

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 1979

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

- Wheat Industry Stabilisation Act Amendment Act 1978.
 Psychologists Act 1977.
 Medical Act and Other Acts (Administration) Act Amendment Act 1977.
- Orders in Council under—
 Explosives Act 1952–1978.
 Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959–1974.
 Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966–1978.
 City of Brisbane Market Act 1960–1978.
 Meat Industry Act 1965–1977.
 Milk Supply Act 1977–1978.
 Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926–1976.
 Stock Act 1915–1978.
 The Sugar Board Act of 1966.
 Wheat Pool Act 1920–1978.
 Physiotherapists Act 1964–1976.
 Grammar Schools Act 1975 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.
 The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.
- Regulations under—
 Agricultural Standards Act 1952–1972.
 Fruit and Vegetables Act 1947–1972.
 The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1964.
 Hen Quotas Act 1973–1978.
 Poultry Industry Act 1946–1975.
 Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923–1978.
 Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926–1976.
 Stock Act 1915–1978.
 Nursing Act 1976.
 Chiropodists Act 1969–1975.
 Health Act 1937–1978.
 Hospitals Act 1936–1978.
 Main Roads Act 1920–1976.
- By-laws under—
 Medical Act 1939–1976.
 Pharmacy Act 1976–1978.
 Optometrists Act 1974.
 Dental Act 1971–1973.
 Psychologists Act 1977.
 Education Act 1964–1974.
- Statutes under—
 University of Queensland Act 1965–1973.
 James Cook University of North Queensland Act 1970–1977.
- Rules under the Coal Mining Act 1925–1976.
 Report "A Basis for Soil Conservation Policy in Australia" and a Review of the Report by the Standing Committee on Soil Conservation.
 Report by The Brisbane Market Trust for 1976-77.

WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 1979

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

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Director, Department of Children's Services, for 1977-78.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

- Milk Supply Act Amendment Act 1978.
 Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act Amendment Act 1978.
 Stock Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1978.
 The Sugar Acquisition Act of 1915.

(A) Proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration as State Forest under the Forestry Act of:—

- (a) All that piece or part of State Forest 168, parishes of Bendidee and Moogoon described as Area "A" as shown on plan FTY 962 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 884 hectares—and,
- (b) All that piece or part of State Forest 28, parishes of Bailey, Bingmann, Clonmel, Coomingleh, Coppin, Rawbelle and Selene described as portion 61, parish of Clonmel, as shown on plan Rw.486 deposited in the Office of the Surveyor-General and containing an area of about 675 hectares—and,
- (c) All that piece or part of State Forest 299, parishes of Conway and Dryander described as Area "A" as shown on plan FTY 969 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 2140 hectares—and,
- (d) All that piece or part of State Forest 561, parish of Bribie described as portion 426, parish of Bribie as shown on plan Cg.3985 and portions 536 and 550, parish of Bribie as shown on plan Cg.3815, both plans deposited in the Office of the Surveyor-General and containing an area of about 1.2513 hectares—and,
- (e) All that piece or part of State Forest 461, parishes of Ellerbeck, Glenbora and Meunga described as Areas "B", "C", "D", "E", "F" and "G" as shown on plan FTY 936 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and portion 29, parish of Ellerbeck, as shown on plan Cwl.1773 deposited in the Office of the Surveyor-General and containing in total an area of about 119.03 hectares—and,
- (f) All that piece or part of State Forest 611, parishes of Beerwah, Canning and Toorbul described as Area "A" as shown on plan FTY 996 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 180 hectares—and,
- (g) All that piece or part of State Forest 832, parishes of Bingera,

Booyal, Electra, Eureka, Gregory and Stanton described as Areas "A", "B", "C" and "D" as shown on plan FTY 1008 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 2868 hectares.

(B) A brief explanation of the Proposals.

PETITION

REINSTATEMENT OF ORDER IN COUNCIL PERMANENTLY RESERVING AND SETTING ASIDE ANZAC SQUARE

Hon. C. R. PORTER (Toowong—Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs) presented a petition from 1,261 residents of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will do all things in its power to cause the Order in Council dated 31st day of August, 1933, permanently reserving and setting aside the lands known as Anzac Square in Brisbane for park purposes, to be reinstated and adhered to.

Petition read and received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

RUSSELL ISLAND; REFUTATION OF ATTACKS BY MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Hon. J. W. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove—Minister for Survey and Valuation) (11.9 a.m.): Yesterday this House debated a motion deploring the indiscriminate use of innuendo, character assassination, and false allegations by the A.L.P. During the debate, the House was given a further example of these tactics when the honourable member for Lytton (Mr Burns) made a scurrilous attack on a number of highly respected public servants. He did all this in the course of some remarks on Russell Island.

I think we are all concerned about what took place 10 years ago on Russell Island. We all know that the Institution of Surveyors brought the matter to the notice of the Government and that in May 1973 the Government put Russell Island under the town-planning jurisdiction of the Redland Shire Council so that only land suitable for residential development could in future get subdivision approval. We all know that on Russell Island there is some of the very best bayside land in Moreton Bay but that there is also some of the worst. The figures are that there are 13,076 allotments on the island and that, of these, 3,652 have nominal or near-nominal values. We also know that the Fraud Squad has been efficiently doing a job of work during the last two years so that any criminal offences that occurred can be prosecuted.

The honourable member for Lytton is now trying to get on the bandwagon, but he seems to think it necessary to defame and slander as many people as he can in order to win a place on page 1 of "The Courier-Mail".

I will not deal with the difference of opinion that he refers to that took place between Mr. Henry in the Titles Office and other officers in the Titles Office—that is not within my portfolio—but I do wish to deal with his wild allegations about my department.

He bolstered his allegations with quotations from the editorial of "Metes and Bounds", the journal of the Society of Registered Surveyors. That society is a fairly small one and should not be confused with the Institution of Surveyors of Australia. I should say a few words about the various bodies. The Queensland Institute of Surveyors, which joined with other State institutes in 1952 to form the Institution of Surveyors, Australia, is regarded as the authoritative professional body in the surveying profession. It was formed in 1876 and most registered surveyors, whether employed by the private sector or by the State or Commonwealth Governments, belong to the institution.

On the other hand, the Society of Registered Surveyors, or S.O.R.S., is a small group formed in August 1973 by 11 surveyors who wished to have a professional body other than the institution. I understand that they are still fairly small but that one of their major activities is bringing out this small quarterly journal, "Metes and Bounds".

I think it is a good thing to have an alternative organisation which people can go to if they find themselves in disagreement with the main professional body; but, in evaluating the point of view expressed by them, one must remember that it does not represent the mainstream of professional opinion. I will give the House one example. One of the objects of the new Surveyors Regulations was to ensure that the most modern equipment could be used and that surveying fees could be kept to a minimum. In some cases when modern measuring equipment was used, a task could be adequately done by less qualified staff for a smaller fee. Mr. McDonald, my deputy director, advocated lower fees through these methods. Mr. Murray, who is now President of S.O.R.S., attacked Mr. McDonald in the December 1977 issue of "Metes and Bounds" and said that the suggestion of smaller fees was whitewashing the whole concept of reasonable fees for careful cadastral surveying.

The editorial in "Metes and Bounds" quoted by the honourable member for Lytton was written by Mr. R. A. Henry. Mr. Henry has been retired from the Public Service for some years and the editorship of this quarterly is an interest of his. Mr. Henry does not mince his words. As the honourable member for Lytton mentioned, he put in a submission to the 1977 Committee of Enquiry into Surveying and it was so vitriolic with respect to the Institution of Surveyors and so full of personal attacks and criticism that it was unacceptable. The honourable member knows the sort of spite that he is dealing with and yet he still chooses to rely upon it.

Mr. McDonald was criticized by the honourable member for Lytton yesterday. Mr. McDonald, the Deputy Director (Surveyors), is of course a very distinguished former president of the institution. He of course was attacked by Mr. Murray last year and again by the honourable member for Lytton yesterday. Mr. Davies, the Deputy Director for Technical and Administrative Services, is a former president of the institution, a fellow and a federal councillor of the Commonwealth body and one of Australia's most eminent surveyors. He, too, was attacked by the honourable member and by the pen of Mr. Henry. The plain suggestion in Mr. Henry's editorial was that Mr. Davies had signed survey plans with respect to some of the inundated land on Russell Island. That is completely untrue.

I don't know where Mr. Burns gets his information from, but those items which are accurate are given a slant which is misleading. Any truth is distorted by personal animosity. For example, yesterday Mr. Burns referred to a surveying job done by Mr. Davies' firm in far western Queensland for the Commonwealth. It is quite true that the work of the surveyor who did the job was unsatisfactory. It occasionally happens in large organisations that somebody does bad work. Mr. Davies' organisation was one of the largest in the State and at times had about 100 employees. The important thing is that Mr. Davies accepted responsibility for his employees and made sure it was rectified. It is quite untrue to suggest the Commonwealth was dissatisfied with his conduct. In fact, subsequent to this incident, he received additional work from the Commonwealth precisely because he was a man who was prepared to back up the accuracy of the work that his firm did.

Mr. Burns also mentioned Alderman John Andrews, who was a prominent surveyor before entering the Brisbane City Council as alderman for The Gap. There is an election coming off in a few weeks and so Alderman Andrews got a mention. I challenged Mr. Burns to accuse him of impropriety outside the House if he believed Alderman Andrews was guilty of any wrongdoing and Mr. Burns very smartly changed the subject and told me to stop interjecting.

He then went on to attack my department. I would like to say that the department is producing some of the best work in Australia and, far from the morale being low, it could hardly be higher. It has been completely reorganised under the present Surveyor-General and the organisation has been an outstanding success.

Mr. Burns also saw fit to attack Mr. Ian McGhie. Mr. McGhie is only a young man, but has had an outstanding career. He won the S. E. Reilly prize for surveying at the University of Queensland, that is, he was the most outstanding graduate of his year; he made a significant contribution to D.M.S. as a member of the Public Service, and had been appointed secretary to the Committee of Enquiry into Moreton Island when I asked

him to join my staff as my private secretary. This he did, and gave me invaluable assistance until he left the Public Service to go into private practice.

For some years he had a standing offer from Andrews, Davies and Associates to enter their firm and this he did. Mr. Burns said that Davies is now farming out work to him, and that McGhie is getting kickbacks by way of work from the department so that he can pay off the business. This is a most serious allegation and, like most of the rest of Mr. Burns's speech, it is quite untrue. The Surveyor-General and I have obviously been very careful to see that Mr. Davies has nothing to do with the allocation of work to Mr. McGhie; in fact, Mr. Davies's duties do not include allocation of work to the private sector. Mr. McGhie will continue to get the fair share of work from the department which his ability and expertise deserve. He will get no more and he will get no less.

The Police investigation into Russell Island has been proceeding in the ordinary way. The report was completed at the end of November. We know that this has been sent, as such reports are, to the Crown Law Office and that two experienced Crown prosecutors have been assigned to take the matter further. All these things have happened without any assistance from Mr. Burns, but he is now involved in a political stunt, jumping on the bandwagon and trying to pretend to the people of Queensland that he is a knight in shining armour.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: And so he is.

