

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 1979

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. S. J. Muller, Fassifern) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table—

Regulation under the Prisons Act 1958–1974.

Statute under the University of Queensland Act 1965–1973.

Report of the Queensland National Fitness Council for Sport and Physical Recreation 1978–1979.

PETITIONS**STATE SCHOOL FUNDING**

Mr. CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) presented a petition from 369 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will restore the real level of funding to State schools to at least the level of 1974–75, to provide sufficient funds to ensure adequate class sizes; to allow necessary building and maintenance works in all Queensland schools, and to ensure that provision for capital works be increased to a level not less than allocated in other States.

Petition read and received.

FERTILITY CONTROL CLINIC

Mr. CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) presented a petition from 1,034 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take strong and definite steps to prohibit the operation of a so-called Fertility Control Clinic in Brisbane whereby a doctor flies each week from Melbourne to perform abortions on demand with the assistance of Queensland doctors.

Petition read and received.

STUDENT UNIONS AT QUEENSLAND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

Mr. CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) presented a petition from 330 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will allow students at Queensland's tertiary institutions to organise and maintain student unions under the existing structure and system of financing and also that the Parliament of Queensland will not introduce legislation designed to limit the autonomy of student unions.

Petition read and received.

STATE SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. SIMPSON (Cooroora) presented a petition from 16 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will restore the real level of funding to State schools to at least the level of 1974–75, to provide sufficient funds to ensure adequate class sizes; to allow necessary building and maintenance works in all Queensland schools, and to ensure that provision for capital works be increased to a level not less than allocated in other States.

Petition read and received.

FIRE BRIGADES ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL**INITIATION**

Hon. R. E. CANN (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Energy and Police): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Fire Brigades Act 1964–1967 and the Fire Safety Act 1974–1976 each in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

SELECT COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Mr. WARNER (Toowoomba South): I move—

(1) That this House do appoint a Select Committee of Privileges;

(2) That the committee consist of Messrs. Ahern, W. D. Hewitt, Jones, Lane, Powell, Wright and the mover;

(3) That four members be a quorum at any meeting of the committee;

(4) That the committee have and exercise such powers, duties and responsibilities as may, from time to time, generally or in any particular case, be determined by the House;

(5) That, in the exercise of the aforesaid powers, duties and responsibilities, the committee have authority and power to send for persons, papers and records unless otherwise determined by the House in any particular case save however that a Minister of the Crown or an officer of the Public Service shall not be obliged to provide information, oral or written, which has been—

(a) certified by a Crown Law Officer to be information which, if it were sought in a court, would be a proper matter in respect of which to claim Crown privilege; or

(b) certified by the responsible Minister, with the approval of the Ministers of the Crown in Cabinet assembled, to be information such that its disclosure would be against the public interest;

(6) That the committee have leave to sit during any adjournment of the House notwithstanding that such adjournment exceeds seven days;

(7) That the committee may sit during the sitting of the House;

(8) That the committee, so far as is practicable and as it may do, function in a manner similar to that of a Committee of Privilege of the British House of Commons for the time being unless otherwise determined by the House in any particular case;

(9) That the committee, in addition to sitting from time to time on or in relation to matters of privilege, may meet from time to time to discuss privilege generally, including acts or omissions constituting instances of breach of privilege, whether in Queensland or elsewhere, and to inform itself with respect to privilege in such manner as it thinks fit; and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may invite from and discuss with such persons or bodies as it thinks fit, submissions and views on or in relation to matters of privilege;

(10) That the foregoing provisions of this motion, so far as they may be inconsistent with Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders;

(11) That the committee be authorized to continue consideration of previous references from the House which were not reported upon by the committee of the previous session prior to prorogation."

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. MANLY BOAT HARBOUR

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

(1) When is it expected that the proposed dredging and filling work within the Manly Boat Harbour will be completed?

(2) Has the recently advertised extension south of the harbour been approved and, if so, when is it expected that work will commence?

(3) Why was the closing date for lodgment of tenders for a marina within the harbour extended and will the Royal Queensland Yacht Club be given exclusive control of a large area at the southern end of the harbour including the existing public boat ramp?

(4) Who presently holds leases on land fronting Manly Boat Harbour and what are the terms of the leases?

(5) Are any further leases in the boat harbour area under consideration and, if so, who are the applicants?

Answers:—

(1) The completion of the remainder of the dredging and filling work within Manly Boat Harbour depends upon the availability of finance for work of this nature and the development of interest by private-enterprise concerns in the provision of mooring facilities within the area. At this stage the work is envisaged as taking place over a 10-year time-scale, but this is quite indefinite.

(2) I assume this refers to Press statements concerning a proposed marina development by the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron south of and abutting Manly Boat Harbour. I understand that the squadron has decided to hold its plans in this regard in abeyance pending the outcome of the applications to establish a marina within Manly Boat Harbour. No approvals for the squadron's marina have been granted.

(3) It was considered that the original time set for formulating applications—one month—was too short to allow prospective applicants to give adequate attention to the planning of their proposals. A company formed by the squadron is one of four applicants for the marina lease. A decision has not yet been made as to whom the lease will be granted. No proposal would be considered which denied public use of a boat ramp at least equivalent to the existing facilities.

(4) The Darling Point Flying/Sailing Squadron; The Brisbane 18 footers Sailing Club; The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association; The Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club; The Wynnum-Manly Yacht Club; and The Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron.

The Port of Brisbane Authority is the lessor to the above lessees. Each lease comprises numerous terms and conditions and I would therefore suggest to the honourable member that he indicate specifically the aspects of the leases on which he is seeking information. If the honourable member wishes to have that in the form of a letter, I will forward it to him.

(5) A lease for development and operation of a marina is under consideration by the Port of Brisbane Authority. Public applications for the lease closed on 3 September and the applicants were L. Clough and R. Clayton; R.Q.Y.S. Marina Pty. Ltd.; Manly Slipways Pty. Ltd.; and Donnelly Investments.

2. AID FOR SMALL SHOPPING CENTRES

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

(1) As he is no doubt aware that many small business centres are facing a bleak future because of the influence of large

shopping complexes, the Federal Government's economic practices and the Queensland Government's introduction of late-night shopping, will the Government offer support to these small business communities and, if so, what financial aid and advice to improve the viability of small shopping centres is being considered?

(2) In particular, will assistance be given to the creation of malls in suburban shopping centres, similar to that proposed for the city area?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I am aware that many small businesses and organisations representing retail traders are concerned at the influence that large shopping complexes may have on their financial viability. However, it would seem to me that retail trading is in the true sense of the word free enterprise and, as such, should not be interfered with to the extent that one type of retailing is granted an advantage over another. It must be recognised that, while there is a change in demand for levels of service and in retailing practices, there will always be a place for both types of businesses to exist, provided that management is prepared to recognise the need to adapt to change.

As the honourable member will be aware, the establishment of large shopping complexes is one that usually requires that land be rezoned under the town planning scheme in force in a particular local authority area. Such rezoning has to be approved not only by the local authority but also by the Governor in Council. In view of this, it is recognised that it is a joint local and State responsibility to ensure that a locality is not over-saturated with retail shopping floor area. On occasions the Local Government Court becomes involved and has an input into decisions on applications for new shopping complexes.

As has been said many times, the Government supports free enterprise, and the concept of offering financial aid to improving the viability of small shopping centres is scarcely compatible with the free-enterprise system. However, as mentioned, the Government does have regard to over-saturation of localities with shopping centres.

With regard to the creation of pedestrian malls in suburban shopping centres, it should be pointed out to the honourable

member that experience in other parts of Australia and, indeed, the rest of the world has indicated that the creation of such features will not in themselves revive shopping potential in an area.

3. HOSPITAL FOR WYNNUM; WYNNUM CLINIC

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

(1) As the need for hospital facilities in the Wynnum district is becoming more serious every day, when will tenders be called for the erection of a hospital in Wynnum and when is construction expected to be complete?

(2) In view of the long delay in building this hospital and the increasing demand for services, will he arrange for extra medical services to be provided at the Wynnum Clinic and for the hours of operation of that clinic to be extended?

Answers:—

(1) Planning is well advanced in respect of the Wynnum Hospital, Cabinet approval having recently been given for the preparation of working drawings and specifications. The invitation of tenders will follow immediately the receipt from the architects of suitable working drawings.

(2) I will arrange for the South Brisbane Hospitals Board to examine whether the present medical services provided at the Wynnum Clinic are in need of extension.

4. GROUNDSEL CONTROL

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

(1) What research is being undertaken in Queensland into the control and eradication of groundsel weed?

(2) Is the State involved in research with the C.S.I.R.O. in this State on the weed?

(3) Is any biological control still being used in Queensland against the weed and what have been the results of previous trials?

(4) Does latest research show any new hope of control or eradication of the groundsel weed?

Answers:—

(1) Experiments to improve herbicide formulations and methods of application are regularly undertaken at the Sir Alan Fletcher Research Station. The station is also conducting a major programme of investigations into biological control of groundsel bush. Insects have been introduced from North and South America and these are being mass reared and are being released experimentally in the field. As part of the continuing programme, an entomologist is employed in Brazil to send likely insects to entomologists at the research station for further investigations.

(2) The C.S.I.R.O. is not involved in the control of groundsel bush in Queensland. Scientists at the Sir Alan Fletcher Research Station maintain close liaison with scientists in other organisations, such as C.S.I.R.O., so that the most effective control methods known can be applied.

(3) As a result of investigations in North America in 1967 and 1969, six species of insects were introduced into Australia, of which two have been established in the field on groundsel bush. One of these, *Aristotelia*—a moth, the larvae of which feed on the leaves—is widely distributed on groundsel bush in Queensland, but under local conditions only occasionally reaches population densities sufficient to defoliate the plant. Consequently it does not control the weed effectively.

The other insect is the foliage-feeding beetle *Trirhabda*, which completely defoliates plants during the flowering period in Autumn. Over 100,000 of these beetles have been released in various areas of South-east Queensland but have established at only a few sites, mostly in semi-tidal areas.

As neither of these insects brought about satisfactory control, arrangements were made for further investigations to take place in Brazil.

(4) It is not possible to predict whether any insect will control the weed prior to its introduction into Queensland. As a number of insects showing some promise have been identified in Brazil, there is cause for optimism that continuing biological control investigations will result in the introduction of an insect that will satisfactorily control groundsel bush.

5. DISTILLATE SALES AND SHORTAGE

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

(1) What was the retail sale quantity of distillate in (a) Australia and (b) Queensland in July 1978 and July 1979?

(2) If there is any shortage of fuel to essential rural fishing and transport industries, what measures will he implement to overcome these shortages?

Answers:—

(1) It is unfortunate that the honourable member has selected the month of July, as the figures for July 1979 are not yet available. However, in order to be helpful to the honourable member, I supply the figures for June 1978 and June 1979, which may be used as a basis for comparison for whatever purpose he has in mind.

	June 1978 litres	June 1979 litres
Australia ..	565 900 000	580 400 000
Queensland ..	108 600 000	121 500 000

The national increase was 2.6 per cent, whereas the Queensland increase was 11.9 per cent. It appears evident that the increase in usage is far higher in Queensland than in any other State.

