—will pay for it. As I say, my support for this proposal would extend to the introduction of a similar measure to cover the North Pine Dam.

As to the payment of rates on inundated land—whether it can be valued at all is probably in doubt. I cannot find any way of making the loss of that land more relevant. It is not merely a matter of the loss of income and rates from it. When an area starts to grow, money has to be borrowed to provide it with facilities. The money borrowed increases the loan indebtedness and therefore the interest and redemption payments that have to be met each year. In line with the increases, the effect on the limited number of ratepayers becomes greater. If growth had taken place throughout the whole area, as could have been the case with the Kilcoy and Esk Shires—and now the Pine Rivers Shire—the effect of the increased loan indebtedness would have been less by reason of its being spread over a larger number of ratepayers.

In supporting the Bill, I urge the Minister very sincerely to introduce a similar Bill to cover the North Pine Dam.

**Mr. WARBURTON** (Sandgate) (12.56 p.m.): While I have not had an opportunity to examine the Bill, I have some very

grave doubts, not so much about the amendments as about the principle involved in introducing a Bill of this kind. While Government members representing certain shires are quite pleased with the amendments outlined, the ramifications of the Bill concern me greatly. This is not the first time since I was elected to Parliament that we have debated a Bill introduced hurriedly to overcome a decision in law, as the honourable member for Port Curtis pointed out. This Bill has been introduced to overcome a decision of the High Court following an appeal. Surely honourable members should be able to give much more consideration to such a serious matter than they will be able to give to this measure.

From my knowledge of the affair and the High Court decision, and from discussions I have had with officers of the Brisbane City Council, I am firmly convinced that the Minister will create a very dangerous precedent if he proceeds with the Bill today. I repeat that the ramifications involved are very dangerous. I concede that small shires like Kilcoy would obviously be concerned about loss of rateable land and, more so, loss of rate revenue.

Local government throughout Queensland is wallowing in the mire because of lack of funding by this and the Federal Government. All councils in Queensland are concerned about finance and where they will get revenue they need.

**Mr. Jones:** They might amalgamate.

**Mr. WARBURTON:** I intended to make the point that if the small shires are concerned—and rightly so—about revenue, they should be looking at some form of amalgamation.

**A Government Member:** Rubbish!

**Mr. WARBURTON:** That is another example of how Government members speak in opposition to local government throughout the State.

At a recent conference of the Local Government Association, the Government was asked to look into the shifting of boundaries and the possible amalgamation of local authorities. If that is not done, we can only expect a continuation of the situation in which, for year after year, small shires have been struggling along, with some people hoping to maintain a power base. The honourable member for Port Curtis has also spoken about that matter.

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

**Mr. WARBURTON:** Some reference has been made to the history of the Somerset Dam and I should like to give a brief outline of where we stand following the High Court appeal. It is interesting to go briefly through the history and the attitude of the various Government departments during that period.

The Somerset Dam was transferred to the Brisbane City Council in 1959. The Stanley River Works Board (which built the dam) and its successor, the Co-ordinator-General's Department (which completed the dam) were not required to pay local authority rates, but in fact did so *ex gratia*. For this purpose the submerged area of the dam was given a zero valuation and no rates were paid.

The loose wording of the City of Brisbane (Water Supply) Act of 1959, under which the dam was transferred to the Brisbane City Council, was not clear in its intent. The council, when it took over the dam, followed the Co-ordinator-General's practice of not paying rates on submerged land and the Valuer-General gave the submerged land a zero valuation until 1967.

I do not want to be at all disrespectful, but certain people in the Kilcoy Shire seemed to be the devils in this play. It was at that time that the Kilcoy Shire obtained a Supreme Court judgment that submerged land should be rateable. The Brisbane City Council disagreed and consequently the rates were not paid. A writ was issued by the Kilcoy Shire for both current rates and arrears. The Supreme Court decided that certain standing charges were payable to the Kilcoy Shire. On an appeal in 1971, the High Court gave judgment in favour of the Kilcoy Shire and the rates were paid and have been paid at an acceptable level ever since.

In the meantime, the Brisbane City Council objected to the valuation of the Valuer-General. It appealed to the Land Court and lodged successive appeals to the Supreme Court and the High Court, which ruled finally in favour of the Brisbane City Council, the effect being to reduce the valuation and consequently the rates on submerged land by 46 per cent. That is an interesting history of the Somerset Dam. The Brisbane City Council, as usual, has gone through the correct processes of law.

This is the second time that legislation has been rushed through this Parliament because of a court decision in favour of the Brisbane City Council.

As I said earlier, it is therefore necessary to analyse the reasons behind the introduction of such legislation. If the Minister feels that it will provide a great degree of compensation to Kilcoy Shire and other shires that might be affected, surely he should take into account what the Valuer-General will do if this legislation is passed, and he should know that. The land was resumed by the Stanley River Works Board and the Co-ordinator-General's Department years ago and neither of those organisations had any intention of paying rates on land that had been resumed.

This argument began only after the dam was handed over to the Brisbane City Council. So it is the same old story again, particularly of late, of the Brisbane City Council getting the bad end of the

stick. One wonders why the Brisbane City Council is chosen by this Government as the medium for attack.

The recent High Court decision stated, as the Minister indicated, that the inundated land—we are talking about land that is completely covered by water—is worth only \$1 an acre. Of course, the rates charged on land valued at that amount would not be very much at all. Perhaps the Minister might be able to enlighten me if I am not correct, but I understand that rates are not paid by the Toowoomba City Council on land inundated by water, nor are rates payable on land inundated by water from dams owned by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. So this is a one-off situation. It is the Government against the Brisbane City Council again. I ask the Minister: where else in Australia is there legislation of this kind? Where else has a Bill of this type ever been introduced? I suggest nowhere. Surely the amount of money in contention would not concern anybody. It is to be hoped that the Valuer-General places a fair valuation on the land concerned. As I said, it is not the money we are arguing about; it is the principle.

I will conclude by making some remarks about the lessees of land at Somerset Dam, who have formed themselves into a lessees' committee. Incidentally, the chairman of that committee is Mr. McAulay of the Kilcoy Shire Council, who boasts that he has the ear of this Government. As I have indicated, he leases land from the Brisbane City Council. If the Minister has in fact agreed to go along with what Mr. McAulay has suggested in formulating this Bill, then perhaps he should have gone further because the latest request from Mr. McAulay and some of the other lessees is that certain leases should be handed over to them to become part of their estates.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (2.24 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate. I gave the reasons why this Bill had to be introduced, and I propose to answer in detail during the second reading any queries made by honourable members.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

#### FIRST READING

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

#### LEAVE TO MOVE SECOND READING AT A LATER HOUR

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads): I move—

“That the second reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for a later hour of the sitting.”

Motion agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

## SECOND READING

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (2.25 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on this Bill at the introductory stage, and I have only some brief comments to make in response at this second-reading stage.

As I mentioned in my introductory speech on this Bill, most amendments are of a machinery nature, designed to facilitate the more efficient administration and functioning of local authorities throughout the State. The amendments have been discussed in some detail with the Queensland Local Government Association, which has indicated its agreement on the principles of the Bill. I think it is true to say, also, that members on both sides of this Chamber basically support the provisions included in the Bill—with one or two exceptions.

One or two members opposite queried the frequency of amendments to the Local Government Act, and in this respect perhaps I should refer back to a very valid point made by the member for Pine Rivers, who referred to the vitality of local government.

Local government is a very vibrant and responsive level of government, very much subject to change as the demands, needs and wishes of people are subject to change at the local level. This a good thing, surely; I don't think anyone would seriously suggest that local government should be administratively or operationally more rigid. I do not think anyone would like to see that. Simply because local government reflects, accurately, the changing mood, needs, and wishes of people, the Act under which it functions must also be subject to periodic change.

But let me assure honourable members that changes to the Act are not considered lightly, or acted on hastily. Proposals for amendments—and these come forward very regularly, from all sources—are carefully screened and discussed with the executive of the Local Government Association and other authorities before they are acted on.

One of the chief contributions of members opposite, at the introductory stage, seems to have been to challenge whether local authority members really are capable and able to be trusted to set fair and reasonable fees and decide themselves the level of remuneration (by way of authorised fees) that their members should receive in future. I must say that after more than 25 years' association with local government, and more than four years as Minister for Local Government in this State, I have a greater regard for the integrity and common sense of people in local government than members opposite appear to have.

The member for Port Curtis talked of this Bill giving people in local Government the opportunity to “fleece” their ratepayers, and he says, “This is exactly what will happen”. He talked of this Bill giving Councils an “open order” to act irresponsibly and vote themselves exorbitant fees. My only comment on that score is that the Opposition's spokesman on local government matters must have a very low opinion indeed of people in local government generally, and very little regard for the great reservoir of talented and dedicated people that local government attracts. They give a great deal of their own time and effort to local government for the good of their communities, and for very little remuneration or compensation.

I think that the member for Port Curtis has missed a very basic point in all this, and this is that it is necessary to pay reasonable fees to members of local authorities to adequately compensate them for their effort. If this is not done, it could in fact result in some people, who could be very valuable assets to local government, not being able to afford to stand for office.

Local government—the same as State Government and the Federal Parliament—should not be the preserve of the rich or the privileged. That is the very concept which Opposition members apparently support in criticising this particular section of the Bill removing the \$4,000 ceiling on payments to local authority members.

I am confident that local government—the third sphere of government in Australia—is fully able to exercise the discretion given to it by this Bill. And, after all, it is responsible to the electorate every three years. I believe that this fact will ensure that councils act sensibly, and responsibly, in reviewing their fees.

It should be stressed, again, too, that the Brisbane City Council has the power to fix salaries payable to the Lord Mayor, chairmen of committees, and members of that council. Under this Bill, other local authorities throughout Queensland would be authorised to make similar decisions.

I do not believe that the prospect of members receiving multiple fees for more than one meeting a day really arises, as has been suggested. To my knowledge, local Authorities pay only one meeting fee where more than one meeting is held on one day. I am confident that local authorities will do the right thing in this respect.

The member for Port Curtis also questioned the provision dealing with illegal camping on beaches, parkland and other public areas under local authority control. It is a little difficult to assess precisely what his opposition is in this respect. Is he suggesting that this problem of illegal camping, with all its attendant litter, health and other problems for many local authorities throughout the State, should not be tackled? Or is he saying, in effect, that people should be allowed to camp wherever, and whenever, they like? Surely not!

The member for Pine Rivers queried the issue of on-the-spot penalty notices for illegal camping in so far as the amendment would empower authorised local authority officers to take alleged offenders to police stations in cases where people either will not furnish their name and address, or where they give a name (or address) reasonably suspected of being false or fictitious. I think it should be generally recognised that for the service of this type of notice it is necessary to ascertain the true name and address of offenders, or alleged offenders. In the event of this not being established, the provision becomes inoperable. I would point out that similar provisions are contained in the Litter Act, and no problems in this regard have come to notice.

The member for Rockhampton raised the question of water problems affecting the Mount Morgan Shire Council and of road-works in the Shire. He put the view that money should be made available to local authorities to carry out developmental projects in local authority areas and provide employment to bolster areas such as Mt. Morgan.

I take it that he suggests further allocations of money over and above the usual grants, subsidies and loan assistance now extended to local authorities. As I pointed out during the debate on the Local Government Department Estimates earlier this session, in Queensland that amounts to something like \$201,000,000 a year.

I would point out that I certainly do not oppose the concept of more funds being made available for employment-absorbing projects through local authorities; in fact, I have advocated publicly that the Federal Government should look closely at this as a possible means of getting things done, providing more work for more people, and adding a little more buoyancy to depressed local economies.

I would refer the member for Rockhampton to the investigations of a special Government committee, headed by the member for Townsville West, which is specifically looking at ways of improving the employment situation throughout the State. I would suggest that the honourable member direct a submission in that respect to that committee.

I think that covers, briefly, some of the key points made by speakers on both sides of the House at the introductory stage, and I repeat that it is clear that the provisions of the Bill basically are supported by Members on both sides.

I have much pleasure in commending the Bill to the House.

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis) (2.33 p.m.): I must correct some of the impressions that the Minister seems to have gained from my contribution at the introductory stage.

First, I do not blanket all local authorities throughout the State. I realise that in some local authorities people work on a voluntary

basis and do not receive sufficient payment for their efforts. However, it cannot be denied that in others things have happened with which the Minister has not come to grips, and a difficult state of affairs has been allowed to develop.

As to the amendment cancelling the maximum payment of \$4,000—I do not believe we should allow an open go. I do not believe that those in every local authority would fleece the ratepayers, but I suggest that the time has arrived for the Government to consider a complete review of the Local Government Act. I said that at the introductory stage, and I repeat it now.

If it is suggested that local authorities should have paid officers, administrators, aldermen or councillors, I point out that in small shires with, say, 11 councillors, hardship will be caused and ratepayers will face rate increases if those councillors are paid their full worth in wages. The same applies in the cities and smaller towns. I had six years' experience in local government. At that time local government was going through a difficult period. As an alderman, and for six or seven months as mayor, I still had to find time to spend 50 or 60 hours a week in the railways. That is an indication of the amount of work that is involved in being a leading citizen in a town. It could amount to an hour or so a day, except when a meeting is being held.