Mr. GREENWOOD: At the most, he would be Hereward the Wake of Russell Island Marshes. That is about the most he would be.

In his personal quest for publicity he would say anything, however untrue, however destructive, provided that it is said in the privilege of this House. He has not sufficient courage of his convictions to say the things outside. His credibility and that of the A.L.P. are at an all-time low. He is the best evidence of the need for yesterday's motion.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. PARTHENIUM WEED ERADICATION

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

(1) In view of the continuing spread of the dreaded parthenium weed in this State, what action is being taken to eradicate it?

(2) How much money has this Government spent on the problem so far?

Answers:—

(1) The current parthenium weed control programme is aimed at containing infestations to the known areas of heavy

infestation in the Central Highlands while investigations into efficient eradication techniques are proceeding locally and overseas.

While the major infestations in the Central Highlands are beyond the scope of spray-treatment control, the programme of containment by treatment of roadside and property situations from which seed can readily be transported has satisfactorily prevented spread to uninfested shires. Control measures are promptly taken when outbreaks are detected in shires removed from the main centres of infestation.

At present an entomologist from the Sir Alan Fletcher Research Station is working full time in conjunction with a Brazilian scientist in Brazil on biological control of parthenium weed. The situation in India and Pakistan is being kept under review continually.

I will soon be proposing that an agronomist attached to the Sir Alan Fletcher Research Station conduct ecology studies on parthenium in its native North and South America. The agronomist has been studying parthenium on a full-time basis in Queensland for more than two years and has a thorough working knowledge of the plant in this country.

(2) Since 1 July 1975, \$532,586 has been expended on the parthenium containment programme. A further amount of approximately \$60,000 has been expended on overseas investigations into biological control of parthenium.

2. BRIDGING OF SANDHURST CREEK, CAPRICORN HIGHWAY

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

What action will be taken to plan for the construction of a bridge over Sandhurst Creek on the Capricorn Highway so as to eliminate a serious flood hazard that delays traffic for many days?

Answer:—

The preliminary work necessary to allow design of the bridge over Sandhurst Creek on the Capricorn Highway has already been completed. Design of the bridge will be undertaken to be complete when funds for construction of the bridge become available. For the present, however, there are much needed works on the Capricorn Highway which are considered to be of higher priority.

3. ELECTRIFICATION OF COALFIELDS RAILWAY LINES

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

What action is being taken to electrify railway lines servicing the coalfields so as to use local steaming coal for power generation rather than imported oil?

Answer:—

I would refer the honourable member to my Press release dated 27 February 1979, which stated that Cabinet had approved the engagement of a firm of consultants to undertake a feasibility study into electrification of the railway line between Blackwater and Gladstone.

The firm, Pak-Poy and Associates, in conjunction with other consulting specialists, was already engaged in a similar study on the Brisbane-Toowoomba and Brisbane-Rockhampton lines. Their findings would also be valuable in assessing the future operation of the Goonyella and Moura coal lines.

4. CATTLE-HOLDING FACILITIES, CAIRNS

Mrs. Kippin, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware that facilities for holding cattle at Cairns are far from adequate?

(2) As a considerable number of fat cattle are railed from the Mareeba sale-yards through Cairns to killing works and coastal fattening areas to the south, will he take steps to provide better spelling facilities at Cairns in order to relieve the stress on fat cattle that are often in transit for considerable periods?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) There is a limited demand for spelling livestock at Cairns. To meet the special requirement of spelling a number of small consignments on the one day, the yards were subdivided and additional watering facilities were provided in June 1978.

The department has not received any requests to improve the yards since this work was carried out, but I now propose to further investigate this matter.

5. BRUCE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC DISRUPTION BY FLOODING OF NORTH JOHNSTONE RIVER

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

(1) Is he aware that traffic along the Bruce Highway has been held up by persistent flooding of the North Johnstone River this year?

(2) When will this problem be overcome?

Answers:—

(1) I am in general well aware of the traffic delays which have occurred on the Bruce Highway as a result of the persistent flooding of the North Johnstone River this year, just as I am aware of delays elsewhere on this national highway. Again I say that many much-needed improvements could be undertaken a lot

sooner if the funds made available for roads were at a higher and more realistic level.

(2) Fortunately, the particular project about which the honourable member has asked the question is one for which planning is well advanced. Design of the bridge is complete, necessary resumption action is in hand and preparations are under way for release of the scheme for calling of tenders by the end of next month.

6 & 7. OPERATIONS OF SWIMMING-POOL CONSTRUCTORS

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

(1) With reference to the companies North Coast Pools Pty. Ltd., Arcline Pty. Ltd., Pool and Outdoor Leisure Centre Pty. Ltd., Pool Fabrications Pty. Ltd., Durack Beattie Pty. Ltd., Allcrete Pty. Ltd., Pool and Outdoor Leisure Centre (Northside) Pty. Ltd. and the firm Congo Pools, who are the directors, principals or proprietors in each instance?

(2) How many have gone into liquidation or are no longer operating?

(3) How many complaints have been received by the (a) Corporate Affairs Commission and (b) Consumer Affairs Bureau against each during the last three years?

(4) How many have been the subject of investigation by the Fraud Squad, the Corporate Affairs Commission, or the Consumer Affairs Bureau?

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

(1) As the names Michael James Durack, David William Stone, Valentine Tatzenko and Mark Alexander Beattie repeatedly appear in association with the companies North Coast Pools Pty. Ltd., Arcline Pty. Ltd., Pool and Outdoor Leisure Centre Pty. Ltd., Pool Fabrications Pty. Ltd., Durack Beattie Pty. Ltd., Allcrete Pty. Ltd., Pool and Outdoor Leisure Centre (Northside) Pty. Ltd. and the firm Congo Pools and as there is substantial evidence to the effect that these men have, over a long period of time, been operating suspect swimming-pool companies which have left a long trail of incomplete and broken contracts and useless warranties, what action will he take to prevent their continuing to set up companies only to dissolve them later, thus preventing any claims on the companies or the directors by dissatisfied consumers?

(2) Will he use his office to perform an immediate investigation into the company Pool Fabrications Pty. Ltd., which is the latest operation set up by these

white-collar crooks, and release an urgent warning to the public to avoid this firm?

(3) Will he ensure that such an investigation includes a check of pools already sold by this firm, as there is evidence to show that construction specifications have not been adhered to, especially as far as the thickness of the pools is concerned?

(4) Will he instruct the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs to make an application to the court pursuant to section 374H of the Companies Act to prevent the abovenamed from acting as directors or being concerned in the management of any company?

(5) Will he also explain why the Government has continued to procrastinate on this issue, regardless of repeated requests by members of Parliament over many years to deal with \$2 companies that continue to rip off the public?

Mr. LICKISS: In view of the amount of research necessary to provide concise and comprehensive answers to the honourable member's questions, I ask him to repeat them tomorrow.

Mr. WRIGHT: I will do so.

8. ZONING OF SENATOR SHEIL'S LAND, BARDON

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

(1) Is he aware that at an auction in Brisbane on 18 November of 15 acres of land off Simpson Road, Bardon, the auctioneer advised that the land was being sold as "non-urban" and further advised that intending buyers had probably checked with the Brisbane City Council and found that the land was zoned as "open space", and that Senator Glen Sheil spoke up and said that he was the owner of the land and that he had been informed by the Minister for Local Government that this land will be zoned "non-urban" and that Senator Sheil would pay back the money if this did not come to pass?

(2) Is it ethical for the Minister for Local Government to make these rezonings for his party colleagues before he advises the people of Brisbane or their council?

(3) Will he advise what representations were made to him as Local Government Minister on this matter, and report how Senator Sheil was able to make this public statement?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am not aware of the circumstances surrounding the auction sale referred to by the honourable member.

My inquiries reveal that the subject land was included in the non-urban zone under the Town Plan for the City of Brisbane when it was first approved in 1965. When the modified Town Plan for the city was placed on public exhibition in 1976, the land was shown as being included in the open space zone. The owner lodged an objection against the proposed rezoning.

The Brisbane City Council, when submitting the new town plan to me for approval by the Governor in Council, represented that the objection be rejected and the land remain in the open space zone. After fully considering the objection and the council's representations thereon, the Governor in Council decided that the land should remain in the non-urban zone.

9. PROMOTION OF QUEENSLAND'S TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

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

(1) Is he aware that many Australian States are undertaking special promotional drives to attract tourists to their States as a result of the new cheap air fare structures?

(2) What special and urgent promotional action is this State taking to retain Queenslanders in Queensland or to attract southerners to this State?

(3) If so, what additional funds are being provided by the Government for the purpose?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that some States are taking this course.

(2) Within the limit of funds available for all promotional purposes, the bureau is now undertaking an advertising campaign interstate to cost \$300,000 to promote the State. The Department of Tourism is also currently spending \$140,000 to revamp its brochures which are distributed within Queensland, interstate and overseas.

(3) None.

10. TOURIST BUREAU CO-OPERATION IN PROMOTION OF QUEENSLAND ON UNITED STATES TOURIST MARKET

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

(1) What co-ordination is the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau undertaking with the accommodation industry in this State to assist in the provision of price rates to tour wholesalers in the United States of America for the 1979-80 season?

(2) Is there any intention by the bureau to initiate and plan a co-ordinated visit with the industry to the United States of America to catch the tour market so

that Queensland will not suffer in comparison with the rest of Australia on the lucrative United States tourist market?

Answers:—

(1) The accommodation industry has a grave responsibility in its own right to offer rebated tariffs to wholesalers.

(2) The Department of Tourism will be represented in an Australian travel mission to U.K. and Europe being co-ordinated by the Australian Tourist Commission during May 1979. It has carried out its own travel missions to New Zealand and New Caledonia. It was represented in an Australian Tourist Commission travel mission to North America, and the existing policy of the department will be continued so far as funds permit. The department is also constantly in touch with the market in overseas regions in its own right and/or through the Australian Tourist Commission.

11. ATTRACTION OF BRITISH TOURISTS TO QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is it possible to fly from Britain to Australia at a cheaper rate than that charged for a flight from Britain to Spain and other southern European countries?

(2) If so, what action is being taken by the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau to entice British travellers to take advantage of cheaper fares to Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) It is not possible to fly by commercial aircraft more cheaply Britain-Australia than it is Britain-Spain.

12. LICENSING OF FUEL OUTLETS

Mr. Bertoni, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Labour Relations—

(1) Is a service station, as defined in regulations 3 and 6 of the Sale of Motor Fuel Regulations 1976, the only shop that can legally be licensed to sell fuel?

(2) Will a shop normally be licensed to sell fuel if it does not comply under regulation 3, sections (a) and (b), when there are adequate qualified shops to handle consumer demands?

(3) Is it normal for the chief inspector to issue a licence to sell fuel as per regulation 8, section (b) (ii), if the potential licence holder sells fuel only at times convenient to his prime business interests?

Answers:—

(1) The Sale of Motor Fuel Regulations 1976 allow the chief inspector to issue permits to sell motor fuel by retail to shops other than service stations.

(2) A shop may be granted a permit to sell motor fuel by retail provided the conditions laid down in the regulations are satisfied. All shops that are granted permits are not obliged to provide the operations listed under the definition of "service station" in regulation 3.