(2) Owing to the reduction in crude-oil production by the O.P.E.C. members, particularly Iran, there has been a shortage of imported crude to Australian petroleum refineries. This, with a general increase in demand for petroleum products due to improved rural conditions and increased output in the manufacturing, mining and service industries, together with consumer stockpiling, has resulted in a rundown of bulk storage and a tight supply situation.

The Government is keeping in continuous contact with both the Federal Government and the oil companies. It is essential to see not only that adequate crude-oil supplies are obtained but also that the distribution of petroleum products throughout the State is carried out in an efficient and equitable way, and all concerned are working towards this end.

6. PRE-SCHOOLS, SURFERS PARADISE ELECTORATE

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

What are the plans, priorities and dates for the introduction of pre-school facilities

at each of the primary schools in the Surfers Paradise electorate not already provided with those facilities?

Answer:—

It is provisionally planned that the next pre-school facility in the area will be built at Miami in 1980-81. Plans for Broadbeach will be considered subsequently in the light of Budget provisions.

7. SUBSIDY TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR SURF LIFE-SAVING FACILITIES

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

In view of the heavy financial constraints on local authorities and the difficulty the Gold Coast City Council has experienced in providing for the increasing demands of public surf life-saving facilities on a 26-mile stretch of beach and, in particular, for that area from Main Beach to Broadbeach, will he give consideration to introducing a subsidy to local authorities for the purpose of enabling them to serve the public better in this vital area of saving lives?

Answer:—

In general, the provision of public safety facilities such as surf life-saving has always been the responsibility of the particular local authority concerned, which is in the best position to determine needs and priorities for its areas. The ability of local authorities to finance activities of this nature has, of course, been considerably enhanced in recent years by increased general revenue assistance from the State and Commonwealth Governments to meet operating costs.

The Government does provide substantial assistance to the life-saving movement by way of endorsement of collections of the Queensland Surf Life Saving Association. This amounted to over \$750,000 in 1978-79. Surf life-saving clubs on the Gold Coast would of course have been substantial beneficiaries of this assistance. I know that the surf life-saving movement is very appreciative of the assistance provided by the Government.

8. OPERATIONS OF SHOPPERS BONANZA

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

I draw his attention to the "Gold Coast Bulletin" of 4 September, which reports

on the row developing between a private profit-making scheme to raise funds for the Gold Coast Little Athletes Sports Group and the fact that promoters of Shoppers Bonanza have apparently duped firms into providing excess prizes—in one instance 3,500 \$20 beauty treatments. Will he investigate this firm and its methods and seek to have it stopped if it is ripping off and deceiving the unsuspecting public and business community?

Answer:—

As the honourable member is aware, I am continually urging consumers to examine all information contained in contracts before signing. It would be expected that businessmen would be even more aware of this necessity and the binding nature of a signed contract. However, if the honourable member can supply me with specific details of any irregularity with respect to the promotion of the Gold Coast Little Athletics Sports Groups Shoppers Bonanza, I will have it investigated.

I would mention that when another Little Athletics centre presented its Shoppers Bonanza recently, the Consumer Affairs Bureau surveyed a cross-section of traders involved. This survey revealed that all the traders contacted were aware of their possible commitments.

9. TOILET REQUISITES FOR PRISON INMATES

Mr. Fouras, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Welfare—

(1) Is he aware that for some time the St. Vincent de Paul Society, with the approval of the Chief Superintendent, has been supplying toilet requirements, for example, toothbrushes and toothpaste, to the men's division of the Brisbane gaol?

(2) Is it a fact that not all men who require these items receive them, as it is at the discretion of the officer in charge at the reception store?

(3) Does he agree that it is extraordinary that such items are not provided by the Prisons Department to all inmates, as one would have hoped that the embarrassment of having the voluntary agency supplying toothbrushes and toothpaste would have moved the department to recognise their responsibilities?

(4) Will he, as a matter of urgency, ensure that funding is made available for the provision of essential items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste to all prisoners?

Answers:—

(1) It has been the practice for many years for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and other religious and welfare organisations to lodge personal items at the Brisbane Prison complex, such as clothing, toiletries, including toothbrushes and toothpaste, greeting cards, reading materials, etc., for the use of prisoners generally. These items have always been accepted in the spirit in which they have been given and are greatly appreciated.

(2) No prisoner is denied basic toiletry requirements. Facilities are available either for the issue or for the purchase of toilet items at the discretion of a superintendent, dependent on a prisoner's circumstances.

(3) Basic toiletries are provided by the department, which certainly is not dependent on voluntary agencies supplying these necessities. Prisoners are permitted to purchase a variety of toilet requirements from funds held on their behalf.

(4) Funds are appropriated each year by Parliament in the department's estimates for the purchase of all items associated with the health and welfare of prisoners.

10. FUNDING AND STAFFING OF WOMEN'S REFUGES

Mr. Fouras, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Welfare—

(1) Is he aware that of the 18 women's refuges currently operating in Queensland, eight are associated with churches and the other 10, which do not have the backing of church organisations, are financially insecure?

(2) Is the usual staffing level in N.S.W. refuges three full-time workers, while in Queensland the usual staffing level is one part-time worker, and has this arisen because of the difficulty of raising 12.5 per cent of the salaries?

(3) Does he agree that most women's refuges in Queensland operate below their potential because of low staffing levels and that a particularly important aspect of this

is the inability of most refuges to provide follow-up services for families who have been through the refuge?

(4) In view of his answer to a previous question from me concerning the need for total funding of women's refuges that the matter will be carefully examined, has a decision been reached for the Queensland Government to make up the total difference between costs and Commonwealth subsidies?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) I am well aware of various difficulties confronting women's refuges in Queensland. I also recognise that, through the efforts of the dedicated people supporting the refuges, a great deal is being done to provide service at a satisfactory level.

(4) I am sure that the honourable member would appreciate the fact that when the Grants to Women's Refuges Programme was introduced as a new programme only 15 months ago, consideration had to be given to the needs of communities throughout Queensland. It is fair to say that a substantial coverage of these communities has been achieved in a relatively short space of time. In striving for this objective, provision of 100 per cent funding to interested organisations from the inception of the programme would certainly have meant that coverage of the State would have been sacrificed, particularly in the light of heavy capital requirements in the early stages of development of facilities.

Representations for increased funding above the 87½ per cent level are being carefully considered in conjunction with the preparation of the State Budget, which will be presented to this House in the near future.

11. PRESERVATION OF THE TORRES STRAIT PIGEON

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the programme produced by the Leyland Brothers and shown on Brisbane television on 23 August partly related to the wanton killing of the Torres Strait pigeon, a protected bird, at Low Island off Port Douglas in North Queensland?

(2) What action is the Government taking to prevent this slaughter and preserve this important part of Queensland's natural heritage?

Answers:—

(1) No. However, the Government is aware that illegal shooting of the Torres Strait pigeon does take place.

(2) It has to be appreciated that these birds inhabit islands over some 1 000 km of coastline and it is thus almost impossible to provide total protection against illegal shooting. Nevertheless, the small wildlife ranger force and a number of dedicated honorary protectors are doing their best, and, of course, all police officers are ex officio fauna officers.

The whole answer lies in having the people of Queensland generally feel as strongly about the slaughter of protected species as does the honourable member, and I welcome his support in the matter.

12. RETAIL SELLING ACTIVITIES OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARDS

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

(1) What is the position of the electricity supply boards' activities in competition with private enterprise in retail sales of appliances?

(2) Do any of the boards use funds (or at any time have any of the boards done so) earned from the supply or distribution of electricity to establish or finance such activities and, if so, on what terms, at what interest rates and on what form of security?

(3) Have any of the boards borrowed money from other sources to establish or finance such activities and, if so, on what terms and at what interest rate, and which loans were guaranteed by the State Government and/or the parent board?

(4) Do retail sales outlets provide any services to the boards, and what charges are made for those services?

(5) Do any of the boards' retail sales outlets offer special benefits to pensioners or any other group?

(6) Is there any limit on the number of brands of appliances available through the retail sales outlets and, if so, is there any safeguard against conflict of

interest between unbiased advice being available from one section of the S.E.Q.E.B. and sales from another section?

Answers:—

(1) The Electricity Act 1976-1979 authorises the electricity boards to deal in appliance trading. The boards' appliance trading operations are run on strict business guide-lines.

(2) Yes. Currently there are two boards with outstanding balances of this nature. There are no fixed terms. Repayments are made from available trading profits. Interest rates vary from 6 per cent (long term) to current bank overdraft rates. The advances are unsecured.

(3) Yes. All except The South East Queensland Electricity Board. Government guaranteed loans were raised prior to 1965 at the then prevailing interest rates. These have been, or are being, repaid in accordance with the conditions of borrowing.

(4) No.

(5) No specific benefits are offered to pensioners. However, the boards do offer concessions on purchases to employees.

(6) All boards are selective about the brands of appliances they sell. These are generally limited to approved nationally advertised brands.

There is no conflict of interest within The South East Queensland Electricity Board Advisory Centre. The board's advisory centre does not recommend any specific brand of appliance.

13. CASH'S CROSSING BRIDGE, ALBANY CREEK

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

(1) With reference to many requests from various organisations, individuals and myself for work to be done to eliminate the extreme danger to motorists and pedestrians on the Cash's Crossing Bridge at Albany Creek, has planning for this project begun and/or been completed and, if so, has provision been made for pedestrians?

(2) Have funds been allocated for the construction of a new bridge and, if so, when will construction begin, and what is the expected date of completion?

(3) If no funds are allocated, when is it expected that funds will be available?

(4) Will he take action immediately to reduce the dangerous situation on the bridge, such as the implementation of islands creating a one-lane bridge controlled by traffic lights?

Answers:—

(1) The replacement of the existing Cash's Crossing Bridge is a most desirable project, and I appreciate the honourable member's concern to have the work put in hand at the earliest opportunity. However, I would point out that a pedestrian and vehicle count was carried out on 27 July last, and it was found that between the hours of 6.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. the bridge was crossed by 5,248 vehicles, two adults and four children. The urgency of the need is therefore open to debate. However, the design of the bridge which provides a footpath for pedestrians is well advanced.

(2) No funds have been provided for construction of the bridge in the current financial year.

(3) It is likely that construction of the bridge will be included in the five-year planning programme currently being prepared. A final decision will be made when the priorities of works requested by the Pine Rivers Shire Council are known and have been fully considered.

(4) Records show that the site does not have a bad accident record. It is therefore not proposed to undertake any works at the site at this stage, and certainly not before the council priorities are known.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL PARK, CASH'S SWAMP

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a proposal by residents of Samford to have Cash's Swamp classified as an environmental park?

(2) As this area is ecologically significant and is of importance to the Scout Association's Baden Powell Park, will he undertake to have the area studied with a view to acquiring it as an environmental park?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Samford Swamp (Cash's Swamp) is located within freehold land comprising Lot 3 on R.P. 119965, Parish of Bunya. The area has already been inspected and evaluated to determine its value for reservation as an environmental park. However, funds are not available this financial year for purchase of the land, and future action will be dependent on the terms on which it might become available. In this regard, I am pleased to note the honourable member's interest, and if he should care to bring forward any proposals which might help facilitate acquisition they will receive consideration.