If aldermen and councillors are to be allowed to set their own rates of pay, they must act reasonably. I am not opposed to increasing the maximum of \$4,000. It is not in keeping with this Government's usual policy to allow people to set their own wages without limitation. I sincerely hope that the maximum fees they are going to pay themselves will be considered by the department or the Governor in Council.

The Minister misinterpreted what I said at the introductory stage. I said there was an advantage in raising the maximum of \$4,000. The ordinary worker could then afford to submit himself to the people for election. If he knows that he can be reimbursed for any loss of wages in his normal employment, he is more likely to offer himself for service to the community. This could be a good thing. It could mean many changes in the personnel in local government throughout the State. I am not completely against the principle. Indeed, I would commend that provision, as long as some ceiling is applied to the amount the councillors can set.

**Mr. Houston:** Don't you think that railwaymen should be given an opportunity to stand for election to a local authority?

**Mr. PREST:** I do. Many good employees of the Government could do a good job for local government, and they should be allowed time to offer themselves for election. Railwaymen, for example, have shown that they

can do a good job in public life. We need to look no further than the honourable member for Cairns.

We are very concerned about the \$25 on-the-spot fine for illegal camping. At the introductory stage I said that we would go along with that, but that I was concerned about giving such power to an officious officer of a council, who could arrest an illegal camper if he thought that that person was not giving his correct name and address. We should not be using local authority officers to carry out police duties. The Minister has said that such a provision exists in the Litter Act and other legislation. I take his word for that, but to the best of my knowledge that power has never been exercised.

Most of the Acts of that type that have been introduced by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads are paper tigers. Only two prosecutions have been launched under the Clean Air Act. Every day the air is being badly polluted, but no action is taken about it. Similarly, since the passing of the Litter Act, I have not seen any great lessening of the litter problem. I hope that the provision applying to camping on Crown land will not be merely a paper tiger.

I am concerned that the Bill enables an inspector to enter private land on which a caravan is located. The Minister has assured me that the power of entry applies only to Crown land. However, in this day and age, a large number of people travel and sleep overnight in either caravans or panel vans. Generally, they select isolated spots, thinking that camping is allowed there, when in fact it is not. It will be necessary for local authorities in charge of Crown land to erect signs warning the public that it is illegal to camp in certain areas. If someone sees the sign and, notwithstanding the warning, persists in camping illegally on Crown land, it would be quite in order for an inspector to either warn that person or fine him.

At the introductory stage, I asked the Minister how often an inspector will be empowered to impose an on-the-spot fine on a person who is illegally camping in an area. My question was not answered. Take the case of a casual worker who travels from job to job in a car and caravan. He could drive to work in the morning, leaving his wife in the caravan. If an inspector comes along, she has no possible means of shifting the caravan. The inspector, apparently, will be able to come back and impose a fine as often as he likes. It might be every four hours, every two hours or at more regular intervals. A person who is illegally camped in that manner must be given time to move the caravan. I should like to see such a protection included in the Bill.

Opposition members agree to most of the other amendments in the Bill. We do not go along, however, with the provision relating to arrest, nor are we entirely in favour

of the provision that raises the maximum sum from \$400 to what is virtually an open order.

The Minister stated that, to his knowledge, no member of a local authority is paid for more than one meeting a day. If that is the extent of the Minister's knowledge of local government, it is sadly lacking. As I pointed out at the introductory stage, I was a member of a council whose members attended a number of meetings on the one day. They attended a half-hour meeting in the morning and continued through the day attending as many as three or four meetings and deputations. They claimed an allowance for attending each of those so-called meetings. The Bill should provide that only one payment can be claimed for each day. A similar provision is included in the Harbours Act and in legislation that controls certain boards. I see no reason why a similar provision should not apply to local authorities.

Finally, I have no hesitation in accepting the Minister's word that, if he finds that the provisions of the Bill are not working properly, he will introduce further amendments to ensure that they do work satisfactorily.

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (2.45 p.m.): I have a brief contribution to make on the provision in the Bill dealing with so-called illegal camping. At this time in history the great Australian will no longer be able to go out and pitch his tent in the bush to commune with the birds and the bees as he has been able to do for generations. He will be subject to the supervision of local government inspectors. I wish to deal with the method of that supervision.

Since I have been in Parliament I have been concerned continuously about the erosion of the citizen's liberty and the way that he can be dealt with under the law. I am pledged to say a few words about this matter whenever the occasion presents itself, and this is an excellent opportunity to do so. The provision in the Bill relating to on-the-spot fines should be implemented only in certain circumstances. I would be very loath to place this power of instant justice in the hands of every local government inspector in Queensland. Some of them do not have the training or maturity and experience to exercise such an arbitrary power as on-the-spot fines. When we dealt with the Liquor Act amendments I was concerned about on-the-spot fines, and I am once more concerned about imposing them for so-called illegal camping.

The concept of on-the-spot fines carries with it an element of intimidation by economic pressure. When a person is given a ticket the tendency is to pay and cut losses, whether he is guilty or innocent, rather than go to court, contest the issue and be up for costs of court and other expenses. Economic circumstances tend to impose a strong element of persuasion on people to be found guilty when, in all ways, they may not be guilty. As a matter of

principle I am opposed to on-the-spot fines other than when the tickets are issued by the most professional of law-enforcement agencies.

Before members of the Police Force exercise their right under the Traffic Act to issue on-the-spot fines for traffic offences they are trained in depth at police academies, they undertake continual courses of in-service training and they work under the close supervision of experienced, superior officers. They are also subject to all the provisions of the Police Act and the rules and regulations thereunder as to how they carry out their duties. In most instances they carry them out in a professional way.

Unfortunately that cannot be said of local government inspectors. I am very disappointed that I did not hear something about this from Opposition members today. Opposition members pretend to be the great champions of civil liberties; they are prepared to assemble in the square (as they will do today) and volunteer to march about the highways and byways, interfering with other citizens' liberties. But when a matter of real principle involving civil liberties comes before Parliament they do not even understand it. I could interpret their attitude as meaning that they are too dull to grasp the significance of the amendment. On the other hand, I might say that they are too lazy. Whatever the reason, it is very disappointing that they did not offer at least token opposition to this provision in the Bill.

I hope that the answer to this lies in the local government inspectors exercising discretion in issuing tickets. I hope that the Minister makes it clearly understood by all local authorities when he comes in contact with them, as he does on a regular basis at local government conferences, that they are expected to exercise this power over so-called illegal camping with discretion.

Under the relevant clause, the offence does not involve the erection on public land of a big top or a permanent housing fixture. In fact, it can be a small tent or perhaps even a caravan that is stopped by the side of the road for a weary driver to sleep overnight. Along the great western and northern roads it is sometimes necessary to do just that—to pull up at a place that is perhaps not designated as a resting place. To the weary traveller it is not obvious that he should not park and that unauthorised camping is not allowed. I hope that country members consider this burden that is placed on people in their electorates. I would expect some of them to speak on this matter today. So I issue that warning today about that aspect of the Bill.

I notice that the clause includes not only "camping", which I presume is rolling out a sleeping bag or erecting a tent, but also the words "lodging", whatever that may be, and "staying". I have looked through the Bill and the Act that it seeks to amend and I am unable to find a definition of the

word "staying". Once again it is a great pity that the Labor spokesman has not gone to the trouble of reading that provision and noticing those three words in it and perhaps having something to say on that matter. Once again he is perhaps too dull.

The other aspect of that clause that I wish to deal with is the police officer's being able to take into custody a person whom he finds committing an offence and whose name and address he is unable to ascertain.

**Mr. Akers** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** A council officer, as the honourable member for Pine Rivers points out.

I am intrigued by the words that are used in this clause. It reads—

" . . . and take him to a police station or watch-house there to be detained by the officer in charge of the police station or watch-house until his full name and usual place of residence are ascertained."

That is not the form of words usually contained in legislation relating to people, with the exception of mental patients, who fail to give their name and address or who give a false name and address. Under the normal laws, an officer is empowered to arrest. That is a formal act which involves placing his hand on some part of the person's body and informing him that he is under arrest. A formal, legal act takes place. The police officer is then instructed to take the person to a place of confinement, or words to that effect, to be brought before a court at the first opportunity to be dealt with according to law.

Those words are not contained in this clause. In the first place, no arrest takes place and, in the second place, no provision is made for a person to be taken before a court to be dealt with according to law. I presume that if he does not give his name and address he can be kept there for ever, at the discretion of the officer in charge of the police station or the watch-house. There is no obligation to take him before a court. I do not like the wording contained in that clause.

I know the close supervision that this Minister has over the 130-odd local authorities in Queensland. I know that he will at least make it clear to local authorities that they are to act with discretion in enforcing this provision; that they are not to act in any arbitrary way.

I confess that some of the local authority inspectors whom I have met would sit comfortably on the right of Adolf Hitler, Clem Jones or any other totalitarian dictator—or perhaps even Councillor Vaughan and Councillor Warburton, these other extremists whom we find about us in local authorities. I certainly was not referring to the enlightened councillor from Pine Rivers, who sits on my right. I hope that the Minister will express a wish that the councils, particularly

in country areas, exercise a discretion on their interpretation of the words, "camping", "lodging" and "staying", when issuing the tickets provided for under this clause or before taking someone to a police station to be held there ad infinitum. I say that because that is exactly what can be done under this clause, and it is a little unfortunate that it is worded in that manner.

**Mr. AKERS** (Pine Rivers) (2.55 p.m.): In my speech during the introductory debate I said that, except for one provision, I supported the Bill in its entirety. That was raised by the honourable member for Merthyr. I am concerned that a council officer has the right, in effect, to cart someone off to a police station. I have expressed my concern to the Minister, but it appears that there is virtually no other way of enforcing this provision. I know that a similar provision appears in the Litter Act. If the provision must remain, and I am not at all happy about it, I suggest that the Minister introduce some form of training school for local authority inspectors. I suggest this because local government officers have to take similar almost quasi-police action under other Acts.

**Mr. Vaughan** interjected.

**Mr. AKERS:** That may be a good idea. They should do a short course, perhaps even at the Police Academy. The inadequacy of the training of local authority inspectors became very obvious to me when the present chairman of the Pine Rivers Shire Council was elected six years ago. As many members will know, he was a former deputy commissioner of police. He sorted out a lot of the procedures under which the council's then litter officer was operating and informed him of what reasonable actions he could take. He also gave the litter officer advice on how to obtain sufficient evidence to launch a prosecution. The Pine Rivers Shire now has an excellent record of dealing with litter offenders. So in supporting the Bill briefly, I would ask the Minister to give some consideration to a limited training school for council officers in the methods that they should use in dealing with offenders against council by-laws.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (2.58 p.m.), in reply: I have listened carefully to the contributions by various speakers, particularly the honourable member for Merthyr, who told us about some of his experiences as a police officer. He dealt with the power of arrest and how a policeman places his hand on an individual and advises him that he is under arrest. I guess there is some of that now going on down at the city square.

Honourable members will notice that I never refer to any Opposition member as a shadow Minister, because there is no such thing, but the honourable member for Port Curtis referred to the removal of limitations

on the amount of fees paid to certain members of local authorities. That reminds me of a saying of the Premier that if one puts one's feet onto sticky paper, one gets oneself into a bit of a spot. I am going to be charitable and give the honourable member for Port Curtis the benefit of the doubt and say that I do not think he meant what he said the other day during the introductory debate.

We have to understand the position of people in local government. We would not like it if the Commonwealth Government decided what salaries members of State Parliament were to receive, and the same thing applies to those in local government. They could object to this Parliament's setting their fees. People in local government today are doing a lot of work, and the honourable member knows that as well as I do. It is a totally different ball game from what it was a few years ago, particularly in the responsibilities assumed by members of local authorities and the time taken in performing their duties. Those people who are elected to local government throughout the State, particularly in the big cities, are entitled to compensation—a just reward—for their efforts, or they will find some other way of obtaining their reward.

**Mr. Prest:** Some local authorities get it much easier than others. If you have good, competent officers you can trust, you can get away with it.

**Mr. HINZE:** I suggest that we have to trust officers just as we would expect them to trust us. I cannot differentiate. I cannot draw a line showing which ones we should trust and which ones we should not trust. The fees are payable at the discretion of the local authority, and I am confident that they will act responsibly. Of course, they are responsible to the electorate.

The member said that there should be a complete review of the Local Government Act. We have heard that statement on a number of occasions. The Act is under continuous review by the Department of Local Government, the local authorities and the Local Government Association. Some members have expressed concern about the number of Bills introduced to amend the Local Government Act. As I said previously, and as the member for Pine Rivers mentioned, this shows the vitality of local government in this State. Although it is said that the whole Act should be reviewed, I would point out that this is going on all the time. The member for Port Curtis has taken part in debates on a number of Bills to amend the Local Government Act that have come before the House over the last 12 months. This is the way in which the Act is being reviewed, and I think that it is the most sensible way.