(3) Neither regulation 8 (3) (b) (ii) nor any other part of these regulations make it mandatory for the holder of a permit to sell motor fuel at any time. Provided he complies with lawful trading hours, the sale of motor fuel is a matter for the holder of the permit to determine.

13. QUEENSLAND BOOKMAKERS' ASSOCIATION BOARD

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

What is the composition of the Board of Queensland Bookmakers' Association, who are the Government representatives on the board, is the Queensland Bookmakers' Association a statutory body and does the board have printed guide-lines for applicants for registration as bookmakers?

Answer:—

The Queensland Bookmakers' Association Limited is a company registered under the Companies Act. The company is limited by guarantee of the individual members. Guarantees, I understand, range from \$250 to \$100 per member depending on the class of membership.

The organisation is not a statutory body nor is the Government involved by way of representation with it.

The company has a management committee of five persons comprising a chairman, Mr. S. Schluter, a vice-chairman, Mr. R. Sutherland, and three district members, being Mr. R. Redhead, representing the Northern Division, Mr. J. Day, representing the Central Division, and Mr. T. Cavanagh, representing the South Eastern area.

There is a prescribed application for membership of the company but it does not act as a registering agency for bookmakers.

Bookmakers are licensed by the Trotting Board of Queensland, the Greyhound Racing Control Board or by the principal racing clubs. Upon obtaining a licence from the controlling bodies, they must pay a permit tax to the Government before being allowed to field. Membership of the Queensland Bookmakers' Association Limited is not a prerequisite for obtaining a licence and a permit to field.

14. HEALTH DEPARTMENT INSPECTION
OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

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

To ensure that fruit and vegetables sold to the public are not contaminated by chemical residue that would be harmful to the person or persons handling or consuming them, how many inspectors are employed by his department and where are they stationed?

Answer:—

Officers of the Food Section of the Division of Public Health Supervision, Head Office, Brisbane, and district health inspectors based at Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and the Gold Coast have, as part of their duties, the responsibility to sample fruit and vegetables for pesticide residues.

For the calendar year 1978, a total of 267 samples of fruit and vegetables were obtained and submitted for pesticide residue checks.

15. CONCESSION TRAIN TRAVEL FOR WAR
WIDOWS

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

Will he grant suburban concession train passes to war widows and, if not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

Rail fare concessions are granted only to those pensioners who are in receipt of full fringe benefits from the Commonwealth Government and this is subject to the income test applied by the Department of Social Security as from 25 November 1976. Pensioners so entitled are issued by the Department of Social Security or the Department of Veteran Affairs with the necessary concession card form T.C.1.

16. ACCOMMODATION FOR APPRENTICES
DURING BLOCK-RELEASE TRAINING

Mr. Yewdale, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Labour Relations—

With reference to the matter of block-release training for apprentices and the need for accommodation in major provincial areas, have any positive decisions been made to obtain suitable accommodation outside Brisbane and, if not, does his department intend to obtain such accommodation in the future?

Answer:—

This question should be directed to my colleague the Honourable V. Bird, Minister for Education, whose department

is responsible for the provision of residential accommodation for apprentices from country areas attending block-release training.

17. UPGRADING OF ROADS IN FLOOD-
PRONE AREAS

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

With reference to the inevitable damage to roads and the traffic disabilities and distress to travellers in Queensland resulting from the recent exceptionally severe wet season, will he allocate priorities for road and highway construction for carrying out repairs and for the correction of obvious traffic impediments caused by low-level bridges and inadequate road elevation in flood-prone areas?

Answer:—

The question which the honourable member has asked highlights one of the major problems faced by road builders in this State, and that is the adverse effects of persistent and heavy rainfall. I appreciate and share his concern, so much so that I have constantly been seeking avenues for obtaining extra funds for roads so that more improvements aimed, amongst other things, at increasing the flood immunity of our roads can be made.

The honourable member will be aware that the necessary repairs to the declared road system are effected without delay, and further that special grants to cover the cost of damage caused by flood submergence are paid to local authorities for the non-declared road system. These grants are usually funded jointly by the State and Federal Governments.

With regard to permanent improvements, the provision of high-level roads and bridges with greater immunity from flooding is a goal which simply is not achievable in the immediate future with the level of funds currently available. For many years the Main Roads Department has been seeking to replace low-level timber bridges with higher-level structures, but this replacement programme still has a long way to go. The honourable member will be aware of two of these high-level bridges over the Herbert River, of which the one at Halifax was officially opened late last year.

These works will continue. I will seek sources of additional road funds and press for more realistic levels of road funding so that urgent works necessary to lessen the disabilities of which the honourable member speaks can be undertaken within a reasonable period of time.

18. SMALLER VEHICLES FOR GOVERNMENT
USE

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

In view of predictions of impending fuel oil shortages, will the Government, as an example to others to conserve fuel, increase the percentage of smaller vehicles with a relatively low fuel consumption in the Government motor vehicle fleet?

Answer:—

The honourable member's question is indeed a timely one, and I recognise the need to take account of the future possibility of petroleum supplies not being as freely available as in the past. In fact arrangements have already been made for my department to initiate a controlled study to assess the relative economics, including fuel consumption, of utilising both four-cylinder and six-cylinder vehicles. The results of this study will be a guide to determining the degree to which smaller vehicles should be introduced into the Government motor vehicle fleet.

19. TRAFFICKING IN FISHING LICENCES

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

Further to his answer to my question on 17 October 1978 concerning trafficking in fishing licences in the Gulf of Carpentaria, what is the outcome of his investigation into this matter?

Answer:—

The matter of trafficking in licences in the limited-licence Gulf of Carpentaria prawn fishery has been considered by the Northern Fisheries Committee, which is the advisory body that makes recommendations to the various State and Commonwealth authorities concerned with the joint management of this fishery. The current management plan has reached the last year of a three-year interim management period.

I am advised that the opportunity for the extensive trafficking that has taken place arose because of a concession to the small Queensland operators that they be allowed to retain their Gulf licence entitlement during the three-year interim management period, even though they have not actively fished the Gulf. It is these small Queensland operators who have been selling their entitlements.

I am further advised that some form of trafficking in licences is virtually unavoidable in any limited-licence regime. However, a management plan for the post-1979 regime will shortly be circulated for comment within the industry, and it is expected that this plan will incorporate measures that will considerably reduce the level of such trafficking.

I would remind the honourable member that this fishery is not a domestic Queensland one, and that unilateral action by Queensland on a matter such as this would be quite ineffectual.

20. VANDALISM IN STAFFORD AREA

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the recent rampage of politically motivated vandalism and destruction of property that occurred in the Stafford area?

(2) Has he any information that would identify the extremist group or groups responsible for this wave of destruction and, in particular, the group or groups using the symbols of the clenched fist and the letter A enclosed in a circle, as these symbols were extensively painted throughout the area?

(3) Is the handwriting used in these acts of vandalism similar to that used to carry out similar destruction in the St. Lucia area?

(4) What action has been and is being taken to apprehend these vandals?

Answers:—

(1) I have no knowledge of complaints having been received in respect of the Stafford area, but inquiries are continuing, and if or when complaints are received they will be investigated.

(2) No. Several Left-wing organisations adopt the symbols described.

(3) In the absence of specific complaints, I am unable to compare the handwriting apparently used in the Stafford area with the complaints received in the St. Lucia area.

(4) In respect of the St. Lucia area, a male person appeared in the Magistrates Court, Brisbane, on 9 March 1979 and was convicted and fined \$120.00 plus \$75.00 restitution for painting certain signs on a shelter shed.

The honourable member may be assured that, when complaints of this nature are received and evidence is available, prosecution action will ensue.

21. AIRLINE LICENCES; QUEENSLAND
COUNTRY AIR SERVICES

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

(1) What Government, either State or Federal, is responsible for issuing licences or permits to airlines to operate various country air services in Queensland?

(2) Did Ansett Airlines of Australia recently refuse Bush Pilots Airways Ltd. a right to operate an air service with its new Metro prop-jet between Brisbane, Thangool and Blackwater?

(3) For how long may an airline company hold such licence without actually operating on any registered air route, even though that company has not operated or flown a plane on that licence for a number of years?

(4) In the interest of people in the Biloela area will he do his utmost to have Ansett Airlines of Australia relinquish their licence in favour of Bush Pilots Airways Ltd., to give the people in Central Queensland an adequate air service?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that the Commonwealth Department of Transport is primarily responsible for approving the operation of various country air services in Queensland under Commonwealth law, with complementary action being taken by the State Department of Transport pursuant to the provisions of the State Transport Act.

(2) Under Commonwealth Air Navigation Regulation 201, the Commonwealth Department of Transport approved an arrangement by Ansett Airlines for Bush Pilots Airways to operate on its behalf the Ansett licence held to provide air services between Brisbane, Monto, Gayndah and Thangool. Proposals by Bush Pilots Airways to provide additional services to Thangool in conjunction with its commuter operation to Emerald are presently under consideration by the Commonwealth Department of Transport.

(3) This is a matter for consideration by the approving authority, which in this case is the Commonwealth Department of Transport.

(4) In view of the many requests made to me by people in the Biloela area, yes.

22. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, EMU PARK

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

In view of the ever-increasing need for a pre-school centre to be established at Emu Park, what plans are in hand for its construction?

Answer:—

Preliminary planning for establishment of State pre-school facilities at Emu Park has been undertaken, but I can give no firm commitment as to when funds will be allocated to this project. In the interim, pre-school children from Emu Park may choose to take up a limited number of places presently available at the Yeppoon State Pre-School Centre.

23. NARODNY BANK LOAN TO MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

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

(1) With reference to the disclosure during the parliamentary recess that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads had obtained a loan of slightly more than \$500,000 from the Singapore office of the Communist Narodny Bank, will he table on 14 March a full, unedited copy of the loan agreement between the Minister and the bank, which is lodged, I understand, by the bank with the Corporate Affairs Department?

(2) Will he, on 14 March, read to the House the full text of any clause or clauses in this agreement, if such clause or clauses exist, dealing with terms and conditions of repayment?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The information requested by the honourable member is freely available by way of public search at the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.

24. S.G.I.O. BUILDING SOCIETY LOANS

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

(1) What proportion of the reported \$12,000,000 lending by the S.G.I.O. Building Society in February went to owner-occupied housing?

(2) Is this society lending on speculative and commercial applications?

(3) What arrangements exist between the S.G.I.O. Building Society and the S.G.I.O. for funding of S.G.I.O. investment projects?

Answers:—

(1) The S.G.I.O. Building Society has reported to the Registrar of Building Societies that 83.85 per cent of the \$12,000,000 in housing loans approved for February 1979 was for owner-occupied houses.

(2) The society operates subject to the provisions of the Building Societies Act 1886-1976, which requires that all loans approved must be directly or indirectly related to the provision of accommodation for residential purposes and that special loans (that is, loans to corporate bodies, loans in respect of vacant land valued at more than \$20,000 and loans to individuals in excess of \$50,000) are limited to not more than 10 per cent of all loans approved in any one year.

(3) I am advised by the Registrar of Building Societies that he is not aware of any arrangement for the building society to fund any State Government Insurance Office (Queensland) investment projects.