15. DRUG-TRAFFICKING CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES OF KEITH MEREDITH

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the sentence handed down in the Ipswich Magistrates Court on 24 August whereby Keith Meredith of Davidson Street, East Ipswich, was fined \$500 for selling the lethal drug heroin?

(2) Is he aware that this is the third conviction for drug-trafficking brought against Keith Meredith?

(3) As this sentence appears to be manifestly inadequate, will he consider lodging an appeal through the Crown Law Office?

(4) Will he agree that sentences such as this do little to deter those people involved in drug-running?

(5) What are the previous convictions against Meredith and what were the sentences involved?

Answers:—

(1 to 4) No, my attention has not been drawn to the sentence referred to. The papers are presently being obtained so that the question of an appeal can be considered.

It would be quite improper for me, however, to comment on the nature of the sentence until I have read all of the court documents concerning the case.

In any event, no comment would be made but appropriate legal action taken if such was warranted.

(5) Information obtained from the Police Department shows that Meredith's convictions are—

3 August 1972—Coolangatta Children's Court—three charges of stealing—Convicted and discharged on all three. Total restitution \$28.66.

13 April 1976—Ipswich Magistrates Court—Possession of dangerous drug for sale—Convicted—Fined \$200 in default four weeks' imprisonment—two months to pay.

24 January 1978—Ipswich Magistrates Court—Possession of pipe used to smoke dangerous drug—Fined \$50 in default 14 days—14 days allowed to pay.

23 August 1979—Ipswich Magistrates Court—Possession of dangerous drug for sale (heroin)—Fined \$500 in default three months' imprisonment—three months allowed to pay.

16. CONVICTIONS FOR POSSESSION OR SALE OF HEROIN

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

(1) How many convictions were recorded for possession or sale of heroin in Queensland for 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978?

(2) For these convictions how many were given (a) fines and (b) gaol sentences?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The specific information requested by the honourable member is not available because statistics relative to offences involving heroin, or any other drug, are not compiled on individual bases.

Statistics involving drug offences are compiled in a general sense by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The bureau advises that the latest figures available for three consecutive years relative to drug offences in Queensland are—

1974-75: 1,082 persons were convicted, 60 imprisoned and 946 fined.

1975-76: 1,603 persons were convicted, 92 imprisoned and 1,409 fined.

1976-77: 1,789 persons were convicted, 97 imprisoned and 1,567 fined.

I would refer the honourable member to page 47 of the 1978 annual report of the Queensland Police Department, which indicates the type of drug offences dealt with during the years in question.

17. POLICE INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG-TRAFFICKING

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

(1) Have any convictions been lodged against police officers for involvement in drug-trafficking, and, if so, how many officers were involved?

(2) Are investigations under way into alleged police involvement in drug-trafficking?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) The honourable member can rest assured that if information is received at any time concerning any alleged drug-trafficking by police or any other person in the community, it will receive immediate attention.

For obvious reasons disclosure of information regarding drug-trafficking could be detrimental to proper investigations. If the honourable member has any information to offer which will assist police, he should communicate with either myself or the commissioner.

18. REX RANGE ROAD

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

When will construction of the next section of the Rex Range Road commence?

Answer:—

Though it is well advanced, the design of the scheme is not yet completed. It is currently scheduled for release in June 1980 but, knowing the honourable member's concern, I will see what can be done to have the design expedited and the release date brought forward.

19. MAREEBA-KURANDA ROAD SECTION

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

When will the first section of the Mareeba-Kuranda road be commenced, as it is most important that this section of the road be completed before the start of the wet season?

Answer:—

It is currently proposed that a comparatively small scheme for the replacement of the Parmentier Creek culvert and

approaches will be released in September and that a larger scheme from Kays Road to Emerald Creek will be released in January to commence immediately after the wet season abates.

20. KAMERUNGA BRIDGE; AVONDALE CREEK BRIDGE

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

What is the expected completion date of the Kamerunga Bridge and approaches, and what are the commencement and completion dates of the Avondale Creek Bridge and approaches from Yorkey's Knob Road on the south and the junction of Cook and Kennedy Highways on the north?

Answer:—

Construction of the Kamerunga Bridge is progressing well and according to programme, which shows completion in April 1980.

The scheme for the bridge approaches has been released and construction will be co-ordinated with progress on the bridge. Certainly completion of the whole project is confidently anticipated before the onset of the 1980-81 wet season.

Although the design is not complete and there are some matters that are yet to be resolved, it is anticipated that construction of the Avondale Creek Bridge and approaches will commence early in the 1980-81 financial year and be completed before the wet season commences.

21. NEW SCHOOL, ALEXANDRA HILLS WEST

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

Has the purchase of land for a new primary school at Alexandra Hills West been finalised and, if so, when will construction of the new school commence?

Answer:—

All the land required for this new primary school has been acquired by the Crown. However, payment of compensation has not yet been finalised for three portions of the site. This site contains an area of just over six hectares and has frontages to Cleveland Road and Barron Road.

The determination of priorities for new schools is initially a matter for my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Education.

22. HOSPITAL FOR FERNY GROVE

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

(1) With reference to his policy speech in 1977, when he indicated that a hospital would be constructed at Ferny Grove, has the land been purchased for the hospital and, if so, what is the location of the land?

(2) What is the expected starting date of construction of the hospital?

(3) What is the expected opening date of the hospital?

Answers:—

(1) Yes, at Corrigan Street, Grovely.

(2 & 3) Architects are currently working on the preparation of plans and an estimate of cost. The expected starting date for construction and opening date for the hospital will be dependent upon completion of planning and availability of finance at the stage when tenders are received.

23. NEW GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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

(1) Have plans been drawn for the construction of the new Government Printing Office, and when will these plans be made public?

(2) What is the expected starting date of construction of the new office?

(3) When is it expected that the operation of the office will be transferred to the new office?

(4) Have any firm orders been placed for new equipment to be installed in the new office?

(5) If so, what are the details of such equipment?

(6) Will he give a firm undertaking that, with the introduction of new equipment in the new office, employees will not lose any entitlements or status and that no redundancy will occur through the introduction of this equipment?

Answers:—

(1 to 5) As the honourable member is probably quite well aware, the total concept of the new Government Printing Office is still under consideration. When the matter has been finalised, I will make an announcement.

(6) This is another instance of the Opposition's attempting to throw unfounded accusations at the Government and raise fears in the minds of those employed in the Government Printing Office. The honourable member knows full well that the track record of the Government is to ensure that workers are not disadvantaged by the introduction of new technology into Government services.

24. SURVEYING WORK CONTRACTS, DEPARTMENT OF MAPPING AND SURVEYING

Mr. Milliner, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Survey and Valuation—

(1) During the period from the date of appointment of K. J. Davies as Deputy Director of the Department of Mapping and Surveying to 30 June 1979, what percentage of all contract surveying work issued by the department, including surveying for mapping and all work done as a subcontractor, went to the firm Davies, McGhie and Associates or to Ian McGhie and Associates as they are now known?

(2) During the same period, what was the average of the percentages received by all other surveying firms of similar size to Davies, McGhie and Associates, that is, two licensed surveyors?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) In 1978-79 the department's work was allocated with a view to distributing surveying contracts as evenly as possible throughout the State. This is effected, of course, by the need for work in particular parts of the State and the expertise required when certain specialised jobs are being let out.

Firms of a size comparable to Mr. McGhie's received work directly from the department ranging from 0.7 per cent to 4.2 per cent. Mr McGhie received 3.5 per cent.

It is not possible to give a precise figure with respect to work subcontracted from one private surveyor to another private surveyor as the department's interests in

these arrangements is limited to vetoing such arrangements on the grounds of experience and competence rather than interfering in any way in the details of those arrangements.

As I have already pointed out to the honourable member on a number of occasions, Mr. Davies does not have the responsibility for the allocation of work to private surveyors.

25. PUBLIC SERVICE TRAVEL AND CAR ALLOWANCES

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) When was the Public Service travel allowance last increased?

(2) Will the Public Service travel allowance for the use of private vehicles be increased in line with the increase in petrol costs and, if so, from what date?

Answers:—

(1) Daily travelling allowances in accordance with Public Service Regulation 79 were increased on 1 September 1979.

(2) Mileage allowances payable to public servants for use of private vehicles on official business are currently under review by the Public Service Board. The last increase was from 1 September 1978.

26. CONVERSION OF DARLING DOWNS DAIRYING LAND TO BEEF OR GRAIN PRODUCTION

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

(1) What is the percentage of pasture land presently put to dairying on the Darling Downs that could readily be converted to allow farming of grain/oil seeds on dry land or with irrigation?

(2) Would the present dairy farmers again have to increase their holding or get out if they were forced out of milk production into beef or grain production?

(3) Does he favour deleting the Darling Downs entirely from regions to increase dairy production in favour of the Atherton, Wide Bay/Burnett, Caboolture, Woodford and Logan/Albert districts, as suggested by A.D.C. chairman, Tony Webster, to the Q.D.O. conference?

Answers:—

(1) About 46 000 ha of land is devoted to pastures in the shires of Allora, Cambooya, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Glengallan, Pittsworth, Jondaryan and Rosalie. The majority of this land would not be suitable for the long-term production of grain and oil-seed crops.

(2) No. Stability in dairy farming depends on the percentage of milk used in the market milk trade and the returns received for manufactured dairy products. Through the efforts of the Milk Entitlements Committee established under the Milk Supply Act, all dairy farms in South-east Queensland are being brought up to an average of 44 per cent market milk allocation as a minimum. Returns for cheese casein and milk powder have increased markedly during 1979.

(3) No. The Darling Downs will remain as an important dairying region of the State both for the supply of market milk and for the manufacture of cheese and other dairy products.

27. LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE TO HOUSES
BUILT ON MOVING SOILS

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Under the House-builders' Registration and Home-owners' Protection Act can he see the House-builders' Registration Board taking action against the builder within six years where the builder has recommended (a) deep pier/pile construction or (b) that an engineer's advice be sought for foundations and despite this the house owner has persisted in having the house built on shallow piers in moving soils such as black soil?

(2) If so, will he or the H.B.R.B. accept that shallow foundations in black soil must move when water content changes and that liability for that movement and its correction should rest with the house owner and the owner should pass that liability on to any subsequent owner of that home?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Unfortunately a specific answer cannot be given to these questions as each case has to be considered on the particular facts that apply, the conditions of contract, the specifications, etc. If the honourable member would supply me with

information regarding a specific case, I shall have the matter investigated and advise him of the decision.

28. "GIVE WAY" SIGN, BRUCE HIGHWAY
OFF RAMP

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

With reference to my letter of 2 April, in which I requested that a "Give Way" sign be replaced at the junction of the off ramp from the Bruce Highway and the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road and his reply in which he stated that traffic from the south waiting to cross the Bribie overpass would queue up, extending back to the Bruce Highway, and create a traffic hazard, so the sign would not be replaced, now that the four lanes are in use will he give consideration to the replacement of the "Give Way" sign as traffic from the south is creating a dangerous situation by entering the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road from the off ramp, without any thought for motorists using the road, and just forcing a way in?

Answer:—

I am pleased to advise the honourable member that after considering this matter I have now arranged for a "Give Way" sign to be erected to control entry of traffic onto the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road. The situation here during peak traffic periods will be watched and, if any interference with highway traffic seems likely, then a further change may have to be made.

