

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 6 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:—

Orders in Council under the Racing and Betting Act 1954–1978.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT****DEVELOPMENT OF CARINDALE ESTATE; S.G.I.O. INVOLVEMENT**

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (11.2 a.m.): On Thursday last, the honourable member for Chatsworth made certain allegations in the House on the involvement of S.G.I.O. in the development of the Carindale Estate. Ordinarily, it is not the practice to disclose details of confidential business negotiations between the office and its clients; but, as the honourable member's allegations are such a mixture of fact and fiction, I feel constrained to make certain observations.

In the first place, he accuses the office of giving misleading information to the Brisbane City Council. This is absolute nonsense. The fact is that the office was negotiating to acquire the remaining 50 per cent interest in the estate from Finance Corporation of Australia.

There were certain agreements which existed between Finance Corporation of Australia and the Brisbane City Council for the development of the estate and a bond had been given by F.C.A. to the council in support of these agreements. It was fundamental to the negotiations that the office should know that it could obtain council consent to any new arrangement which may result in releasing F.C.A. from its obligations. Indeed, the negotiations between the office and Finance Corporation of Australia could not be further advanced without knowledge that such consent would be forthcoming if the deal were consummated.

The position was explained to the council and its consent sought. The agreement to consummate the sale of the remaining 50 per cent of the estate to the office was resolved only on Friday last. To suggest that the council was not aware of the position and that it was misled is so much poppycock. Apparently, the person receiving misleading information is the honourable member.

I do not propose to deal with the honourable member's other inaccurate assertions at length, but there are some observations I should make. For the purposes of his

allegations, he assumes the purchase price of the remaining 50 per cent of the estate was \$6,000,000. In fact, the price was little more than half that figure.

He brings in capital investment in a major shopping centre, the construction of which by the office is now nearing completion. He chooses to ignore the fact that the centre is totally let—not partly let—including a major area to Woolworths Ltd., on terms and conditions which will give an attractive return to the office and which have good potential for the future. He seems to confuse the value of raw land in rural surrounds and the value of that land zoned by council for residential and business purposes. In his exercise, he also seems to ignore expenditure by subdividers on investigation, surveys and planning and in seeking and obtaining council approvals. He also overlooks the subdivider's outlay in the provision of essential services such as roads, drainage, water and sewerage and, of course, the holding charges incurred.

As I have said, I do not intend to correct all of the mistakes and misunderstandings of the honourable member. However, I could perhaps give one further example of the inaccuracies throughout this statement.

The honourable member has estimated a purchase price of \$6,666 per undeveloped block; the real figure is less than two-thirds of this. I could go on; but what is apparent is that the honourable member persists in failing to distinguish the prices of raw land and developed land; in other words, he is comparing apples with oranges.

Might I remind the House that S.G.I.O. investment opportunities are examined and approved by an independent and well-qualified board with the interests of policy-holders very much at heart. In all the dealings in this matter, the board sought and obtained expert advice from an independent consulting organisation well qualified in this field. The Carindale development is one of very high standard and one of which the city can be proud.

What is also clear is that the public is far more knowledgeable about land values than the honourable member. The high demand from the buying public for land and houses at Carindale is evidence of this. Obviously, the advantages of living at Carindale outweigh the disadvantage of being represented in this place by the honourable member. The office is well satisfied with its investment and its potential benefit to its policy-holders.

Why the honourable member should continue to endeavour to knock development in his electorate is a mystery to me. One can only conclude that his continual denigration of this development is aimed at preventing an increase in a non-Labor vote in his very marginal seat.

**FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL**

INITIATION

**Hon. I. J. GIBBS** (Albert—Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation): 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 Fauna Conservation Act 1974–1976 in a certain particular.”

Motion agreed to.

**COMMITTEE OF SUBORDINATE  
LEGISLATION**

**Mr. McKECHNIE** (Carnarvon): I move—

“(1) That this House do appoint a committee to be called the Committee of Subordinate Legislation.

(2) That the committee shall consist of seven members.

(3) That the committee consist of Messrs. Bertoni, Fouras, Gygar, K. J. Hooper, Lester, Scassola and the mover.

(4) That it shall be the duty of the committee to consider all regulations, rules, by-laws, ordinances, Orders in Council or proclamations (hereinafter referred to as ‘the regulations’) which under any Act are required to be laid on the table of this House, and which are subject to disallowance by resolution.

If the regulations are made whilst the House is sitting, the committee shall consider the regulations before the end of the period during which any motion for disallowance of those regulations may be moved in the House.

If the regulations are made whilst the House is not sitting the committee shall consider the regulations as soon as conveniently may be after the making thereof.

(5) The committee shall, with respect to the regulations, consider—

(a) whether the regulations are in accord with the general objects of the Act pursuant to which they are made;

(b) whether the regulations trespass unduly on rights previously established by law;

(c) whether the regulations contain matter which in the opinion of the committee should properly be dealt with in an Act of Parliament;

(d) whether for any special reason the form or purport of the regulations calls for elucidation;

(e) whether the regulations unduly make rights dependent upon administrative and not upon judicial decisions.

(6) If the committee is of the opinion that any of the regulations ought to be disallowed—

(a) it shall report that opinion and the grounds thereof to the House before the end of the period during which any motion for disallowance of those regulations may be moved in the House;

(b) if the House is not sitting, it may report its opinion and the grounds thereof to the authority by which the regulations were made.

(7) If the committee is of the opinion that any other matter relating to any of the regulations should be brought to the notice of the House, it may report that opinion and matter to the House.

(8) A report of the committee shall be presented to the House in writing by a member of the committee nominated for that purpose by the committee.

(9) The permanent head of the relevant department shall forthwith upon any regulation, which is required to be tabled in Parliament, being approved by the Governor in Council, forward sufficient copies to the Clerk of the Parliament for the use of the members of the committee.

(10) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, provided that a Minister or members 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 against the public interest to disclose.

(11) The committee shall have power to act and, subject to paragraph (10), to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses whether the House is sitting or not.

(12) The proceedings of the committee shall, except wherein otherwise ordered, be regulated by the Standing Orders and Rules of the Legislative Assembly relating to Select Committees.”

Motion agreed to.

**QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE**

1. **PLATFORM LIGHTS, THOMAS STREET RAILWAY STATION, IPSWICH**

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

With reference to the installation of platform lights on the Thomas Street Station, Ipswich—

(1) When did work commence?

(2) When did work cease and what was the reason?

(3) How much has been spent on the project?

(4) How much is the project expected to cost?

(5) When will work recommence and when will the project be completed?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 5) As a machine was available in the area and some material assembled, work was commenced in April of this year. With the availability of the balance of the material and the expected provision of a property pole and the required power supply by the electricity authority, it is planned to recommence the work on 17 September. The project will take approximately three weeks to complete. A total expenditure of \$1,750 is involved.

2. SUPPLY OF OVERALLS FOR RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

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

With reference to supply and delivery of combination overalls this year to Queensland Railways—

(1) Who were the tenderers and what were the details of their quotes?

(2) Who won the contract and what were the terms?

(3) How many overalls were ordered and what were the quality requirements laid down by his department?

(4) Were other tenders of a lower price submitted and, if so, what were the reasons for their rejection?

(5) What are the details of the "Government preference to local manufacturers", which applied to this contract?

*Answers:—*

(1) There were seven tenderers with prices ranging from \$10.75 to \$15.25. For the honourable member's information, I will forward to him a full schedule of the tenders with their respective prices.

(2) Hardie Trading Ltd., the only Queensland manufacturer to tender, at \$13.70 per overall.

(3) This is a period contract under which individual departments order directly on the supplier as requirements arise. It is expected that approximately 12,000 overalls will be supplied under the contract. The tender called for garments to be pre-shrunk by an approved method and required firms to submit samples, together with a one-metre sample of the material used in manufacture, for Government Chemical Laboratory test.

(4) There were two lower tenderers whose samples, when tested at the Government Chemical Laboratory, did not meet

the specification. One other tender from interstate was passed over after preference for Queensland manufacture was applied.

(5) The normal preference to Queensland-manufactured goods as outlined in Treasury Form 302.

3. USE OF GENERAL PURPOSE AREA, EXECUTIVE BUILDING

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

With reference to the 15th floor general purpose area of the Executive Building—

(1) Which organisations, groups and individuals are permitted to use this area and what terms or rules apply?

(2) What are the fees for its use?

(3) What are the catering fees?

(4) What were the hiring charges and catering fees for the lecture titled "Health Hazards of Not Going Nuclear" held at this venue?

(5) Who hired the venue and paid the bill for this function?

*Answers:—*

(1) This area is made available for special ministerial or Public Service functions.

(2 to 4) No hiring charge is made. However, a service charge is made if the function extends beyond 8 p.m. For the function in question the usual service fee of \$30 was charged.

The catering company which conducts the cafeteria in the building has sole rights for all catering and the convenor of the function must make all catering arrangements direct with the manageress of the cafeteria.

(5) The Premier's Department.

4. CHILD RESTRAINTS IN MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) With reference to his answer to my question of 30 August, is he aware that the T.A.R.U. report quoted by him also stated that the publicity campaign had no effect on the usage rate of child restraints during the survey period?

(2) How will his publicity campaign differ from that used in New South Wales?

(3) What further evidence does he have that may suggest that a publicity campaign would be more effective in this State than in other States?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) Yes, but the same report said, and I quote from pages 4 and 5 of its summary and conclusions—

"Because coercion succeeded in increasing adult restraint use where persuasion had failed, it is tempting to

assume the same will occur for children. However, the major reasons for the poor occupant protection experienced by young children at the end of 1975 would appear to be quite different from those underlying adult resistance to seat belt use in New South Wales prior to the introduction of the mandatory use law. In the light of findings from the present survey it can be argued that such legislation may have a limited effect on the overall problem, or if stringently enforced, may cause distress to children and parents who are already concerned for their child's safety. It is important that legal solutions are not the only ones sought.

The present survey has demonstrated a clear need for—

- (1) educational programmes to overcome ignorance, directed in particular towards the lower socio-economic areas of the community where young children were found to be especially poorly protected, and
- (2) improvements in the design of restraints to overcome usage problems, in particular those experienced by children once they are out of child seats, and into harnesses and seat belts.

These measures are likely to produce an increase in the voluntary use of restraints for children. This, in the long term, is the most desirable goal, since a high level of protection for children can then be sustained regardless of levels of surveillance or enforcement."

I do not think that what we are doing to date is inconsistent with these findings or the New South Wales publicity campaigns; but it is a commonsense approach not depending solely on an advertising campaign for its effectiveness, but rather using all available means, including field operations of the Queensland Road Safety Council, to get the message across to the public at large.

#### 5. SAFETY LIGHTING OF RAILWAY GOODS WAGONS

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

(1) In view of his responsibility for railways and road safety, why is the Railway Department permitted to operate goods trains without adequate safety lighting on goods carriages?

(2) Why have the continuing fatalities caused by this serious omission not caused the department to face the responsibility of installing lighting and reflectors upon these goods wagons, which constitute a horrible and continuous risk on level crossings in country areas?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) I reject the honourable member's sweeping assertion in regard to level-crossing fatalities, and, as the two mishaps that have prompted his question could be the subject of litigation, I am constrained from making detailed comment.

On the specific point raised by the honourable member, I would explain that proposals to fit reflectorised material on railway wagons have been extensively investigated by the Queensland and other Australian railway systems, but because of practical and legal implications these systems unanimously decided against the adoption of the proposal.

The reflectorised strip, if fitted, would need constant attention to maintain it in a fixed condition, clean from dust and grime and replacement when the reflectorised content of the material deteriorated. The material would also have to be located on all types of wagons in such a way that visibility would not be impaired by the presence of tarpaulins or fastenings. The use of such material would also introduce a degree of unsafe railway operations due to the conflict of the illumination of the reflectorised material with signal lights especially in shunting yards and on curved multiple tracks.

Level crossings are provided with varying types of warning devices. This provision, coupled with the fact that the headlights of locomotives are in the on position and the klaxon horn sounded when trains approach crossings should alert motorists to be cautious and presuppose the presence of a train.

#### 6. TRADE RESTRAINT AND PRICE-FIXING IN BREAD INDUSTRY

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

(1) Is he aware that the Trade Practices Commission has initiated court action against five companies and three executives over alleged agreements concerning restraint of trade and price-fixing, that three of the companies concerned are Allied Mills, George Weston Foods and Fielders Gillespie, and that the three executives involved are from Allied Mills and Fielders Gillespie?

(2) Is he aware that the companies mentioned operate the three plant bakeries in Brisbane, marketing bread under the brand names of Country Style, Tip Top and Cobbity Farm, and that these three bakeries are currently supplying bread baked in Brisbane north to Bundaberg, Maryborough and Gympie, west to Toowoomba, Dalby and Chinchilla and south to Warwick, Stanthorpe and Wallangarra, in a manner that is destroying the local industry and has already caused a number of bakeries to close fully, with many persons being put out of work in these non-metropolitan areas?