25. REPRESENTATION ON AUSTRALIAN
FISHING INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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

Are officers of the Crown Law Office drawing up a constitution to enable the Queensland Branch of the Australian Fishing Industry Council to function without representatives from the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation?

Answer:—

No. An application by the Queensland Branch of the Australian Fishing Industry Council for incorporation under section 24 of the Companies Act 1961-1975 was refused on 5 December 1978.

It is not the function of the Crown Law Office to draw up constitutions, but merely to vet the constitutions of bodies who apply for incorporation under that section. In any event, membership of the body seeking incorporation is a domestic matter for that body.

26. STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOLDEN
BEACH, CALOUNDRA

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

What progress has been made towards the provision of a State primary school for Golden Beach, Caloundra?

Answer:—

A thorough survey has been made of the demographic situation at Golden Beach. The provision of a primary school in the area is part of this investigation and will be considered with other areas throughout the State in similar circumstances. No decision has yet been taken on this area.

27. NAMES NOMINATED BY LOCAL
AUTHORITY ELECTION CANDIDATES

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

Is it permissible for a candidate at a local authority election to nominate a name that is not the name of the candidate shown on the roll?

Answer:—

A candidate for election to a local authority does not nominate himself, but is nominated by other persons.

Under rule 6 (3) of the Third Schedule (Rules for the conduct of Elections) of the Local Government Act 1936-1978, no nomination paper is to be rejected for any mere formal defect or error if the returning officer is satisfied that the provisions of the rules have been substantially complied with. A mere misspelling of the

name does not invalidate the nomination. It is a question of fact for the returning officer in each case.

Local government elections are the ministerial responsibility of my colleague the Honourable R. J. Hinze, Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

28. DRIVING FEE, MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATION ACCOUNTS

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

(1) Is the \$6.50 "driving" fee, which is included in motor vehicle registration renewal accounts, in fact a levy imposed by the Main Roads Department to cover the cost of traffic lights?

(2) When was this levy imposed?

(3) Are all the funds collected in this way used solely for this purpose?

(4) Is any of the money collected paid to the Brisbane City Council or to other local authorities for traffic light purposes?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Some 20 per cent of the receipts from the driving fee are paid into the Traffic Engineering Trust Fund. This fund is administered by the Main Roads Department and was set up with the passage of the Traffic Act Amendment Act in 1965. The balance of the receipts is paid into Consolidated Revenue.

For many years, the Brisbane City Council, along with other local authorities, has been the recipient of subsidies from this fund. The subsidy to the Brisbane City Council for 1978/79 is \$400,000 for traffic engineering works including traffic lights.

29. HEALTH TEST, WALLANGARRA
TRUCKING YARDS DUST

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

Has he been able to arrange to have samples of dust collected from a house near the trucking yards at Wallangarra tested to see whether or not the yards are a health hazard?

Answer:—

Samples of soil taken from houses in Wallangarra have been tested by the Government Chemical Laboratory and the result is being evaluated.

The houses referred to are in a direct path from the railway untrucking yards to the Wallangarra meatworks and it is necessary to find out whether the air pollution there is harmful to public health. I hope to be able to make a full statement on this matter later on.

30. CHEMICAL 2,4,5-T

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

Will hundreds of thousands of people die of starvation in various parts of the world if the chemical 2,4,5-T is banned?

Answer:—

I do not have an estimate on the number of human lives that may or may not be lost if 2,4,5-T is banned.

Mr. Scott: Do you care?

Mr. SULLIVAN: If the honourable member cannot make a sensible utterance, he should not make one at all. It is obvious that if the chemical were banned there would be a drop in production of certain crops. I think any one of us could imagine that that could lead to what the questioner has indicated.

I am well aware of the great importance of 2,4,5-T to primary production around the world and have no grounds to make any changes to our present controls over its use.

Perhaps the honourable member for Cook will see that I do care, so far as our rural industries are concerned, to ensure that 2,4,5-T is retained for use.

31. ACQUISITION AND ALLOCATION OF HOUSING COMMISSION FUNDS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the alleged statement by an A.L.P. member of Parliament that some Government members have requested that Commonwealth assistance for Housing Commission housing be refused?

(2) Will he refute these ridiculous claims by the A.L.P.?

(3) Will he ensure that he does all within his power to obtain for this State the maximum housing funds?

(4) Will he ensure that an equitable amount of these funds is spent in Bundaberg, Childers and Hervey Bay to relieve the very serious housing problems in these places?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware of a statement attributed to an A.L.P. member of Federal Parliament that some Commonwealth Liberal Party members had supposedly raised questions on the disposal of surplus Defence Service Homes land. I am not aware that any of this land has been offered for public housing in this State. We would consider purchase of surplus Commonwealth land if offered and if we need it.

(2) There has certainly been no approach by any Government member in this State

seeking action to refuse funding by the Commonwealth. It is, in fact, the exact opposite. I have received the unanimous support of all Government members in my fight to obtain Queensland's correct per capita allocation of total housing funds.

(3) I can assure the honourable member I will continue to fight strenuously for a fair deal for Queensland. I will continue to frame programmes to provide the best possible form of housing against known demand in the areas of greatest need and within the financial limitations imposed by the Commonwealth.

(4) The honourable member will be well aware that recently tenders have been called in the Bundaberg and Hervey Bay areas for additional housing. I commend him for his continuous and strong representations on behalf of the people of this area. Through his efforts I am well aware of the need and being very well informed, am able to programme housing to satisfy the districts' demands.

32. AERIAL AMBULANCE PROPOSAL, BUNDABERG

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

As it is now some years since the Bundaberg Q.A.T.B. put forward a proposal for an aerial ambulance, what steps are being taken by the Government to either accept the Bundaberg proposal or put forward an alternative proposal?

Answer:—

The needs of Bundaberg in relation to aerial ambulance transport will be taken into account in the overall study of aerial transport service requirements throughout the State. An interim report submitted by the ad hoc committee on the rural health scheme and the use of aerial transport has been considered by Cabinet and on 9 January 1979 Cabinet approved the constitution of an aviation advisory panel to investigate and advise on proposed aerial ambulance services for the State. The matter will be further considered on receipt of the panel's report which the honourable member will realise will take some time to complete.

33. CONVICTIONS FOR EXPORTING SNAKES AND BIRDS

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

How many convictions were there for illegally exporting (a) snakes and (b) birds from Queensland during 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79?

Answer:—

This information is not readily available and to extract it would mean checking through hundreds of prosecutions instituted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, an exercise which would be very time-consuming. However, I can assure the honourable member that the service maintains a high standard of vigilance where illegal fauna exports are concerned, as evidenced by the recent formation of the Police Fauna Unit.

34. REGISTRATION OF CHIROPRACTORS

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

(1) What is the Government's attitude to the registration of qualified chiropractors?

(2) Is it envisaged that legislation will be introduced to this Parliament in the future to allow for the registration of qualified chiropractors?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I am presently considering draft legislation for the registration of manipulative therapists.

35. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, CHARLEVILLE

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

(1) Is he aware of the urgent need for an additional pre-school centre in Charleville?

(2) Will a new pre-school centre be constructed and, if so, when?

Answers:—

I thank the honourable member for his continued interest in education and, in particular, the schools in his electorate, as well as for the efficient and effective manner in which he brings to my notice the needs and desires of the people in his electorate. I have to advise that—

(1) The need for additional facilities has already been acknowledged by the establishment of a second interim pre-school unit in Charleville.

(2) Additions to permanent pre-school facilities are being planned, provisionally, within the context of the 1979-80 capital works programme.

36. EFFECTS OF COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT'S OIL-PRICING POLICY

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

(1) Has he considered the recent Industries Assistance Commission report on petroleum, particularly the section that refers to the Commonwealth Government's
73176—116

policy to price all domestic oil at full import parity, which the same I.A.C. report estimates will in 12 months (a) cut total employment by 18 per cent, (b) cut rural employment by 2.8 per cent and (c) cut farm export earnings by 6 to 8 per cent?

(2) Will these effects be more severe in Queensland?

(3) Has he taken or will he take up the matter with the Federal Minister for Trade and Resources to check these figures and take appropriate action to prevent these projections becoming facts?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Yesterday I was chided by the honourable member for Bulimba for not answering this question without notice. I feel sure the following answer indicates why I asked that it be put on notice.

Up to the present, my department has not received a copy of the report of the Industries Assistance Commission to which the honourable member refers, but endeavours were made last week to obtain one. When this is received, officers of my department will examine the report in some detail.

I am not aware of the basis upon which the Industries Assistance Commission assessed the figures quoted from the report. I draw the honourable member's attention to the daily "Hansard" of the Commonwealth House of Representatives for Wednesday, 28 February 1979, at page 442, when the Honourable the Minister for National Development stated—

"The Honourable Member for Blaxland was quoting the Industries Commission report. Let me just correct one point that he made. He made it in passing only but I wish to correct any misapprehension that may have resulted. That report was an impact report to the Australian Agricultural Council. It has nothing to do with any advice that was given to this Government when it made its Budget decisions on pricing. Let us make no mistake about that. I believe that there are several aspects of the IAC decision which can be challenged. My Department is in the process of consulting with the IAC authors and trying to sort out those assumptions that we believe are wrong."

37. USE OF BPA METRO PROP-JET AIRCRAFT ON COASTAL ROUTES

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

Will Bush Pilots Airways Ltd. be allowed to operate their Metro prop-jet on the Queensland coastal services following a rejection of these aircraft by western Queensland people, particularly those services between the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Maryborough, Bundaberg,

Gladstone and Rockhampton, which will be in competition with Trans-Australia Airlines and Ansett Airlines of Australia?

Answer:—

The operation of a particular type of aircraft between towns on the coastal trunk route presently serviced by the two major airlines is primarily one for consideration by the Commonwealth Minister for Transport under Commonwealth legislation, although the State would be consulted in any changes that might be made to air services presently provided.

38. COST OF DUCK-SHOOTERS' LICENCES

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

(1) Is he aware that, whereas a duck-shooters' licence was formerly issued without cost, it has doubled in the last three years from \$5 to \$10?

(2) What is the purpose of the increased charges and where will this additional revenue be spent?

(3) If the extra money is for no specific purpose, is this just another hidden tax increase by regulation?

Answers:—

(1) The fee for an open-season fauna permit for personal use was set at \$5 on 31 August 1974 and was increased by Executive Council to \$10 on 14 September 1978, so the increase has come about in four years, not three.

(2 & 3) The increase was approved as part of a general review of Government charges and it in no way represents an unreasonable impost, as is evidenced by the fact that the demand for these permits has increased significantly over the four-year period.

39. SIZE AND WEIGHT OF LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT TRAILERS

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

(1) Is he aware that recent changes and mooted changes to regulations governing the size and weight of livestock transport trailers will make most of the State's double-deck trailers illegal and is it not inconceivable that the Government could make an estimated 500 trailers at \$20,000 each illegal and break many of the State's hardest-working small businessmen, as these hauliers normally move cattle to the nearest railhead and for many gulf cattlemen it could seriously

adversely affect the economics of the beef industry because the cost of cattle cartage would increase dramatically?