Reference was made to inspectors' powers to arrest persons illegally camping on council land. The point has been taken on board—to use a current expression—by the

responsible members of this House, who believe that we do not want to over-govern, and I subscribe completely to that view. Nor do we want to give the impression that we are trying to overgovern. We have to take cognisance of the fact that no-one should usurp the powers of a police officer; however, as I have said, similar powers are already given in the Litter Act and they have not been abused. We will watch this matter closely.

The point was made previously that perhaps we should allow these inspectors to undergo some sort of course at the Police Academy. I do not know whether we would go as far as that. However, I have indicated to the member for Port Curtis that, if some problem arises, I am prepared to consider it and, if necessary, introduce a further amendment at a later date.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 16, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hinze, by leave, read a third time.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ABORIGINAL LANDS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.4 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

At the outset, let me say it is very pleasing that members on both sides of the House support this Bill. This is evident from comments made by honourable members at the introductory stage, and I believe there is general agreement that these amendments will, as the Opposition spokesman on local government matters acknowledged, “help to improve the lot of the people of Aurukun and Mornington Island.”

As I explained at the introductory stage, the amendments are designed principally to give more positive and formal effect to the Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act, which was passed in this House earlier this year to extend a unique system of local government self-management to the people of both communities.

I think that the comments made earlier by members on both sides of the House confirm that the Government's efforts to achieve a smooth transition to elected local government at Aurukun and Mornington Island are indeed bearing fruit, and again, as the

Opposition local government spokesman put it, “We can now see that things are working out according to plan.”

I thank honourable members for their contributions at the introductory stage of the Bill, and I propose now to comment briefly on some of the points that they made.

In reply to the member for Port Curtis, I note that the Opposition supports the Government in regard to formalising the operation of canteens at Mornington Island and Aurukun. However, it appears that he is under the misapprehension that the people of Aurukun want a canteen. He is incorrect in this assumption, as the people of Aurukun have indicated clearly to me that they do not want a canteen. I made it clear in my introductory speech that the relevant amendment to the Act in this Bill allows them to have a canteen only if they want it. I repeat: the people of Aurukun do not have to have a canteen, but may decide, of their own accord, to have one. This amending legislation merely gives them power to make that decision.

I note that the Member for Port Curtis supports the Government in all other matters touched on in the Bill.

The member for Mt. Isa has expressed concern in regard to the actions of some people at Mornington Island. In this respect, I can assure honourable members that the Government is watching the situation very closely and that nothing will be allowed to jeopardise the future of these two local authorities, particularly after fully elected councils have been installed.

As to people visiting Mornington Island—it must be remembered that this is now a local authority area and that the Aboriginal people should have the right to hear arguments being put to them and be able to decide for themselves what they will accept and what they will reject. If they do not make the correct decisions and allow themselves to adopt policies that are contrary to the law and to good self-government, they will be behaving irresponsibly; but I am confident that this situation will not arise.

Regarding the lease situation—it is expected that drafting of leases will be completed before the end of December. The Act contains provisions under which the Government can decide on the use to which land is to be put, and it is unlikely that any terms of the lease will alter this. I assure the member for Mt. Isa that the Government will be watching very closely how land covered by the leases is used.

As to the honourable member's query about the use of vehicles in the two areas, I expect that vehicles will have to be registered and that third-party provisions will apply. It will be necessary for the owner of each vehicle to take out his own comprehensive insurance, just as he would in any other local authority area. Of course, the council may apply to the Main Roads Commissioner for concessional registration provisions to be applied.

As to the operation of canteens—accounts for the operation of the Mornington Island canteen are subject to audit, and action will be taken against the offending party if the honourable member's fears regarding misappropriation of funds are proved to be correct. This legislation allows for the control of the canteen by the Mornington Shire Council, as the responsible body on the island.

The member for Mt. Isa also made a reference to the influence being exerted on the local people concerning land rights. I assure him that no Government funds, or council funds, will be used in support of this sort of activity, which does not come within the responsibilities and the ambit of local government.

I move now to the comments of the honourable member for Cook and I thank him for acknowledging that I have taken my task concerning Aurukun and Mornington Island seriously. I assure the House that I will continue to do so, and I am very confident that these two areas will operate successfully as local authorities.

Unfortunately, the member for Cook does not exhibit the same clear-sightedness with regard to some of the questions he has posed. For example, he states that there have been no surveyors in the area. I ask him, why should there be any surveyors? In the case of both Aurukun and Mornington Island, the whole of the area is being granted as a lease, except for areas being set aside for Government purposes, which have already been surveyed, and other non-specified areas being set aside for use at a later date should they be required. There is no survey required at this stage, and this certainly is not holding up the drawing up of the leases.

The member for Cook also asks, "What about the Aboriginal houses that are built on the areas that will be excised?" If the member is as familiar with the area as he claims, he will see that on schedules 2 and 3 there are no Aboriginal houses on land to be excised, and there is nothing to indicate anywhere in the Act, or in the proposed amendments to the Act, that land on which Aboriginal housing exists will be excised.

As to houses on land being leased to the two councils—adequate provision will be made in the leases to ensure that these houses will remain the property of the people who personally own them.

On the question of elections at Aurukun and Mornington Island—I think the honourable member would agree that every endeavour has been made to have all the necessary procedures completed so that elections can be held. Because of the remoteness of the areas, and the problems, this has taken some time, but at no stage have delays been caused by administrative or procedural matters under my control.

I am somewhat surprised at the member's mention of rates, as he must realise that the land is being leased to the councils and

therefore, if the councils levy rates, they would be rating themselves. Revenue to be derived by the councils will include rentals charged to occupiers of buildings which will be under the ownership of the councils. These rentals are based on guide-lines laid down by the Government. In addition, charges will be levied to cover services for cleansing, water-supply and electricity. These already have been defined in the budgets adopted by both councils, and they are comparable with charges being levied in other local authority areas.

I said nothing in my introductory speech about fees, charges and rates, because these, if applicable, are part of budgets which have already been brought down. I would have thought that the honourable member would have been aware of this.

I must correct the impression given by the member for Cook in his remark about canteens. He suggested that the canteen at Mornington Island could have been administered under the *Aborigines Act*. I would point out that Aurukun and Mornington Island are local authorities, and are not subject to the *Aborigines Act*, as he calls it. In fact, this amending legislation is required to enable the councils to legally operate canteens.

**Mr. SCOTT:** I rise to a point of order. Is the Minister attributing those remarks about the canteen on Mornington Island to me? I cannot recall making any remarks at all about the canteen on Mornington Island.

**Mr. HINZE:** If the honourable member says that he did not make any comments about canteens, I have probably made a mistake.

**Mr. Scott:** On Mornington Island, anyhow.

**Mr. HINZE:** On Mornington Island. If I have made a mistake, I will withdraw that section of my statement.

I note also that in his closing comments the honourable member for Cook said that the A.L.P. will support land rights when it comes to power in this State. I would suggest, firstly, that the member should not hold his breath while waiting for that eventuality. I would suggest, further, that this legislation, as with other State Government policies and provisions involving the welfare of Aboriginal people in this State, is based on actual equality and equal land rights, something that the bogus land-righters do not accept, do not strive for and do not promote.

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis) (3.13 p.m.): As I stated at the introductory stage, the Opposition welcomes the amendments proposed by the Minister. We, too, think that they will bring some improvement to the Aboriginal people in the two local authorities concerned.

On Tuesday night, and again yesterday, certain remarks were made by the members representing those areas. We on this side of the House realise that the Aboriginal people

have problems, and would make every endeavour to give them a better way of life. Some very harsh words were said about the Aboriginal people in the Barron River electorate. Instead of attacking the Aboriginal race, an elected member of Parliament has a duty to go into the area and assist those people.

The honourable member for Barron River said that they were living in houses that were so dirty that an ambulance bearer was afraid to go into them in case he caught scabies or something else. Such remarks are very denigrating. The honourable member should be out there fighting to give those people something better. When they are down he should not kick them; rather should he help to get them up and put them on the right path. That would be my advice to him.

On Tuesday night the honourable member for Mt. Isa spoke about Mickey Miller and others who go to Mornington Island to give advice which is not in accord with the advice that the honourable member would be giving. What we are trying to do at Mornington Island and Aurukun is to give the people some self-respect and equal rights with people in other local authority areas. We want to give them their freedom to decide for themselves. It is a poor state of affairs when their member pleads with the Government to keep those gentlemen out of those local authority areas because they are saying things to the Aborigines that are not in keeping with his way of thinking. It is wrong that people should be hunted out of the area because they are not broadcasting what the Government wants to hear. People are entitled to freedom of speech and freedom of thought.

As the Minister said, it is up to the people in the areas to decide which piece of the cake has the nicest cream. If a person believes that what the department is doing is right, he might decide to take its advice. If, on the other hand, he decides that the words uttered by other people are more enticing, he might decide to accept them. Having decided for himself, he has to put up with the consequences, whether they be for better or for worse.

As a fair amount of work remains to be done on this the final day of this session, I do not intend to take up much more time. I merely want to stress that I do not agree with the statements made by the member for Barron River in relation to Aborigines in this area, or with those made by the member for Mt. Isa concerning people who visit the areas.

Every opportunity must be given to the people to make up their own minds. That is, after all, what the Bill is all about. It gives the people at Aurukun and on Mornington Island the right to decide—the right of self-management.

At the introductory stage, the Minister claimed that I said a canteen was being forced onto the people of Aurukun. That is

not true. I repeat what I said. These amendments will allow those persons who are elected to the councils in these areas to decide whether they want a canteen. We do not say they must have a canteen. If they wish to have a canteen, they can take steps through their elected council or administrators to obtain it.

Finally, vehicles on reserves must be covered by third party insurance and, as in other areas, local authorities must have the right to apply for a remission of charges imposed on such vehicles. The Opposition goes along with the amendments.

**Mr. SCOTT** (Cook) (3.18 p.m.): I rise to enlarge a little on the remarks made by our very competent spokesman on local government. I compliment him for the way in which he monitors all local government legislation, but in particular this legislation, which is of great importance to me. The Minister, too, has complimented him.

I was taken by the remarks of the Minister about the performance that he expected of the councils when they are re-elected. As Aurukun is in my electorate, I shall confine my remarks to what happens there. I know that the Minister will do everything in his power to ensure that the councils, when re-elected, will be given assistance to carry out their duties in a competent manner, as I know they are able to do.

I want to tie that comment to remarks that were passed in this Chamber on previous legislation. An honourable member spoke about being able to watch something done and learning by it. That is not so at all. Human beings learn how to do things not by watching them being done, but by doing them. Very little is learned by watching. Anyone who wants to tie a complicated knot—which is a relatively simple manipulative procedure—does not learn to do it properly until he does it himself. I am pleased that the councillors are to be given an opportunity to run their own community. I will be watching closely.

I am very concerned about the roads that are shown as dotted lines. I have confidence in the Minister's seeing that this legislation is administered properly, but I am concerned that dotted lines can weave all over the place. It is possible for the councils, and perhaps the Local Government Department, to try to get the best of any deal that is going, and it seems that that could be done in this instance by moving the dotted line. The lines may be sufficiently delineated on maps held by the department, but perhaps they could be varied by an amended delineation, on a later map deposited in the department, if necessary. That does not seem to be a very tight procedure. I should like a much clearer definition of these roads when the communities start operating as councils.

The Minister referred to the by-laws in the communities relating to the charges that may be levied by the councils. The land is held under lease, but it has been foreshadowed in legislation pertaining to other Aboriginal communities that award rates will be introduced slowly to the communities. In parallel with that, it has almost been threatened that charges will be increased at a comparable rate for water and electricity supplies and other services. The charges will be controlled by the by-laws of the council at Aurukun. I am not unhappy about that. I know that the councils are competent and I assume that the existing by-laws for the communities will be taken over by the new councils. That is quite in order.

What interests me about the Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act and the amendments we are debating is that there is no provision for regulations, as happens under the Aborigines Act. That must be a good thing because it will tie the Government down. When it is necessary to change the procedures applicable to Aurukun, it will have to be done by legislation. I predict that one of the first actions by the Government will be a further amendment of this legislation so that it will have its own regulations.

The Minister has treated us extremely fairly in assessing what we have put forward, but I point out to him that he got the canteens mixed. I was talking about the canteen at Kowanyama, which is a very good one, and the canteen at Edward River. These communities are adjacent to Aurukun; so what happens on them will be significant if a canteen is provided at Aurukun. I was trying to show that it is possible to have good and bad canteens. I deplore the fact that they do not all operate properly. That happens because the people who are trying their hardest to operate them properly are not given the necessary assistance by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. That is one reason why the canteen at Edward River is not working properly. The other reason is that it was not constructed in a way that would facilitate efficient operation. When and if other canteens are established at Aboriginal communities in my electorate, I hope that their construction is supervised very closely.