(3) Will he take action to ensure that Government practices on decentralised industry be translated into action to protect people and jobs in non-metropolitan areas, and will he recommend to the Government that a non-metropolitan zone be created in the bread industry and that it be illegal for metropolitan baked bread to be unfairly sold in that zone?

Answers:—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

(3) The Government has already acted to establish a Bread Industry Committee to bring some sanity into the bread industry. I have just received certain recommendations from this committee and these are currently under consideration. Until a decision has been made on these recommendations, I am not prepared even to consider the proposition put forward by the honourable member.

#### 7. SOIL STABILITY PROBLEMS; RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE AND NOTATION ON DEEDS

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

(1) With reference to the recent tragedy in Dunedin, New Zealand, what legal responsibility falls upon relevant local bodies in Queensland if a similar slide occurs here?

(2) Is it possible to amend the Local Government Act to provide for notations to be made on land deeds, recording reservations or concerns held by local authorities with regard to sewerage requirements or soil stability problems of specific blocks of land?

Answers:—

(1) This question seeks a legal opinion, and is therefore not one that I can or should answer here. Any question of legal responsibility would be dependent upon the particular circumstances of each case.

(2) Any question regarding notations on land titles would need to be referred to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

So far as the Local Government Act is concerned, I consider that the problem is adequately dealt with. The local authority, when approving a building application, has a responsibility for ensuring that the structural stability of the building is sound. This means that if it is known that the land upon which the building is to be constructed is in any way doubtful, site investigations may be required and an engineer's certificate obtained to certify that the foundations are satisfactory.

Where a local authority receives an application for the subdivision of land, the local authority concerned is required to satisfy itself as to whether or not the land is fit to be used for the stated purpose. Where there is any doubt on the part of the local authority concerning the stability of the land the subject of the application, the local authority is required to determine that the lands in question, if subdivided, will provide a safe construction site for the proposed development.

Further, section 32A of the Local Government Act requires a local authority, before the granting of its approval, consent, permission or authority to an application under the Local Government Act or any other Act, to have regard to any deleterious effect or impact which the granting of such an application may occasion.

With regard to the rezoning of land, which is usually a prerequisite to the subdivision of land, the requirements relating to environmental impact apply. But, in addition, not only is the application viewed and assessed by the local authority but the final decision rests with the Governor in Council who decides such application having regard to independent advice tendered by officers of the Town Planning Branch of the Department of Local Government and other advice as may be necessary.

Having regard to the foregoing, I consider that it is important for local authorities to identify landslip areas. However, notations on title deeds relating to soil stability problems do not appear to me to be either desirable or administratively practicable.

The reference to sewerage requirement is not really understood. The requirement for sewerage would be determinable in accordance with the relevant Acts, subordinate legislation and local authority policies from time to time. It could not very well be noted on land titles.

#### 8. HOUSING COMMISSION EVICTIONS AND RENTAL ACCOMMODATION APPLICATIONS

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

(1) How many tenants were evicted by the Queensland Housing Commission in 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79?

(2) In 1978-79 (a) how many tenants were evicted each month and (b) what was the reason for each eviction?

(3) How many applications are held by the commission for rental accommodation?

(4) How many applications were held at 30 June 1979, 30 June 1978 and 30 June 1977 for rental accommodation?

(5) In 1978-79 how many applicants for rental accommodation were housed by the commission?

Answers:—

(1) 1976-7, 8; 1977-8, 6; 1978-9, 8.

(2) (a) July 1978, 1; January 1979, 2; February 1979, 3; March 1979, 1; June 1979, 1. (b) Arrears or non-payment of rent.

(3) At 30-6-79—Families with priority, 989; Families adequately housed, 2,000; Pensioners, 1,047.

(4)—

	30-6-79	30-6-78	30-6-77
Families	2,989	3,493	5,838
Pensioners	1,047	1,107	1,376

(5) Families, 3,213; Pensioners, 180.

9. MYER REALTY

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

(1) Is the firm Myer Realty registered as a building company with the Builders' Registration Board?

(2) If so, what is the registration number?

(3) Who is the nominated registered builder for the company and what is his registration number?

(4) How many complaints have been lodged with the Builders' Registration Board against Myer Realty or its nominated builder?

(5) What actions have resulted from these complaints?

(6) Has a Mr. Mike Jacobs of 14 Ballynde Street, Bracken Ridge, lodged a complaint against Myer Realty with the Builders' Registration Board in connection with a house built by Myer Realty at 14 Ballynde Street, Bracken Ridge?

(7) What action has the Builders' Registration Board taken as a result of this complaint?

(8) Who was the registered builder responsible for this job and what is his registration number?

(9) Have any other complaints been received by the Builders' Registration Board against this builder?

(10) If so, what actions have resulted from the complaints?

Answer:—

(1 to 10) As usual, the honourable member has based his question on incorrect facts. Myer Realty is not registered with either the Builders' Registration Board or the House-builders' Registration Board. However, because of the location mentioned in (6), the honourable member may be referring to Myer Homes, which is registered as both a housebuilder and a commercial builder.

On 20 August 1979, the board received a complaint from a Mr. K. J. Butler of 14 Ballynde Street, Bracken Ridge, regarding a house constructed by Myer Homes.

On 23 August 1979, a board inspector visited the dwelling and, after consultation with the builder, arrangements were made for rectification to be carried out. The builder was to carry out rectification on Saturday, 1 September 1979. The work will be reinspected by the board's inspector at an early date.

10. AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC OF QUEENSLAND ACTS

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

(1) How many copies of Acts of the Queensland Parliament are presently unavailable from the Government Printer?

(2) What are the titles of these Acts and how long has each Act been out of print?

(3) Who has the responsibility for ensuring that Acts of the Queensland Parliament are available to the public?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The titles of Acts most commonly requested and the period of time out of print are—

Medical Act—main part—six months;

Firearms Act—five years;

Censorship of Films Act—one month.

The Cemetery Act, the Intestacy Act and the Native Plants Protection Act have been out of print for some time but are in the process of being reprinted and will be available shortly. The Medical Act is being referred to the Health Department for consolidation. I would add that there are hundreds of Acts on the statute-book, many of which were passed by the Parliament years ago. Consequently, it is not feasible to quote an all-embracing list which would include Acts for which there is virtually no demand.

The Government Printer has the responsibility for keeping stocks of Acts for sale to the public. Where an Act has numerous amendments, the responsibility for consolidation is in the hands of the department administering the particular Act.

The Government has appointed an inter-departmental committee to give consideration to the whole matter raised by the honourable member. It is expected that the committee will shortly be submitting its recommendations.

If the honourable member has some particular complaint, he might let me know the details so that it can receive consideration.

11. PRE-SCHOOL, GOOMBUNGEE

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

What is the estimated commencement date of the State pre-school at Goombungee?

*Answer:—*

Provisional plans are for the establishment of an Early Education class at Goombungee during the current financial year. The commencement date cannot be indicated until Budget details are known.

12. PRIORITY LANES FOR COMMUTER VEHICLES

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

In view of the world fuel shortage, will he investigate the possibility of using priority lanes for vehicles used for commuting to work in the city that carry three or more persons, as this will encourage the pooling of car usage?

*Answer:—*

The establishment of priority lanes for public passenger transport vehicles in Brisbane has been investigated. Some proposals have already been implemented and action to implement others has been taken. The use of such lanes by private motor vehicles carrying three or more persons will be kept under review having regard to public transport requirements.

13. CHILD ABUSE

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

(1) Has legislation passed in this Parliament to deter the dreadful practice of child-bashing and battering in this State not been fully implemented and, if so, when will it be implemented, and will it be done before the end of the International Year of the Child?

(2) Is child abuse increasing in Australia?

(3) What is Queensland's rate of child abuse compared with other countries and States?

(4) Will further moves be initiated to ensure that additional areas of abuse, for example, lack of proper nourishment, are reported to authorities?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) The amendment to the Health Act providing for mandatory reporting by medical practitioners to the Director-General of Health and Medical Services of any incident of child abuse has not yet been proclaimed. The detailed procedures involved are being finalised by my department's Co-ordinating Committee on Child Abuse and the Act will be proclaimed on completion of the necessary procedures.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of suspected child abuse treated at the metropolitan children's hospitals, and I understand cases of suspected child abuse have also been reported to the Department

of Children's Services. Information concerning these notifications could be obtained from my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Welfare.

14. SELF-GENERATING BATTERY RESEARCH

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

(1) Have further recent investigations been successful in producing a self-generating battery?

(2) With the advent of electronics and computers and the desperate need to seek alternatives to petrol and diesel fuel, will further research be undertaken?

*Answers:—*

(1) Some work has been carried out in the United States of America on the development of a fuel cell that will convert various hydrocarbons into electricity.

(2) Any developments in this field will be closely watched.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ESSENTIAL SERVICES BILL

Mr. CASEY: I seek your ruling, Mr. Speaker, in respect of questions concerning the Essential Services Bill. As it was conceived by the Premier, belongs to Labour Relations, and was introduced by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, to whom should questions on the matter be directed?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I suggest that the honourable gentleman ask them of the Minister who introduced the Bill.

Mr. CASEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I draw the attention of the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads to clause 3 of the Essential Services Bill, headed "Interpretation", subsection (1) (a) of which lists as an essential service—

"public transportation of persons or freight other than taxi-cab services"

and the subsequent powers of proclamation of an emergency, direction, prohibition and requisition, and ask: Is it a fact that under these extreme powers, in the event of a declaration of emergency by the Governor in Council, on Cabinet advice, in relation to a possible dispute in the private bus transport industry—companies such as Pioneer, Greyhound and Skennars, to name but three—the Minister nominated in the proclamation could—

(1) Requisition such buses and equipment and purchase such supplies as he deems necessary for the operation, provision or maintenance of the services?

**Mr. LANE:** I rise to a point of order. Would it be possible for the Leader of the Opposition to raise his voice slightly and not mumble when he is asking a question? We would like to hear the question.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition increase his volume.

**Mr. CASEY:** It is the amplification system. Honourable Members interjected.

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

**Mr. CASEY:** I come to the second point. I think the Minister got the first point all right. To continue—could the Minister—

(2) Terminate the employment of workers of those private companies who do not comply with his instructions and import strike-breaking squads of conscripted Government employees, possibly police, to keep the service functioning?

(3) Does section 6, subsection (4), provide that any debts incurred by the Government in these activities of requisition of private property, entry into private premises, purchase of goods and strike breaking will be recovered from the persons for whose benefit they were performed, namely, in the examples I have mentioned the management of the private bus companies concerned?

**Mr. LICKISS:** I rise to a point of order. I seek your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on questioning on a matter that is currently before the Assembly in the form of legislation.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr. CASEY:** Will the things that I have mentioned be the responsibility of the Minister, and will they be taken over from, say, the management of the private bus companies concerned?

**Mr. HINZE:** I did not see last night's programme that is referred to in Queensland as TDT. People who did see it gave me the impression that the Leader of the Opposition made a damn fool of himself. It is quite obvious that I do not intend to assist him in any way whatsoever to get out of trouble. It is obvious that he does not know much about the Bill. He should, as it has been tabled in this Parliament and I gave an indication that it is the Government's intention to allow it to lie on the table to give all parties ample time to consider it before the second reading. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition take cognisance of what I said on that occasion. He should have a good look at the Bill before he trots out any further stupid questions.

#### APPOINTMENT OF QUEENSLAND AGENT-GENERAL IN LONDON

**Mr. CASEY:** As it appears that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads will not answer any questions on this matter,

I will direct a question without notice to the Premier. I preface it by referring to the position of Queensland Agent-General in London, his discussions in Britain recently about the appointment, the announcement by the honourable member for Mirani in Mackay recently that he would be appointed, his subsequent resignation from Cabinet, and now this morning's newspaper report that he has again nominated for National Party selection as the candidate for Mirani at the next election. I ask the Premier: In view of this confusion, what is the situation with the Agent-General's position? Is Sir Wallace Rae to finish his term next year, as planned, and is the honourable member for Mirani to be his replacement in line with his announcement in Mackay? Or has the honourable member for Mirani, since stepping down from Cabinet, been double-crossed by him and Sir Robert Sparkes?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I am surprised that the honourable gentleman should ask such a foolish question. Surely he ought to know that the Government does not announce its intentions beforehand in respect of this or any other appointment. The announcement is made at the appropriate time. I am sorry that I have to disappoint the honourable gentleman. He has no hope in the world of getting the position.