29. INCENTIVES TO EMPLOY HANDICAPPED
PEOPLE

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. Frawley**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Is he aware that the Government of the United States of America provides tax incentives for employers to employ handicapped people, that the incentive is in the form of a credit against tax payable, and that the credit is equal to 50 per cent of the first \$6,000 of the year's wages and 25 per cent of the second year's wages paid to each handicapped person?

(2) Will he make representations to the Federal Government to provide similar incentives to encourage employers to employ handicapped people?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The taxation incentive for the employment of handicapped people to which the honourable member has referred in his question has a great deal to commend it and I would think it would have an appeal to employers in many differing areas of industry. I would be willing to make appropriate representations to the Commonwealth Government to seriously consider this form of incentive to employers.

It is unfortunate that the limited financial resources available to the State do not allow greater assistance to be provided in this area of social welfare. However, the Government does undertake an active role through its social workers in endeavours to obtain employment for handicapped people.

I appeal to employers to give serious and sympathetic consideration to providing gainful employment for these people, who, while suffering a disability, are only too willing to prove that they can make a worthwhile contribution to our society.

30. **AMBUSH PRICE RISE**

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

(1) Is he aware that the price of Ambush, a synthetic pyrethoid insecticide, has recently been increased by 40 per cent to \$120 per litre?

(2) If so, who recommended the price increase?

(3) As it has been reported that farm income will increase this year, does he believe that companies such as I.C.I. decided to see how much they could collect from the producer, and does it also show that the Fraser Government's actions seem to benefit only major companies?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that the price of Ambush rose to \$120 a litre in March this year.

(2) I do not know who recommended the increase, as the pricing of agricultural chemicals is outside the control of my department.

(3) I am not aware of the circumstances which caused the rise in the price of this chemical. I fail to see the relevance of the honourable member's comments relating to company profits and the Fraser

Government to the question of pricing an agricultural chemical which was presumably made on commercial cost factors.

31. **RAIL DELAYS, PETRIE-BRISBANE PASSENGER SERVICE**

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

(1) Is he aware that, because the 7.28 a.m. train did not arrive and that the next train departure was 7.43 a.m., commuters travelling from Petrie to Brisbane were delayed on 20 August and again approximately two weeks prior to that date?

(2) What steps has he taken to overcome these problems?

Answers:—

(1) I have ascertained that, because of the failure of the locomotive working the outbound service in each instance and the absence of a replacement locomotive in close proximity, it was necessary to cancel the 7.28 a.m. train from Petrie on 1 and 20 August.

(2) Every effort will continue to be made to maintain a punctual suburban passenger service.

32. **A.L.P. ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER ADVANCEMENT POLICIES**

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the A.L.P. 1979 Policy Handbook, which outlines the programmes an A.L.P. Government will introduce if it should ever become the Government of this State?

(2) In particular, has he examined the promises made in the field of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement and, if so, what is the practicality and the cost of these promises and where will the money come from?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The A.L.P. programme dramatically exposes the philosophic and intellectual bankruptcy of the A.L.P. in Queensland.

No useful new concepts of value to any Queenslanders, either Aboriginal or European, are proposed. Everything in the document has been begged, borrowed or stolen. It contains nothing of value that is not already considered or in existence,

or has been rejected by this and other Governments when shaping Queensland's Aboriginal advancement and welfare policies during a long partnership with the elected Aboriginal and Islander representatives.

The peak of absurdity is surely the Step-toe and Son list of second-hand policy objectives. We conservatively estimate these will cost another \$12,800,000 of Queensland taxpayers' money, including—

	\$
A new statutory body	350,000
Establishment of land trusts	800,000
Rehousing 80 per cent of urban Aborigines and presuming only 30 houses per year (which will not meet the needs of forming family groups, let alone take up any of the backlog of need)	1,200,000
A new health offensive	1,000,000
A new home-makers' service for which at least 50 personnel are required to make a meaningful impact	1,000,000
Special programmes for post-secondary education	250,000
Specialised Aboriginal teachers on Aboriginal culture	100,000
Support facilities for adult education on all communities and establishment of recreational and trade training facilities	600,000
Immediate payment of award wages to all Aborigines, provided employment opportunity exists for all presently in jobs	7,500,000
	\$12,800,000

This extraordinary policy document plumbs the depths of duplicity when, in its final paragraph, it cancels out all pretence of A.L.P. interest in Aborigines and Islanders by telling us not to bother paying over-much attention to all that has gone before, because the Queensland A.L.P. will readily hand to the Commonwealth all State sovereign responsibility for planning and shaping policy. I quote from the official Labor document—

“A State Labor Government will enter negotiations with Queensland Aborigines and the Commonwealth Government

with a view to handing over the policy and planning functions of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs in Queensland to the Commonwealth, in line with the practice in all other States of Australia.”

The document at best is ambiguous, contradictory and absurd. It promises conflicting things, ignores costs and reveals the A.L.P. as being both opportunist and cynical. It tries to pretend a concern in individual items for the indigenous peoples, yet the programme as a whole clearly exposes the A.L.P. as having no deep human concern for the Aboriginal and Islander people, but sees them only as political symbols to be exploited for electioneering purposes.

33. DISPOSAL OF NAPPIES

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the recent proliferation of babies' disposable nappies marketed in packets that are often printed with the words “please dispose of properly” or some similar phrase?

(2) Is it true that soiled nappies may not be flushed down sewerage systems or put in suburban garbage bins and, if so, what is the legal method of properly disposing of them?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. Problems associated with disposable nappies including instructions printed thereon have been drawn to my attention over several years and the matter has been discussed at a national level.

(2) It is true that soiled nappies may not be flushed down sewerage systems nor should they be placed, as is, in refuse containers.

The legal method of disposal involves the disposal of faecal matter via a sewerage system without the introduction into that system of any other matter, for example, plastic or rag, likely to cause blockage of the system. The remaining plastic or rag material should be disposed of in a closed plastic bag deposited in a garbage bin.

34. TRANQUILITY ESTATES, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Who is the vendor, or vendors, of Tranquility Estates, a new land subdivision near Cardwell, North Queensland, that is currently being advertised for public sale?

(2) What was the status of the land prior to subdivision for sale?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I understand that the subdivision known as Tranquility Estates near Cardwell is freehold land and hence my Department of Lands has no knowledge as to who the vendor may be.

35. FUNDS FOR BURDEKIN PROJECT

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

(1) As he stated, in answer to a question without notice from the Leader of the Opposition on 22 May with regard to the Burdekin Dam, that the Leader of the Opposition was dreaming and was ignorant of the funding of particular projects, that the Burdekin project was a major one, and that if the Queensland Government were to provide all the funds, it would have no money left for other major development projects for the State, how can he, as Liberal Party leader, reconcile that statement with the fact that the Liberal Party allowed the Premier to spend \$259,000,000 to build the power-station at Tarong instead of Millmerran and to relinquish over \$5,000,000 road tax to owner truck drivers from 1 July?

(2) Are the people in North Queensland to expect that no funds will be available in the next Budget for the construction of the Burdekin Falls Dam?

Answers:—

(1) I can only repeat in essence what has already been said, and that is that the Burdekin project is of such magnitude that the State Government could not conceivably be expected to finance it without funds being available from some source external to those from which capital works are normally funded.

The proposed Burdekin project is entirely unrelated to the Tarong Power House and the road tax decisions, which I stress were decisions of the Government made in the light of all relevant considerations.

(2) Should it be decided to provide funds for any aspect of the Burdekin project, this will be announced at the appropriate time.

36. TOWNSVILLE WATER SUPPLY

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

(1) With reference to a statement he made during the debate on the Wivenhoe Dam Bill wherein he said that Townsville

among other places had an adequate water supply until 1995, how can he reconcile this with expert opinion that Townsville, with its present rate of growth, will have a water shortage by 1980 and a further shortage by 1985 even if the second stage of the Five Head Creek Dam is constructed now?

(2) Will his Government provide the Townsville City Council immediately with the money required to build the second stage of the Five Head Creek Dam?

(3) Are the people in the Townsville and Burdekin areas to believe that as far as he is concerned the Burdekin Falls Dam will not become a reality before 1995?

Answers:—

(1) Ross River Dam (or Five Head Creek Dam) is a Townsville City Council project and the timing of completion of the final stage of Ross River Dam construction is a matter for decision by the Townsville City Council. The Burdekin Project Assessment Committee estimates that the available supply upon this final completion of the Ross River Dam will be adequate until at least 1995.

(2) State financial assistance for the construction of Ross River Dam is being provided in accordance with Government policy of assistance to local authority water supply schemes.

(3) The timing of the construction of the Burdekin Falls Dam will be decided having regard to proposed water requirements for agriculture and industry, as well as urban water supply.

37. ABORIGINAL POLICE OFFICERS, PALM ISLAND

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

(1) Is he aware that an Aboriginal policeman at Palm Island was charged with rape and received a sentence of five years' gaol?

(2) Has this person a long criminal record and has he served time for sexual offences?

(3) Did he have a record of robbery with violence and has he served time in Boggo Road, Rockhampton and Stuart prisons?

(4) How is it that a person with such a bad record was able to become a police officer?

(5) Are there other Aboriginal police officers at Palm Island who have police records and have served time in gaol?

(6) Are the two white police officers stationed at Palm Island not on duty at week-ends and do they work only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on Monday to Friday?

(7) Is he aware that this is of great concern to the people of Palm Island because Aboriginal policemen, some of whom have criminal records, are policing the island after 5 p.m. daily and at week-ends?

(8) What does he intend doing to rectify this situation?

(9) Will he arrange for the proper training of young Aborigines who wish to become full-time police officers and have them employed at full award rates and conditions?

Answer:—

(1 to 9) The honourable member should realise that my department's activities are directed towards encouragement of Aboriginal people to participate as fellow citizens of this State. Reserve areas are specially established to achieve this worthy objective.

Surely the honourable member would not wish my department to prejudice rehabilitation programmes which enable people to regain their self-respect after having paid any penalty demanded by society for transgressions, and the department's record in encouragement of such people is creditable.

Therefore, unlike the honourable member, who displays an extraordinarily cruel and crude approach to Aboriginal problems, I have no intention of using this forum to denigrate Aboriginal or, for that matter, any other people who seek to rehabilitate themselves.

In addition to the Aboriginal Police Force at Palm Island, which, I might mention, provides a very significant service to the community and residents, there are two conventional Queensland police officers who receive the appropriate salary and allowances for normal duties as well as on-call penalty payments that provide availability over the seven-day week. If the honourable member has criticism of these officers, he should direct it to the Minister for Police.

Aborigines, equally with other Queenslanders, are eligible for police training programmes and, on graduation, employment at the usual rates and some have done so. The Government does not identify its employees by race. Local training programmes for Aboriginal police are also available.

38. ALLEGED THREAT TO FRIENDLY SOCIETY PHARMACIES

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

(1) Has he seen the editorial in the Bundaberg "News-Mail" of 1 September?