I agree, as our spokesman has said, that we opposed this Bill originally. All honourable members will recall that we opposed it very strongly and divided on it when it was introduced. Earlier in the session it was opposed bitterly. However, as it is now operative we will accept the amendments without dividing on them.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.28 p.m.), in reply: I thank the honourable members for their contributions. I do not wish to take much time, except to say to the honourable member for Cook that he represents the Torres Strait islands also. In speaking about roads he referred to dotted

lines weaving about in the respective areas. He has to be fair and admit that I allocated something like \$200,000 a year to Thursday Island. It now has an 18-ft. wide bitumen ring road right round it. The people there are entitled to it—they are Queenslanders—and they have a very good road now. I think that the same will apply in both of the other areas.

Another point is that, because these two areas have been made local authorities, out of the recent grants they have qualified for an allocation of the order of something like \$10,000 which they would not otherwise have received.

I do not think that I should delay the House any further and I commend the Bill.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 22, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hinze, by leave, read a third time.

### CITY OF BRISBANE (WATER SUPPLY) ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.23 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

This Bill was favourably received at the introductory stage. As I mentioned then, it is designed to correct problems that have arisen following a recent decision of the High Court of Australia in connection with the valuation and rating of Somerset Dam lands.

The effect of the proposed legislation is that the situation that was intended to apply before the court decision will be restored. This will ensure that the Brisbane City Council and lessees of Somerset Dam lands will be liable to meet their proper share of rates on such lands. In short, the council will be liable for rates on lands submerged by the waters of the dam and the lessees for rates on emergent lands. The Bill is also designed to ensure that the Kilcoy Shire Council will not lose substantial rate revenue by virtue of the High Court decision which altered the basis formerly applied in the determination of the unimproved value of the lands submerged by the dam.

In reply to those honourable members who spoke in the introductory debate, I would like to inform them that the payment of rates on Somerset Dam lands is in accordance with a principle enacted in the City of Brisbane (Water Supply) Act of 1959. This principle was to compensate the three shires involved, but particularly Kilcoy Shire, for the loss of valuable rateable land.

Somerset Dam was constructed principally to supply water to the metropolitan areas of Brisbane and Ipswich and it was considered unreasonable that ratepayers of Kilcoy Shire should bear an increased rate burden from the construction of the dam, which is mainly benefiting the metropolitan area.

When the Wivenhoe Dam is constructed, a similar principle will be considered in order to compensate the Esk Shire for the loss of rateable land in its area. The loss of this land could have a serious effect on the financial viability of the Esk Shire Council.

**Mr. PREST** (Port Curtis) (3.30 p.m.): I must first reply to some of the comments made by Government members during the introductory debate. The honourable member for Pine Rivers said that the people of Brisbane must pay for the water that they are going to receive. I agree and that has always been so. The Brisbane City Council is not saying that it should not pay a fair and reasonable price for its water, but if these schemes are going to be expanded then someone has to pay the piper to keep the local authorities happy. We do not see why people and industry of today should pay more than is fair for their needs and thus pay for the needs of people and industry of the future.

We always hear complaints that the land resumed in the catchment areas of a dam is always the best land in the area. That is always the case. We saw people from the Esk Shire Council discussing this during a T.V. debate on the construction of the Wivenhoe Dam. The best land in a catchment area is always the valleys and river flats, and it is natural that this land is resumed. It is unfortunate, but it is always the case that the most valuable and most highly rated land is always resumed for a catchment area. This is nothing new and it will continue not only in the area we are discussing but right through the State.

This amendment will have far-reaching effects on the schemes operated by all water authorities throughout the State whose catchment areas are in other local government areas. This amendment affecting not only the people of Brisbane but also those in the Esk, Kilcoy and Caboolture shires will have a flow-on effect for virtually every other water-supply scheme in the State. I personally have no great opposition to the Bill. I believe that the Brisbane City Council has been fair in the past and that it will continue to be fair in the future. If this Bill is to operate for the betterment of all, I am quite certain that it will be only too willing to meet its commitments.

**Mr. AKERS** (Pine Rivers) (3.33 p.m.): I know that the honourable member for Port Curtis has had quite a bit to do lately, but I thought while listening to him that I have never heard quite as much gibberish as he uttered at the beginning of his speech. He said something to the effect that industry of today should not pay for industry of the future. That is not deep; indeed it is so shallow that it will remain indelibly in our minds for ever as one of the greatest statements ever made in this House. He also had me saying something very deep to the effect that people must pay for the water they use. There is no way in the world that I said that during the introductory debate. I said, "Where there is a cost involved in producing a water-supply, the people who use that water must pay that cost," or words to that effect. That is very different from the vague and simple form in which it was put by the honourable member.

I can only say that I support this Bill, and I am very disappointed that the honourable member for Murrumba, who is even more involved in the area that is covered by the North Pine Dam than I am, has not seen fit to support my call for similar treatment for the Pine Rivers Shire.

**Mr. WARBURTON** (Sandgate) (3.35 p.m.): I find it unfortunate that the Minister has not seen fit to answer some of my queries, the principal one being, of course, why this legislation is directed against the Brisbane City Council, and why all inundated land has not been included.

**Mr. Gunn** interjected.

**Mr. WARBURTON:** The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and the Toowoomba City Council own dams. Why point the bone at the Brisbane City Council? I say once again that this is just another one of those attacks that have been made from time to time. I cannot help but feel that it is connected with the leases in the Somerset Dam area. There is a connection there somewhere.

It is important to note that the documents for the leases of council-owned land at Somerset Dam, about which I speak, all specify that lessees must pay local authority rates and charges on the land. The legislation in 1959 specified that all existing agreements, including the leases, had to be maintained by the Brisbane City Council.

In 1974, the lessees applied to the Supreme Court for a ruling on the lease clause requiring them to pay rates. All this is very relevant to the Bill. The Supreme Court ruled at that time that the lessees had to pay rates. An appeal to the High Court was lost. The Brisbane City Council continued its action to recover rates from the lessees, but, as I mentioned in my speech at the introductory stage, the day before the judgment was given the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Act 1974 was rushed through this Parliament and received

the royal assent the next morning. It appears as though we are seeing a repetition of that action today. Another piece of legislation is being rushed through this Parliament on the last sitting day, and heaven knows why. I cannot understand why this legislation is being rushed through in this way. Why were we not given an opportunity to have a look at it?

I agree that the Kilcoy Shire did suffer some disability when the Somerset Dam was built in its area, but there are other factors that have not been mentioned by the Minister.

**Mr. Gunn:** Some disability!

**Mr. WARBURTON:** The member for Somerset should keep quiet, because he is very closely involved with Mr. McAulay and somebody else whom I mentioned earlier and whose name I will not repeat.

It is agreed that the Kilcoy Shire has been disadvantaged. However, let us look at the plus side of what happened at that time. All roads were relocated and constructed to a much higher standard than the submerged roads that they replaced, and other services were treated in a like manner. It has to be realised that the shire simply cannot provide the services to a submerged area. So the main reason for imposing rates on a large part of the submerged area no longer applies. We are talking about land that is under water. I believe that the High Court judgment was absolutely correct. How on earth could people or any organisation be expected to submit to a higher valuation than that decided by the High Court?

One fact that the Minister did not mention is that the dam has enhanced the value of the adjoining lands. In fact, subdivision is taking place at this very time.

**Mr. Gunn:** Not around North Pine.

**Mr. WARBURTON:** I am not talking about North Pine; I am talking about Somerset.

**Mr. Gunn:** There is no subdivision there.

**Mr. WARBURTON:** That shows what the member knows.

**Mr. Gunn:** Well, I do know.

**Mr. WARBURTON:** I am saying that he does not know.

The High Court, in its judgment, said that the value of the surrounding land was enhanced by the presence of the water.

**Mr. Gunn interjected.**

**Mr. WARBURTON:** Well, read the High Court judgment. The member does not know what he is talking about.

Consequently, rates on surrounding land will increase and compensate the shire for rates lost on the submerged land. So,

although the Kilcoy Shire may have lost to some extent, it has actually gained substantially.

The recreational sports that attract people to the dam benefit the retailers in the area. Furthermore, the rents charged by the Brisbane City Council for leased land are unrealistically low at this time. Those low charges are in fact a boon to rural production in the area, and that is evident, of course, in the large premiums that are paid for the transfer of leases. I consider that the Kilcoy Shire has already been amply compensated for any loss it suffered by having the Somerset Dam built in the shire.

**Mr. Gunn interjected.**

**Mr. WARBURTON:** I am stating my belief. I do not believe that rates should be paid on submerged land. The Brisbane City Council has gone through the correct legal procedures—and I make that point again—to have the provisions of existing legislation administered justly. The second point that I make is that it is legislation that a National-Liberal Government enacted in the first place. The Brisbane City Council has adopted the correct procedures and, now that it has won its case, we again see legislation being brought down at very short notice to change the position once more.

I am not putting forward an argument about the money, which is negligible and will be well met by the relevant authority. However, I suggest that the principle of the Bill is wrong, and I can only say that I am very disappointed indeed that the Minister has seen fit to introduce such a Bill.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (3.42 p.m.), in reply: I believe that I should reply directly to the honourable member for Sandgate and indicate that it is not the intention of the Government to single out the Brisbane City Council for special treatment.

**Mr. Warburton:** You have made a good job of it.

**Mr. HINZE:** The interjection that the Government has made a good job of it is not correct. I remind the honourable member for Sandgate that in 1957 a Labor Government was in office in this State. No doubt it would have had something to do with the principle enacted in the City of Brisbane (Water Supply) Act of 1959, which must have been agreed to by the people at that time. That principle was to compensate the three shires involved, but particularly Kilcoy Shire, for the loss of valuable rateable land, and the Somerset Dam was constructed principally to supply water to the metropolitan areas of Brisbane and Ipswich. I said that earlier. Probably the honourable member was not in the House when I said it; he may or may not have heard it. It was considered unreasonable that ratepayers of the Kilcoy Shire should bear an increased

rate burden as a result of the construction of the dam, which was mainly benefiting the metropolitan area.

The principle to which the honourable member for Sandgate referred is that rates should not apply to these submerged lands, and he instanced a number of other local authorities and cities. Take, for example, the city of the Gold Coast. It draws its water from the Albert Shire. The city of Townsville draws its water from the Ross River in the Thuringowa Shire. There are a number of examples that the honourable member could use.

Let me take, one by one, the points that he made and look first at the land that was inundated. A very high percentage of the best rateable land was inundated. The honourable member for Port Curtis acknowledged, I think, when he was speaking that in river valleys the alluvial flats are the most highly productive land, provided they are out of the flood channels. Therefore, when highly rated land is taken away, that has a very detrimental effect on the local authorities concerned, particularly in the case of small shires.

The honourable member for Sandgate acknowledged that it was not the funding that worried him; it was the principle. If one had to try to measure it, I guess that it would make a difference of about .01 of 1 per cent to the 1,000,000 people living in the city of Brisbane. Frankly, I do not think that they are going to be unduly concerned.

I state that it was not the intention of the Government to single out the city of Brisbane, and honourable members can take it for granted that it was necessary to introduce the Bill today to overcome what appeared to be an anomaly created by a decision of the High Court and to get back to a principle that was agreed upon in this House in 1959.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

(Mr. Kaus, Mansfield, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 8, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hinze, by leave, read a third time.

### WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN** (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (3.46 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

As I indicated at the introductory stage, the Bill forms part of Australia-wide complementary legislation. The amendments make provision for State accounting for storage and handling costs, and for a system of dockages to be applied to undesirable varieties of wheat. I thank honourable members for their support for the principles of the Bill.

The wheat industry has had the benefit of stabilised marketing arrangements for many years. The proposed changes will further improve those arrangements, particularly as far as Queensland is concerned.

The honourable member for Bundaberg stressed the need for orderly marketing arrangements for our rural industries. I fully agree with him on that point.

Members are no doubt aware that in Queensland the State Wheat Board acts as the sole receiving and handling agent for the Australian Wheat Board. That situation will remain unchanged. It will be noted from the Bill that the State Wheat Board's position as licensed receiver has been specifically spelt out. A similar situation applies with regard to the bulk-handling authorities in other States.

It will also be noted that provision has been made for the licensed receivers in each State to appoint agents to act on their behalf should this be necessary. It is unlikely that this will be necessary in Queensland, where the State Wheat Board handles all the wheat, but it may be necessary from time to time in some of the other States. Under State accounting, the more grain the State Wheat Board handles, the lower will be the cost to the Queensland wheat grower. The same will apply to producers of other grains handled by the board. This is a very important aspect, and the desirability of the State Wheat Board's handling all the grain should be apparent.

The second matter covered by the Bill concerns provision for dockages to be imposed on undesirable varieties. This is vital in Queensland. We need to maintain our reputation for producing high-quality wheat. I know that people in the industry support that. When Sir Leslie Price was general president he attended a series of well-attended meetings through the wheat-growing areas to discuss this matter, and it was well supported. No doubt that has been followed up by Don Eather.

**Mr. Gunn:** Why allow these varieties to be sold when there is no actual market for them? This is something that was brought up at the wheat growers' conference.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** There is a market for these varieties and there are farmers who want to grow them. Some varieties more than others suit particular areas and give a higher yield. There is a dockage, so that the farmers growing other varieties receive a lower price per bushel. However, the industry and I believe that the decision should rest with the growers.