#### ESSENTIAL SERVICES BILL

**Mr. CASEY:** In view of your earlier ruling, Mr. Speaker, I will direct a further question without notice to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: Is he aware that the Essential Services Bill was reprinted again, with changes, at the Government Printing Office yesterday morning after it had passed the first-reading stage in this Parliament? In view of the very serious concern of Queenslanders about this Bill, will he report to this Parliament what alterations or corrections were made secretly to the legislation after it had passed the first-reading stage?

**Mr. HINZE:** I am not aware of the alterations to which the Leader of the Opposition refers.

#### THREATENED RESIGNATION BY MR. EDGAR WILLIAMS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT BOARDS

**Mr. WARNER:** I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to a report in this morning's Press in which the A.W.U. State Secretary, Mr. Edgar Williams, is reported as threatening to resign from three State Government boards in protest against the Essential Services Bill introduced into this Parliament? Does the Premier see this response from Mr. Williams to legislation approved in this Chamber at the introductory stage by 40 votes to 22 as a responsible action in the best interests of his union members and industrial conciliation and harmony?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I saw the article in this morning's Press concerning the proposed resignation by Mr. Williams from the various positions he holds in certain Government areas. I was surprised that he should act in this more or less childish way, cutting off his nose to spite his face, because the only people affected or hurt will be Mr. Williams and the unions he represents. No doubt he has to take this action to side with the militant union people at the Trades Hall with whom he associates. Of course, he is very easily replaceable. It does not concern the Government one iota whether or not Mr. Edgar Williams is on any of these boards. If he wants to act in that way, that is his right and he is free so to do. But, as I said, he is showing what a small-minded attitude he can adopt. He is also admitting quite freely that he does not believe in arbitration or in abiding by the decisions of the Arbitration Commission.

He cannot have it both ways. He has to either accept the Arbitration Commission's decisions, or support unions that seek to violate the commission's decisions. The essential services legislation against which he is protesting is not designed to replace the Arbitration Commission; it is to strengthen and support the arbitration system and the commission's judgments. Obviously he no longer supports them.

#### IWASAKI TOURIST PROJECT

**Mr. HARTWIG:** I ask the Premier: Can he inform the House of the planned development at Yeppoon by Iwasaki Sangyo Co., sanctioned by a franchise agreement that was passed by this House, as local people are concerned at the delay in commencement of the project?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I am not closely associated with what is happening, other than through the Co-ordinator-General, who of course is in close contact with Mr. Iwasaki and his organisation. I do know that there has been a lot of activity up there. There have been a lot of discussions, planning, applications and one thing and another. I believe that in the very near future Mr. Iwasaki will call tenders for some of the building. That is the latest information I have from a representative of his group.

Mr. Iwasaki is a man who in a project of this magnitude would give careful consideration to all aspects. He has undertaken a tremendous project. The provision of water, roads, electricity and so on are required. There is nothing there now. Consequently, a great deal of planning, organisation and funding is required. I am sure that Mr. Iwasaki will carry out his obligations very satisfactorily. There is no doubt in my mind about that.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MR. JOHN DUCKER TO NEW SOUTH WALES PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

**Mr. NEAL:** I ask the Premier: Did he see the story in yesterday's Press confirming the appointment by the Wran Labor Government of the New South Wales Labor trade-unionist Mr. John Ducker to the Public Service Board in that State? In view of the Labor Government's past performance in whining about jobs for the boys handed out by non-Labor Governments, both State and Federal, how does the Premier view this development?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** In some respects, I was not at all surprised when I read that announcement by Mr. Wran. He tried to justify the appointment in preference to 34 other applicants for the position from within the Government. It shows the typical disregard of the Labor Premier of New South Wales. He is like Mr. Whitlam and his Ministers, who appointed people from outside, right, left and centre, to very important and key positions. They had absolutely no regard or respect for anyone within the Public Service. That was demonstrated in Canberra and has been demonstrated by Mr. Wran in the appointment of Mr. Ducker. I leave his attitude and action to the people's judgment.

**Mr. Casey:** What about Allen Callagan?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** He was in Government employment whereas Mr. Ducker was a union organiser. As such, he could play a very important role in doing exactly what Mr. Wran wants him to do in the Public Service. That is why he was appointed.

#### COMMONWEALTH FUNDS FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. SIMPSON:** I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs: In view of the number of Aborigines in Queensland compared with the numbers in the other States, how has Queensland fared out of the Commonwealth Government's Budget announcement of \$125,000,000 to be spent on Aboriginal affairs in 1979-80?

**Mr. PORTER:** As usual, Queensland has fared very badly, in that out of its share of the \$125,000,000 total Federal funding, 20 per cent will go through State Government agencies and 14 per cent is earmarked to go direct through Commonwealth agencies and indigenous groups. So there is 20 per cent in one category and 14 per cent in the other.

On an overall basis, Queensland has been allocated only 11.9 per cent of total funds yet, on the census figures, Queensland has close on 40 per cent of the indigenous population of Australia. In fact, the Queensland share of Commonwealth spending in this field has been declining steadily over the past six years. If one was unkind, one might suggest that this discrimination is because Queensland has quite steadfastly

refused to yield to the quite extraordinary, in my view, Commonwealth policy requirements.

I might mention, and I am sure the House will be interested, that, of the \$125,000,000 the Commonwealth is spending this year, only 16 per cent is being spent through the agencies of the various State Governments, where spending can be checked and audited, so that some 84 per cent, or over \$100,000,000, is being spent through groups and agencies that are not subject to the same rigid controls and that are certainly not susceptible to the same type of audit or, indeed, in most of them, any audit at all. At the recent meeting of Aboriginal Ministers from the various States in Adelaide, every Minister, whether from a Liberal, coalition or Labor Government, roundly condemned this practice as being extremely wasteful and of very doubtful value to the people whom the funding was supposed to assist.

#### A.B.C. BROADCASTS OF RACE MEETINGS

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, who is the Minister in charge of racing: Has the Totalisator Administration Board made any approach to the Australian Broadcasting Commission for its co-operation in the broadcasting of race meetings covered by or desired to be covered by the T.A.B. and, if so, with what result? If not, will the Minister advise the T.A.B. to open negotiations with the A.B.C.?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I am unaware of any proposals that they may have been discussed between the two agencies, but I will have investigations made and will certainly support any discussion between the two parties.

#### ESSENTIAL SERVICES BILL

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I refer the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads to the Essential Services Bill and ask: Which organisations, employer or union, apart from the Queensland Confederation of Industry and the Metal Trades Industry Association, were consulted in relation to the provisions of the Bill prior to its introduction in Parliament?

**Mr. HINZE:** I am aware that the honourable member is the spokesman for the Opposition on industrial matters, so I shall try to give him a reasonable answer.

Over many months, the Government of this State, through the Premier, has indicated that it proposed to bring to the floor of this Chamber legislation that the people were seeking. There has been considerable input from many quarters, and the organisations to which the honourable member referred would be two that made representations to or had discussions with various Ministers.

The Government has indicated quite clearly that, the Bill having been printed, it intends to allow ample time for consideration of it, and it is obvious from editorials that most

sections of the news media believe that the action being taken by the Government is correct. I have no objection to responsible union representatives making a contribution or forwarding submissions; the invitation is open to them to do so. If they wish to assist Queensland to develop, they may make a contribution. Their representations will, of course, be taken on board, and consideration will be given to them prior to or during the discussion on the second reading of the Bill or on the clauses at the Committee stage.

#### MINISTERIAL EXPENSES OF MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I refer the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads to his ministerial expenses and ask: What criteria does he use for distinguishing between ministerial and departmental expenses? With particular reference to his ministerial expenses, does he distinguish between his separate roles of Minister for Local Government and Minister for Main Roads?

**Mr. HINZE:** I take it that the honourable member is trying to debate the question of ministerial expenses—

**Mr. Yewdale:** Do you want me to repeat the question?

**Mr. HINZE:** No, there is no need to repeat the question.

**Mr. Yewdale:** They are split up between two departments.

**Mr. HINZE:** The honourable member would appreciate that the responsibilities of both my departments are very wide-ranging. There are 134 local authorities in this State whose problems I try to attend to or which I try to visit some time during the year, and about 200 000 km of roads come under my control.

The honourable member asks how the costs are apportioned. They are apportioned according to proposals and directions through the Auditor-General's Department, in consultation with my secretary, and they are open for discussion and consideration. Frankly, I do not think that I could answer the question in any way other than to say that an endeavour is made to allocate to each of the departments what is believed to be a fair cost.

#### DISALLOWANCE OF QUESTION

**Mr. YEWDAL** (Rockhampton North) having asked a question without notice—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I disallow that question. The Premier is not responsible for any decision or statement made by Sir Robert Sparkes.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I rise to a point of order. I draw the attention of the House to the fact that earlier this morning, when answering a question, the Premier made a statement about

Mr. Ducker. If it is reasonable for the Premier to answer a question of that nature, I think it is reasonable for him to answer one such as I have asked.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I have disallowed the question.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I bow to your ruling reluctantly, Mr. Speaker.

At 12 noon,

*In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.*

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—THIRD ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 30 August (see p. 207) on Mr. Hartwig's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. DAVIS** (Brisbane Central) (12.1 p.m.): The Address-in-Reply debate gives one an opportunity to discuss a number of matters of a far-reaching nature without the limitations and restraints that apply to most debates in this Chamber. As a member of the House I never cease to be amazed at the pettiness and double standards of this Government. I will give some examples.

First of all I will deal with the Minister for Education and his department. Earlier this year the Education Department decided to cut down on its free bus trips and free admission to swimming-pools. The previous system worked successfully for many years. The department would fund bus trips and the admissions to various swimming-pools. That assistance was provided over the span of the swimming season from September to April. It would allow students to have 20 half-hour lessons. The department would pay the cost of the bus trip and the admission costs for students and the teachers in charge of them.

The Minister for Education has now completely changed the system. It is now intended to provide 10 one-hour lessons. One does not have to be very bright to see the reason for the cut-backs. It is purely and simply a matter of economics. Only half the amount of transport is required and only half the amount of admission fees has to be paid. Even some National Party members would be able to work that out. If the Minister were honest, he would tell the public that economics was the reason for the change, but in typical Government fashion he issued a Press release assuring parents that no child would be deprived of swimming lessons or lose any swimming-time during the coming season. He went as far as saying that I was a mischief-maker and did not know what I was talking about. He went on to say that the children would derive the same benefit from 10 one-hour lessons.

Any swimming instructor would say that it is the continuity of instruction that makes a pupil learn. How can a child improve its swimming if it swims only in October, November and December and then has no more swimming lessons for nine months? It is discrimination against the smaller and less affluent State, private and convent schools. The Opposition believes that it is the right of all children in Queensland to be taught to swim, not only those children who go to a school with a pool or a school in an affluent area.

Probably there is no Minister in the Chamber who epitomises pettiness more than the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services. No doubt all honourable members each Monday receive a whole heap of outdated Press releases. To indicate how petty and how party-political some Ministers are, particularly the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services, I will give some examples of what we receive. One example of the Minister's childishness and pettiness concerns a firm that is to be established on the Southport industrial estate. In that instance the Minister advised the member for Southport (Mr. White) of what was to happen. Another instance concerns Gladstone, which is represented by my good friend Mr. Prest. On that occasion the Minister advised that a tender was to be called for the construction of a water supply main on the Clinton Estate at Gladstone, but no reference was made to the local member. The next instance concerns south Mackay, in which, again, no reference was made to the local member (Mr. Casey). When the Minister announced a development at Cairns, no reference was made to the member representing the area (Mr. Jones). In the case of the Gympie district, the Minister representing the area (Mr. Hodges) was informed. On an occasion concerning the Beenleigh industrial estate, the local member was informed. These episodes go on and on. I classify the Minister's attitude as petty. When the new Minister for Industry and Administrative Services sends out similar notices, I hope he will not adopt the mean, miserable, petty attitude adopted by some Ministers.

I shall now deal with a matter that the Leader of the Opposition and I have raised in the past few months. Last week, it was again referred to by the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt (Mr. Scassola), who is now known as "Dorothy Dix Scassola".

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** In "The Courier-Mail" this morning he was referred to in an article as "Mrs. Scassola".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will use parliamentary terms when referring to other honourable members in the Chamber.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Will you remember that, Mr. Gibbs?

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** I will, Mr. Davis.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. DAVIS:** Last week the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt addressed a question to Dr. Edwards, which, in brief, was in these terms: Was the State Government planning to introduce a 0.75c a litre tax on motor spirit and a 1.5c a litre tax on automotive distillate in the forthcoming Budget, as was being alleged by the Labor Party in the Redcliffe by-election? In reply, the Treasurer said that he wanted to make it clear in no uncertain terms that there was no chance of the Government's implementing such a proposal in this year's Budget. The Opposition would agree completely that the Treasurer will not be introducing such imposts in the Budget, because I should think that the Budget has already been put together for introduction in this Chamber in a couple of weeks. The Treasurer was very safe in saying that the taxes will not be included in this year's Budget.