(2) Is the editorial writer correct in stating that the system of friendly societies pharmacy operations is under threat from State Government legislation and, if so, will he explain the recommendations of the Pharmacy Board that have influenced this proposed legislation?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

39. OIL PROSPECTING, MARYBOROUGH/ HERVEY BAY AREA

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

(1) Has oil-prospecting been undertaken in the Maryborough/Hervey Bay area?

(2) When was this prospecting carried out?

(3) What were the results of the prospecting?

Answers:—

(1) A limited amount of petroleum exploration has been carried out in the Maryborough/Hervey Bay area.

(2) There have been three phases of prospecting—

(a) During 1955-1958, when the Lucky Strike Drilling Company carried out seismic investigations and drilled two exploratory wells.

(b) During 1963-1970, when Shell Development (Australia) Pty. Ltd. carried out seismic investigations and drilled one exploratory well.

(c) Currently the area is held under an authority to prospect by Universal Energy Pty. Ltd.

(3) Results of exploration have been generally disappointing. Gregory River No. 1 well, drilled by Shell, gave a significant flow of gas, but was abandoned as non-commercial.

40. WATER SCHEMES, WOODGATE AND CHILDERS

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

(1) In view of the disastrous and continuing drought currently ravaging the Isis district and the complete failure of the Woodgate water scheme, does he have the power to waive the interest and redemption payments on this ill-fated scheme?

(2) Will he consider, as a matter of urgency, new schemes for Woodgate and Childers, categorising them as new schemes with more attractive subsidy rates than currently seem available?

Answers:—

I am fully aware of the water-supply problems facing Woodgate and Childers in the Isis Shire. In this regard, the honourable member will recall that I discussed the matter with him on my recent visit to the area. However, with regard to his specific questions—

(1) I am unable to waive the interest and redemption payments due on the ill-fated Woodgate water-supply scheme.

(2) As far as I am aware, the Isis Shire Council has not yet decided on the means by which it proposes to supplement the water supply of Childers and Woodgate. It is therefore difficult to make a firm statement about the basis on which the scheme or schemes would be subsidised. Furthermore, the present rates of subsidy for water supply may be varied as a result of the current review of the subsidy scheme.

41. A.L.P. PATERNITY LEAVE POLICY

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

What will it cost to implement the policy decided by the A.L.P. at its annual conference in February to introduce one week's paternity leave for any Government employees required to care for a wife and/or children prior to, during or following a confinement?

Answer:—

In answer to the honourable member's question on what it would cost to implement the A.L.P.'s policy to introduce one week's paternity leave for Government employees, it is very difficult to make any estimations of cost, because Treasury does not keep any figures on the numbers of public servants whose wives fall pregnant. All I can say is that, if it is difficult

for Treasury to make such an estimation, then it would be nigh impossible for the A.L.P. to make such accurate cost estimates. And to make policies without any idea of costs seems to me to be totally irresponsible, but typical of the way in which the A.L.P. Opposition goes about its task.

The A.L.P.'s policy on paternity leave is ill conceived and an example of yet another policy designed to look good on paper for the voters but with little thought being given to what it would cost the Queensland taxpayers. It is typical of the A.L.P.

42. A.L.P. LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS POLICY

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

What will be the cost of the A.L.P. policy decision that all overtime worked in any industry covered by State awards will attract the same annual leave, long service leave and sick leave credits on a pro rata basis as is applicable to ordinary weekly standard working hours, to be paid in addition to the equated period of leave time?

Answer:—

In answer to the honourable member's question on the likely costs of the A.L.P.'s policy to give annual leave, long service leave and sick leave credits on a pro rata basis for overtime, I have to say that the costs of such a proposal would be astronomical and burdensome not only on Government but also on the business community if there were likely to be a flow-on effect.

It is typical of the A.L.P.'s policies that it pays scant regard to economic responsibility, and this is just another typical example. The effects of such a policy would not only discourage employers from giving overtime to their employees but also, as a result in the long term, reduce the pay-packets of those employees who rely on overtime to give an extra boost to their pay-packet.

It is interesting to note that studies in N.S.W. have shown that reducing working hours has the effect of not creating greater leisure time for workers, as would be expected, but increasing the amount of overtime worked. If the A.L.P.'s policies were put into effect, very few employers would be inclined to support a reduction in the working week, and even fewer would be inclined to add that extra productivity to their business by encouraging overtime.

Overtime already attracts extra hourly rates of pay. Such penalty rates are to compensate for the inconvenience of the hours worked as well as to offset disruptions to family life and leisure time. Flexitime also means that if people work long hours one week, they are entitled

to take time off in the next week. If such a proposal, as the A.L.P. policy document suggests, should ever go ahead, no doubt there would be pressure from some employers to have another look at the usefulness or necessity of penalty rates of pay and flexitime.

If the A.L.P. ever hopes to increase its representations in this Chamber, and that is a very remote possibility, then I suggest that it might have to think through and cost some of its policies and really look at what effect they will have on the development of this State.

My reading of the A.L.P. policy document is that it is full of high-sounding schemes and ideas that look good on paper but would be a disaster to this State if they were ever implemented.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired. Questions remaining to be answered will appear in Notices of Questions tomorrow.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

SALE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES BY ELECTRICITY BOARDS

Mr. YEWDAL (Rockhampton North) (12 noon): The matter of public importance that I wish to raise in the Chamber today is what I might term a sweetheart agreement that is being hatched between the electrical retailers of Queensland and the State Electricity Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police.

I believe that for some time the electrical retailers have been agitating against the various electricity boards' providing electrical equipment to the community in various centres of the State, and I draw the attention of the House to a recent public statement by Mr. Errol Stewart, in Brisbane, when he was approached regarding a donation towards the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation. He made it very clear that, because the Government was in open competition with him as an electrical retailer in Queensland, he would not donate to that foundation and he said that things would have to change before he would be supporting the National Party or the Premier in that respect.

I understand that the proposal is to close all the retail outlets being conducted or operated by the electricity supply boards in Queensland. Of course, I am concerned mainly about the outlet in Rockhampton, which caters for the Central Highlands and Central Queensland generally. If the Government carries on with what I consider to be a devious plot with the electrical retailers, some 42 people will be thrown out of work in that area and I will detail them to the House later.

It would seem to me that, at a time when the Government is, tongue in cheek, expressing its concern about unemployment and providing employment, people will be thrown

out of work and have their lives disrupted completely if the action contemplated takes place. Electricity supply boards are not taking on employees; in effect, they are reducing the number of employees because of technology. Therefore, it is obvious that the people to whom I am referring will not be placed within the industry.

One of the arguments that the other retail outlets are using is that the boards are competing unfairly with private-enterprise outlets. I refute that in regard to the Rockhampton and Central Queensland outlets, particularly in regard to the Rockhampton outlet, because I have taken the trouble over a period—and I have been a customer of the board for many years—to examine its price structure in comparison with that of the private-enterprise outlets in Rockhampton. Without any doubt, the Capricornia Electricity Board's outlets in Rockhampton have, if anything, higher prices than the private outlets. That can be substantiated by any number of people who have gone round looking for electrical appliances and have purchased them privately instead of from the board.

The important point is that the board has sustained its volume of trade by providing a very fine after-sales service, not only in Rockhampton but also in Central Queensland generally, and I again stress that point. The men in this industry are concerned about their livelihood, and I would be very happy if the Minister, after I have made my contribution, would refute the suggestion that redundancy will occur because of the pressure from the private retail electrical outlets.

My knowledge of the service industry in the electrical trades at the moment indicates that the private outlets are very concerned about it. They believe that providing service is a hindrance to their business, so they are not very keen to provide it. As I said a moment ago, the C.E.B. provides a service throughout the Rockhampton and the Central Queensland areas. In my opinion, Government members representing the electorates of Peak Downs and Callide should look very closely at the situation, because they will find in the very near future, if the proposed action is taken, that many of their constituents will not be able to get service for their electrical equipment. People living in towns such as Blackwater, Emerald, Biloela, Gladstone and Moranbah are going to find it very difficult to get a refrigerator, a stove or some other appliance serviced, because private service companies will not go to those areas and carry out the service. If appliances need servicing, people will have to pack them up, put them on transports, send them to Rockhampton, and then have them sent back. Honourable members can imagine how high the cost will be in those circumstances.

The position in Central Queensland at the moment is that there are five salesmen, six service technicians, one apprentice television technician, one sales supervisor, three

storemen, 12 clerks, one service foreman and one appliance merchandising officer employed in Rockhampton. So 30 people are employed in the electrical retail outlets of the C.E.B. in Rockhampton.

In Gladstone, two salesmen, two clerks and two service technicians are employed—six people. In Biloela, there is one salesman and three service technicians. The point is that there is a fair predominance of service technicians. In Emerald there are two service technicians. These people cover that wide area of the Central Highlands. In Blackwater there is one salesman, and one service technician will be placed there in the near future.

The overall situation is that the accommodation used by the C.E.B. in Rockhampton is in leased premises set up as a show-room, and staffed accordingly. Also in that show-room is an area for the receipt of payments for the power supplied in Rockhampton. There is a second area for that in North Rockhampton. The fact is that those premises are used for a dual purpose.

I sincerely hope that the Government does not take the action proposed, but if it does it will have to accept responsibility for that leased property. It will have to use it as a show-room, but it seems to me to be bad business to keep it open as a show-room if goods are not going to be sold. I am not talking about the service section, but my information is that in Rockhampton the retail outlet is just about holding its own in terms of business.

The C.E.B. in Rockhampton has a very good reputation in terms of customer service and after-sales service. People tend to utilise that area and, because they know they will get after-sales service, do not mind paying a few extra dollars for electrical appliances.

This is a very important issue to the whole Central Queensland area. This is a time when people are crying out for jobs; it is a time when people are looking hell, west and crooked for accommodation. If these people in the various areas of Gladstone, Biloela, Emerald, Blackwater and elsewhere are disrupted, it will mean that whole families will be disrupted. I understand that most of the 42 people involved are married with young families. To my mind any action by the Government that will cause chaos and disruption is unbelievable at this time in history.

The electrical retail outlets throughout the State have put the pressure on. Mr. Errol Stewart was quite vicious when he raised the matter with the media and talked about the Premier and about people donating to the campaign funds of the National Party and the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation. He made it quite clear that he was not going to support people who competed with him. I believe that this action is the aftermath of the attitude adopted by Errol Stewart. Somebody is going to pour oil on the troubled waters.

We have just had the decision by the Government to increase electricity tariffs. I raised the matter in this House, as did some other honourable members. I also raised it in Rockhampton and elsewhere in my area. After the gazettal of the increased charges, the boards decided that the new charges were going to be imposed on accounts sent out after 1 July. In effect they retrospectively charged consumers the new tariffs. Last week I asked the Minister in this House whether he would consider making a refund to those consumers. He intimated quite clearly that that was not going to happen as it was unlawful to make a retrospective refund. He forgot to say it was equally unlawful to charge retrospectively for power used prior to 30 June this year.

The Government is contemplating the closing down of these outlets. Such action would cause disruption. It would bring about unemployment and complete chaos in that Central Queensland area.

(Time expired.)

SALE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES BY ELECTRICITY BOARDS

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Energy and Police) (12.10 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take up a few moments to reiterate, in reply to the honourable member, what I have said on many occasions.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. Burns: You are taking up someone's time.