(2) Will he assure hauliers that livestock units of 14 ft. 9 in. in height and 40 tons in weight (which is only a two-ton excess over the present allowed weight and this excess is distributed normally over five axles) will be permitted?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Conditions for the operation of livestock transport vehicles, including dog trailers used with road trains where they are of excess dimensions, which were determined in 1968, still apply. These vehicles operate under police permits issued after consultation with the Main Roads Department and in accordance with the traffic regulations.

I am aware that draft model permit conditions for road trains are under review by the National Association of Australia State Road Authorities and any proposed changes to the present conditions which apply to the operation of these vehicles will, I am assured by my colleague the Honourable R. J. Hinze, Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, be discussed by officers of the Main Roads Department with interested parties. I have arranged for the honourable member's concern to be brought to the notice of my colleague.

40. FUTURE OF GREENVALE NICKEL PROJECT

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

(1) Is he aware that during the last few weeks some 24 employees of Freeport Queensland Nickel Inc. have resigned and left Greenvale, which constitutes over 10 per cent of the mine's work-force, and has fuelled rumours that the mine is about to close and that nickel ore will be processed from mines working outside Australia?

(2) Will he reassure the people of Greenvale that this is not going to happen and that their jobs are secure?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that there has been a slight increase recently in the usual turnover of employees at the Greenvale Mine operated by Queensland Nickel Pty. Ltd. Turnover of employees normally fluctuates and this minor increase was brought about by increased employment opportunities on the coalfields for fitters, drivers and the like.

(2) There is certainly no truth in the rumour that the mine is about to close.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PRESENCE OF CONSTABLE EGAN AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Mr. CASEY: I ask the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police: Is he aware that, during the period former Constable Michael Egan, who recently resigned from the Queensland Police Force over the street march issue, spent in the precincts of Parliament House yesterday, he was constantly shadowed by members of the Special Branch of the Queensland Police Force? Who instructs the Special Branch to carry out such surveillance on the former constable and is this the practice with all members of the Queensland Police Force who resign?

Mr. CAMM: The fact was brought to my notice that the constable under discussion was in the precincts of Parliament House. I am not aware that his shadow was catching up with him, but even if he felt, from looking behind him, that somebody was following in his footsteps, I do not think that the Special Branch would consider him to be of enough importance to shadow him anywhere. I think the members of that branch have more worthwhile work to do in the State of Queensland than to shadow a disgruntled constable. I am not querying why he retired, but I think he should have retired with dignity and should not denigrate the Police Force, which had been so good to him for the period he was a member of it. When he wanted to continue his studies at university and the course was not available at the university in Townsville, where he was stationed, arrangements were made to have him transferred to Brisbane so that he could continue his studies.

MINISTERIAL LETTER TO BPA

Mr. CASEY: I ask the Minister for Transport: Did he send a letter to BPA dated 6 November which gave approval by the State Government to that airline to take over from T.A.A. two air services in Western Queensland? Did he also state in that letter that the Premier joined with him in wishing BPA "a most successful operation"? In view of the subsequent public reaction to his actions in this matter, will he inform the House why Cabinet took such a decision without full prior consultation with the people in the areas of western Queensland?

Mr. TOMKINS: I did write the letter. It was the position as I saw it at that time. It carried no authority of Cabinet. That is all I am saying about it.

AUSTRALIAN PENSIONERS LEAGUE

Mr. GYGAR: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Following my question concerning the investigation of Australian Pensioners League activities, is there any truth in the widespread rumour that Mr. Tom Burton, Mr. Tom Burns and Mr. Gerry Jones, three leading members of the A.L.P.,

are to be charged under the Collections Act and the Companies Act as a result of their activities as trustees of the company associated with the raising of funds for the Australian Labor Party?

Mr. LICKISS: No, I have not heard of any rumours but, nevertheless, one must consider the question concerning the Australian Pensioners League and what came out in the House last year to be a very serious matter and one that is of great public concern. It involves the exploitation of the aged citizens of our community, which, of course, is to be deplored. As I mentioned to the honourable member yesterday, thorough investigations are currently being undertaken and, should sufficient evidence be forthcoming, I can assure this House that appropriate legal action will be taken.

POOL FABRICATIONS PTY. LTD.

Mr. PREST: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: With reference to the swimming-pool construction company Pool Fabrications Pty. Ltd., will he institute an immediate inquiry into claims that the director of this company, Michael James Durack, is receiving money from consumers in relation to contracts stating that the money would be lodged in the Government trust fund? To his knowledge, does such a Government trust fund exist, and is Mr. Durack or Pool Fabrications Pty. Ltd. associated with it in any way?

Mr. LICKISS: I appreciate the honourable member's crediting me with having a great depth of knowledge, but it is obvious that I could not answer a question like that without having notice of it. I ask the honourable member to place it on notice.

Mr. PREST: I do so accordingly.

SOLICITORS' SERVICES

Mr. PREST: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Is he aware that solicitors are breaching the ethics of the legal profession by withdrawing their services from clients just prior to court hearings, which could be considered to be a breach of agreement or contract? Will he consider taking appropriate action to prevent this situation from occurring in the future?

Mr. LICKISS: They are the honourable member's words. I am not aware of this situation. If he places the question on notice, I shall make inquiries.

Mr. PREST: I do so accordingly.

DISALLOWANCE OF QUESTION

Mr. PREST (Port Curtis) having asked a question without notice—

Mr. SPEAKER: I rule the question out of order.

Dr. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I am quite happy to answer the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled the question out of order. The time allotted for questions has now expired.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

SOIL CONSERVATION

Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.1 p.m.):
Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Jones: You are taking up the back-benchers' time, eh?

Mr. SULLIVAN: This morning I tabled the main report of the Commonwealth and State Government Collaborative Soil Conservation Study 1975-77 titled "A Basis for Soil Conservation Policy in Australia". If the honourable member who made the interjection believes that I am wasting the time of back-benchers, he does not place—

Mr. Casey: It was a member of your own party.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the Leader of the Opposition to refrain from persistent interjections. If he does not, I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. Jones: All I was suggesting, Mr. Minister, was that—

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

Mr. SULLIVAN: I consider that soil conservation is one of the most important responsibilities in my portfolio, as do many other members on this side of the House, and that is why I am speaking to the report this morning.

Members might recall that this study was carried out by agreement between the Prime Minister and each State Premier. Participation in the study was the main condition attached to the granting to the States by the Commonwealth of some \$1,700,000 of interim funds under the States Grants (Soil Conservation) Act 1974 and a subsequent Act, the Environment (Financial Assistance) Act 1977. Queensland received some \$650,000 under these Acts between 1975 and 1978. Unfortunately, Queensland is not receiving any funds under these arrangements for the current financial year.

I am hoping that the report I tabled this morning will act as a catalyst whereby the Commonwealth provides significant, consistent, long-term funding to the State for soil-conservation purposes. The only money the Commonwealth now provides to the State for soil conservation purposes is a small allocation under the Commonwealth Extension Services Grant.

The collaborative study has provided us with the most comprehensive account of Australia's soil conservation problems and activities ever assembled. The leader of the study group was an officer of my department, Mr. Pauli, the Deputy Director of the Division of Land Utilisation. He was seconded to the Commonwealth for the purpose.

The report that I tabled this morning presents a disturbing picture of the extent of soil erosion and other forms of land degradation in Australia. For Australia as a whole, 51 per cent of the total area used for agricultural and pastoral purposes is assessed as needing some form of soil-conservation treatment, either by means of land-management practices or land-management practices supported by structural works. The total capital cost of the necessary works is estimated at \$675,000,000 based on 1975 prices. If all the necessary works are installed, the annual maintenance on them is estimated to be about \$50,000,000.

For Queensland, 43 per cent of the total area used for agricultural or pastoral purposes was assessed as needing some form of soil-conservation treatment. Necessary works are estimated to cost \$110,000,000. Annual maintenance on these is estimated at \$8,600,000. These costs do not include the costs of off-farm works and major valley-floor structures that may be necessary in some situations for the co-ordinated disposal of run-off.

The report contains 32 recommendations on pages 139 to 143.

The first is a general recommendation that "soil conservation activity in Australia be intensified and extended and better integrated with policies for rural areas and planning for coastal, urban, recreational and mining areas". I fully support this recommendation, and have recently initiated action within my department to ensure that a greater proportion of the department's resources are allocated to soil conservation.

There are six recommendations directed at the Commonwealth, the most important being "that the Commonwealth provide increased funds to the States for soil conservation".

Five recommendations are concerned with Commonwealth-State relations. Twelve recommendations are the concern of State Governments, six are concerned with State-regional-local relations and the remaining two are the concern of local governments.

With respect to the recommendation that the Commonwealth provides increased funds to the States for soil conservation, I would like to place on record the increased funding of soil conservation services by this Government during the 1970s. Expenditure by the Department of Primary Industries Soil Conservation Branch from all sources during 1977-78 was slightly more than \$2,000,000. In 1970-71, expenditure by the branch was

slightly more than \$500,000. Between 1970-71 and 1977-78, the Queensland Government more than doubled, in real terms, its expenditure on soil conservation.

On the other hand, the Commonwealth contribution to our soil conservation programme was about the same, in real terms, in 1977-78 as it was in 1970-71. In fact, in 1970-71, the Commonwealth provided approximately 20 per cent of the Government funds used for soil conservation in Queensland while, this year, it will be down to about 8 per cent.

I believe there is a need for the Commonwealth to raise its level of support for Queensland's soil conservation programmes to at least 20 per cent, as was the case in the early 1970s.

It is important that views be developed on the report in general and its recommendations, particularly the 12 recommendations directed at the State level of government and the five concerned with Commonwealth-State relations.

Soil conservation is one of the highest priorities in my portfolio, and I invite members to provide me with their views on the report at the earliest possible opportunity. I know from comments made during the debate on 17 October last year on my department's Estimates that many honourable members share my concern about the damage being done by soil erosion to the long-term prosperity of this State.

Finally, I have arranged for selected photographs, maps and reports on soil conservation to be displayed in the functions room on level 4 of this building. This display will be open until tomorrow morning. I urge all members to view it and reflect on the damage being done by land degradation and the benefits to the community from soil conservation.

Near the display, there are copies of an article by the leader of the collaborative study, Mr. Pauli, on problems and progress in soil conservation in Queensland. I invite members to take one of these and read it in conjunction with the main report of the collaborative study, and review of that report by the Australian Agricultural Council's Standing Committee on Soil Conservation, which I also tabled this morning.

GOVERNMENT'S ABANDONMENT OF NATURAL STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT

Mr. CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (12.9 p.m.): After yesterday's almost incoherent outburst by the Premier and the unfortunate events that followed, I believe it is incumbent on Parliament today to look responsibly at the degree to which ethical government standards have declined in our State. We need glance no further than the coalition bitterness and jealousies that have developed over today's opening of the Southport Hospital to see how serious the problem has become.