Earlier this year we heard much about the dispute concerning road maintenance tax and the blockade of certain roads by the truckies. At that time the Premier gave away \$5,500,000, which meant that Queensland had to find a similar amount in other ways. Since then—it was in May—the Transport Minister said, both inside and outside this Chamber, that he believed a fuel tax would be imposed on motorists and truck drivers in Queensland. In July, at the Australian Transport Advisory Council Conference held at Surfers Paradise, the matter of introducing such a tax was discussed. Our delegates to that conference were the Transport Minister (Mr. Tomkins) and the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads (Mr. Hinze). One of the main items on the agenda concerned the manner in which the State Governments would recoup some of the revenue lost through the abolition of road maintenance tax from 1 July. In the discussion the Western Australian delegate said that his State had already introduced the tax at the rate of 0.75c a litre on petrol and 1.5c a litre on distillate; the Victorian and South Australian delegates said that their Governments would be introducing the taxes; the Tasmanian delegate said that Tasmania would be doing likewise and the New South Wales delegate said that the matter would be discussed further in the light of the possible problem of challenges to the imposition of such a tax based on the fact that it was an excise tax, which the States cannot levy. At the same meeting our Minister (Mr. Hinze) made it clear in no uncertain terms that if New South Wales came into this Queensland would do the same. One would have to believe in fairy tales to think that New South Wales would impose no tax even though Victoria and all the other States had it. After all, the main commerce capital of Australia is Sydney and vehicles from other States are tearing up the roads in New South Wales. Therefore, without preempting Government decisions, I forecast that by the end of this year Queensland will have a fuel tax.

If such collections are based on the revenue gained in other States, the statistics make interesting reading. I will quote some figures from the Australian Petroleum Institute for the Queensland marketing area (which includes part of Northern New South Wales) in the 1977-78 year. The consumption was 2 010 megalitres of super grade petrol, 200 megalitres of standard petrol and 1 287 megalitres of automotive distillate. For the benefit of the uneducated members on the other side, a megalitre is 1 000 000 litres. I thought I would mention that, Mr. Speaker, as it will save them going to the library later.

If the tax is imposed in Queensland on the same basis as operates in the other States, it would give the Queensland Government a windfall of something like \$35,000,000. There would be of the order of \$16,000,000 from petrol and \$19,000,000 from distillate. Therefore, truck operators, who collectively paid \$5,500,000 as their contribution for road maintenance, would now be up for \$9,000,000 or \$10,000,000. So I make this charge: when the Premier took off the \$5,500,000, it was not done on the spur of the moment. I honestly believe he had discussed this with his conservative colleagues in Western Australia and Victoria before he decided to take it off. I make the prediction that we in Queensland will see the imposition by this Government of some form of fuel tax by the end of this year.

**Mr. Kruger:** Giving it out with the little hand and taking it back with the big hand.

**Mr. DAVIS:** That is correct. I agree entirely with the honourable member for Murrumba.

I would now like to deal with the problems confronting railway passengers. As the Opposition's spokesman for transport and railways, I travel by train on a number of occasions. I support the railway system. I made sure that during the recess I used the railways for a number of trips.

**Mr. Bourke:** I'll bet you're usually on the wrong train, too.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Does he think that's a funny interjection, Mr. Speaker? Or would he like to take it back?

This State has not built a suburban coach since 1950. One old-timer I travelled on between Windsor and Ipswich was so old and fragile that it could have been seen in some of the old Gene Autry movies. An old lady next to me said, "There is a strong breeze coming into this compartment. Would you mind shutting the window?" I said, "Not at all." I pulled the window up only to find that there was no pane of glass in it.

**Mr. Bourke:** She must have been very brave to even talk to you.

**Mr. DAVIS:** The honourable member is so lousy that he won't even travel by train on his free pass.

I know that my colleague the member for Lytton is a regular traveller on the trains. He supports the suburban system. He would be well aware of some of these problems.

May I digress for a moment?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member has the floor.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I very much doubt whether we will travel very much on the Redcliffe train if the National Party remains in office.

**Mr. I. J. Gibbs:** You'll get the first ticket.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I remind the Minister that it was the honourable member for Murrumba, I think, who said that it would be a ghost train. That is 100 per cent correct.

In order to open some of the doors on the old carriages, a passenger would need to have the sheer, brute strength of Samson or be in the know and have the combination. One old gentleman went to get off the train at Graceville. Some people might think that I am making these things up but they are 100 per cent correct and have been verified in statutory declarations. This old gentleman tried to get off the train at Graceville. He bungled it so much in the time that the train was at the station that he fluffed the exercise and had to travel all the way to Sherwood. The same thing happened at Wacol. Some of our new arrivals in Australia—Vietnamese youths—

**Mr. McKechnie:** Are you criticising the railway maintenancemen?

**Mr. DAVIS:** It is the whole system. The honourable member should not try to crack one of his League of Rights jokes.

Honourable Members interjected.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I am refusing to take any interjections from the National Party on the grounds of—

**Mr. Prest:** Insanity!

**Mr. DAVIS:** I cannot beat that.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will continue with his speech.

**Mr. Jones:** In reply to the earlier interjection, the maintenancemen in the railway are the fettleers who maintain the permanent way. That shows how much the honourable member knows.

**Mr. DAVIS:** It is a classic example of lack of knowledge among members of the National Party. The honourable member for Carnarvon does not travel on the Queensland Railways.

As I was saying, something similar occurred at Wacol. Some Vietnamese youths, who were not used to the Queensland railway system, tried to get out of the carriage. They panicked so much that

they jumped over four seats, one at a time, and they finally got out as the train was moving off.

The next problem is the late running of trains and the fact that the travelling public are not notified. A couple of days after the other incident, I thought I would make the trip to Lota. I went to the Albion station because I live close to it. I intended to catch what was classified in the programme as the 11.12 a.m. to Lota.

**Mr. Shaw:** That's the Lota Flyer.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Is it?

I arrived at the station at 11 o'clock so that I would be in plenty of time. I waited and I waited and I waited. Finally, at half past 11, I spoke to a member of the staff. I said, "Where's the 11.12 train?" This fellow said, "I'm not too sure." He started madly ringing up and then he said, "I don't know where it is." Finally I caught a train at 12.15. Many other people, too, waited well over an hour for a train that did not come. I still do not know where the 11.12 is. They are only a few incidents but they are happening time and time again and people are complaining bitterly. I am sure that many metropolitan members receive complaints about these matters.

During the Exhibition, the department had a good opportunity to encourage people back to the railways. Even the honourable member for Merthyr made a complaint. He rarely travels by train, but he did on that occasion and he made a complaint about it. Imagine the honourable member's travelling from Hamilton Heights, where he lives, to Central Railway Station to catch a train to the Exhibition! Actually, I do not think that was on.

During the Exhibition, the Railway Department had a grand chance to conduct a public relations exercise. It was the first Exhibition since the opening of the cross-river rail link. With a little expertise, the public would certainly have got a better deal.

The complaints that I have received concern people getting on the train for the Exhibition and being hustled off the train two or three stations later. There were delays after delays. Many people were put off the train at the wrong station after leaving the Exhibition. To the family man, there is nothing worse than waiting round with tired youngsters who have had a good time at the Show. This is the sort of problem that must be overcome. We have shocking coaches and there is complaint after complaint.

That has been this Government's policy on railways ever since it took office in 1957. It bungled the electrification of the railways and the planning for the building of new carriages. As my good friend the honourable member for Cairns, the former spokesman on transport, has said in this Chamber many times, it was only because of the generosity and forward planning of the Federal Labor

Government that money was made available to build the cross-river rail bridge. If that had not occurred, we would still be waiting for the State's railway network to enter the 20th Century. I mentioned the age of one railway carriage in which I have travelled, but I believe there is still in use on the "Sunshine Express" one carriage that is so old that it contains a photograph of the Barron Falls with water trickling down.

**Mr. Jones:** In flood, before they put in the hydro scheme.

**Mr. DAVIS:** That was about 1954.

**Mr. Jones:** It was in the 1930s.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Well, that is how old it is.

I would now like to deal with the Moggill Ferry. My friend and colleague the honourable member for Wolston—

**Mr. Austin:** Why didn't you enlighten us on your policy on railways? Are we going to lose all those jobs?

**Mr. DAVIS:** The honourable member will have his opportunity to speak; he need not worry about that. Last year the Brisbane and Ipswich City Councils decided to call a halt to the operations of the old Moggill Ferry. It was stated at the time that, instead of attempting to replace the ferry, now was the time to plan and build a bridge. The honourable member for Wolston and I have on numerous occasions expressed the need for such a structure, particularly in the electorate of Wolston. I think the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads was in favour of it, but because a handful of people in the Brookfield and adjoining areas held a meeting and decided to approach their local member, who is the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, who then spoke to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, the whole idea of a bridge was scrapped. The people of Brookfield complained that it would interfere with the environment. That is fair enough—none of us likes to see the environment disturbed by new roads and freeways—but do not forget that this same Government did not worry about such disturbances when it began to build the northern freeway from Fortitude Valley to Windsor and resumed 700-odd homes.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** This involved only a handful of people in vast open spaces of land.

**Mr. DAVIS:** The honourable member is 100 per cent correct; that is all it did involve. Nevertheless, the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads decided, after these approaches, to scrap the whole idea of a bridge.

Last year I asked a question about subsidies after approaches were made by the Government to Stradbroke Ferries Pty. Ltd. or some other firm to operate a ferry at Moggill. The ferry finally commenced operations and I eventually received an answer to my question that showed that this Government is paying a subsidy of \$2,900 a week

towards the operation of that ferry. What a scandalous waste of money! I hope National Party members take note of that figure. To save them having to use the calculator in the Parliamentary Library, I have worked out that the subsidy paid to the operator of the Moggill Ferry amounts to \$150,000 a year. At that rate of expenditure it would not take too long to build a bridge. It should not be forgotten that the quickest route to Brisbane from the west is off the Cunningham Highway and down through the Moggill area.

I now want to deal with the oil companies and some of the tactics they adopt. We in the A.L.P. have been very critical of some of them. Even with the price increases imposed by the O.P.E.C. countries, we still see the giant oil companies making huge profits. In other words, they are the vultures of international trade. They have no morals or philosophical ties to stop them. Huge profits are their only need and greed.

Over the last few years, a number of practices have come to the attention of people who are vitally connected with the marketing of petroleum products in this State. I should like to cite a number of examples, and the members who represent country areas should be more than interested in what I say. The Dalby district provides a prime example. Some agents have to abide by the Act (which is Government policy and which I support) which states that where there is a railhead and where it is feasible to do so, all petroleum products should be carted by the railways.

The Wambo Shire Council now has all its bulk-fuel requirements carried direct from Brisbane by road. Obviously, this cosy arrangement was made by the council's chairman and president of the National Party, Mr. Robert Sparkes.

**Mr. McKechnie:** Sir Robert Sparkes.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I am sorry; I do not recognise him in that way.

I shall also quote from some other correspondence that I have received. Over the past few months, a number of firms, such as Pottsville Trucking, Fluid Freights and O'Briens, and other unmarked road tankers have carted a huge amount of bulk fuel by road to this district. There has been a significant increase in the amount that they have carted. Some, or all, of these operators are, as we term it in the petroleum industry, acting as jobbers. They are using the savings made by the use of road rather than rail transport to offer discounts that are far higher than those that can be offered by agents who are dependent on rail tankers. These legitimate agents who have been there for years obviously cannot compete.

Some oil companies seem to be actively encouraging this jobbing work. Because of the price at which these jobbers can sell, they will obtain progressively a greater share of the market. I do not know whether the member who represents the Dalby district, which is close to the League of Rights

country, has received any inquiries on this matter. These operators, however, do pose a very big threat to the viability of the legitimate agents. Also involved is the livelihood of the people these agents employ.

It should be remembered that these outside jobbers usually are after only the big customer. They are not after the small customer, the grazier. They are after only the big buyer who will buy in tanker loads of 5,000 or 6,000 gallons. If the viability of the agents is affected, then the service to the smaller customer must also be affected. As one agent said, they are not opposed to competition; in fact, they enjoy it. They have been successful agents in this area for many years.

However, these jobbers pose a threat that cannot be overcome by traditional methods. The Government must either say that these people must abide by what is Government and Transport Department policy—that is, where there is a railhead petroleum products must be carted by rail—or review the policy and make it an open go. Other firms, such as Luya Julius, are now running through to St. George. Centenary Fuel Supplies are also running to the Dalby area. There are more firms operating in that area now than ever before. Also, this problem concerning outside operators is affecting more people in the suburban areas.