Mr. CAMM: The honourable member has finished his speech. I can get up to speak.

Mr. Burns: No! There's a list. Take it up with the honourable member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Mr. CAMM: In the debate on Matters of Public Interest it has always been recognised that a Minister can reply briefly to accusations that have been made. That has been so ever since we have had the debate on Matters of Public Interest.

I only want to reiterate what I have said on many occasions, namely, that the Electricity Act gives the electricity boards the right to trade in the retail field if they so desire. It also gives them the right to cease trading if they so desire. I give honourable members an assurance that neither I as Minister, nor the commissioner, will interfere with any trading of an electricity board. It is entirely a matter for the board concerned. The Wide Bay Board and the Mackay Board have ceased trading. It is up to individual boards whether or not they enter into retail trading.

PARAMEDICS IN INTENSIVE-CARE AMBULANCES

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (12.11 p.m.): Today I wish to bring to the attention of the House the fact that the lack of paramedics is costing lives. Queensland should follow the example set by New South Wales and introduce intensive-care ambulances with a team of two paramedics to answer the more serious calls. Paramedics have proved their worth by saving people who would have died if a conventional ambulance had been sent. By taking the emergency resuscitation team to the victim, resuscitation is commenced in one-tenth to one-third of the time taken when it is commenced in a casualty ward.

The calling of ordinary ambulances results in further delay in treating shock if the victim is in any way pinned down, trapped or difficult to move. Even traffic jams have delayed resuscitation. Movement without resuscitation can, and does, kill many shock victims. On-the-spot resuscitation by paramedics definitely saves lives. Paramedics can help in nearly every type of emergency ranging from heart attacks to severe injury. Anyone could need them, so universal support should be given to their introduction in Queensland.

The paramedics in New South Wales have been selected for training from ambulancemen who have completed three years' training and who are prepared to take a further six months' course to train as paramedics. Not every ambulanceman is capable of becoming a paramedic. For that reason, applicants first undergo a primer course with two weeks' lecturing on theory. The candidates for the more intensive training are then selected depending on their attitude, aptitude and academic rating. Approximately 50 per cent are selected after the primer course.

The successful applicants undergo a six months' course attached to major hospitals where they are taught anatomy, physiology and resuscitation to enable them to act with speed, confidence and safety even under the extreme conditions they sometimes encounter.

The paramedics are capable of inserting intravenous drips into their patients and commencing transfusions with plasma-expanding solutions. This will keep a shocked patient alive until he has reached a hospital where replacement with blood is possible. They are also trained in several forms of artificial resuscitation. In an operating theatre they have been taught the correct procedures for inserting airway tubes through the larynx into the trachea or windpipe, just as the anaesthetist does when he is caring for his unconscious patient during anaesthesia.

Intensive-care ambulances carry Bird respirators for patients who need help with breathing. This respirator uses pressure from an oxygen cylinder to operate its valves, providing oxygen through an anaesthetic airway tube. The New South Wales intensive-care ambulances carry enough oxygen to

provide breathing for up to 18 hours. For this purpose, they carry three D-size oxygen cylinders strapped underneath the vehicle. They cater for resuscitation of people of all ages—from babies to aged people.

Paramedics are also capable of commencing intercostal suction where otherwise the victim of a fall or motor-vehicle accident could die of a condition known as tension pneumothorax. In tension pneumothorax cases the air escapes from the punctured lung and it progressively collapses as pressure builds up. If both lungs are being compressed, the victim will suffocate. When there is a need for cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation, one of the paramedics can continue this with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or a Bird respirator while maintaining external cardiac massage. The second paramedic can prepare the patient for emergency electrocardiograph and defibrillator shocks, if that is found to be warranted.

One of the more common roles of paramedics is to attend, with their intensive-care ambulances, on all people who have collapsed with chest pain. In New South Wales they have succeeded in saving the lives of many heart attack victims because they arrive with all the equipment necessary to commence on-the-spot treatment. It has even been reported to me that they saved the life of a doctor at a medical conference. He was surrounded by fellow doctors, but they were helpless without the specialised equipment that the paramedics carry.

Each intensive-care ambulance carries as part of its equipment a portable defibrillator known as "Life Pack 5". These defibrillators are battery operated and are capable of delivering electric shock necessary to stop a heart that is found to be in ventricular fibrillation.

In such a case the large chamber of the heart has failed as a pump because the muscles have entered into a state of uncoordinated irregular twitching. If viewed, the heart muscle would seem to be moving more like a bag of worms than a muscle contracting forcefully and evenly.

Ventricular fibrillation is an extremely common cause of death in heart attacks. It has killed people ranging from perfectly fit sportsmen on the playing field to persons who have coronary artery or other heart problems. The condition is diagnosed by reading an electrocardiograph tracing on a cathode ray tube or on a regular paper E.C.G., both of which are incorporated in the machine.

The paramedics are trained to know exactly when and how to use a defibrillator. In Queensland, no ambulanceman is yet authorised to carry or use equipment such as defibrillators and, until they are, a great many people will die in Queensland of conditions similar to those suffered by people being saved in New South Wales by the paramedics and the intensive care ambulances. If the

heart does not respond, the paramedics can increase the intensity of the shock directed to the heart.

Some of their other life-saving equipment includes M.A.S.T. suits. "M.A.S.T." is the acronym for medical anti-shock trousers. These suits, of the appropriate size, can be applied to the patient, be it baby, child, teenager or adult, secured by means of brush nylon hooks (velcro strips) and when inflated can return into circulation up to 1½ litres of blood. They have two advantages: they can prevent further bleeding into the limbs and pelvis, and they can also return blood out of the limbs and pelvis into the circulation, minimising circulatory shock. This enables the heart to maintain a better oxygen supply to the brain and may enable a paramedic or doctor to insert a needle into a vein and commence replacement therapy. M.A.S.T. suits are as effective a life-saver as blood transfusion. Part of the six-month training is necessary to familiarise paramedics with the use of a dozen or more emergency drugs they carry for use in various emergencies.

The intensive-care ambulance needs to be large. Some are Mercedes Benz, which do not have the speed to cover the distances involved in Australia. A 350 cubic inch motor with a semi-forward control, independent suspension and disc brakes would provide a vehicle large enough and high enough to be used as a portable rescue unit and mobile casualty station. To achieve all of this, it would be necessary to have selected Queensland ambulancemen undergo a similar type of training here in Queensland—or in New South Wales, if that proves necessary. In the meantime, legislation will be necessary to enable paramedics lawfully to care for patients to whom they are called in the manner in which they have been trained. It may also be necessary to see that they are entitled to train in hospitals for their calling.

The training of paramedics and the provision of intensive-care ambulances in all of our larger centres is something that our citizens deserve. It would also give our ambulancemen the chance to render even better service to the public. In Seattle, every ambulanceman, policeman and fireman is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, which should be part of the physical education programme for every high school student. In fact, every school with a swimming-pool could well introduce C.P.R. for on-the-spot resuscitation. Swimmers are all aware of the dangers of drowning. There is no better way to learn resuscitation than at the poolside. People are anxious to learn about resuscitation. If instruction is offered through schools or beside swimming-pools, people will take the trouble to learn. The knowledge can be carried quite easily with the person who gains it. There is always a first-aid kit at his disposal and, wherever he is, he has his hands, lungs, eyes and brain, which are all that is necessary.

This is something that the Education Department could well take notice of and have included in all school curriculums. The department should introduce the teaching of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation so that students could become part of the emergency service link and able to help people in dire straits. They could carry out resuscitation until the arrival of people who are more expertly trained.

VOIDING OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE BY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL; DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOUR OF ABORIGINES

Mr. TENNI (Barron River) (12.21 p.m.): Today I wish to bring two items to the notice of the House. The first is a problem confronting Mr. Merv Ross, a butcher, in Sheridan Street, Cairns, which is one of the main highways into Cairns from the North.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What is Merv's problem?

Mr. TENNI: I shall endeavour to explain his problem to the honourable member. I am very doubtful whether, even after I explain it, he will understand it; however, I will endeavour.

A vehicle driver travelling at approximately 140 km/h in the early hours of the morning crashed into his butcher shop. Mr. Ross, an innocent victim, has lost in the vicinity of \$80,000. He was asleep in bed when an Aborigine, driving a vehicle at 140 km/h—drag-racing down Sheridan Street, Cairns—smashed through the side fence of the next-door neighbour's yard, took the two-inch-pipe chain-wire fence with him wrapped around his Falcon panel van and acting as a bull-bar, went straight through the side wall of the butcher shop, destroying the counters, cash registers, adding machines, calculators, saw and cold rooms—in fact, wrecking the whole of the internal part of the shop—and came to rest with the back of the van jacked up in the air, knocking a hole in the ceiling. This caused a complete loss of the equipment and the shop.

The driver was under the influence of alcohol and was found to be so and fined in the court. I believe he was fined in the vicinity of \$400 and his licence was suspended for six months. The insurance company—I believe it was A.G.C. (Insurances) Ltd.—has inserted in its policy some fine print to the effect that, because the driver was under the influence of alcohol and has been convicted, it is not liable for any claim. The driver was fined \$400 and his licence was suspended, while an innocent man who was asleep in bed in the early hours of the morning has lost his entire business. He is now up for \$80,000. The butcher shop has had to be demolished and a new shop is under construction.

It is disgusting that insurance policies can contain small print to the effect that, if a

driver is under the influence of alcohol, no claim for damages can be made against him under his policy.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Abrogating their responsibility?

Mr. TENNI: I am saying that we, as a Government, should be looking at insurance companies in this context. We cannot expect people to pay out thousands of dollars a year to take out insurance to cover them in case an accident such as this one occurs. The shop has been there for a long time. It is not feasible for the owner to take out insurance to cover the likelihood of that sort of damage.

In my book, it is our responsibility to introduce legislation to protect the innocent person. We are not doing that. It is disgusting that a person can cause this sort of damage and get away with it and that the insurance company, because of some fine print, can get away with it. I am pleading with the Government and the Minister concerned to look at the present legislation and have it amended to protect the innocent person and do whatever can be done to hit as hard as possible the person concerned and the insurance company that insures him.

Dr. Lockwood: How many policies would be written like that with an escape clause?

Mr. TENNI: I do not know, but I should imagine there would be quite a few. It is up to us to look at these insurance policies to make sure that such escape clauses are not written into them and that innocent people are protected. I thank the honourable member for bringing that to my attention.

The other matter with which I wish to deal today relates to an article I read in the paper two days ago stating that legislation to set up a special body to provide land, loans and grants for Aborigines will go before Parliament soon. The article stated—

“Senator Chaney said the body would absorb the functions of the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission, the Aboriginal Loans Commission and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs’s enterprises program.”

I believe, and I am sure the sensible people of this country believe, that it is about time we stopped this racial discrimination. We are all Australians; it does not matter what colour we are. It is about time we treated all Australians in exactly the same manner. At the present time the funding available for Aboriginal people in this country is alarming. We have been helping them for many years but we have not seen much benefit from it.

Let us look at the present situation regarding funding for housing. Aborigines can actually borrow money at an interest rate of 2.5 per cent. I think they need have something like only a \$200 deposit to be able to obtain a loan at that rate of

interest. I suggest that, if it is good enough for one class of Australian to obtain that type of loan, it should be good enough for all Australians. The same sort of situation applies to Commonwealth expenditure on Aboriginal education.