There is something very sad—something very sick—within a Government in which senior Cabinet Ministers jockey greedily for prominence and for their name on a plaque at the expense of our ill and injured. There is something very sad—something very sick—within a Government that transports its political divisions and prejudices into the wards and operating theatres of our hospital system. Yet in Southport today that is just how serious the problem has become for Queensland and Queenslanders with three Liberal members (including their leader) feeling compelled to boycott this important occasion because of the spiteful discriminations of the Premier and the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

I believe it is imperative to trace political happenings over just a relatively short period of time to prove how the National and Liberal Parties have abandoned what should be nothing more than natural standards of Government performance and conduct.

It is the National Party, supported by the Liberal Party, that is satisfied today with unemployment levels almost 40 per cent higher than those they themselves found excessive in 1974 and 1975. It is the National Party, supported by the Liberal Party, that today follows a Canberra fuel policy that threatens the very existence of many of our historic inland towns and industries. It is a great blight on the rural industries in this State of ours. It is the National Party, supported by the Liberal Party, that has increased rail freights to rural areas by over 85 per cent in the last three years since promising to peg them.

It is the National Party, supported by the Liberal Party, that, through back-room promises and intrigue, and without any consultation with the people most affected until almost too late, allowed the inland air service controversy to develop. It is that party that has allowed the serious deterioration of all those people's other services. In fact, this morning we heard a frank admission from the Minister for Transport in answer to a question that I asked in relation to this very issue. He said that he had sent a letter to BPA without the authority of Cabinet. We did not hear him say that he did not send it without the blessing of the Premier, as he indicated in the letter. He used the words, "The Premier joins with me in wishing you a most successful operation."

In actual fact, this morning the Minister for Transport confirmed a vote of no confidence by the balance of Cabinet in both himself and the Premier, and both of them should be dismissed from their position over this very issue. I would join with the Longreach Branch of the National Party, which recently called for just such a thing to happen over this western air service issue.

It is the National Party, supported by the Liberal Party, that has initiated cut-price overseas air deals that discriminate savagely in favour of Sydney and Melbourne

against Queenslanders travelling abroad and especially our State's domestic tourism industry.

The incompetence, the injustices and the inequalities go on and on. There's Tarong, chosen over Millmerran at a cost, according to the Government's own experts, of \$259,000,000. SEMP has been banned, without reason or study. The Oaky Creek coal contract was let to the American Houston Oil Company without tender. Other things have been let by this Government without tender, too.

It is the National Party, supported by the Liberal Party, that condones land scandals, with arrests often appearing to be blocked at Cabinet level.

The same two political parties endorse unusual land deals involving Cabinet Ministers and now regard as normal transactions loans of over half a million dollars from a Russian bank to a Queensland Minister, who is supposedly anti-Communist.

I believe that Queenslanders want a return to better government, to government that is clean and decent, to government that is openly accountable to the people rather than wrapped in excessive secrecy. Again I repeat that the Labor Party, immediately after it becomes the Government, is prepared to set up a joint party accounts committee of this House to investigate the manner in which the accounts not only of the Parliament but also of every department in this State have been conducted.

Yesterday's events show that the National and Liberal Parties have become very weary and boringly repetitive in their activities. They live in the past; they talk about the Whitlam Government and other things that have happened in the past. Let us talk about what Fraser has done; let us talk about what Anthony has done. Over the past 3½ years they have continued to load fuel prices onto the rural producers and the people in the rural areas. On all these issues in Queensland the Government is running scared—this was displayed yesterday—as demands for responsible government grow and grow. The feeling is spreading throughout the Queensland community as a whole that Labor is getting ready to govern again in Queensland.

The real trouble is that the National Party is no longer the Country Party led by men of integrity and principle such as Sir Frank Nicklin and Jack Pizzey. Likewise, the Liberal Party is no longer the same Liberal Party as the one graced by men such as Tom Hiley and Sir Gordon Chalk.

Today, the coalition—perhaps "Johalition" might be a better word—is a crude, convenient accumulation of rejects from the past, opportunists and extremists like the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, all locked together in a form of government that is not only incompetent but also violent and corrupt.

I touch briefly now on the anti-march question and the problems that are developing through the Government's policy for both the Police Force and the general public. The \$1,000,000-plus now spent each year for the violent political distractions in the streets, that occur only in Queensland is obviously being milked from police funds available for legitimate crime detection and prevention. The great majority of dedicated police officers, who want to get on with the job of catching criminals, are the ones who are suffering and the public so often are the victims who suffer with them. Money that should be spent on recruitment for understaffed police offices is being wasted in manufacturing confrontations that are unnecessary and unwanted in all other States.

The same applies to funds for promotion and improved housing for policemen on transfer to country areas. In recent weeks I looked at the difficulties they have to face. The Premier's violent march promotions are being financed through a downgrading of Government spending in real terms on police recruitment, delays in police promotions and cut-backs in improvement to police housing and working conditions. Some police stations are urgently in need of renovation and expansion, while others, such as the one at Townsville, are long overdue for total reconstruction. While the Premier is able to fill usually empty streets with police for his personal pleasure on Saturday afternoons, the C.I.B. Chief (Superintendent Murphy) warned only last week that it is unsafe to walk on inner Brisbane streets after dark.

The Russell Island scandal reveals that the Fraud Squad is so undermanned that officers are denied secretarial help and are assigned to other distractive duties while engaged on investigations involving millions of dollars.

The Government's anti-march policy—promoted by the Premier, supported by the National Party back-benchers and in cowardly fashion tolerated by the Liberal Party—is taking money from the Police Force that should be spent to increase its numbers and strengthen its hand in the real fight against crime—the real fight to protect people and their property in this State.

It is a very sad reflection on the deteriorating political standards in Queensland under the National and Liberal Parties that the only section of the community that is really benefiting from the Government's policy is the criminal element whose chances of avoiding capture are increased by the handicaps placed on the Police Force. I believe Queenslanders want a style of government which they can trust and which allows them to feel confident and comfortable. It is this style of responsible government that the Liberal and National Parties have failed to provide for Queensland in the 1970s.

Yesterday in this House the Liberal member for Townsville—a highly respected northern medical specialist—described the Premier as an unbalanced egotist, and today the Liberal Party State president says he is an

affront to democracy. I will not use such terms, but I will say that we have a Premier who has divided Queensland too often, and for too long. I believe very sincerely that Queenslanders want a return to responsible government that can work in with all sections of the people in overcoming the very serious problems confronting them—not just job creation, but job security for those already within the work-force.

The National and Liberal Parties are becoming scared as Queenslanders turn to Labor as their Queensland political party in these tough times, just as they did in the Depression of the 1930s and the darkest hours of both world wars.

MT. GRAVATT SHOWGROUND

Mr. SCASSOLA (Mt. Gravatt) (12.19 p.m.): The matter I desire to raise in this debate today has some relevance to the Australian Labor Party. Most honourable members know something of the Mt. Gravatt Showground. Over the last decade it has been the subject of protracted litigation arising from the transfer of title in 1937, by agreement, from the Mt. Gravatt Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society to the Brisbane City Council on the basis that the showground area be set aside for showground, park and recreational purposes and that the show society have the exclusive use of the grounds for two weeks in each year "for the purposes of and in connection with a district annual show."

The Labor council's attempt to sell the property to Myers in 1968 led to litigation, culminating in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council holding, only on 22 May 1978, that the agreement referred to created a valid public charitable trust and that the council was not free to sell the land. That is perhaps all too brief a history of the Mt. Gravatt Show Society and of the litigation which surrounded it in the last decade, but the history of that litigation and its outcome will be well known to honourable members in this place.

In the light of the decision of the Privy Council, reasonable people would have expected the Brisbane City Council—the Labor Brisbane City Council—as a responsible arm of government, which itself makes decisions for others to obey, to accept the decision of the Privy Council as the ultimate court of appeal and to extend to the show society all assistance and co-operation in the prosecution of the show society's object, namely, the staging of an annual show. That is, however, not the current state of affairs.

Prior to the decision of the Privy Council, the Labor administration in the Brisbane City Council treated the show society with disdain. The show society has, since 1915, conducted an annual show. From 1915 to 1973—more than half a century—the show was conducted on the site of the Mt. Gravatt showground and, during that period, a number of buildings and other amenities were

erected on the ground by the society. It is worthy of note that the Mt. Gravatt show had been a focal point for the Mt. Gravatt community for that period of more than half a century. In addition to providing the venue for the annual show, the grounds and the buildings which stood on them were used for community activities such as dances, for club activities such as the pony club, for rodeo events, as a parade ground for marching girls and as a venue for the Mt. Gravatt Community Centre. That use was in line with the objectives of the founders of the ground and those who had a vision for it.

Late in 1973, after the litigation was commenced, the council, acting in what can only be described as a high-handed way, informed the society that all the buildings and fixtures on the ground would be demolished—and demolished they were. Since then, despite the obvious and considerable difficulties confronting the show society, it has staged an annual show at venues other than the showground. This has been necessary because the Brisbane Labor City Council has refused permission to the show society to conduct its annual fixture on the showground site.

In the latter half of 1978—that is, after the decision of the Privy Council was known—the show society sought the co-operation of the Brisbane City Council as the trustee of the showground in staging this year's show. Indeed, the show society requires co-operation and assistance from the local authority because, as I have already said, there are no buildings, no fixtures and no services provided on the ground. The society required assistance and co-operation to determine what services were to be provided, where the amenities were to be located and a whole host of other practical and important matters which are involved in the holding of the show.

Instead of rendering assistance and co-operation to the show society, as the beneficiary under the trust, the council has treated the show society with utter contempt. On 28 August 1978, by a letter addressed to the Lord Mayor, the society informed the council of its intention of holding the 1979 show on the ground in July 1979. No response, nor indeed any acknowledgment, was received from the council, I am informed, for a period of some three months.

The show society subsequently sought from the council information as to what its minimum requirements might be with respect to the various physical amenities to be provided so that the show might be held. Despite subsequent correspondence and various consultations with the Lord Mayor and council officers, the show society is still totally uncertain as to the council's attitude in respect of those matters. The alderman for Nathan, who sought to make representations to the Lord Mayor on the matter, was, to use the vernacular, fobbed off.

A council officer recently informed the chairman of the society that, as far as the council was concerned, the society, despite the Privy Council ruling, still required the council's consent to stage the show on the ground and that such consent, as at that time, had not been given. The council clearly has failed to discharge its obligations as a trustee.

The council, as a legislative and administrative authority, expects citizens to obey its decisions and to observe its laws but, like all other Labor administrations at all levels of government, its philosophy is one of do as I say, not do as I do. If its duty is in any way onerous, it seeks to ignore it. Instead of discharging its duty to the show society and to the people by affording the show society co-operation and assistance, the Labor administration has consciously and deliberately sought to circumvent the Privy Council ruling. Instead of affording co-operation and assistance, the Labor administration has treated a charitable community body with utter contempt. If that is the conduct meted out to a community organisation by a local authority, what prospect has an individual citizen in his dealings with the council?

It is intolerable that, in a democratic society, we have an arm of government which seeks to make others accountable for their conduct whilst, at the same time, it evades accountability for itself. The Labor administration of Brisbane has, by its conduct, shown that it is not only incapable of acting responsibly towards the community but is also unfit to do so.

(Time expired.)