The Transport Workers' Union, with which I have been associated for many years, recently held a meeting of its members engaged in the oil industry.

**Mr. Prest:** A very good union.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member. This union is very concerned about what is occurring not only with the undercutting of road operators but also with selected road operators who seem to be receiving favourable treatment from the oil companies. At this meeting some very interesting situations, and also some dangerous ones, were revealed. Drivers were able to report that small companies were beginning to mushroom in the south-east areas of Queensland, such as the Dalby district.

These operations are condoned by some oil companies, as also are some dubious safety factors. However, I have to be fair about this matter. I have been associated with oil-company drivers. To be quite truthful, the uniforms and trucks provided by oil companies are first class. One cannot point the finger of criticism at them over the way in which they keep their vehicles. However, they are now using the services of independent operators who in many cases do not abide by rule 2016 of the Standards Association of Australia. To save members of the news media in the gallery the trouble of going to the Parliamentary Library, I will tell them that it relates to the dangerous cargo conditions of vehicle safety. One requirement is that the exhaust be completely covered and that there be no open wiring on the prime mover tank.

Again with the assistance of the oil companies, some private operators are using storage tanks on supposedly closed service station sites. When filling their tankers, they pump in contravention of safety regulations. Other than in an emergency, it is completely illegal to use such tanks for storage purposes, but oil companies are doing so in Dalby and other places.

I am aware that inspectors of machinery have been notified, and that the Department of Transport has been informed of the irregular hours and conditions under which drivers are operating.

No honourable member would wish to see a holocaust, with a number of people killed, as a result of a tanker blowing up and then hear someone say, "Heavens! We should have acted on this earlier."

It has been obvious in this Chamber recently that a number of Liberal members of this Assembly are very keen to get into Cabinet; in fact, they are virtually breaking their necks to do so. As I mentioned earlier, the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt continually asks Dorothy Dix questions. The honourable member for Wavell has also been asking Dorothy Dix questions, or otherwise being caught up in—

**Mr. Austin:** You know me better than that. I have never asked a Dorothy Dix question.

**Mr. DAVIS:** If they were not Dorothy Dix questions—

**Mr. Jones:** If he were the Minister for Transport, he would be about the equivalent of a Baby Austin, I think.

**Mr. DAVIS:** He could be a Baby Austin, particularly if he had radial tyres.

I wish to mention a letter that members of the Opposition have received from a disgruntled member of the Liberal Party. Honourable members opposite may have thought that they could keep it from us, but I have here a letter from the present Minister for Industry and Administrative Services. Even though he says in the letter that Dr. Edwards has said that he will still be with us in the future, I am not sure about that.

**Mr. Vaughan:** I would say he is gone.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I must agree with the honourable member for Nudgee, but I like to be charitable.

The Opposition has issued a book setting out its policy, and it is proud of that book.

**Mr. Akers:** Are you proud of it?

**Mr. DAVIS:** As a matter of fact, it has been published and is available, at a cost of \$5, to anyone who wishes to buy it.

A Government Member interjected.

**Mr. DAVIS:** That is the cost of printing, and it is printed in Australia. Unlike the Liberal Party, the A.L.P. does not have its publications printed by some establishment in Singapore, Macao, or Hong Kong.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Kaus): Order! There is too much cross-firing in the Chamber. I ask the honourable members to allow the honourable member for Brisbane Central to proceed with his speech.

**Mr. DAVIS:** One thing that I cannot stand in this Chamber is constant interjection.

The letter to which I am referring was sent out by the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services.

**Mr. BOURKE:** I rise to a point of order. Should not the honourable member be speaking from his own seat? I appreciate that he is confused.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no valid point of order.

**Mr. DAVIS:** How petty can one get! Obviously the honourable member for Lockyer is trying to stifle—

**Mr. Bourke:** You hurt my feelings when you left me off the list of aspirants for Cabinet positions.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Well, I—

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I wish the honourable member would read the letter. I have not read it myself.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I am quite happy to include the honourable member for Lockyer in the list of hopefuls, if that will satisfy him. He is 150 to 1; but if he wishes to be in the contest, fair enough.

Let me return to the document issued by the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services. It was sent out to over 2,000 people, at the expense of the taxpayers. The Liberal Party is too lousy to buy the book containing the A.L.P.'s policy, and I think it may have infringed copyright. It could be up for problems here, too. I am going to take the matter up with some of my legal advisers. I think it has contravened copyright.

**Mr. Lane:** What about reading a few extracts from it?

**Mr. DAVIS:** Gladly. I am certainly glad that the honourable member for Merthyr has come into the Chamber. I have always said in the past that he is a good friend of mine. We have been involved in industrial matters together.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The business of the House is being interrupted. There will be fewer interjections across the Chamber.

**Mr. Lane:** Read a few extracts into "Hansard". Read the ones marked in red. Read the ones about the increase in the public sector.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I am not going to take that from the honourable member for Merthyr. I was insulted by what the Premier said to him the other day—"Don't you use your stand-over police tactics on me, Mr. Lane."

**Mr. Lane:** Aren't you proud of your policy? Give us just a few cute little extracts.

**A Government Member:** We are waiting with bated breath.

**Mr. DAVIS:** If they will just be a little quiet, I will read sections of the transport policy, which was prostituted by the Ralph Nader of the Liberal Party the other day.

**Mr. Lane:** Let us do it together. We can read it out together.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Righto. Page 111. Did he pay for that, by the way? Dealing with the transport commission—

**Mr. Lane** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Merthyr. He must desist from persistent interjections.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Is he going to make the speech or am I? He is only showing off because he has friends in the gallery. That's his idea. He thinks he is going to be a Cabinet Minister. What a giggle!

I quote now from page 111—

"A State Labor Government will establish a Public Transport Commission which will be responsible for an efficient Public Transport System throughout Queensland."

What is wrong with that? We need it.

"The Commission will plan a Public Transport System for all cities and towns in which a Public Transport System is needed."

**Mr. Akers:** Have a look at page 112 where you say that you are going to build all railway equipment in Government workshops. What about the works in Maryborough? What about private enterprise?

**Mr. DAVIS:** I am quite happy to say what our policy is. The honourable member can try to prostitute the policy as much as he likes.

**Mr. Akers:** What about Mr. Hansen's problems in Maryborough? Walkers are out as far as the A.L.P. is concerned.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Is he quite finished?

The policy states—

"Modernise railway workshops to enable the manufacture of locomotives, rail-motors and rolling stock."

Don't honourable members opposite think that there is a need to modernise the Ipswich Railway Workshops? I am sure that it will

be not only Walkers and Commonwealth Engineering that will be getting contracts. In addition we hope to be able to establish our own. We intend to completely modernise the whole railway system. Of course there will be contracts for Walkers—

**Mr. BISHOP:** I rise to a point of order. Could I ask the member for Brisbane Central if he really does mean that the rolling-stock and railmotors are going to be built in State workshops?

**Mr. DAVIS:** Fancy that sort of statement from a man who doesn't even want a railway line down to the Gold Coast! What we say is that we will not only modernise the present workshops at Ipswich, which, by anybody's standards, require modernisation, but improve the workshops at Toowoomba and Townsville. We intend to build railway carriages at some of the workshops; we will be issuing contracts to Walkers, to Townsville contractors and to Commonwealth Engineering. We do not intend to be like this Government, which has not built any carriages since 1954. We will modernise the railways and provide work not only for the Queensland Government railway workshops, but also for private enterprise. With our priorities—

**Mr. LANE:** I rise to a point of order. No reference at all is made in this document to contract construction of locomotives; no mention is made of the work being done by contract. The honourable member is misleading the House.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Kaus): Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr. DAVIS:** That is the sort of rubbish we have to put up with. I was asked for my interpretation, and I have given it.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. BOURKE** (Lockyer) (12.41 p.m.): I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, which was so ably moved by the honourable member for Calide and seconded by the honourable member for Ithaca. On behalf of the electors of Lockyer I pledge our loyalty to our system of Government and express our appreciation of the work done by the Governor and Lady Ramsay.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his election to office. An eminent English political commentator of the last century once said, "He who seeks public office seeks great honour." Every member has great honour bestowed on him by the community; but, of all positions in Parliament, I believe that that of Mr. Speaker is the highest. I again congratulate Mr. Speaker on his election and express my best wishes to him for the future and the hope that he will have a long and happy term in his proud position.

The previous speaker said that he would not accept interjections from the National Party on the grounds of insanity. I adopt the attitude that I will not accept interjections from the Labor Party on the grounds of inanity.

We are fortunate to be citizens of a State such as Queensland, and a nation such as Australia. We live in a region that enjoys many natural advantages. We also enjoy a system of government that is in the forefront in the world in guaranteeing rights to its citizens. It is customary for a small minority of people to attack our country and make accusations about civil liberties. The people who make the accusations do not display much knowledge of conditions elsewhere in the world. Indeed, they do not show much interest in the truth, either. In making these statements, I do not deny the need for attention on our part to our rights and conditions. Unfortunately, it is only too easy to fall into dangerous complacency.

One aspect of our modern, civilised community attitude in which we in Australia have gone tragically wrong relates to abortion. It is tragic that abortion is a difficult political subject. In politics, unfortunately, it is a truism that votes are lost, not won, by standing up and stating the truth. It is therefore customary for some politicians to run for cover on this subject. They prefer to retreat behind nice, empty slogans.

It has been said that Queenslanders are different. And so they have been on this subject. Government members are prepared to stand up and state clearly where they stand. At this stage I must acknowledge the courage of the Leader of the Opposition. He is a decent family man and has displayed beliefs that would be expected on this issue. His courage is more notable in view of the unfortunate fact that the A.L.P., as part of its policy, promises the complete removal of all restrictions on abortion. I point out that there is no reference in its policy to any restriction according to the length of a pregnancy. Indeed, the Labor Party goes beyond that and promises to establish State clinics for medical services, with abortion at all centres.

It is a constant source of wonder to me that the party in Opposition in Queensland, which carries the name of Australia in its official title, should display such an obsessive interest in killing off as many future Australians as possible—future Australians on whom we all depend. Labor candidates are advised to go soft on the issue, to avoid it in a smoke-screen of words about freedom and rights of women, etc.

Today, I do not wish to talk at length about abortion in the abstract, but rather to concentrate on the actual mechanics of this disgraceful and terrible business. We have our own local organisation called Children by Choice, which regularly sends out a sad little document that purports to detail the results

of its work. It is desperate to gain respectability and constantly quotes figures in an attempt to display public support, particularly medical support. I cannot see how in any decency these people can include the word "children" in their title when they claim that nearly all the women seen by them have an abortion. They are purely and simply touts and urgers for abortion factories. It is interesting to note the consistency of language by these people from the darker side of our society. "Abortion" in their language is "termination of pregnancy". They avoid recognition of the fact that babies are involved. They use the term "foetus".

An interesting insight into their operation was revealed in a segment of the programme "Nationwide", when a former member revealed the extent of the involvement of Ansett Airlines in this trade. It is apparent that Ansett subsidises the pro-abortion cause in this country by granting 90 per cent discounts to anyone from the Children by Choice hierarchy.

**Mr. McKechnie:** How much?

**Mr. BOURKE:** Ninety per cent. That is better than a travel agent gets. An official travel agent in an honest business gets, I think, 75 per cent.

**Mr. Lane:** I will be taking my business away from them.

**Mr. BOURKE:** Ansett is quite keen to participate. To my mind, this is an indication of the large amount of money involved. It is quite typical of the people involved that the specially priced flights are apparently ripped off by people in the know at the top of that organisation.

Apparently an internal dispute was caused by emphasis on the business connection with abortion shops in the South. In recent times there has been a concerted campaign by the so-called progressive—but in reality, extreme radical—elements to increase the number of abortions in Queensland. This campaign has involved the standard, instant demonstrations by the same hard-core, hard-faced group. They like to describe themselves as feminists, but there is little in their manner that attracts the appellation "feminine". Their most enduring and common characteristic is an obvious and virulent hatred of our society and its institutions—and, in particular, the family unit. I am concerned that this element, by seeking cover in the general women's rights movement, might damage that totally valid and worthwhile cause.

In Sydney, their colleagues vandalised the offices of the Right to Life movement. In fact, they threw files from the windows of the building's sixth floor. They have also demonstrated outside Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation offices in other States. One has only to talk to Christian people from the South to realise that there is

recognition Australia-wide of the fact that we in Queensland have continued to strive to uphold decent community standards.