**Mr. Gunn:** It discourages them from planting.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The dockage discourages them, but if they want to plant other varieties, that is their decision.

As the honourable member for Balonne pointed out, the quality of wheat can be affected in various ways. Weather conditions play a very important part. The grain can be damaged by rain at harvest-time or quality can be affected by very dry conditions. The grower has no control over such matters. He realises that they are part of the inevitable risks of farming.

The planting of undesirable varieties is, however, quite a different matter. It is within the control of the producer. In this State we can justly be proud of our wheat growers, nearly all of whom grow only recommended varieties. It will be seen that the Bill makes provision for lists of recommended varieties to be declared each year. This declaration is to be made in ample time to enable growers and the State Wheat Board to select seed supplies from the previous crop. In this way the grower will know exactly where he stands.

The Bill makes specific provision that no dockages can be applied on account of variety to any of the recommended varieties. As I said before, the grower will still have to face the risk of weather damage and suchlike, but he accepts that as a normal farming risk.

I should, perhaps, point out that the Bill amends the Wheat Pool Act as well as the Wheat Industry Stabilization Act. I refer particularly to clause 13 of the Bill. This amendment simply brings the powers of the State Wheat Board in relation to dockages into line with the powers of the Australian Wheat Board.

The only other matter on which I wish to comment is the composition of the Wheat Varieties Advisory Committee. The committee will consist of six members—two from the State Wheat Board, one from the Queensland grain growers, one from the Australian Wheat Board, one flour miller and one from my department. This representation will ensure that all the necessary production and technical advice is available to determine both desirable and undesirable varieties.

The Bill, I believe, is a highly desirable one and I commend it to the House.

**Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham)** (3.53 p.m.): As I was not in the Chamber at the introductory stage, I take this opportunity to make a few comments on this very simple Bill, which provides for varietal controls.

The dockage system is a fair one. It is designed to ensure that people do not grow varieties of wheat that will be totally unacceptable in the market-place. It is very easy for someone to get hold of off-grade varieties that have been produced as an experiment. They can be obtained from

unscrupulous people through the black market and they can also be acquired by legitimate means. Although these varieties may have a higher yield than others, they would create tremendous problems if their production was allowed to get out of hand.

It is easy to imagine what would happen if the irrigation farmers were growing large quantities of wheat that was totally unacceptable to the export market and to the bread-manufacturing industry. If some of the poorer wheat lines became mixed with bread-making wheats, either by mistake or because unscrupulous people delivered them as other varieties, a very real breakdown could occur in the classification system of milling qualities. That would cause chaos in the industry.

I support what the Minister is trying to do through this legislation. The accounting procedure outlined in it is very acceptable to Queensland. I do not think it presents any problems.

I shall now say a few words about varieties. Results of the latest trials have not been published, but I was fortunate enough the other day to have a discussion with Dr. Jim Syme about the trials. One of the wheat-research trials has been carried out on my property. It appears that some very good material is coming through again this year, to be propagated next year for release the following year to the industry as a whole. We should pay tribute to the Minister's department for the work done by it and to the growers for their funding of the Wheat Research Institute. It has been responsible for a very real increase in yield to growers. Obviously that will have a very big impact on the export-earning ability of Queensland and Australia in the market-place.

With those few words, I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

**Mr. BLAKE (Bundaberg)** (3.57 p.m.): During the introductory debate I said that we realised the Bill was complementary to Commonwealth legislation and that, if it followed the principles outlined by the Minister, we would have no opposition to it. The contents of the Bill closely follow the Minister's intimation and generally we support it.

In today's shrinking world, when the globe can be traversed in a day and our continent in a couple of hours, the creation of nationwide industry incentives is essential. When considering transport and productivity, we must closely co-ordinate industries that are national—industries that cross State borders. Just as people cannot afford to view themselves in isolation, the States cannot afford to view industrial production and marketing in isolation. The marketing of wheat is truly international. Anything that affects the competitiveness of wheat-marketing on the international scene is very important.

The provisions in the Bill dealing with varietal control have great and beneficial implications for the industry. While varietal control may be new to the wheat industry, it is nothing new in certain other primary industries. In almost every primary industry strong emphasis has been placed by producers and their organisations on improving and directing production towards better varieties in terms of yield and response to soil types and fertiliser. The process has been under way for a long time. It is perhaps wise or, if it is not wise, perhaps I could be forgiven for saying that it is a wonder that the wheat industry collectively has not arrived at this system before this time.

In his introductory remarks, the Minister said that there will be no interference with the grower's right to produce whatever varieties he likes. That might be so essentially, but we hope that great influence will be brought to bear on him to stop him from producing whatever varieties he likes, if he wants to produce a variety that is not in the best interests of the industry and, owing to his not being aware of the fact, is not in his own best interests. Applying dockage is a very sound and sensible method of influencing a grower. This action is not drastic; it is a very mild but persuasive way of influencing a grower to produce the right varieties. We must look at what influences the selection of the right varieties. They are soil type, productivity, what the industry as a whole requires and what the national and international markets require.

I hope that prevention of what the honourable member for Cunningham said is happening will be the objective in the long term, not just on a State basis but at the Australian Wheat Board level. I do not think that the States individually will think of what is going to happen in getting it into storage. The representatives of the States, in consultation with the Australian Wheat Board, should be considering the prevention of what the honourable member for Cunningham said is happening, that is, the production of the wrong type of wheat for the market. It goes without saying that if the industry does its job, it will not allow this to happen. The purpose of the whole exercise is to produce most effectively and most profitably for a market which is assessed and identified. I think that will be the whole basis.

To hark back to my statement that it is a mild way of influencing a person—if the Minister does not like the word “directing”—to grow certain varieties—this has applied in the sugar industry for years and there is no mild way of influencing growers on the varieties of cane to be grown, as the Minister well knows. A grower is told the varieties that are considered best for his district and he can grow those varieties and no others. If he is foolish enough to grow a variety that is not approved, he has to

pay heavy penalties and he is not allowed to harvest his crop. There could not be any heavier penalty than not being allowed to harvest a crop for which there is no market.

I accept that there will be no interference with the grower's right to grow varieties, but I hope that the Wheat Varieties Advisory Committee, if it functions in keeping with the proposed purpose, will have a very strong influence on what is produced and when it is produced.

I have mentioned handling and storage. It is eminently sensible that the States arrange their own handling and storage and be responsible for them, because they are masters of their own destiny under conditions that are peculiar to their own areas.

The Bill does not set out any time of appointment of members of the Wheat Varieties Advisory Committee. It states—

“The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governor in Council by Order in Council upon the recommendation of the Minister and shall, in every case, be one of the persons for the time being representing the State Board.

“(4) Each member of the Committee shall hold office for the term specified in the instrument of his appointment . . .”

I do not think there is any indication either in this Bill or in the Act of the term of the appointment to be specified in the instrument of appointment. Perhaps it is provided for in the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act. I know a member can be dismissed at any time, but I can find no provision anywhere specifying the period of the appointment.

That is about all that I wish to say on behalf of the Opposition. As Opposition members indicated earlier, the Bill contains just about what we thought it would contain. I think the principles are commendable, and I believe that it will do a lot towards encouraging production of types of wheat that will enable us to grasp market opportunities throughout the world.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD** (Toowoomba North) (4.6 p.m.): In passing this Bill, I think we are doing all we can to ensure two things during the years ahead. Firstly, we should ensure that no varieties of wheat that are currently considered to be of any commercial value at all should be lost to the industry. I should hate to see this legislation applied in a way that would lead to many of the varieties that may perhaps be suited to only one region being lost. It might be that in some regions of the Darling Downs that suffer severe climatic conditions, for example, some varieties are regarded by growers as being particularly suited to the locality. They should continue to be cultivated despite the fact that they have no general appeal in drier regions. I believe we should ensure that as many varieties as possible are kept, even if they are kept only for breeding purposes at places such as the Wheat Research Institute.

It has been found over the years that one particular variety tends to take off and there is a great deal of enthusiasm as it is cultivated more and more widely, but then various problems are encountered with it. However, growers will be catered for and provided with varieties that are generally suited to their needs. There will be special declarations of varieties that are suitable for a certain region or that will be accepted by a certain Wheat Board receiving depot. However, I feel that if a grower thinks he still needs to grow a variety outside those specified, his wheat should be accepted with due regard for his position as a grower and the fact that varieties need to be retained because we do not know where our future wheat stocks will come from, and the possibility of new varieties being developed from existing strains.

I think it is necessary to have the bodies mentioned in the Bill represented on the Wheat Varieties Advisory Committee. We find that the interests of the Queensland Grain Growers' Association are not always the same as those of the State Wheat Board. Of course it is necessary that the Minister have his representative on the committee, and I am pleased to see that the flour-millers also will be represented.

Because of rapid change in the types of machinery that have been used in flour-milling, there has been a need for the growers to change the varieties they grow. Where modern high-speed machinery is being used in the baking of bread, the bakers require flour of a quality that would never have been considered 30 or 40 years ago. They talk in terms of the strength of the dough that is produced by their high-speed machinery, which produces bread comparable with that of 20 or 30 years ago.

I am very pleased to see that the industry's interests are being looked after to ensure not only that the wheat is of high quality but also that the bread baked from the flour milled from the wheat continues to be of high quality. I have great pleasure in supporting the Minister in his introduction of this Bill.

**Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN** (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (4.10 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions. I think the member for Bundaberg indicated that the Bill is acceptable to the Opposition. I think I can take that as a compliment.

**Mr. Blake:** Yes.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I thank the member very much.

This Bill, particularly in relation to the dockage for different varieties, has been very well researched, and the industry has reached agreement on it. It is not as though we are inflicting on the industry something that is repugnant to it.

The member for Carnarvon, in speaking in support of the Bill, made particular mention of our wheat-breeding programme. This is particularly important to the wheat industry. My department does a lot of work in this regard.

I think that we should pay a tribute to the Wheat Research Institute, and I pay particular tribute to the farmers who co-operate with it. I understood the honourable member for Cunningham to say that he is one of those farmers. They play a very important role in co-operating with the officers of my department and with the Wheat Research Institute.

We have a particularly dedicated bunch of plant breeders. As a layman, I would say that one would need the patience of Job to become involved in plant breeding. It is very challenging work, and these scientific researchers have their failures. Research is a very time-consuming job, and it is pleasing to see that we have people with expertise who are prepared to be patient in order to get results from their labours. I suppose their reward is breeding a variety of wheat that is acceptable and very much sought after. Some people might be content to breed one good variety in their lifetime, whereas others might breed a number of good varieties. They are always striving to achieve something better. It is a great challenge to them.

I think that we also have to pay a tribute to the industry itself. It provides a fair proportion of the funds used in research in this industry.

**Mr. Davis:** It has come a long way.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** It has, but there are still many uncertainties in it. As I have mentioned previously, this year was possibly the best growing year for wheat in my lifetime. That is exactly 60 years today. However, I have not spent all of those years growing wheat. Even though the crop was excellent in quality and quantity, there was some chewing of the fingernails during the harvest when wet weather set in. It caused some deterioration in the quality of the crop and there were some losses there. If the rain had continued, there would have been some heavy losses.

The manufacturers of farm machinery have made great progress in the last decade or two, and there is no doubt that, if it had not been for the progress that has been made in the manufacture of harvesters and other machinery, it would not have been so simple to harvest the heavy crop that was grown this year.

The member for Bundaberg asked a question about the appointment of members to the committee. The members will be nominated by the various organisations. As the committee will be required to deal with next year's crop, the appointments will be made very quickly; I would say early in

January. There is no set term of appointment—it is not a 3-year or a 5-year appointment—but if somebody commits a misdemeanour or does not measure up, his appointment can be terminated.

With the wheat harvest over and Christmas almost upon us, I will content myself with those comments and wish the people in the wheat industry and the grain-growing industry a very happy Christmas.

Motion (Mr. Sullivan) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

(Mr. Kaus, Mansfield, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 13, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### THIRD READING

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

### URBAN PASSENGER SERVICE PROPRIETORS ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### INITIATION IN COMMITTEE—RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

(Mr. Kaus, Mansfield, in the chair)

Debate resumed from 6 December (see p. 3337) on Mr. Tomkins's motion—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act 1975–1977 in certain particulars.”

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Transport) (4.18 p.m.), continuing in reply: I again thank honourable members on both sides of the Chamber for their contribution to the introductory debate. Their comments touched on a great number of issues, many of which, although not directly related to the Act under discussion, served to highlight the importance of public passenger transport in all parts of the State, particularly in its urban aspects.

I listened with interest to the views expressed by members of the Opposition. Their opening batsman, the honourable member for Brisbane Central, left no doubt as to their attitude—nothing less than a State take-over of all forms of public transport.

**Mr. Davis:** I didn't go quite as far as that.

**Mr. TOMKINS:** The honourable member was very keen that an authority should be set up to take over the whole lot. The honourable member for Bulimba then elaborated on this in more detail, with his suggestion for a State take-over under a regional system of authorities.