Mr. Moore: When you talk about “underprivileged”, you talk about all underprivileged?

Mr. TENNI: I am talking about something that is not even subject to a means test. I would not mind if a means test was applied to everyone, but a means test is applied to white Australians and not to black Australians.

Mr. Moore: There is no 2 per cent anywhere for us.

Mr. TENNI: That is right, there is no 2 per cent interest rate for any white Australian. As a matter of fact, it is hard to borrow money at all, let alone get it at 2 per cent. People who want to borrow money have to pay 12, 14 and even up to 18 per cent interest.

Dr. Scott-Young: Plus.

Mr. TENNI: Yes, as the honourable member for Townsville said, sometimes even more.

The Secondary Grants Scheme is available to any Aboriginal child who is in Grade 8 or will turn 15 in the year he or she applies. The grant includes a living allowance ranging from \$14 to \$20 fortnightly, a book and clothing allowance of from \$250 to \$300 per year, and a pocket-money allowance of \$1.50 per week. A pocket-money allowance! That is unreal.

Mr. Bourke: It is designed to encourage them as spongers.

Mr. TENNI: That is for sure. But what is it doing for them? It is not helping them at all. Nine times out of 10 the parents get their hands on this money and it goes to the wine shops. Gallon flasks of wine are being purchased with it.

I know the Labor Party supports this concept. The honourable member for Archerfield would support it. During the past two State elections the A.L.P. actually helped foster discrimination. It actually chartered buses and brought Aboriginal voters in to the polling booths. It did not do that for the white people, pensioners and so on; it did it only for Aboriginal people. So the A.L.P. must support what is happening in Canberra. This is a follow-on from the Whitlam era, and unfortunately our Government has not changed that policy. In fact, the Federal Government is now talking about adding to these grants. It is unreal!

Let me deal now with the Aboriginal Study Grant Scheme. It pays us to have a look at such schemes. It is certainly no wonder that white people are getting upset

about them. Under this scheme, Aborigines receive a living allowance of \$57.27 a week (over 18) or \$47.25 a week (under 18) for full-time study. Other allowances may include a dependants' allowance of \$31.40 per week for the first dependant, with \$7.50 a week for each additional dependant, an establishment and clothing allowance of up to \$160, travel costs, fees and tutorial assistance. These things are all for nothing and are provided without any means test whatsoever. So it does not matter if a coloured Australian wins \$1,000,000 in the pools tomorrow, he is still eligible for all these grants. That is totally wrong. It is totally discriminatory and it is about time we did something about it. To be honest, I think fellows like me and those who support equality for all will have to start considering—

Mr. Moore: Get a bit of burnt cork.

Mr. TENNI: That is right—either get burnt cork and colour ourselves black, or start an "equal rights for whites" campaign in this country. That is what has to happen. I am not downing the Aboriginal person who needs assistance, just as I am not downing the white person who needs assistance; but I believe that there must be equal rights for all Australians.

At the moment, the Aboriginal people, the coloured people, in this country receive all the benefits and hand-outs, without being subjected to a means test. The white people receive none of them. Anything that they receive from the Government is subjected to a means test. It is about time that we formed an association called "The Equal Rights for Whites Association", so that we can receive the benefits that Aborigines are presently receiving. I would not like to see Aboriginal pensioners brought down to the level of white pensioners, but I would like to see the level of white pensioners in my area raised to that of the Aboriginal pensioners.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Mr. Porter doesn't agree with you.

Mr. TENNI: The honourable member can go on. His party supports this and provides free buses to bring Aborigines to the polling booths. In my electorate, his party hires buses to bring the Aborigines in free of cost and leaves the poor old white pensioner to get in under his own steam. The honourable member does not need to tell me what his party does. The Whitlam Government in Canberra introduced these benefits, and our mob were silly enough to go along with them. We should automatically oppose anything that the Labor Party supports, because it has not got a clue about how to run anything. I believe in equal rights for whites. Better still, I believe that we are all Australians.

(Time expired.)

QUEENSLAND RECORDING ARTISTS

Mr. BURNS (Lytton) (12.31 p.m.): I rise today to protest about the hill-billy treatment of a major Queensland industry that has the support of many thousands of young people in this State by both the State and Federal Governments, but, basically, by southern people, who seem to think that the modern music industry in this State should be ignored and that the operation of this industry should be controlled by southern interests.

Might I point out that this year in this State one record company or a group of record companies will sell \$21,000,000 worth of records to the pop scene alone. All of those records will be produced in the South. Only \$10,000 of that \$21,000,000 will go to Queensland performers.

Let us look at the talented artists we have produced here in Queensland and have lost to the South and to overseas countries because of the lack of interest of our own Brisbane radio stations and our own lack of interest in promoting them here. If we can set up the Queensland Films Corporation to promote the commercial interests of a film industry, I believe that we can set up some type of organisation to promote the modern music industry in this State.

For example, the Bee Gees are now the biggest record-selling group in the world. They are earning more money than any other artists. They started at Cribb Island. In those days, a fellow by the name of Bill Gates—another "B.G."—and Bill Goode, a speedway promoter, promoted that young group through 4BH and 4KQ, Brisbane. Today, they are overseas earning millions and millions of dollars.

One can go on. Great Queensland performers like Billy Thorpe and Ross D. Wyllie could not get a go in Queensland and had to go to the South. Others include Kevin Johnson from Rockhampton, Graham Connor from Mackay, the Webb Brothers, John McSweeney—if one likes country and western music, and I do—Geraldine Fitzgerald and Kim Durant from Wynnum, who recorded a song "Giving up on Love". Many thousands and thousands of copies of that record were sold in the southern States. The only Queensland radio station that played the record was 4ZR in Roma. None of the Brisbane radio stations would play it. That great artist is performing down South now, because she was not given the opportunity to do so up here. I suppose Sue Clacher will have to do the same.

Another good recording artist, Johnny Greenwood, produced his own record. The radio stations in Brisbane would not play it. What happened was that the radio stations in the country areas of Queensland played his record. As he is not a recording star in Brisbane and is not known as such, if he performs in Brisbane he is paid only \$50 for a show. But if he performs at Dalby, where the local radio stations play his

record, he is paid \$250 for the same performance that he does in Brisbane. It is time that we started to tell the people in the industry itself that they should show some interest in Queensland. We should do the same as was done in the Federal sphere when the authorities asked for greater Australian content in programmes. It is time that we started to ask for a bit of Queensland content on radio stations.

Let me turn now to some of the other Queensland artists who have left the State. There are the Silver Studs. Their first single was completely ignored here. Now their long-playing records are coming up from the South to be sold to the Queensland people. Lyn Hamilton, who sings the song "On the Inside" in the television programme "Prisoner", worked in this area but could get little assistance in the business. So off she went to the South. The Saints are a classical example. They paid to be able to produce their own single here, but were unable to do so. They sent it to the English pop magazine "Melody Maker". It was released in England and got in the Top Ten chart over there. They could not get a radio station in Queensland to play their record. They could not get any Queensland people to support our own Queensland industry.

One can go on and on talking about these young artists. I listen to one radio station that talks about a big band. They use it once a year at the football. On one occasion that same radio station ran a contest for the band of the year and the prize was a recording contract. The band of the year that won, James Elliott, made a record under the recording contract and the radio station would not play it—would not play the work of our own performers. They finally did so under pressure.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: That would be 4IP.

Mr. BURNS: That was 4IP. The music industry in Queensland, including the cabaret-type entertainment allied with the industry, is at an all-time low. One cause is very evident—the world-wide trend towards the introduction of disco machines. It has affected the lives and work of musicians more and more. Fewer and fewer people are being employed in the industry today. The Musicians' Union and people such as Dave Summers, John Hein, John Bardsley and John Morris have been working for years to try to get assistance for the industry in this State. I can show honourable members how that could be done. If we are really interested, we have the talent here, but we are losing people to the South and to countries overseas.

If one buys a record in Brisbane today, one finds that the music companies do not even store it here. It is computer ordered out of Sydney and sent up to the record shops here. Not even a storeman's wages comes back to this State. As I said earlier Brisbane radio stations give virtually no support to the Queensland industry.

Some radio stations playing music 24 hours a day every day of the year may not include more than a couple of performances by Queensland musicians—as far as I can discover, about .02 per cent.

The trend is beyond the control of the industry, and is probably only temporary. The tragedy is the complete lack of communication between musical education bodies, the commercial music retailers, the entertainment agencies representing the musicians and entertainers and the media, especially the radio stations. Only if we have that communication, Mr. Speaker, can we fulfil the musical needs of many Queenslanders.

I am talking about the people's music. I am not talking about the Australian Opera, which receives \$2,400,000, or the Australian Ballet Foundation, which receives \$1,280,000. There is nothing for the type of people on whose behalf I am speaking.

In Ipswich a group is trying to promote country music in this State, and we ought to be promoting it as part of our heritage, as part of Australia. Instead of buying Yankee trash and southern trash, we ought to be doing something for our own people, as we did with the Queensland Film Corporation.

I wish to speak now about the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Many of our educators seem to become encased in a musical cocoon and never reach the musical world of reality. The cost of training these people as teachers to train more teachers with an end result of a very small number of musicians is ridiculous. The quality of the training is not under dispute—I believe it to be the best that the State can offer—but the results are under dispute.

As far as I have been able to discover, the musical spectrum in this State is: popular music, cabaret, disco and rock and roll, 58 per cent; classical, 10 per cent; jazz, 8 per cent; old-time and evergreens, 14 per cent; and country and folk, 10 per cent. These figures are based on record sales, music sales, musical instrument sales, and the knowledge of the musical industry of the people who have spoken to me on this issue, having spoken to record companies and other music houses. The figures would vary in country areas.

Queenslanders are amongst the biggest buyers of recorded music, canned music, in Australia. One example of the outdated education system is perhaps the recent purchase by the conservatorium of a \$65,000 pipe organ. This instrument will be used to train our pipe organists of the future. The only problem is that probably only one pipe organ will be sold in Queensland this year. In fact, the City Hall and the cathedral are about the only two places that I can think of in which anyone could play a pipe organ.

Last year, 5,000 electronic organs were sold in this State, and 1,000 people are employed in the sale and servicing of them.

However, no course is available to teach people to play modern electronic organs. There is no course at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music; it is looking after only one small section of the community. I do not begrudge the conservatorium the money that it is receiving; I am not asking that it be taken away. I am asking that the Government look at the music that the ordinary people in the community—68 per cent of the people—listen to, play and enjoy regularly.

Let me follow up on that, Mr. Speaker. If one tries to get a piano tuned or repaired today, one finds that there is a lack of tuners and repairers in the community. I notice that the pianola roll manufacturers got a little bit of sales tax relief in the Federal Budget. There are only two repairers of pianolas in Queensland. They can do no more than say to a person, "I might be able to repair your pianola by Christmas, but it might be the following Christmas. I can't tell you when."

I believe that the introduction of the instrument section in the primary and secondary schools is the greatest move that the Government has ever made in this field. But it is only the beginning. The parents of the children buy the musical instruments, the students are trained through the school system, but when they leave school there is nowhere for them to go.