The Communist Party magazine "Tribune" on 22 August and the radical "Direct Action" on 23 August made it very much their business to defend the operations of the notorious Greenslopes back-yard clinic. It has become commonplace for prominent professional agitators from the South to be seen making up the numbers at demonstrations in the streets of Brisbane. One of these interstate tourists was a Mrs. Mary McNish, arrested during a street demonstration on 26 July, along with that prominent hard worker for our national decline, Mr. Tom Uren. Mrs. McNish claimed to be from the New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties, but she happens to be a paid employee of one of the biggest abortion shops in Sydney. She enjoys the self-styled title of "Information and Liaison Officer" for that dubious enterprise that describes itself as Population Services International, which was set up by a Geoffrey Davis, an abortionist who claims the termination of more than 60,000 lives of defenceless babies.

**Dr. Lockwood:** He is as bad as Hitler.

**Mr. BOURKE:** For individual effort, his record would equate with Hitler's.

Mrs. McNish's function is to tout for business. The "International" in the title of the enterprise is a grand reference to hopes to generate business in New Zealand after the Government there had the courage and national foresight to tighten up its criminal code. When the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly conducted an inquiry on abortion in 1977, Davis and Mrs. McNish attended the inquiry.

It is strange how abortion and other issues harmful to society, family life and stable government attract the same people with obvious resentment against society and a desire to harm it where possible.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** I do not want to argue the pros and cons—

**Mr. BOURKE:** I would hope not. It would not be wise.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** As far as you are concerned, it should have been retrospective.

**Mr. BOURKE:** I have said before that he who seeks public office seeks a great honour. I accept that. As the interjector is the member for Archerfield, he has an honourable title. He should attempt to live up to it.

When the Leader of the Opposition presented the now famous petition against abortion—and I admire him for so doing—there suddenly manifested itself a so-called centre caucus in the A.L.P., which purported to be a representative group seeking reprisals against the Leader of the Opposition for

daring to show that he had personal courage on the issue. Their spokesman was revealed on the A.B.C. news on 15 August as Senator Georges's research officer—like his boss, a confirmed clown in street demonstrations. I am told that the unfunniest part of the street clown act of Georges and Uren is the arrival of large Commonwealth limousines, summoned at taxpayers' expense, at Boggo Road to take them home after their regular little visits.

There should be no doubt about the aims of these people. Their big issue now is to protect the Greenslopes operation. That is seen as a start to their long-term aim. In "The Courier-Mail" of 18 August, the aim is stated by a Ms. R. Fadden of the Women's Campaign for Abortion. She wants abortions to be free on demand "both in an economic and social sense". The use of numerous fronts is a deliberate effort to maintain the lie that their cause enjoys wide support from the women and mothers of Queensland.

In a letter from an academic in "The Courier-Mail", the claim was made that the Greenslopes shop is run well by competent people. I have no reason to believe that the academic concerned is trained in science or medicine, but she obviously knows nothing about the background of the people concerned. They enjoy a notorious and well-documented reputation.

The first and most important thing to be understood is that private abortion operations in the South involve very big money. It is a multimillion-dollar involvement. The two biggest operators are Population Services International, which for some time has had Children by Choice as its Brisbane agents, and the Melbourne-based Fertility Control Clinic.

Davis set up Population Services International in 1975 and in his first full year raked in a profit of \$173,575.

**Mr. Prest:** Which doctor was that?

**Mr. BOURKE:** I hesitate to describe this person as a doctor. He is Geoffrey Davis of Population Services International in Sydney. That was his first full year's profit, and I shall repeat it. It was \$173,575 in his first full year of operation. Very big money is involved.

In 1977, on the A.B.C. "Broadband", Davis was celebrating the fact that his annual cash flow was around \$1,000,000. He has become personally extremely rich, while masquerading as a social reformer of some standing.

It is typical of such a person that medicine enjoys little of his personal attention, as he has a strong passion for expensively restored vintage cars and is involved in a number of varieties of business ventures in Kings Cross, and similar fields. He does not

display any noticeable compassion or concern for women's rights, outside the strictly cash arrangements of working hours.

He was involved in the English abortion business and played a role in a clinic in the south of England which, according to Senator Guilfoyle in the Senate on 26 April 1977, the United Kingdom Department of Health and Social Security found it necessary to close. This is the nature of the man for whom Children by Choice works. He still receives the cash benefits of more than one-third of that organisation's sad trade.

There are a number of names used by the people concerned in pushing the lines that they believe have some community acceptance. These include Ms. Fadden's Women's Campaign for Abortion, Pregnancy Control, the Women's Abortion Action Coalition, the Working Women's Charter Group and, even in my own decent city of Toowoomba, the Women's Support Group.

**Dr. Lockwood:** They do not give them any support.

**Mr. BOURKE:** I fail to see what support they give to any woman or any section of the community. I will not get personal, but most of the people involved in these organisations show a great deal of interest in their own welfare. The use of the word "women" is quite deliberate, as they claim to speak for all women.

I find the truth about the profits involved to be highly distasteful. It is revolting that these smug characters are making vast profits out of the deaths of babies. Beyond that, their medical clinical standards bear close examination. After all, the repeated claim is that we must avoid backyard operations and standards.

Senator Harradine of Tasmania quoted, in the Senate, evidence from two former employees of Population Services International in Sydney. The evidence was tabled, and I quote from the Senate "Hansard" of 9 November 1978 as follows—

"From the point of view of sterility the doctors eat and drink and smoke in the theatre at the same time as women are being operated on and that is certainly not a sterile procedure . . . Sometimes they use the same cloth to wipe down all the women for the one day and that's certainly not sterile."

Mention was made on the television programme "Nationwide" of a dispute within Children by Choice. The same claim was raised there concerning the casual attitude of the people who run these co-called clinics.

Their professional reputation was such that their attempt to set up in Canberra—they had bought the property and spent over \$250,000 on the plan—provoked the Federal Government into promulgating a special ordinance banning private abortion factories

in the A.C.T. Senator Ryan attempted to have the ordinance disallowed. The extreme socialist ethic is apparently not against private abortion enterprises. The claim that these private businesses provide safe abortions, as opposed to the backyard operations of bygone years, does not stand up to close examination.

"The Sunday Mail" of 6 August 1978 detailed a case in point, as follows—

"The father of a 17-year-old girl claimed yesterday she nearly died after having flown to Sydney for an abortion organised by the Children by Choice Association."

He said that she returned home an extremely sick girl with a severe infection and had been rushed to hospital by a local gynaecologist. The article continued—

"She was in hospital a week and it was touch and go", the father said."

The gynaecologist, a leader in his field, said—

"There are quite a number of complications occurring, both minor and major, as a result of what is going on in Sydney."

He was referring to the manner in which abortions are carried out in these establishments.

I now turn to the Greenslopes abortion centre run by a Peter Bayliss. He is a Victorian, a partner with Bertram Wainer in the so-called Fertility Control Clinic in East Melbourne. The business name was registered by Bayliss in Melbourne on 13 October 1972. It is, of course, very much a business, and the Greenslopes set-up is by the way of being a subsidiary for which the proprietor entertains high financial expectations. In common with most people on the fringe of medicine, Bayliss entertains and diverts himself with expensive hobbies. His hobby is light aircraft, and he has no fewer than four registered in his name. His profits are such that he commutes from Melbourne to Brisbane in his private plane. His career and record are long enough to reach back to the famous inquiry instituted by the Victorian Government in 1970, the Board of Inquiry into Allegations of Corruption in connection with Illegal Abortion Practice. In those years abortionists were recognised for what they are, and in order to practise unmolested by the law, it was necessary that they, along with other common criminals, should seek out the sort of policeman who would accept a bribe.

The inquiry followed sensational allegations against police by Bertram Wainer, who was not in partnership with Bayliss at that time. Bayliss had a Dr. Sizeland as a partner. The Kaye inquiry, as it was known, led to the gaoling of a number of Melbourne policemen. In the course of the inquiry Mr. Kaye attempted a thorough investigation of the Wainer-Berman allegations and called many witnesses. Bayliss was the

recipient of a subpoena, but was not game to attend. Police Court proceedings led to the ultimate appearance of Bayliss and two other doctors. On pages 69 and 70 of the Kaye report, a public document printed in volume 3 of the Victorian Parliamentary Papers of 1971-72, he said—

"In the opinion of the Board, Bayliss and Sizeland, like other medical practitioners who gave evidence pertaining to the terms of the inquiry, failed to reveal proper respect for the truth. The evidence about a variety of matters and incidents of both of these witnesses was demonstrated to be untrue."

In legal terms he is saying that Bayliss is a blatant liar. Perhaps it is better to be publicly branded as a liar than to be convicted of bribing policemen in the course of their duty.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** What a shocking allegation!

**Mr. BOURKE:** It is a shocking allegation, and it is all true. I will get to this issue later on. In the meantime, I would suggest that the honourable member confine his efforts to undermining his leader over the same issue.

But it is the same Bayliss who today is embraced by a motley crew from Children by Choice and their many-named fronts.

The Kaye report dealt further with the activities of Bayliss. It referred to a coronial inquest into the circumstances of the death of a young child. Bayliss was summoned to appear at that coronial inquiry.

Incidentally, Mr. Kaye is not the only person to whom Bayliss consistently lied. In his early days he was a bit coy about telling the tax man about his profits. In the 46th report of the Commissioner of Taxation, Bayliss was listed as understating his income by \$56,268 in the five years between 1959-60 and 1964-65. He had to pay out an extra \$15,664, very big money for that time. Abortionists in Melbourne had a weakness for cheating on their tax. Bayliss's partner Sizeland featured in the same report, and another reputed abortionist and Bayliss associate, John Heath, got a mention in the 47th report. Nowadays the money goes into leasing expensive cars and purchasing stud farms, which also minimise tax and serve to distract the weary abortionist in his spare time.

The Kaye inquiry could not find corroborative evidence to support an allegation that, through Mrs. Berman, Bayliss paid £1,000 to a Melbourne policeman in 1962. Mrs. Berman repeated this allegation on page 76 of her book. As far as I know, Bayliss was never game to contest this allegation in court. Because he is no stranger to legal problems, he may have been too busy. He was in gaol for some time in 1966 during a long-running abortion case involving Sizeland and a Rita Attwood. He was finally

acquitted, but during the case it was stated that this selfless crusader ripped off the startling sum of £105 for the abortion in question. In 1969 he was again back in the Melbourne courts.

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

**Mr. BOURKE:** As I said before the recess, Dr. Bayliss was soon back in the Melbourne Courts. On 20 August, at the Heidelberg Court, he was convicted of assault, and fined \$50. He contested his guilt in a higher court. When his appeal was heard on 22 October 1969, Judge O'Shea in the County Court affirmed his conviction, and increased the fine to \$250. It was obviously quite a serious case. It was not an ordinary case of a dispute leading to an assault. The judge increased the fine to \$250 which, in 1969, was quite a heavy penalty.

This is the character put forward by Children by Choice. Bayliss, and indeed Children by Choice in general, reveal an attitude to the value of human life common to quite a few of our citizens who are virtually totally alienated from decent family life and society. To them, it is more important to avoid pain than to preserve life. They do not esteem life. In particular, they do not esteem human life. Hitler's philosophy is quite acceptable to them, provided personal suffering is avoided. A handicapped baby might be destroyed by them for its own benefit. Old people should be helped to end it all for their own peace of mind. After all, to these people that is easier than showing elderly folk a little bit of love and respect. These people say that unwanted babies are not human for the purpose of the exercise and that these pregnancies can be terminated. Hitler had the same argument about people he did not want. They were subhuman; they could be done away with.

Incidentally, I wish to refer once again to the claim that people such as Bayliss are some improvement upon those much-quoted figures, the backyard abortionists. I have a copy of a statement of claim made by a young woman against Bayliss's crowd in Melbourne. This girl apparently subjected herself to an abortion in Bayliss's rooms in Melbourne on 5 July 1977. At that time she was aged 18 years. She allegedly suffered a perforated uterus, and is permanently sterile. She now seeks damages. In view of Bayliss's wealth, and ill-gotten wealth at that, I hope that she gets plenty. The astounding thing is that the wealth of people like Bayliss comes in part, or in the main, from that long-suffering mug, the Australian taxpayer. All of us were compelled by Hayden to join Medibank, and these "procedures", to use the quaint term, are claimed against the contribution by the countless thousands of decent Australians striving to bring up their families.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Mr. Bourke—

**Mr. BOURKE:** Despite my earlier statement, I will accept this interjection.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Are you aware that your colleagues in the Federal Parliament voted to retain the payment for that?

**Mr. BOURKE:** I will not accept that interjection. Even with the luncheon break, the honourable member has not been able to come up with a decent interjection.

The Children by Choice crowd are quite brazen about this aspect. It is part of the radical ethic that the capitalist mugs should finance their own destruction. I personally resent this immensely. I have read where people from overseas who are involved in family planning are horrified at the manner in which Australian institutions attempt to promote abortion as a first option in contraception. This is an inevitable result of the growth of these private abortion shops, with their own vast financial resources to promote and protect their trade. Their activities would more correctly come under the control of the factories and shops authorities than the Health Department.