However, the effect was marred by the comment of the honourable member for Archerfield that the Metropolitan Transit Authority is a paper tiger. I gather that the Opposition prefer to see a horde of tigers intent on devouring private enterprise throughout the State. One thing shines through, and that is their intense desire for socialisation. It is obvious that private enterprise has no real place in their scheme of things.

In the contributions from Government members, I detected considerable backing for support schemes of the nature proposed and a desire to extend them still further. The honourable members for Caboolture and Carnarvon emphasised this to some effect, and the honourable members for Flinders, Toowoomba North and Fassifern had significant comments to offer.

I must compliment the honourable member for Mourilyan on her reasoned, well-researched remarks. She was firm in her views but at all times courteous. She also expressed certain views relative to further urban areas, and I propose to say something about them now.

Following the representations that have been made, and in recognition of the obvious problems raised therein, I propose to amend the provisions of this Bill. That will take place, of course, at the Committee stage.

**Mr. Davis:** It's a bit rough, you know. We haven't even got the Bill yet.

**Mr. TOMKINS:** Members will get it shortly.

**Mr. Houston:** How long are you going to give us to look at it? How long?

**Mr. TOMKINS:** About four minutes.

It is regrettable that the honourable member for Salisbury saw fit to take the attitude she did for I know that she is sincere and has the interests of her community at heart. The honourable member for Salisbury knew very well that I have had the fight of my life on this one, and most of my fights have been with the Treasury. It was on this basis that I realised that I had a tremendous job in endeavouring to get the Bill through in the form it was in. However, the position was reached eventually that I was able to convince the Treasury on it.

**Mr. Houston:** Why didn't you bring it on this morning? That would at least have given us some time to look at it. Why are you the last on? Were you up at the march?

**Mr. TOMKINS:** No. Was the honourable member for Bulimba? The Leader of the Opposition was there, anyway.

The honourable member for Redlands made a significant contribution to the debate, as he refocused our attention on the important role of the urban bus service in his area. This is the point at issue in this Bill.

It is a pity that the member for Surfers Paradise used his time to make a personal attack on the Commissioner for Transport and to compound that by his comment on testing officers, which is a matter not coming within the scope of this Bill. The same Commissioner for Transport, whilst having no direct responsibilities in this field, went out of his way to meet the member's requests for assistance on the Gold Coast.

There was considerable comment from various members on the measures of assistance given the Brisbane City Council, and there were attempts to resurrect old inferences about diversion of Federal funds. The Bill we are debating specifically excludes local authorities from its definition, and the measures for, and the methods of, assistance to the Brisbane City Council are not affected by any amendments proposed. My colleague the Honourable the Treasurer has on a number of occasions adequately explained the question of Brisbane City Council assistance, and I do not propose to dwell on this matter.

Motion (Mr. Tomkins) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

#### FIRST READING

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

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Transport) (4.24 p.m.), by leave: I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

At the introductory stage, I explained that the Bill did not break new ground but continued to give effect to Government policy in maintaining support to the private sector of urban public transport. Despite a reduction in the rate of inflation, operating costs of buses continue to increase. However, patronage is not increasing sufficiently to offset these increased costs without having to raise fares.

As honourable members would appreciate, if fares are raised too high, patronage further declines with competition from the private motor car, and the end result is either a very small increase in revenue not sufficient to meet increased costs or, in some cases, a decrease in revenue.

Honourable members, by their contributions to the debate at the introductory stage, have demonstrated their interest in the problem of providing public transport in our urban areas of Brisbane and provincial cities.

Basically, the Bill has two objectives. One is to encourage proprietors of urban passenger services to replace their old buses, so that

the travelling public will have a more comfortable and trouble-free journey and a stimulus will be provided to the bus-building industry in this State. The other, of course, is to maintain the viability of the operator by providing a greater period of repayment for a Government guarantee loan and by increasing the operating subsidy from the base rate of 15 per cent to 30 per cent.

On the purchase of new buses, the interest subsidy of up to 6 per cent will be payable over a period of up to 10 years as against five years at present.

The Government guarantee scheme has been the subject of considerable discussion with banking institutions and, as part of the consideration, the Bill will omit the provision for the Minister to direct the realisation of securities, as the security for the guarantee will simply be a bill of sale and under the guarantee document, if part-payment has been made, the bank can have the option of assigning the bill of sale to the Minister or taking other action it considers appropriate to safeguard its loan.

The Bill is a simple one and merely amends the existing provisions contained in sections 11, 16 and 17 of the present Act. I would hope that private proprietors will recognise that improvements to the present scheme must be accompanied by a positive response from the industry to take advantage of the more favourable conditions to purchase new buses. No longer can we tolerate the proprietors who insist on maintaining for public use buses that are over 20 years old. No matter how well the buses are looked after, the public are entitled to something better if the proprietor is to remain in business as an urban operator.

In the future, I will be watching carefully the bus replacement programme of the industry to see that the additional money that is made available by way of operating subsidy is used for the right purpose, that is, improving the standards of operation of an urban service.

I indicate to honourable members now some of the provisions that I will implement in the Bill by way of amendments.

Firstly, clause 1 will be amended by inserting after line 9 on page 1 the following clause:—

“2. Amendment of s. 3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) in the definition ‘local pensioner service’ omitting the words ‘up to distances not greater than 32 kilometres to or from the principal post office at’ and substituting the words ‘to or from’;

(b) in the definition ‘urban centre’ adding at the end thereof the words ‘or such other area of the State as the Governor in Council by order in Council declares to be an urban centre’.”

Next, clause 4 will be amended by omitting all words in lines 22 and 23 on page 2 and substituting the following words:—

“(b) in subsection (2), in paragraph (c)—

(i) omitting the figures ‘77’ and substituting the figures ‘78’;

(ii) inserting after the figures ‘78’ as inserted by this Act the words ‘or such later date as the Governor in Council in a particular case declares’.”

These amendments will be moved as the result of pressure from some Government members. I want to say to them that the declarations that will take place as a result can take place only if and when the Treasury believes that it has funds available for use at the appropriate time. I point out that I believe the appropriate time to implement these procedures will probably be about 1 July next year. If we were to try to implement them sooner, we could declare areas and not be able to meet the expense. I make it quite clear that it could be as late as 1 July next year before the new schemes start in the urban areas. At this stage, I shall make no further comments.

**Mr. DAVIS** (Brisbane Central) (4.31 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition, I must complain bitterly to you, Mr. Speaker, about the way in which this Bill has been handled from the outset. It is pathetic that the Opposition should receive the Bill and, at almost exactly the same time, amendments should be outlined that are almost as extensive as the Bill. I do not know how anyone can expect democratic Government to work in this place. Even a person with a good, retentive mind like mine cannot absorb what the Minister outlined.

When the Bill was introduced last night, we did not raise much objection to it. We said that we thought bus proprietors faced many problems. We also said that we thought a better way to look after public transport would be for the State to take it over.

I emphasise that throughout the debate we witnessed pressure being applied by Country Party members. The honourable member for Salisbury complained bitterly.

**A Government Member:** She is not a member of the Country Party.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I do not recognise the National Party. I still refer to the Country Party.

As I said, the honourable member for Salisbury criticised the fact that Government members had not seen the Bill, even in the party room.

**An Opposition Member:** She was very upset.

**Mr. DAVIS:** She was.

Speaker after speaker representing country electorates worked the parish pump and criticised the Brisbane City Council. We

witnessed a terrible exhibition last night, with one Government speaker after another criticising the Brisbane City Council for having the audacity to introduce, for a trial period, free buses between the central city and the Valley. I see nothing wrong with that. When we talk about public transport, we must remember that, as well as discussing buses and trains, we should be thinking about ways of keeping cars out of the city. Rather than the city council being ridiculed, it should be congratulated by all concerned.

Government members harped on the fact that the Brisbane City Council receives a subsidy. Of course it does. It should receive much more from the State Government. Government members should also realise that the city council bus service is subsidised heavily by the ratepayers of Brisbane, and that in all other States the State Government is the responsible authority.

Members representing country electorates levelled criticism at the Brisbane City Council because it did not give reduced fares on council buses. If the Government was to be good enough to take over the buses from the council, those members would not have to worry about pensioners receiving a rebate. As the controlling authority, the Government could grant a reduction to all pensioners in Queensland.

The provision which extends from five to 10 years the period in which bus proprietors have to repay loans is to be commended. The Minister said that he would take into account some of the old buses in use in Queensland. The honourable member for Toowoomba North referred to the old buses operating in Toowoomba. I left Toowoomba in 1948. When I was there a couple of weeks ago, I found that the bus that I used to ride in when I was three or four years old was still operating. Bus proprietors who have to pay \$40,000 for a new bus—even allowing that the Government will guarantee the loan at bank interest—have to pay the interest and meet the redemption payments. They have a very large investment.

I think that next year we will be increasing the subsidy for private buses. I cannot see how they will continue to operate. As I said last night, for years Black and White buses used to break up one bus and use its parts to keep the others running. It was able to maintain operations for many years, because it had a fairly big charter business. Eventually it became unprofitable. This will be the case with bus services throughout Queensland.

**A Government Member:** Wind up.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I have 90 minutes.

**A Government Member:** You will be the only one here.

**Mr. DAVIS:** There is plenty of time. Doesn't the honourable member want to listen?

The Opposition was not given a fair go in being told the intentions of the Bill, and we have to try to make something of its provisions and the amendments that have been foreshadowed. We do not want to have all of the amendments carried and then be told that we should have done this and should have done that.

**Mr. Houston:** It has already been amended on an annual basis.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Almost every day. As I said last night, come Christmas-time, two things will be increased—taxi fares and private bus subsidies.

Perhaps the Minister would like to comment on an article by Mr. McHenry, the secretary of the Brisbane Tram and Bus Union, in which he said that some private bus operators were cheating the State Government in regard to subsidised fares for pensioners. An amendment to the Bill provides that the distance will be removed and "to or from" will be inserted. Mr. McHenry also said that some operators were declaring falsely the number of pensioners who rode on buses and were obtaining inflated subsidies from the Government. The Minister might tell us how he keeps a check on the operations of some of the private buses. By no means am I saying that they all cheat, but there should be a check.

In conclusion—as I said at the outset, what the Government has done is pathetic. Some country members have put pressure on the Minister. This is probably the last Bill that we will debate this sitting. We have had to study the amendments proposed in the Bill and other amendments on top of them. This sort of thing must be condemned. I hope that, under the arrangement we have had with the Minister in the past, this does not occur again. It is pathetic and, as far as we are concerned, he stands condemned.

As we have not had time to study the Bill, we will not divide on it. We will accept it with reservations.

**Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (4.38 p.m.):** The honourable member for Brisbane Central has difficulty in distinguishing the National Party from the former Country Party. He does not realise that, while we are very proud of our country base, we have broadened our whole aspect. What we on this side of the House have trouble in recognising is any difference between the Labor Party and the Communist Party.

I thank the Minister for his foreshadowed amendments. We debated this problem at some length last night. However, I have some reservations about the restriction that has been included. We are a little concerned that, whilst what is on paper reads very well, we will be restricted by finance. This is precisely the point that we made last night. While we recognised that the Minister for Transport had made a commitment to us that he would look at our problem, we were

very concerned that, even if he did come up with a scheme, it would be vetoed by the Treasury. Country members accept and welcome the foreshadowed amendments and will look to the Minister for Transport and the Treasurer to honour the commitments and the sentiments in those amendments.

**Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (4.40 p.m.):** I have just a few remarks about what is a rather unusual aspect of this legislation. I am rather sorry that this legislation does not extend to ferry services, because they fit into the category of urban passenger transport services, which is what this legislation originally referred to. This amendment now extends its operations into the country, which is a good thing, but it was initially implemented to cover urban passenger transport services. It has functioned extremely well in Brisbane and in other provincial cities throughout this State.

I wish to relate the Bill to ferries because of representations I made to the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport some months ago in an endeavour to obtain financial assistance for Golden Swan Ferry Service Pty. Ltd., which operates on the river from the bottom of Creek Street to New Farm and then Mowbray Park at East Brisbane. A few months ago the Treasurer and the Transport Minister agreed to pay a subsidy to this service, and I read the letter I received from the Treasurer, because it mentions this legislation and in fact relates to it. The Treasurer said—

"The company's application to the Metropolitan Transit Authority for financial assistance was recently considered by Cabinet which decided that as from 1 July 1978 the State would pay an annual subsidy to the company calculated on the formula provided under the Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act 1975."

He went on to say that the company would be licensed to the agency through which any subsidy is paid and would be required to offer and maintain specified service levels, as is the case with private bus operators. So members can see that this Bill does in fact have some application to ferries.

Then the lawyers got to work. They waved under our noses that dreadful High Court decision which seems to have had such an effect on legislation and Government action over the last couple of years. I refer, of course, to the May 1976 decision of the High Court on a section of the Seas and Submerged Lands Act of 1973, which deals with State and Commonwealth sovereignty over submerged lands.