Mr. Bourke: Do you play the pianola?

Mr. BURNS: I can play the honourable member on a break, so he had better be careful.

We should ask every radio station in the State to co-operate. We ask them to fly the flag so why can't we ask them to play one or two Queensland recordings a day? In 24 hours what difference would that make to their programming? I have asked 4KQ to do it; let Government members get onto 4IP and other Tory stations and ask them to do the same. If that sort of thing could be done, young artists in our community would not be forced to leave the State. We need some assistance from the Queensland Government. We need close liaison between educationists and commercial music houses.

(Time expired.)

LICENSING COMMISSION PROCEDURES IN CALLING TENDERS FOR LICENCES

Mr. WHITE (Southport) (12.41 p.m.): Today I wish to comment on some of the operations of the Licensing Commission. I do not want it to be construed that this is an attack on the commission generally or its activities. By and large I believe it is a competent body. However, there are some unsatisfactory procedures. I refer specifically to its failure to consult with the local authority, the local member or any of the planning authorities in an area before calling tenders for a licence. I believe it is an arrogant approach to merely select a piece

of ground on a map and say, "We might have a tavern or a hotel there", without consulting anyone in the area. It shows no regard for the town plan for that area if the Licensing Commission does not consult the local authority first.

If the commission approves a tender for a hotel or a tavern, obviously pressure is put on the local authority to rezone that land if it is not already zoned for that purpose. Once the Licensing Commission has decided to grant a licence to a particular person or company, that person or company possibly has to apply to the local authority to rezone the land. It just does not make sense that we have one body calling for tenders for a hotel or tavern in an area that may be entirely unsuitable for that purpose.

I understand that that has happened in quite a few areas in the State. It has certainly happened in my area. Just recently the Licensing Commission called tenders for a tavern in The Spit/Main Beach area. As far as I know it did that without reference to anybody. It certainly did not consult the local authority; it certainly did not ask me; it certainly did not consult the waterways authority, which also has a responsibility for planning in that area. The proposed boundaries suggest that the tavern could well be constructed on those very fragile dunes on The Spit. One would think that at least the commission would draw its boundaries to exclude areas where no building is permitted.

In that particular area there may be some justification for a tavern or a hotel to service the growing number of people living on boats in the Basin. But what makes the Licensing Commission capable of deciding, from a map, where it should be sited? Most of the Main Beach area is densely populated by older people. Why did the commission not go to the Gold Coast Waterways Authority and ask where marinas are to be established, and why did it not go to the local authority and ask how it fits in with the town plan? The lack of consultation is making nonsense of any decent, progressive planning that may be proposed.

As I said, there may be a case for a tavern or a hotel to serve that general area, with its floating population, but it is not up to the Licensing Commission to decide where it should go. That should be left to the planning authorities in consultation with the Licensing Commission.

While talking about taverns I should say that a growing feeling is evident among hoteliers that the tavern licences which have been granted are not being policed properly. Taverns are required to provide food while they are open. Hotels do not have to do that but other impositions are placed on them. If tavern licences are granted, the conditions should be policed properly. Taverns should not be allowed to operate to the detriment of existing hotels.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you agree that one of the terms of a tavern licence should be that food will be provided at all times, and that taverns are not doing that?

Mr. WHITE: That is the position as I have explained it. I can only agree with the honourable member that many tavern licences are not policed properly. They are operating to the detriment of hotels that have to meet other impositions under their licences.

I am concerned about the way in which the Licensing Commission selects an area when calling tenders for a licence. It can do it in two ways. Firstly, it can assess that an area needs a licence because of a population build-up; secondly, it can react to a request by a private individual or company to consider calling for a licence in a particular area. Both of those triggering mechanisms seem to be quite sensible. However, when the Licensing Commission is asked, as I asked it last week, why it is calling tenders for a particular area, it will not disclose the reasons. It will not say, "It was because an assessment was done," or, "So-and-so asked us to consider it and it seems reasonable." It seems to be a deep, dark secret. So far as I can understand it, there is no reason why it should be a deep, dark secret. It should be open. The commission should be able to say to me, on request, "So-and-so asked us to look at a licence for this area. We have considered it and we think that it is a reasonable request."

Mr. Bishop: Do you think it has been told to give a licence?

Mr. WHITE: The honourable member for Surfers Paradise has asked an interesting question.

Unless the Licensing Commission makes full disclosure of why it is calling for tenders in a certain area, it can only be assumed that either the commission has something to hide (which on its past record is unlikely; it is a responsible body with a good record), or that someone has told it to call tenders for a licence in the area. Whatever the reason may be, unnecessary suspicion is raised in people's minds and, I must admit, in mine also.

When I ring up the commission and say, "Why are you calling tenders for a tavern licence in the Main Beach area? It is not suitable from a residential point of view; it has traffic problems and the people do not want it. There may be a reason to provide one in that area for the boating population, but is that the right place to put it? Are you quite sure that it is a tavern and not a hotel that you want? Why has there been no consultation with anyone?", and I get no satisfactory reply, I wonder why all these things should not be open to public knowledge.

Two things stand out about the operations of the commission. Firstly, it is ludicrous that, off its own bat, in arrogance, it does

not enter into consultation with local authorities, councils and planning authorities before calling tenders in an area. Secondly, why is not the triggering mechanism for the calling of these tenders made public, whether it be a request by an individual or a company or an assessment by the Licensing Commission? I should think it would be to the detriment of the commission—the very severe detriment of the commission—if it does not in future make the triggering mechanism publicly known and enter into some meaningful consultations with planning authorities before proceeding.

MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROLS

Mr. KATTER (Flinders) (12.51 p.m.): I rise to make some brief comments about motor vehicle emission controls in the State of Queensland. For those who are not familiar with the present law, I point out that the Federal Government instituted Australian Design Rule 27A, which imposes certain requirements on vehicles for the State of Queensland. The Queensland Government passed concurrent legislation banning the removal of those devices.

I recently wrote to the R.A.C.Q., which has engineers who have extensively tested this equipment. They said that in fact the increase in fuel consumption resulting from the fitting of these devices ranges between 3 and 7 per cent. Whilst I can very clearly see a need for such devices in the city, the situation is absolutely ludicrous in an electorate such as Flinders, where there is a population distribution of about one person to every 20 or 30 square miles.

These devices not only increase fuel consumption but also add to the cost of a vehicle by an amount of \$125, excluding the cost of the device itself; so we are probably looking at an increase of between \$200 and \$300 for every vehicle. As well as the cost of the device and the increased fuel costs, it also leads to a loss of some 8 per cent of power. So three factors are involved, all very much to the detriment of the motor vehicle user.

However, a far more serious factor that occurs mainly in the hotter, drier climates is that cars have difficulty in operating at all. I am aware of at least one new motor vehicle that simply stopped in mid-flight, as it were, as a result of an emission control device. So an altogether different problem is involved. I discussed this extensively with a couple of motor dealers in my area, who say it is quite common with all new makes of vehicles carrying these devices; the cars simply don't work. I had very lengthy discussions with Mr. Peter Field, who has for some 30 years been in charge of all plant under the control of the Julia Creek Shire Council. It is his considered opinion as an engineer with the council that the new vehicles with emission control devices fitted simply do not work or, when they do, they operate at a very reduced

efficiency. It is an appalling state of affairs that machinery is working so badly as a result of emission control devices in an area as sparsely populated as Julia Creek.

I have listed a whole range of reasons why these emission control devices should be removed. Some may ask the question "What about in Brisbane?" Well, let us grant permission for the removal of emission control devices from cars registered outside the south-eastern corner or outside the metropolitan and Gold Coast areas. To my mind, that would entirely overcome the objections put forward. Provincial towns and cities might like to have them remain, and that could be done quite easily. Therefore I would envisage that full permission be given for the removal of emission control devices from cars registered outside specified city areas.

People in the country have been very, very patient with the introduction of rail electrification in Brisbane. We think that is a step in the right direction, although we know that it means that a great deal of money is being spent in Brisbane instead of in our areas. We have accepted that. We are very pleased to see that it will cut down on the use of fuel throughout Queensland, which is extremely important. We have been patient in this respect and I ask people to accept this small change that we are requesting.

I shall leave that issue and move to another—bottle returns and compulsory bottle deposits. I pay some tribute to the very hard work done by the honourable member for Salisbury, who chairs a committee on this matter, and I congratulate the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs for having raised the matter originally in the party room.

A can, such as a beverage can or a soft-drink can, costs 8c to 12c, so that a person buying a soft drink or a can of beer pays an additional 8c to 12c for the container. Typically in Queensland, I regret to say, they are non-returnable, so they are thrown away. Therefore, a cost-inflation factor of that amount is built into the price of every beverage. In the case of the small bottle of soft drink, the bottle represents one-third of the cost. It is an inflationary item built into the system. Automatically, if compulsory bottle returns are introduced, we would reduce the cost of beverages by a significant amount. In the case of soft drinks, it would be some 30 per cent.

The spin-off problem is cleaning up the great Australian ugliness. I do not know about other areas, but it is difficult to go to any recreation area in my electorate without finding it littered with half-rusted cans. If a person stepped on a can, particularly a rusted one, he could be badly cut or infected by disease. There is a similar danger with glass bottles, which are littered everywhere. By adopting my suggestion we would clean up our recreation areas and the State of Queensland.

The younger set of the C.W.A., I think it is, cleans up the three miles of highway on each side of Charters Towers every year. They pick up 6,000 bottles and cans on those six miles of highway close to a fairly small provincial city.

Mr. Davis: You said this 12 months ago. It's the same speech.

Mr. KATTER: I have not scored with it. I am saying it again and shall continue to do so until we achieve some changes. The French Revolution took 300 years; we are going along quietly.

We are making the user pay. It is not right that the average person has to pay to have these bottles and cans picked up, and thereby subsidise the consumer of the beverages. I do not see why the remainder of the State has to subsidise the soft-drink consumer, as I am, or the beer drinker to that extent.

Although that is important, the really important factor is that the local authorities to whom I have spoken said that one-third of their garbage is bottles and cans that have been beverage containers. If we can eliminate them from the garbage system we will be cutting down garbage-disposal costs by up to one-third. Surely that would be a huge saving to local authorities. As I understand it, the committee headed by the honourable member for Salisbury has had very strong support from all local authorities in Queensland.

The return of containers could save energy in an area where energy is becoming very costly and short. We are running out of fossil fuels. The cost of producing bottles and cans is extremely high. This suggestion would build a tremendous saving of energy into the system.

One small aspect that I should like to emphasise is that small soft-drink manufacturers in Queensland, particularly those outside the inner metropolitan area, are slowly being pushed out of existence. A number of factors operate.

Only yesterday I learned of one major factor. It is an anomaly in the imposition of sales tax. Basically, the large companies are organised so that they pay sales tax on a very small proportion of the cost of production, whereas the small country producer, who does not have sophisticated accounting expertise at his disposal, does not know this and has to pay sales tax on the total costs involved in his business.

If that is not bad enough—the cost of transporting a soft-drink bottle from A.C.I. in Brisbane to the North doubles the cost of the bottle, and the manufacturers there have to pay sales tax on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 28 August, the time allotted for the debate on Matters of Public Interest has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.