If we in this community would devote a portion of the vast amounts being garnered by these people to education on birth control and to the maintenance and support of women in need, what an improvement in the community we would achieve. This great glee and emphasis on abortion factories is horrifying. On principle, I personally am opposed to abortion. But, if we are to permit abortions, in the name of any decency, we should restrict them to public hospitals with full standards and shut out these horrible production-line facilities with their emphasis on numbers and profits and their own in-built ability to promote and advertise their dreadful trade.

In three years in this Chamber I have avoided naming any people under privilege—I believe that privilege is a reserve power to be used only in the course of a member's duties. I have not detailed the background to Bayliss without serious consideration of the principle involved. The public interest is heavily involved. I have seen the man's brazen response, both in the Press and on television, to the previous question from the member for Merthyr. I have no illusion about the torrent of abuse that will descend upon me for having the temerity to tell the truth. Bayliss is a publicly branded liar and cheat. He has been convicted of a violent offence and has a poor record, medically speaking.

In earlier days, it was highly insulting to describe any medical gentleman as an abortionist. I should say that there is nothing more damaging than to say of a man that he is an abortionist. However, apparently the passage of time has led to the term losing its impact. Perhaps we in this generation have grown too tolerant. In earlier years, ratbags and assorted criminals had some in-built shame, and it is time that the decent silent majority reasserted itself before an

important issue such as abortion is decided here by default. We must not, like Pontius Pilate, try to wash our hands of the guilt.

I call upon the Government to urgently investigate the activities of Bayliss and his business associates and take steps to put them where they belong. If Australia is to reach its full potential, this country needs as many young Australians as it can get. The argument about unwanted children is a blatant lie. The waiting time for first babies for adoption is at least 4½ years. There are people only too willing to take handicapped babies and give them a chance to contribute to our national future, and it is monumental arrogance for anyone to play God over such handicapped children.

I feel deeply on this issue. It is one on which I would willingly stake my future in this establishment.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (2.21 p.m.): At the outset, I offer my congratulations to the honourable member for Fassifern on his election to the high and exalted office of Speaker of this House. I have no doubt that he will carry out the duties with dignity and decorum, and also with fairness and impartiality to members on both sides of the House. I wish him well—at least till the next election, when a Labor member will be Speaker of this Assembly.

I note that the results of last Saturday's by-elections confirm what I have been saying for some time—the National Party is a spent force, and time is fast running out for it. Not all the efforts of Sir Robert Sparkes and the boy baritone Mike Evans, from Clayfield, can save it.

**Mr. Frawley:** He sings well, you know.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** The honourable member for Caboolture says he sings well. I was told by a National Party member at lunch time that the reason why he sings well is that he is widely regarded as the boy Castro.

In this day and age, the National Party is a political anachronism. At the last election the people of Mt. Isa fell for the three-card trick in relation to the Julius Dam. They are now regretting that decision, and the honourable member for Mt. Isa can feel the hot breath of their wrath on his neck. The people of Redcliffe, as you well know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, certainly did not fall for the railway three-card trick. I think that all honourable members would agree that the result of the Redcliffe by-election last Saturday was a fiasco for the National Party. It proves quite conclusively that the National Party has no chance of ever winning any metropolitan seats in Queensland. It is quite obvious that after the next election, when the Labor Party becomes the Government of this State and a democratic adjustment of the electoral boundaries is made, the National Party will be history and will revert to what it should be—a rural rump.

**Mr. Frawley:** I will still be in Caboolture. That's a certainty.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That is doubtful. As a matter of fact, it is well known that the executive director of the National Party, Mr. Mike Evans, has the hatchet out for the honourable member for Caboolture.

**Mr. Davis:** What about Hartwig?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That is an unparliamentary term. I take it that the honourable member for Brisbane Central means the honourable member for Callide. I know that the honourable member for Callide has been opposed for pre-selection by a gentleman named Carige. Not that I have any brief for the honourable member for Callide—I do not think that he has very much between the ears—but, to be realistic about it, this person Carige leaves much to be desired. I was told this morning by the honourable member for Caboolture of some of Mr. Carige's peculiar personal habits. If they are made public in the Callide electorate, I do not think that the honourable member for Callide will have anything to worry about.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** I hope you are right.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** We will just have to wait and see. Pre-selections are funny things. I am also told that Sir Robert Sparkes has his knife out for the honourable member for Callide because of his statements in the newspaper some weeks ago when he criticised the selection by the Premier of two of the present members of Cabinet.

**Dr. Lockwood:** It was for criticising Tom Uren that he got him.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That interjection by the honourable member for Toowoomba North is so inane that I do not intend to take any notice of it. However, it proves what I have thought for a long time—that the honourable member for Toowoomba North is a fool.

I suggest that the people of Albert and the Gold Coast will not fall for the three-card trick. The appointment to Cabinet of the honourable members for Albert and Townsville West was a panic move. It is nothing short of cosmetic surgery. I am quite positive that the electors of Queensland are awake to this move. The latest game of musical chairs in Cabinet will not save this tired, inept Government from the wrath of the electors at the next election, whenever it may be held.

After the National Party fiasco on Saturday, I suggest that Mike Evans is very busy reading the "Positions Vacant" columns. Another of his hand-picked glamour candidates was rejected by the electors.

**Mr. Davis:** Including the 12 per cent personal swing.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** Yes, that includes the 12 per cent personal swing—if the personal element ever existed.

This losing run commenced with Mr. Evans himself being soundly rejected in the Clayfield by-election in May 1976. The next glamour candidate was Charles Mortensen, in Wavell, in the 1977 State election. He was thrashed. I sound this note of warning to Mr. Mortensen: I still have not forgotten the \$90,000 fraud he perpetrated on the Banksia Permanent Building Society. I will be raising that matter in the House on a future occasion.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** Good on you.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I am glad to hear the dulcet tones of the spangled drongo, the honourable member for Salisbury, saying, "Good on you." I thank her for it.

Then, of course, we had Des Draydon in the Sherwood by-election. He never hit the deck. Now the electors of Redcliffe have put paid to the political ambitions of young John Houghton.

The job of Mike Evans would have to be on the line. It seems that the Redcliffe branch of the National Party has written a letter to the Premier and Sir Robert Sparkes demanding an investigation of the way in which Mr. Evans conducted the National Party campaign. Let the Premier deny that. He cannot; the letter is a fact. A member of the Redcliffe branch of the National Party read the letter to me over the telephone last night. He was so cheesed off with the National Party that he was even prepared to identify himself.

**An Opposition Member:** He is only one of five, anyway.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I think they would have more than five—probably seven.

The former Speaker, Mr. Houghton, tried to get his son elected to Parliament. Honourable members will remember that Mr. Houghton ad nauseam likened this place to a cesspit. I am amazed that a fond father would want to see his son in such a den of iniquity. Perhaps Mr. Houghton reflected and decided that we are not so bad after all.

**Mr. Frawley:** He had a habit of looking at you when he said that.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I do not know whether he was ever looking at me. But he is no longer a member of this House, and far be it from me to denigrate him now that he has gone. I thought that in some of the speeches he made in this House as Speaker he took advantage of the Chair. He would stand up, wave his arms and say, "Honourable members, I don't want this House to become a cesspit. It is not that I am trying to restrict people from open debate, but you have got to have a look at yourselves." Had Mr. Houghton, right

from the start, given firm and direct chairmanship as Speaker in this House, a lot of the denigration that this Parliament is suffering at the present time at the hands of the media would not be occurring.

I should now like to address a few remarks to the honourable member for Landsborough. To give him his due, he would be one of the most able of a very lack-lustre National Party back bench. However, he still cannot make Cabinet, because of the Premier's apparent anti-Catholic bias. Let us be realistic. I think I would be the last person in this House who could be accused of sectarianism. We have 18 Cabinet Ministers, only one of whom, Mr. Vic Sullivan, the Minister for Primary Industries, is a Catholic. He has a very shaky hold on that portfolio.

**Mr. Frawley:** Do you reckon I have no chance?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** It wouldn't be the honourable member's religion that would keep him out of Cabinet; it would be his lack of ability.

We all know that Mr. Sullivan was not appointed to Cabinet by the present Premier but by the late Jack Pizzey. If the honourable member for Rockhampton was in the Chamber he would verify that a certain senior National Party member who is no longer with us told us one day in the lobby that Mike Ahern had no chance of getting into Cabinet. He said, "Joh hates tykes and there is no way that Mike Ahern will get into Cabinet." I am told that "tykes" is a contemptuous term for Catholics. I point out to the member for Landsborough through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the only way he will ever get into Cabinet is to exchange his rosary beads for a square and compass.

In the Premier's latest appointments, his well known bigotry shines through. Consider his other illustrious appointments: There was Wiley Fancher, financial adviser; Milan Brych, medical adviser; Sir Albert Henry, electoral adviser; and Harry Londy, real estate adviser. I suggest through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Premier may now appoint the Reverend Ian Paisley as his religious adviser.

**Mr. Bishop:** Has he a railway adviser?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I think he is the Minister for Transport.

I would like to table a letter that the Professional Officers' Association wrote to the Minister for Survey and Valuation complaining about the appointment of Mr. Kevin John Davies to the position of deputy director in the Department of Mapping and Surveying. I am told on good authority that the Minister for Survey and Valuation has spent the last fortnight clearing his office in preparation for getting the chop from

the Deputy Premier in the next fortnight. It seems that Mr. Davies' main qualification for the job was his membership of the Liberal Party and the fact that he was a one-time campaign director for the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. I shall now read the letter.

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

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I do not mind taking interjections from my right, but they have to be sensible.

The letter, which is dated 5 October 1979, is in these terms—

"The Hon. J. W. Greenwood, M.L.A.,  
"Minister for Survey & Valuation,  
"Watkins Place,  
"Edward Street,  
"Brisbane.

"Dear Sir,

"A number of members have expressed their extreme concern with regard to the appointment of Mr. Kevin John Davies from outside the Public Service to the position of Deputy Director, Technical & Administrative Services, Department of Mapping and Surveying.

"The members who spoke to me expressed the opinion that there were suitably qualified persons in the State Public Service or who had worked in a Public Service who would have been more suitable than the appointee and believe that one of these persons should have been appointed to the job.

"The information given to me is that Mr. Davies has only a base degree in Surveying, a very limited experience in the Commonwealth Public Service in his early years of employment and has spent the remainder of his time in partnership in a survey firm with a relatively small number of staff.

"I am told that he has little experience in the control of an area of operation as extensive as the Survey and Mapping Department.

"It has been put to the Association that because of the political activity of Mr. Davies that there was some political motivation behind his appointment.

"You may wish to comment on this matter."

There is a further rider to that. The letter continues—

"A further matter of concern to our members is that whilst this position has been filled expeditiously a number of other positions in the same Department have not yet been filled and remain vacant.

"Your advice as to when these other positions are likely to be filled would also be appreciated.

"Yours faithfully,

"B. J. Nutter,  
"General Secretary."

As we all know, the Minister is a past master at breaching the basis of well-understood principles of avoiding conflict between public duty and private interest. I point out to the House that his ministry began with the Premier's having to introduce special legislation to the Chamber to save him from constitutional breaches. That protected him from the wrath of the electorate for holding an office of profit under the Crown.

I make it quite clear that the appointment of Mr. Davies is nothing short of political nepotism at its worst. It is the old jobs-for-the-boys exercise—something that the Premier is always very quick to condemn in others. I am told by some of my contacts in the Queensland Public Service that the Queensland Government Directory is known in the Public Service as the National-Liberal Party Who's Who.

The matter I now wish to raise is one that honourable members will no doubt have noticed as they have journeyed around their electorates. I refer to the ever-increasing number of pin-ball machines appearing in milk bars, hamburger joints and take-away food outlets. In fact, they are almost anywhere within reach of a power point. In many instances they are not placed within the shop itself but are outside on the foot-path where they obstruct traffic and are in breach of city council ordinances. Probably their greatest proliferation is on the Gold Coast, particularly at Surfers Paradise. One particular site is the Chevron Bowling Alley under the office of the member for Surfers Paradise. I am told he spends his lunch-hour playing these machines. Playing the pin-ball machine can hardly be called a creative form of entertainment. He is so professional at playing the pin-ball machines, I am told, that he can do the double shuffle without losing a stroke.

**Mr. Innes:** It is better than spending your lunch-hour with pin-heads.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** The honourable member should know.

There must be some Liberal connotation with these pin-ball machines. I see a minor footballer—I think he plays half-back for Valleys; a little thug by the name of Ross Strudwick—is trying to open a pin-ball machine alley out at Sunnybank below the offices of the Liberal member (what's his name? Rubber Lips?)—Mr. Don Cameron, the Liberal member for the Federal electorate of Fadden.