CORPORATE CRIME

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (12.29 p.m.): To save \$1,600 these days an average person has to work 2,000 hours spread over at least 52 weeks of the year—2,000 hours of hard sweat and toil. If, by chance, someone placed a pistol at his head and stole the \$1,600, he would be quickly arrested, charged, and made to pay the money back and, for good measure, most likely thrown into gaol. Yet there are hundreds of crooks, shysters and con men in business today who are stealing from the ordinary, decent person. These swindlers are going free and are living on our antiquated corporate laws. We, as a Government, must do something positive about it.

I should like to advise the House of one of the many cases in Mt. Isa of decent, hard-working people being robbed by these swindlers. Prior to 31 August 1977, a contract was entered into by the Tolman family with Vynaflex Australia Pty. Ltd. to paint their home at 16 Rabaul Street, Mt. Isa, and for the home to be treated with a Benalux application.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You have got me on side.

Mr. BERTONI: I am glad to hear from the honourable member.

This Benalux application was advertised as a protective paint coating giving long-lasting, trouble-free protection for at least 12 years without chipping, flaking and peeling. This company also advertised a written guarantee for their product and their workmanship.

The Tolmans duly paid \$1,585 for this work carried out on their home immediately the job was completed. After approximately four months it became very apparent that the paint was cracking in places and flaking off, and there were rust marks where the nail-holes were situated. Early in February 1978, the Tolmans wrote to Vynaflex asking for some action to be taken before things got worse, but they were not even given the courtesy of a reply.

Some months later, Mrs. Tolman had discussions with a Mr. A. Festa—believed to be Mr. Tony Festa—the managing director of Vynaflex Australia Pty. Ltd., who advised her that he had never received her mail, giving some fantastic excuse that the mail had been misdirected within the large building in which his office was situated. He also informed her that his company was no longer involved with the Benalux painting people, and therefore they could not help her.

Subsequently she was directed by Mr. Festa to Broulton Industries of New South Wales. She was also advised by Vynaflex that they would forward free paint to Mt. Isa if they wished to repaint the house themselves. During the discussion the Tolmans were informed that the price quoted was a discount one as their home was to become a display avenue of their products and workmanship.

I personally viewed the house myself some months later. These people must have an exaggerated opinion of themselves and their products. They must think that all likely viewers have some optical deficiency. The claim concerning workmanship and quality of the paint is nothing but a confidence trick to take people's money. The written guarantee is not only a useless piece of paper but also a straight-out fraudulent document.

The Tolmans subsequently brought the matter to the Small Claims Tribunal, and on 6 December 1978 were awarded a decision against Vynaflex for the sum of \$700 to be paid within 14 days. Also, I have proof that numerous other people have received court decisions against Vynaflex. A warrant of execution was issued on Vynaflex, to no avail.

Recently the Tolmans were advised by the Magistrates Court in Mt. Isa that the warrant of execution was returned endorsed "I have to certify that I visited the address and made demands. The company is no longer carrying on business and has been wound up. Money judgments in small claims and consumer affairs. Warrant returned nulla bonna". That is, the company had no goods to be repossessed. I have been advised that,

because the company has gone into liquidation, the Tolmans cannot serve an examination of judgment debtor on the directors. For honourable members who may not understand that, it entails the registrar of the court issuing an order for a particular person to appear before the courts to be examined as to his assets and liabilities. The magistrate would then make an order on any debts owing, which is then enforceable under law.

Now we find the company resurrected again—at the same address, with the same directors, the same advertising and the same publicity pattern, under the name of Thermo-tex Paints, preparing to rob and thief the innocent public again. The irony of it all is that they must have been inundated with complaints that forced them recently to change their telephone number. As far as I am concerned, they are like thieves in the night; yes, thieves who cheat, lie and steal because they are still misrepresenting their products to the people. They are still handing out useless guarantees for their product.

The Consumer Affairs Bureau has had over 218 complaints concerning firms with which Tony Festa is involved, yet we allow these same directors to continue to use company laws to their own nefarious ends. They are just as guilty as if they stole money by placing a pistol to a person's head. This Government must always remain alert to outwit these white-collar criminals. The policies of the Government will not allow it to stand idly by and watch decent, hard-working people being robbed of their life savings. The Government will never condone white-collar crime; it will never condone the actions of these cheats and liars. It must continue to take a firm, hard stand against two-bit operators.

The Government must continue to strengthen the State's existing corporate laws and, to this end, I am pleased to hear the statement of the Honourable Bill Lickiss, Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, that he is having discussions with other State Ministers in regard to a national corporate Act. This will go far towards eliminating many of the white-collar criminals. However, I should like to make the following suggestions for the Minister for Justice to consider in updating the present corporate laws until the national laws are implemented—

1. Additional staff should be provided for the Corporate Affairs Office to enable it to begin investigation of claims within two months. I am of the opinion that it now takes the office too long to begin investigating claims.

2. If the directors of a company are found guilty by the courts of a complaint, its directors should be debarred from becoming shareholders in any new company in the same business for at least five years.

3. If a company goes into liquidation, voluntarily or otherwise, and a new company in the same business contains any

of the old directors, for at least three years all literature or advertising must state, in bold print, the name and address of the old company and the reason for its downfall. If a company goes into liquidation and a new company is formed with a clear-cut change of structure, the directors have nothing to fear.

4. If directors of a company are found guilty of an offence or a company goes into liquidation with outstanding creditors, the directors concerned must be subject to stringent investigation and control before they are allowed to continue in business.

The people of Queensland are looking to the Government to take further positive action. They are looking to the Government to do something positive about the termites who undermine the very foundations of our decent society.

LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF ALDERMAN JOHN ANDREWS AND MR. KEVIN DAVIES

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (12.38 p.m.): In this debate today I wish to raise a matter that shows clearly that members of the Government parties, and their cohorts outside the Parliament, cannot come to terms with the integrity and responsibility that our Westminster style of government demands. I noted that last Monday, at the opening of the Parliamentary Annexe, the Premier made passing reference to the fact that we had "adapted the Westminster style to suit our needs." He never spoke a truer word in relation to the activities of his Government and its Ministers.

Needless to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the matter that I raise relates to land developers and their advisers. Before proceeding, I table a number of documents that show conclusively that what I say here today is fully supported by written evidence.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the documents on the table.

When honourable members peruse the documents, they will see that they contain irrefutable evidence of the matters that I detail in my speech. They are matters that should be studied by every elector in Queensland, and more particularly by those in Brisbane.

The documents show a clear financial link between the Liberal alderman for The Gap (Alderman John Andrews) and Mr. Kevin Davies, the heir apparent in the Department of Survey and Valuation. What is even worse is that there is a close personal link between these two gentlemen and the Minister for Survey and Valuation (Mr. Greenwood). Between the three of them, there is enough cynicism, disrespect for the public good and financial greed to bend the Story Bridge, yet they remain in key jobs.

Let me draw to the attention of the House in more detail the activities of Alderman Andrews and Mr. Davies. You will recall,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they had declared themselves cleanskins, free of any financial taint, after they sold their surveying and development applicant firm of John Andrews, Davies and Associates. But what they did not disclose is that since 1973 the two, together with a third man, Alan J. Fox, have been operating a company called Environmental Surveys Pty. Ltd. which writes favourable environmental impact statements for land developers. The documents that I have tabled show that the firm filed its last financial return only last year.

What should be of interest to the people of Brisbane is that this company is being operated by an alderman of the Brisbane City Council who has attempted to wriggle into a position on the Brisbane City Council Planning and Traffic Committee, obviously in an attempt to gain information and to apply pressure on behalf of his clients and land-developer mates. Alderman Andrews certainly deserves his City Hall nickname, "Minister for Developers". The citizens of Brisbane take second place.

The integrity of the Liberal aldermen on the Brisbane City Council is shown clearly, because they have supported Alderman Andrews in his attempts to get a position on the Planning Committee. Where is their sense of public responsibility? I say quite categorically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is nil.

On no fewer than three occasions Alderman Andrews has not declared his personal and pecuniary interests in matters that have come before the council while he was present. He is very long on declaring his ability as a Lord Mayor, though. In not declaring his interests, Alderman Andrews has been acting in direct contravention of section 25 of the City of Brisbane Act, which lays down very clearly the responsibilities of aldermen in that regard. For the information of honourable members, I will briefly quote section 24A—

"If an alderman has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or proposed contract or other matter, and is present at a meeting of the Council at which the contract or proposed contract or other matter is the subject for consideration, he shall at the meeting, as soon as practicable after the commencement thereof, disclose the fact, and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of, or vote on any question with respect to, the contract or proposed contract or other matter."

Let me inform the House that on three occasions, namely, 3 November 1976, 15 February 1977 and 22 March 1977, Alderman Andrews did not disclose that he had an interest in a firm which was applying on behalf of developers for council approval. Nor did Alderman Andrews leave the chamber when the reports were put to the meeting. A nice example of aldermanic responsibility if ever I saw one! He is, I am

informed, able to gain access, through dubious means, to confidential staff files within the city council. This would seem to indicate to me that his schemes are working.

You will recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I have criticised Mr. Davies in this House on a previous occasion. He was the recipient of one of the nastiest pieces of political nepotism I have ever seen from the Minister for Survey and Valuation and maps at a time when he was a member of the State Executive of the Liberal Party.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. The allegation of nepotism is as offensive as it is untrue. The honourable member has been told again and again that Mr. Davies had the unanimous recommendation of the Public Service Board committee that was set up to consider this appointment. I find the allegation of nepotism not only untrue but offensive, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I withdraw it in relation to the Minister for Survey and Valuation and maps.

It will not surprise honourable members when I tell them that Messrs. Andrews and Davies have their own little firm—Kalem Pty. Ltd. And surprise—it has a paid-up capital of \$2! Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, another of those \$2 companies so beloved of the shady supporters of this Government! The firm invests in stocks, shares and bonds, and I will lay a long shade of odds that it is also involved in land development.

Messrs. Andrews and Davies recently attended a protest meeting in the ward of the Lord Mayor. They were supporting the Liberal candidate—a fellow by the name of Turnbull, Turnheifer, or something like that. The meeting was to protest against the conditions placed on land developers. It was a put-up job, if ever I have seen one.

I am sure that Alderman Andrews is still trying to live down the fact that he led the then Brisbane Civic Party, which we all know was a Liberal Party front, to the most crushing electoral defeat in Australian history. He was its lord mayoral candidate in the March 1973 civic poll. The Brisbane Civic Party won only one seat, the ward of Indooroopilly, and only by the skin of its teeth. Alderman Andrews' lord mayoral vote was hardly worth counting. I wish him the same success on 31 March. This is the same Alderman Andrews who is being groomed as the leader of the Liberal Opposition after Alderman Syd McDonald, known affectionately amongst his colleagues as Simple Simon the flying pieman, leads the Liberals to the municipal political scrapheap on 31 March.

Mr. Warner: Very funny.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: It is not only funny; it is true.

It is time that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads took a long hard look at the activities of Alderman Andrews. We must remember that the Minister sacked the Gold Coast City Council for even less. In fact, he sacked it for his own nefarious reasons so that he could have rezoned land at Burleigh Heads on which he had a property. We all know that was the reason why the Minister sacked the Gold Coast City Council.