This High Court ruling, which was handed down in respect of Western Australian fishing laws, had wide ramifications in the relations of all States with the Federal Government. The ruling confirmed that a section of the Seas and Submerged Lands Act of 1973 expressly preserved the operation of State

laws which were not inconsistent with Commonwealth sovereignty. Western Australia's jurisdiction had been thrown into doubt in January of that year after a magistrate in the fishing port of Geraldton, about 250 miles north of Perth, had dismissed charges against a freezer-boat skipper of having under-sized crayfish in his boat. As soon as the magistrate's ruling was known, the wide implications for States' rights were recognised, and it was regarded as a crucial test case. The magistrate had held that as the Commonwealth Seas and Submerged Lands Act gave the Commonwealth sovereignty over territory below the low-water mark, the Western Australian Fisheries Act did not apply to the waters where the boat had been found.

Since receiving the letter from the Treasurer, I have had consultations with the Minister for Transport and the Commissioner for Transport, and I have been told that Crown Law advice is that one of the implications of the High Court decision is that there is some doubt about whether the authority of the Transport Act and the piece of legislation we are now debating can constitutionally deal with ferries on the Brisbane River. In fact, the Transport Commissioner has told me that, because the Brisbane River is a navigable waterway, the High Court decision applies to it. I have written to the Minister asking him to clear that matter up, because I do not think the High Court decision went nearly that far. I have asked the Minister for Survey and Valuation, who is one of the eminent lawyers in this place, about this matter, but he is not conversant with this High Court decision. He told me that he was unable to help me, which I thought was rather a shame.

Nevertheless, we have to find some other way in which Golden Swan Ferry Service can receive a subsidy. I have an undertaking from the Transport Minister that, using the powers of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, a grant calculated on the same formula as prescribed in the Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act will be made to Golden Swan Ferry Service. It looks forward to receiving a cheque very shortly, because the letter that I received from the Treasurer is dated 18 August 1978. We know that this is December and we are nearing Christmas, but Golden Swan Ferry Service is yet to see the colour of the Government's dosh. I think that is a shame. I thought that I would make that contribution today to underline that fact.

In conclusion, I know that you, Mr. Speaker, will bear with me for a moment while I record for the sake of history that I may yet be the last private member to speak in this Chamber before we shift into the new building.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** I am sure that someone will try to upstage me now and steal that honour by speaking on the clauses at the Committee stage.

**Mr. Houston:** You should not have jumped so quickly. You could have had the honour. Some of us had not thought about it.

**Mr. LANE:** We have always got to draw the attention of Opposition members to these matters. They are a little dull, a little slow and a little lazy. Nevertheless, I am proud that I am the last private member to make a major contribution in this Chamber before we move into the new building.

**Mr. AUSTIN** (Wavell) (4.47 p.m.): It would give me much pleasure to support this Bill, but I do not believe that the amendments, as proposed by the Minister, will do anything to help country people. I think I know some of the problems that people in country areas experience with their bus services. As I understand the Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act and the proposed amendments, there is nothing in them that will help members of Parliament who represent country areas to overcome the problems that their constituents experience. As I understand it, the problem involves travel from town to town.

A lot of ruckus went on last night. Members of Parliament who represent country areas put forward their case. I believe that the amendments put forward by the Minister will do nothing to help those members.

I rose to speak briefly today in order to put on record that I believe we will be back in the new year to amend this Act, although I do not believe that this Act can be amended in such a way as to help members of Parliament who represent country areas. I think that another Act will have to be introduced.

I respectfully suggest to the Minister through you, Mr. Speaker, that these amendments are a waste of time. They are just glossing over what indeed is a serious problem facing people in country areas. I hope that the Minister will look at this matter in some detail and come up next year with a proposal that will help these people.

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) (4.49 p.m.): Naturally, the Opposition will support this measure. Of course, it is another example of socialism. It is strange that National Party members get up time and again in this House and condemn socialism, yet on every occasion when free enterprise runs into any trouble, they come to the Government to seek financial assistance. That is what socialism is all about—the use of public money to prop up and assist private enterprise. That is exactly what the Government has done.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I know that the Liberals and the members of the National Party do not like to hear the truth about socialism.

Over the years they have said it is a dirty word. They want its benefits, but they do not want to use that word because it is dirty to them.

The fact is that they are using public money. Every time they subsidise something, the people's Government is the guarantor. In my book, irrespective of what Government members say, that is the definition of socialism.

**Mr. Scassola:** That is not the way it is in your platform.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** It is the way it is in our platform. If the honourable member knew more about the Labor Party's platform, he would be a better member of this House.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the Nationals and the Liberals are very quick to say, "We believe in free enterprise." However, some laws passed by National-Liberal Governments restrict competition. One has only to look at laws relating to hotels to see that. What about the bus services? Can anyone start a bus service in competition with someone else because he wishes to do that? Of course he cannot. He can do it only with the authority of the Transport Commission. If honourable members opposite want a completely free-enterprise State, I suggest that they let bus services compete one against another. Let them have their own buses; let them invest their own money. That is free enterprise. Government members want it both ways.

The Labor Party believes, as I do, in assisting free enterprise. What I object to is the constant decrying of socialism by members of the National and Liberal Parties.

**Mr. Scassola** interjected.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The honourable member is only a new boy. He has been here for only 12 months. When he has been here longer he will understand more about socialism and more about the operations of Parliament.

The honourable member for Merthyr referred to ferry services, as he has done on many previous occasions. But he is not the only member of this Assembly who has done that. His predecessor, Mr. Ramsden, spoke about ferries on many occasions. I also have spoken about them on many occasions since 1957, and the honourable member for Brisbane Central has spoken about them—as have all members whose electorates are served by ferries.

Since 1957, National-Liberal Governments have run away from assisting ferry services. I do not care what excuse the honourable member for Merthyr has been given, but talk about the Seas and Submerged Lands Act is a lot of nonsense. If the honourable member checks on when the legal decision was given and the date of the letter that he received, he will find that there is quite a substantial difference in time.

The fact is that the State Government can give financial assistance to ferry operators at any time. It has not to wait to implement the provisions of this Bill. As the honourable member for Merthyr rightly said, it could do so through the transport authority. It has every right to do that.

**Mr. Lane:** What about the responsibility of this Brisbane City Council?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** With the exception of the Moggill ferry, which was privately owned at one stage, the Brisbane City Council has been running the ferries, and at any time the State Government can earmark money to go to the city council to be relayed to the ferry operators.

**Mr. Lane:** I am not talking about the cross-river ferries; I am talking about ferries plying up and down the river, you clown.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** As to the cross-river ferries—how much subsidy has the State Government paid to the Brisbane City Council on the operation of the "Sir James Holt"? If the Brisbane City Council had not used ratepayers' money to run the "Sir James Holt", there still would not have been a river crossing in that area. Honourable members are aware of the frustration that has been experienced since about 1960 because of the argument over the building of a tunnel or bridge there.

Let me turn to what is happening now. I support completely the comments of the honourable member for Brisbane Central on the introduction of this legislation. The fact is that this House is being used purely and simply for the convenience of the National and Liberal Parties. The only reason why the Bill was not introduced last night was that it was not physically printed. The Minister has only just got it from the Government Printing Office. Why does he not be honest about the whole matter, instead of suggesting that it was not quite the time to have it printed? When I asked the Minister why he did not bring it on as first business today—

**Mr. LANE:** I rise to a point of order. The printer's date appears on the front of the Bill, and it is November. The honourable member is misleading the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I think all honourable members are trying to mislead me. The honourable member for Bulimba.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I am sure that the Minister does not require the honourable member for Merthyr to tell him how to run his department.

We have heard the honourable member for Salisbury and the honourable member for Mourilyan describing the dogfights the Minister had in the party room.

**Mrs. KIPPIN:** I rise to a point of order. I made no reference in my speech to anything that happened in our party room.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw the statement.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I accept the denial. Perhaps it was a catfight. I know that there can be a difference between the two.

The Minister for Local Government and Main Roads came into the Chamber with his legislation that was delayed and then, after the introductory stage, allowed members some time to have a look at the Bill. He proceeded to the next stages of the Bill after three other Bills had been dealt with. That was appreciated. But this Minister comes in here at this late stage with amendments. More paper is taken up with the amendments than with the Bill itself. If the Minister cannot make up his mind what he wants in a Bill that is before the Assembly just a few minutes before he amends it, then we question the advantages of the legislation.

As we said at the introductory stage, it is a good socialist project. We will support the Bill on those grounds, and hope that the public will get a better transport system because of it.

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Transport) (4.57 p.m.), in reply: I thank the honourable members for Brisbane Central, Bulimba, Mourilyan, Wavell and Merthyr (the ferry man) for their comments on the Bill. There is no doubt that it had a slightly rough passage in various ways. Nevertheless, it has been our intention to try to bring the Act up to date, which is exactly what we have done.

As to the point raised by the honourable member for Merthyr—fees for the Golden Swan Ferry Service come under the control of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. It has the necessary power. I do not think the honourable member has any need to worry.

**Mr. Davis:** The honourable member for Merthyr was promised that in the Budget debate.

**Mr. TOMKINS:** He got it through Cabinet. It is quite in order.

**Mr. Houston:** Do you think you will have enough left?

**Mr. TOMKINS:** That is a possibility, too.

The scheme is turning into a much bigger one than we originally envisaged. That is why I had to qualify the amendments that are coming up in a few moments.

When the scheme is fully operational, I believe that it will mean a lot to many people in country areas. It will mean a great deal to pensioners particularly. In that respect it will do a lot of good.

Motion (Mr. Tomkins) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

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

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Transport): I move the following amendment—

“On page 1, insert the following new clause to follow clause 1—

‘2. Amendment of s. 3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) in the definition “local pensioner service” omitting the words “up to distances not greater than 32 kilometres to or from the principal post office at” and substituting the words “to or from”;

(b) in the definition “urban centre” adding at the end thereof the words “or such other area of the State as the Governor in Council by Order in Council declares to be an urban centre”.’”

**Mr. DAVIS** (Brisbane Central) (5 p.m.): As I said earlier, a member needs to have the brains of Einstein to be able to understand this. I would like the Minister to explain the reason for this amendment.

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Transport) (5.1 p.m.): Section 3 of the Act refers to “local pensioner service”. A pensioner is defined as a person who—

“is a pensioner within the meaning of the Social Services Act 1947–1975 of the Commonwealth as amended or any Act in substitution thereof entitled to and the holder of a pensioner’s concession entitlement card issued under that Act in accordance with terms and conditions that apply at the date of commencement of this Act.”

The term “local pensioner service” means—

“a passenger omnibus service the subject of a licence or permit under the State Transport Act 1960–1972 for the carriage of passengers at separate and distinct fares that provides also for concession fares to pensioners at a prescribed rate based on fares determined by the Commissioner for travel up to distances not greater than 32 kilometres to or from the principal post office at a centre of population (including an urban centre) declared by the Minister to be a local pensioner service.”

**Mr. Houston:** What have you cut out?

**Mr. TOMKINS:** We have omitted the words—

“Up to distances not greater than 32 kilometres to or from the principal post office at”

and substituted the words—

“to or from”.

In the definition of "urban centre" we have added—

"or such other areas of the State as the Governor in Council by Order in Council declares to be an urban centre."

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) (5.3 p.m.): The Minister has referred to a local pensioner service. If the distance of 32 km is deleted, what is left? What does the term "local" cover? An area within a radius of 32 km can be regarded as a local area. However, once the 32 km limit is removed, a pensioner could travel from Brisbane to Cairns. That could not be described as a local pensioner service. The removal of the distance of 32 km makes the heading rather ridiculous.

**Mrs. KIPPIN** (Mourilyan) (5.4 p.m.): I thank the Minister for this amendment. Metropolitan members do not appreciate the fact that some pensioners live a little more than 32 km from a town and they would be denied the concession when they had to travel to town to visit a doctor or dentist or do their shopping. The pensioners who live in the little hamlets and farming areas outside the town could not receive the benefit of the local pensioner service. That is why we prevailed upon the Minister to consider them. The amendment will not allow pensioners to travel at concession fares from Brisbane to Cairns. All it does is allow them to travel to the nearest major town.

**Mr. AUSTIN** (Wavell) (5.5 p.m.): To enlarge on that point, I should like the Minister to explain to us how that will not happen; how people will not be able to travel from Brisbane to Cairns, but only within close proximity of urban centres. Will the Minister explain what prohibits a pensioner from catching a bus from Brisbane to Cairns and claiming a concessional rate?

**Mr. DAVIS** (Brisbane Central) (5.6 p.m.): I would like to add to the comments of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. As he said, it is, "to and from." Although the Minister read the amendments more or less exactly, the Opposition had not seen the Bill and we would like to know the reason for the change. I fully agree with my deputy leader that the Government is bending over to assist Country Party members. I go for the hearts-and-flowers outlook of the honourable member for Mourilyan when speaking about the poor pensioners travelling 32 kilometres. But does the Opposition have to give an open cheque? Keeping in mind the Minister's attitude last night and his attitude today, I cannot see that any costing has been done. If the Opposition agrees to this, it will virtually be writing an open cheque.