Today I have put forward sufficient evidence—it is on the table for all honourable members to read—to provide irrefutable proof that Alderman Andrews is a crook. I make no apology for saying that. He is also an associate of crooks and a very close associate of the Minister for Survey and Valuation. He has never denied this association.

If by some mischance or misfortune the Liberal Party were to gain control of the administration of the Brisbane City Council—we know that that won't happen—and if Alderman Andrews were to become the boss tweed of Brisbane, he and Mr. Davies, with the assistance and connivance of the Minister for Survey and Valuation, would subdivide Brisbane.

STEEL-BELTED RADIAL TYRES

Mr. AUSTIN (Wavell) (12.46 p.m.): If unsafe goods find their way into the marketplace, the manufacturer or the Government in question usually acts to eliminate the problem once such a hazard is discovered. I believe that it will be clearly demonstrated in a report that I will table that manufacturers were aware that problems existed with the quality of steel-belted radials.

The following questions need some clarification:—

- (1) Are the failures occurring in steel-belted radials?
- (2) If the tyres are failing, is it a manufacturing defect or an owner's maintenance problem?

In a publication dated 31 January 1979, the Olympic Tyre Company stated—

“During 1976 we became aware of a high incidence of tyre failure in our larger ‘S’ rated tyres in areas where harsher operating conditions prevailed.”

It is pleasing to note that at least one of the manufacturers has admitted that tyres were failing. No other company has admitted having problems, yet evidence suggests that all have had substantial failure rates. The Olympic Company now claims that the failure problem has been solved or overcome with the introduction of a nylon overlay.

The tyre is the critical link in the chain of components between the driver and the road. If this link fails, obviously steering or braking, or both, may be totally or partially lost.

The following table sets out the percentage against each brand of tyre about which I have received complaints in the past few months:—

Brand	Percentage of Total Complaints
Firestone	9
Goodyear	10
Olympic	9
Pirelli	8
Kleber	20
Dunlop	6
Semperit	5
Uniroyal	10
Michelin	4
Continental	3
Phoenix	5
Sumitomo	3
Yokohama	4
All others combined	4

A total of 20 per cent of the complaints received involved failures of Kleber steel-belted radials. The only popular brand of steel-belted tyre about which no complaint of structural failure was received was Bridgestone. However, there were complaints about the low mileage obtained from Bridgestone tyres.

The table of percentage of total complaints should be compared with the number of each brand of tyre sold in this country. It was extremely difficult to obtain information on the quantities of each brand of steel-belted radial sold because the figures are not made available by either the Federal Government or the companies.

A conservative estimate of the sales of Kleber steel-belted radials in this country would be 100,000 units per year. Exports from France and Germany to this country in the year 1976-77 were 377,000. Uniroyal and Goodyear sell approximately 1,000,000 units each year, and 10 per cent of the complaints were levelled against each of those brands. Although Kleber sells only 10 per cent of the quantity that Uniroyal and Goodyear sell, 20 per cent of all complaints was levelled against the Kleber brand. I believe that the importers of Kleber steel-belted radials should be called upon to show cause why their tyres should not be recalled.

When steel-belted radials were first promoted in this country after the Michelin patent rights ran out, they were promoted aggressively as the be-all and end-all in tyres. At no time did the mass media advertising

campaign warn consumers that steel-belted radials were extremely sensitive to changes in tyre pressure. At no time was the consumer warned that a steel-belted radial, if penetrated, must be repaired in the correct manner. At no time was the consumer warned that small punctures in the tread to the steel-belt area, not penetrating the carcass, could lead to eventual failure. In fact, one particular company—Uniroyal—promoted steel-belted radials by the use of broken bottles. This type of advertising is, in my opinion, totally misleading.

If we assume that this claim of lack of tyre pressure is correct, then the failure of the manufacturers—both local and overseas—to adequately inform the consumer prior to recent publicity about failures is both inexcusable and irresponsible. The local manufacturers and importers had very liberal replacement policies that effectively concealed the failure problem.

The Australian manufacturers have denied continually that a better quality or standard of tyre was supplied to new vehicle manufacturers. The denial has been in the form of misleading statements. In particular, I refer to the statement by Dunlop in these terms, "Dunlop Australia does not make special tyres to suit any particular car maker." However, what Dunlop does do is to select its best quality tyres from any production run for the O.E. market. The only company that has not attempted to conceal this fact in the grading of tyres is Uniroyal. That company is to be congratulated on its willingness to openly display the bar system of markings.

The question of uniformity has been brushed aside by the manufacturers by their implying that all tyres produced meet the general high standards set by the tyre makers. I suppose we are to accept their standards.

It has also been suggested that out-of-round or non-uniform tyres do not contribute to failure. Heat is said to be the enemy of all tyres and, in particular, steel-belted radials. If friction generates heat (which it does), and if friction creates wear (which it does), then an out-of-round tyre should generate heat and wear at the most vulnerable point. This question was posed to all manufacturers on my visit to their plants but not one could produce evidence to suggest that out-of-round tyres do not contribute to failure.

The tyre industry sets its own standards for both static and dynamic balance, as well as radial force variation and lateral or radial run out. According to a publication by Dunlop Australia entitled "Understanding radial ply tyres", the causes of vibration may be "out of balance", "out of round" or "variation in casing stiffness". Dunlop has suggested that an acceptable limit for radial run out would be 1 mm or 40 thousandths of an inch. We checked a new Dunlop S.P.

Sport Aquajet tyre on a turned rim for radial run out. It measured in excess of 2 mm or 80 thousandths of an inch.

I have no doubt that the type of quality control is not unique to Dunlop. We just happened to select one of their tyres, but I believe they are nearly all in the same boat. It is also doubtful if an out-of-round tyre can perform for any length of time at the speed rating indicated on the tyre. As the tyre wears at the low spot and the radial run out is increased, the ability of the tyre to perform in accordance with expectations should decrease rapidly. A non-uniform or out-of-round tyre has a shorter life than a uniform tyre, as admitted by manufacturers. Wheel balancing will not permanently correct this defect although it may reduce it temporarily.

Because each tyre manufacturer appears to work to its own standards, the consumer is not protected in any way with regard to uniformity, except to the extent that he can rely on the manufacturer.

During the course of my investigations, some startling allegations were made in the last few months about tyre manufacturers and importers. These allegations, which I intend to repeat in this House, are unsubstantiated at this time, but I believe they are worthy of investigation. Firstly, Dunlop Australia was the importer of the tyre brand India Executive steel-belted radials. It was alleged to me by one consumer that, after purchasing four new India Executive steel-belted radials in Brisbane, all four blew on a trip to Roma on the day of purchase. I believe that this tyre is no longer imported into Australia—and rightly so!

Goodyear Australia imported Goodyear steel radials made in Malaysia. This tyre was subject to recall by the Singapore Government because of its alleged unsafe qualities, but the tyre was not recalled in this country.

A large parcel of the Kleber shares in this country are held by Michelin. It has been alleged that the Kleber brand is used by Michelin for experimental tyres so that the Michelin name is not involved if the product has problems.

Semperit is marketed by Ensign in this country. A 50,000 km warranty is offered with the purchase of these tyres, but the warranty is so slanted towards the seller that it is of no benefit to the consumer. I believe that the Consumer Affairs Bureau should take a very close look at this warranty being offered by Ensign.

Pirelli is a part of the Dunlop group, one of the companies engaged in the practice of selling regrade tyres in this country. The 1977 I.A.C. report states—

"The term 'regrade' quality indicates that the tyres in question did not meet the manufacturers' own standards. It is understood that such tyres are reprocessed in some cases."

It was reported in Japan that Yokohama admitted making faulty steel-belted radials between 1975 and 1977 and that the Japanese police were investigating 2,000 road accidents caused through tyre blow-outs. These tyres are marketed in Australia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that—

(1) A large number of tyre failures occurred in steel-belted radial tyres between 1973 and 1977 and that these failures occurred in tyres manufactured both locally and overseas;

(2) The manufacturers were aware from their replacement or claims records that failures were occurring, and that this information was concealed from the public;

(3) The quality of steel-belted radials manufactured in Australia has improved; however, failures are still occurring;

(4) Some imported tyres do not meet the standards set down in the country of origin, but that these tyres are sold in this country;

(5) Adequate statutory standards have not been set down by Government;

(6) Manufacturers' advertising campaigns are misleading with regard to the safety and durability of steel-belted radial tyres; and

(7) Manufacturers have failed to adequately advise the public of the sensitivity of steel-belted radial tyres to under-inflation.

The Federal Government should immediately set up an inquiry to determine—

(1) How many suspect tyres are in the hands of consumers;

(2) Whether the tyres should be recalled;

(3) The magnitude of failures in tyres currently produced.

(Time expired.)

REFUTATION OF PREMIER'S CRITICISM OF A.L.P.

Mr. HANSEN (Maryborough) (12.57 p.m.): Within 30 minutes of Mr. Speaker's making an appeal to the first assembly of members in this new Chamber to observe decorum and to refrain from unparliamentary behaviour—and, after all, he is the person who is responsible for the conduct of the Chamber—we had an instance of the conduct he was criticising in the motion "Attacks on Standing and Integrity of State Parliament" that was moved by none other than the Premier. He set the standard and he was closely followed by the leader of the Liberal Party, the Deputy Premier. The Premier set the standard, and he maintained it in his petty and petulant interjections when the Leader of the Opposition rose to reply. By the manner in which he treated us, he implied that we are not members of Her Majesty's Opposition. We believe that the Opposition

plays a part in the government of any country. The Opposition has a place within the Parliament, and its position should be recognised.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. HANSEN: The Premier set the example by his constant interjections, eventually causing two rulings to be made by Mr. Speaker.

The Premier referred to the Labor Party as a republican party. The Labor Party has never in its policy proclaimed that it is a republican party. If Australia does become a republic, it will be as a result of actions of the Queen's representative in taking part in politics. Yesterday reference was made to the conduct of Sir John Kerr. I think all Australians can best judge him by his actions at the Melbourne Cup before last.

Mr. Gygar: Do you mean judged by your petty, vindictive campaign against the man?

Mr. HANSEN: No. They can judge for themselves and I am not going to comment about it. I am not so petty.

The subject of the Labor Party and its loyalty was raised. I well remember that it was the Whitlam Government that introduced the title "Queen of Australia". There were all sorts of oohs and aahs and comments such as, "There are the republicans at it again. They are not going to recognise the Queen of England. She is going to be the Queen of Australia." What did the Queen herself say when she later attended a reception in Parliament House, Canberra, at which I was present? She thanked Prime Minister Whitlam for the honour that had been bestowed upon her. She said that her father would have been proud to have carried the title "King of Australia." She said that it was one of his dearest wishes. She thanked Mr. Whitlam as Prime Minister and the people of Australia for bestowing that title upon her. So much for this story about the Labor Party and its lack of loyalty to the Crown! Every member in this House has taken a pledge of loyalty to the Crown.

What about the motion itself? What relevance did it have to the matters of importance within the country today? In Gallup polls recently conducted throughout the country we find that unemployment, not inflation, is the key issue.

In moving his motion what did the Premier do in terms of reducing unemployment?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order previously agreed to by the House, the time allotted for the debate on Matters of Public Interest has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.