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Transport) (5.7 p.m.): In answer to the honourable member for Wavell—I think it is perfectly clear. The honourable member for Mourilyan explained it.

**Mr. Houston:** It is clear so long as you know what you are doing.

**Mr. TOMKINS:** That is so. The idea is that pensioners generally travel 32 kilometres to a town, and that is it.

**Mr. Houston:** But they don't.

**Mr. TOMKINS:** Yes, they do. They get a subsidy if, in fact, they are on a bus run where the distance could be considerably greater than that. That is the definition; that is what is intended by it.

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) (5.8 p.m.): I take it that the word "local" means that it is now wide open. It is a new definition. Let that be clearly understood so that pensioners and bus proprietors will know what it means. The legislation now provides that a pensioner can claim a local pensioner service irrespective of where he lives or what distance he wants to travel. I want to make that very clear, because that is the whole crux of the amendment. There is no restriction on distance at all.

**Mrs. KIPPIN** (Mourilyan) (5.9 p.m.): Opposition members are confused. The section in the Act says—

"'local pensioner service' means a passenger omnibus service the subject of a licence or permit under the State Transport Act 1960-1972 for the carriage of passengers at separate and distinct fares that provide also for concession fares to pensioners at a prescribed rate based on fares determined by the Commissioner for travel . . ."

We have deleted—

"up to distances not greater than 32 kilometres to or from the principal post office",

but we are saying that the concession fares can be determined by the commissioner for travel by pensioners to a centre of population, including an urban centre, declared by the Minister to be a local pensioner service. It is not open-ended. We have removed the 32 kilometre restriction only to allow pensioners to travel to their nearest centre of population.

New clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—Amendment of s. 17; Payment of subsidy—

**Hon. K. B. TOMKINS** (Roma—Minister for Transport): I move the following amendment—

"On page 2, omit all words comprising lines 22 and 23 and substitute the following words:—

(b) in subsection (2), in paragraph (c)—

(i) omitting the figures "77" and substituting the figures "78";

(ii) inserting after the figures "78" as inserted by this Act the words

"or such later date as the Governor in Council in a particular case declares"."

Amendment agreed to.

**Mr. LANE** (Merthyr) (5.13 p.m.): At the conclusion of this sittings, I should like to say how proper it is that a date should have to be altered by legislation rather than by Order in Council. Of course, that is what is achieved by the amendment and I support it.

**Mr. DAVIS** (Brisbane Central) (5.14 p.m.): Adding to what the honourable member for Merthyr said, the amendment means that the date will be 1978.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! History will record that the honourable member for Brisbane Central was the last speaker and that the honourable member for Merthyr was the penultimate speaker on legislation in this Chamber before it was refurbished. On that note, I extend felicitations to all honourable members for the approaching festive season.

Bill reported, with amendments.

#### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Tomkins, by leave, read a third time.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

"That this House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 13 March 1979."

Motion agreed to.

#### VALEDICTORY

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (5.15 p.m.): I move—

"That the House do now adjourn."

The latest cricket results are 316 for none. Senator Georges has been bowled for a duck. Mr. Holding has said he is going to institute a boycott against Queensland tourism. At the moment he is in the watch-house, and I am told there is a telegram from Mr. Hamer asking us to keep him there.

On a more serious note, Mr. Speaker, I would particularly like to thank you for the role you have played during what has been a very difficult year. It has been perhaps one of the most difficult of all the years you have had the privilege of being the Speaker of this House, and I am sure every honourable member will pay tribute to you for the job you have done. We have seen an event

of historical significance with the introduction of the mace, and I pay the highest tribute to you, Mr. Speaker, for the part you played in its introduction.

I pay tribute to the Whips who have served this Assembly very well, again during what was a very difficult period. They have made sure that we have had the numbers to keep going. I also thank Mr. Wyborn and all the other officers in the Chamber. In and out of season they have been here and carried out their duties very faithfully. We also remember Mr. McCarthy and his Hansard reporters. They operate a little more in the background; nevertheless they play a very responsible part in the running of this House.

We also pay tribute to the secretarial staff, the typists, the switchboard attendants and the messengers, and to George Peters here, who has done a fantastic job answering the telephone, always with good spirit and in good humour.

We also pay tribute to Miss Glennie and her staff in the dining-room. We also remember the members of the Police Force on this occasion. On behalf of us all I thank all the officers within the House whose trustworthy service and assistance have always been very willingly offered. I also thank my department officers and my personal staff and, of course, officers of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office, led by Mr. Murray. These gentlemen have often worked late into the night to ensure that Bills are available when they are needed. There are many others who have served this Parliament in a number of ways, and I thank them all for a job well done.

**An Honourable Member:** Tom Burns.

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** For his resignation, yes, a job well done.

To all members of this Assembly, their families, their friends and, of course, their constituents, I offer the compliments of the season. I sincerely wish everyone associated with the Parliament a Christmas filled with good cheer and contentment followed by a refreshing and a rewarding New Year. I also sincerely thank my colleagues in both parties, particularly Dr. Edwards, Mr. Knox and my other ministerial colleagues. I give them full marks for a job well done in their respective spheres. I appreciate that most sincerely, because without their support, loyalty, goodwill and the services they have rendered to me, their electorates and the State, it would not have been possible for me to act as I have done as Premier of this coalition Government. I pay a very sincere tribute to all, and particularly to you, Mr. Speaker, for the most important role you have played in this session.

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Minister for Health) (5.19 p.m.): I join with the Premier in expressing to you, Mr. Speaker, our appreciation for the very

fine way in which you have carried out your job as Speaker of this House. As the Premier has indicated, it has not been a very easy year for you, and the way in which you have acted—with integrity, frankness and openness—has certainly been admired by us all. We would therefore like to express our very sincere appreciation to you personally for your sincerity and approachability, and also for your outstanding efforts in the development of the concept that resulted in the inauguration of the mace. We also appreciate the part you have played in the preparations of plans for the new building into which we shall move next year. So Mr. Speaker, we would like to express our deep appreciation to you and assure you of our continuing confidence in you and our support of you in the important role that you have to play.

We would like to pay a tribute to the Chairman of Committees and to the Temporary Chairmen for their work during what has been a fairly lengthy session. We feel certain that they, too, have added to the work that has been done by the Parliament.

We would also like to pay tribute to the officers of the Parliament, the Clerk of Parliament and his officers, who have also worked at some stages under difficulties. We pay a tribute to them for the effort that they have made on our behalf.

The Premier also mentioned the messengers who continue to support us in a very outstanding way. I, too, should like to support the Premier in paying a tribute to George Peters, who has played a big role in assisting the Ministers.

The Hansard staff, the typists and the switchboard operators, as the Premier mentioned, continue to play a role in the functioning of Parliament. On behalf of the Liberal Party, I should like to pay a tribute to Baxter McCarthy and his staff of Hansard reporters and typists.

Miss Glennie and her staff have played a very big role again this year, and we express our appreciation to them.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the Government Printing Office, which has assisted in every way. Its work is deeply appreciated.

Overall, I believe that we owe a debt of gratitude to all of the people who have contributed in any way to the operation of this Parliament.

I hope that next year, when we move into the new setting for a temporary period, members will go into the new Chamber with a desire to bring back to the Parliament integrity, responsibility and high standards. Mr. Speaker, I know that you share my views in this regard, and I can assure you that the Liberal Party, in particular, will play its part in maintaining the standards which you would like to see set by members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Liberal Party, I join with the Premier in wishing you and your family and the others I have mentioned the very best at this time. Mr. Speaker, we assure you of our continuing support.

Mr. CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (5.22 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to extend Christmas and New Year greetings to the people of Queensland on behalf of the Australian Labor Party Opposition. It is the time of the year we traditionally associate with tolerance and goodwill. It is perhaps rather a pity that we do not have a little bit more of it at present.

It has been a strange and eventful year. Earlier the Premier referred to cricket. Perhaps we should also remember that in the last 24 hours we have seen the English cricketers extract their own particular form of revenge for the indiscreet remarks of a Minister in this House about the British people.

I hope that the remainder of this year and 1979, which is close upon us, will bring a return to that understanding and unity that have so long been the basic virtues of our Queensland community. I will work to achieve that goal, as will my parliamentary colleagues.

As each of us settles down to his Christmas fare of Darling Downs ham, sweets prepared from good Mackay sugar-cane and even Kingaroy peanuts, I believe it is time to reflect on just where our State is heading. For some of our young Queenslanders fresh from school, looking hopefully for their first job, the weeks ahead will be a period of worry; for too many, perhaps disappointment. As a father of six children, I know the agony felt by youngsters as they fulfil the demands of our educational system only to find that, amid all of our natural wealth, there is no place for them in the work-force.

On behalf of the Opposition, I extend my appreciation to the very capable staff and all of the other people who have made it possible for this Parliament to function over the year. Our thanks go to all of the staff. Initially, I should like to say thanks to my own staff who work under very difficult conditions and which, I understand, may be even more difficult in the future. I have not looked at that situation yet.

Miss Glennie and all of the ladies in the dining room have done a very good job for us throughout the year.

I join with the Premier and Deputy Premier in thanking Baxter McCarthy and the Hansard boys. I also thank our friends in the media who sometimes work into all hours of the night taking down what has been said in Parliament and transmitting it to the public of this State.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a very difficult year, and I am sure you know that. You have been on a very sticky wicket yourself at times, with some of the things that have

happened this year. We of the Opposition wish you all the very best. Our wishes extend to your good wife, who is a very charming lady and who is so gracious whenever we see her at the functions that are held in Parliament House.

I hope that the peace and prosperity that we all wish to see at Christmas comes to the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Chairman of Committees and all honourable members.

I also extend good wishes to the girls in the Correspondence Room, the Clerk (George Wyborn) and the officials at the table who work so hard, sometimes right through the night when the House sits very late, and the gardeners. According to Press reports, they may have part of the Botanic Gardens to look after as well as the flower beds around this building. I thank them for looking after the grounds so well.

To Les Roach and the attendants in the Chamber, to the great army of cleaners and watchmen who stay on duty all through the night—only those of us who are here early in the morning see them at their work—and to everyone who contributes to the smooth running of this Assembly, I extend good wishes for Christmas. If I have missed anyone in extending seasons greetings, I ask them to feel themselves included.

Next year will see honourable members in the new annex to this building, where we will have more comfortable conditions. Members have been very tolerant, I think, in the cramped offices that they have had in this building over so many years.

I hope that in the year ahead men and women of influence will be able to find ground for agreement on the very important questions facing this great State. I believe that the people of Queensland are looking to us, as their elected representatives, for a sign that the State can return to peace and an even keel and realise the potential of its enormous natural resources. If we can do that, we will be providing Queenslanders with the best possible gift, not just for this Christmas or for 1979 but also for the foreseeable future. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I wish all Queenslanders a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Honourable members: Having heard the result of the cricket match, I must confess that in the game that I played this year I thought on a couple of occasions I had been stumped and on another occasion that I had been run out. However, I was able to save the day and bat on.

I join the honourable gentlemen who have addressed the Chamber in offering sincere congratulations to all, particularly members of the staff, who have worked so hard during the year. I think honourable members will agree that it has been a difficult year, and I hope that as they go away to enjoy Christmas festivities, they will discover in

their hearts and minds the true meaning of Christmas and return with an attitude different from that which we have seen in this Chamber in the past few months.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the Botanic Gardens. The suggestion in the Press came at a very opportune time. Somebody had to take the heat out of the unauthorised street march that was about to take place.

As I have said before, over the past few months I have been worried about the decorum and dignity in the House and the question of privilege. I had my say on that this morning, so I do not intend to go over it again. We have muddled ourselves into this situation over a fairly long period, and I sincerely hope that the Christmas spirit will continue to prevail when we move into the new building.

The inauguration of the mace during the life of this Parliament has given me a great deal of pleasure. It will remain in this Chamber while democracy prevails in this State, and I hope that will be for ever.

There has been a great deal of controversy about the new building. Someone has already thanked the media, but I thank them, too. They do tell the truth sometimes, and at last we have the true story in relation to some of the problems. I make no excuse to anybody over the new building. In my opinion, it is about 50 years too late, but I am sure that it will prove to be a great asset. Anybody who says that parliamentarians are not entitled to that new building should have a look at the conditions under which we have had to labour here. If he was in his right senses he would have to say, "There is something wrong with you for having put up with it for so long."

I suppose this will be the last time that many of us will sit in this Chamber. We have been told by the Works Department that it will be two or three years before the Chamber will be restored—and God only knows where we will all be by then! I hope that those who are still in Parliament will enjoy coming back into this Chamber. Over many years it has been the scene of true democracy at work and through it have passed many statutes that have made this great State of ours what it is.

I join honourable members wishing all everything they would wish themselves for Christmas and 1979. I hope that 1979 will hold nothing but the best for everybody and that we all live long to enjoy the fruits of our labour. On behalf of my wife and myself I say "Thank you for good wishes and compliments".

I invite members and all persons associated with the functioning of Parliament to join me in the Refreshment Rooms.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.32 p.m.