**Mr. Lane:** He's a great footballer, and we're proud of him.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I don't think so. From what I have been told, because of the way he ratted on Eric Robinson, his endorsement will be on the line at the next election.

**Mr. Lane:** It's Ross Strudwick I said I'm proud of.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I will leave that to the caucus of the Liberal Party.

Let me say that I am totally opposed to these machines. They are a very bad influence on the young. I would like to recount to the House the experience of a small businessman within my electorate who had his fingers well and truly burnt by installing one of these machines.

**Mr. Davis:** Don Cameron goes for a replay.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I don't know about Don Cameron. I have never seen him in the company of a female; so the honourable member can put his own connotations on that.

The gentleman of whom I speak and his wife had not long moved into their first business—a take-away food store—when they were approached to install a pin-ball machine. The salesman was quite persistent and, I might say, quite persuasive. They resisted for a while but finally decided to install one after accepting the usual spiel—increased patronage attracted to the shop as well as commission to the cash equivalent of 50 per cent of the takings. The machine was duly installed one Tuesday afternoon. It was placed on the footpath just outside the front door. It immediately attracted the very young teenagers, who began to feed in their 10c pieces. I might add that no prizes are given. It certainly attracted the young people, but whether it increased patronage was debatable. The young people were busy putting money into the machine, but as the door of the shop was obstructed by bikes it was hard for other customers to gain entry.

One Friday night the inevitable happened. The storekeeper had not been home for more than half an hour when he got a call from the police to return as there had been a breaking and entering. When he returned to his shop, he found that a plate-glass door had been smashed to gain entry. As it turned out, the thieves were after the money they thought would be in the pin-ball machine. Unfortunately for them, the storekeeper cleared the machine nightly. However, not to be outdone, the culprits took in excess of \$250 worth of cigarettes.

The storekeeper then decided to return the machine, but repeated phone calls to personnel in the firm were to no avail. They were in no hurry to remove it. I suggested to him that he phone them again and tell them that the machine would be in the car-park when he closed the shop and that they could then collect it if they wanted it. I do not know whether that helped, but the machine was certainly removed.

**A Government Member:** By whom?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** Presumably by the owner.

I would also like to recount to the House an incident that happened when I was chairman of directors of Brothers St. Marks Leagues Club at Inala. We had the same trouble with a gentleman by the name of Paul Meade. We had trouble with the machines and I told him that we did not want them. He rang me and threatened me with all sorts of legal action. I told him that, if he did not pick them up, they would be out in the street that afternoon. He soon picked them up. Paul Meade has a very unsavoury reputation around the city. No doubt the honourable member for Merthyr, when he was a member of the Special Branch of the Police Force, would have known something about that gentleman's activities.

However, reverting to the story of the storekeeper—his machine was removed forthwith. Lo and behold, several days later he received a letter that I would like to read to the House. Incidentally, I omitted to mention that the brand of the machine was a Bally. We are all aware of the Mafia overtones of that brand name and all the sinister ramifications that the name "Bally" implies. The letter is from Automatic Recreation Machines Co. Pty Ltd., 31 Watland Street, Springwood. It is dated 22 June and is addressed to Mr. Harold Michaels, "The Galley", Skylark Street, Inala, and is headed, "Without Prejudice". It reads—

"We refer to the recent installation of a coin operated flipper machine at your premises and the subsequent removal thereof.

"Under the terms of the Contract you entered into with this Company, we advise that we are claiming compensation from you for the amount of \$659.00.

"This amount relates to expenses incurred by this Company for the Siting, Installation, Capital Expenditure and commitment made by this Company for the provision of the equipment, also subsequent removal costs and other related items.

"We request full settlement of this amount within 7 days. Please forward your cheque or money order in favour of Automatic Recreation Machine Company Pty Ltd immediately to avoid further costs.

"Yours faithfully,

"Automatic Recreation Machine Company Pty Ltd,

"J. S. V. Heron,  
"Director."

All honourable members, even people with the low mental capacity of the honourable member for Caboolture, would agree that that letter is sheer bluff. As I said previously, the siting and installation costs would be almost nil. The machine would simply have to be plugged into a power point.

I examined the contract very closely. I intended to contact the honourable member for Sherwood, who is a barrister, but a close

relative of mine told me that his reputation was not the best and that he did not have too many wins in court, so that it would be a waste of time contacting him. So I conducted the investigation myself.

I could not find in the contract any provision for compensation. Paragraph 16 of this agreement is very vague. A person would have to draw a very long bow to read compensation provisions into it. I have the contract here and, as it is too lengthy to read, I shall table it later.

I rang the manager of Automatic Recreation Machines Pty. Ltd. to give him my expert opinion. I point out that Sir Charles Wanstall's job is not under threat. I am quite happy to be a member of this House. The manager gave me a lot of soft soap and waffle. I told him quite bluntly what I thought of his operation and that I intended to raise the matter in this House at the first opportunity.

It is high time that the Justice Department had a long, hard look at this company and others like it, and the operations of these pin-ball machines. They rip off the young and give them absolutely nothing in return. I suppose we will see no action. The whole situation will no doubt be shrugged off by this reactionary Tory Government as a free-enterprise operation.

I warn small shopkeepers of the dangers of these machines in particular. People setting up in business for the first time could buy themselves a packet of trouble. Instead of increasing their trade, they could very well do the opposite and drive people away.

I should now like to make some observations on the finance industry, the people who make such a song and dance when they grant a loan. They make out that they are doing the borrower a favour when they give him a loan. In their advertising, we have all seen the conservative gentleman who slightly resembles a somewhat stouter person than the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs. That company makes great play on the fact that it is not keeping all of its eggs in one basket. It gives the impression that it is crash hot in money matters. In my opinion, its advertising is the ultimate in corporate deception.

It is taking advantage of the fact that the only way the average wage earner can obtain higher-priced necessities such as a television set or a refrigerator, is through the hire-purchase usurers, whose rates of interest are prohibitive. They are identical with the American criminals in Mafia-controlled loan-sharking, but without the violence.

The finance companies are completely ruthless, as we all know. If the purchaser falls behind in his payments, some companies repossess immediately. No doubt honourable members on both sides of the House have had complaints from their constituents about the actions of some of these

finance companies. The methods used are highly questionable and, in many cases, downright illegal.

Some companies use strong-arm men to intimidate people, in a lot of cases lone women while their husbands are at work. Earlier this year I raised a matter that occurred in my electorate when strong-arm men came out with guard-dogs and intimidated a lone housewife in the suburb of Pillara.

Finance companies are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, at their customers' expense, to gloss over the inefficiencies and questionable practices of the industry. They are masquerading behind the toothless group known as the Australian Finance Conference. The finance companies churn out endless quantities of brochures and pamphlets in an attempt to justify their existence and shoddy dealings. Many people in the community are capable of seeing through this deception. However, those who cannot are falling for the glib promise of "buy now, pay later" and thus finish up in a hopeless financial tangle. They eventually lose their purchase item through repossession and suffer losses, in many cases running into thousands of dollars.

Of particular concern to me is that much of the finance companies' material is finding its way into schools for so-called educational purposes. I would like to take this opportunity of warning teachers to be on the look-out for the finance companies and look closely at the sort of propaganda they are foisting on children. Surely the Government has the job of preventing this sort of undesirable practice. People who invest in finance companies should also be put more into the picture. We have seen some major losses in Australia in this decade through finance company crashes. The latest was the Finance Corporation of Australia. Everybody, including most honourable members, thought F.C.A. was safe because it was a subsidiary of the Bank of Adelaide. Why is it that the finance companies can produce expensive balance sheets and prospectuses and look very good right up to the moment they go bust? Obviously the Government is falling down badly on the job in letting them print this sort of misleading material.

It was not until the Corporate Affairs Commission in New South Wales—as we all know governed by the very efficient Wran Labor Government—intervened and asked Finance Corporation of Australia some very pertinent questions that the finance companies in that State were then called to heel. When can we expect some sort of activity in Queensland? Judging by this Government's past track record in the area of corporate crime, I would say the time is a long way off.

Mr. Davis: Or when they get a new Justice Minister.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** According to "The Courier-Mail" today, that is widely tipped. It is quite obvious that the days of the present incumbent in that portfolio are numbered.

One has only to glance through the daily papers to see advertisements inserted by finance companies: Australian Guarantee Corporation, Lensworth, Beneficial Finance, Lombard, Alliance, just to name a few, offering 11, 12 and 13 per cent per annum. It is only when the person starts to make further inquiries that he is confronted with a maze of small-print information on terms and conditions. This is without doubt the most confusing and misleading way to have to invest money, and it is no wonder that more and more people are shying off finance companies now that some of the home truths are coming out in the open.

I would point out that a few of the company failures of late have highlighted the fact that having a few of the prominent and noble knights of the realm on the board is no guarantee that the firm is well run and viable. For a start, there are the banks, that so-called great club of secure, honest, and efficient pillars of Australian financial society who, incidentally, give the lie to the statement that there is competition in this great free-enterprise society. That is just so much codswallop, and most people know it. These banks own or control the major finance companies in this country. They have very skilfully created the impression that their finance companies, and some others by implication, are totally safe. It took the F.C.A. shambles to put the record straight on that, and even now that mess is still not sorted out.

The A.N.Z. Bank has fallen foul of the South Australian Supreme Court with its take-over plan. There are a lot of very red faces in the very pukka Adelaide establishment. The A.N.Z. group has made great play recently of transferring its control centre from London to Australia. I would suggest that it should have stayed in London if it cannot handle simple take-over procedures. Incidentally, that planned take-over has the full backing of the Reserve Bank. The banks are very skilful at shunting many of their customers to their handy same-floor finance companies if they get the chance. I would suggest that for footwork they could teach old Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers a thing or two. Why not, if the interest rate they can charge goes up to 16 or 18 per cent? That is a nice profit rip-off for the banks.

I will refrain from comments on Bankcard at this time as our next Prime Minister, Bill Hayden, has this matter well in hand. Modesty prevents me from making the observation that the member for Archerfield is this gentleman's campaign director.

Of course, all this makes the finance companies no better than hit men for the banks and their profit-bursting balance sheets.

It is no wonder that more and more of the community are turning to building societies and credit unions with their attitude of, "What you see is what you get for your money."

**Mr. Goleby:** You didn't say that always.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** As a matter of fact, I am just coming to that. At the time when the building societies in this State were going to the wall, because of the probing and searching questions and revelations in this House by members of the Opposition, the silence of the member for Redlands was deafening. He is a lightweight, and that is the reason why the Premier never picked him for Cabinet. He is certainly a crawler. He is a member of the dog squad. Even though he crawls to the Premier, the Premier, who does not have a great deal of brains, is not going to blow what little he has by appointing the member for Redlands to Cabinet.

Over the years I have had plenty to say about building societies, but they have generally been cleaned up, thanks to the persistence and diligence of the Labor Party. But from what I am learning about finance companies, they would put the board of directors of the old Queensland Permanent Building Society well and truly into the amateur ranks. The banks squeal about the building societies and credit unions grabbing more of their market, but they have only themselves to blame. As I have said before, the competition in the banking industry is virtually nil. It is only in the last few years that, with competition from the building societies and credit unions, the banks have got up off their backsides to offer their customers some service. The banks and their underlings are so unscrupulous as to turn to their own. The other day I read where the head of Ample Finance accused the bank groups of deliberately starting rumours about the non-bank groups. We all remember quite vividly the stupid rumours started by a Minister of the Crown that caused a terrible run on the Metropolitan Permanent Building Society.

**Mr. Bishop:** Oh!

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** That is true.

**Mr. Bishop:** What about yourself?

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I came out in the media and told the people to put their money back in the society. That Minister is one of the Ministers who were mentioned this morning as being set up for the chopping block. His head should have been chopped off in 1977. As I have said, we have had a taste of what has occurred in Queensland with Government mismanagement. The Government still has not learnt its lesson.

Another group that needs a good shake-up—

**Mr. Bishop:** The A.L.P.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** The honourable member for Surfers Paradise is a nice fellow personally but he is a terrible lightweight. His main goal in this House is to see the destruction of the National Party as a political force in this State. He has the dedication and the ruthlessness. All he needs is the ability.

These accounts are the ones who supposedly protect the public interest by auditing accounts and verifying statements made in prospectuses. I am sure that the investors, particularly in Cambridge Credit, A.S.L., Finance Corporation of Australia, and Beneficial, would like some questions answered. Allowing these groups into the capital market, given the state they were in, amounted to nothing short of a scandal. Do not let us quibble about this matter. How many of these accountants are directors of these groups? If they can't or, better still, won't do the job of protecting the public, then the Government should.

Unfortunately for the public, the definition of many of these finance companies—it is their definition, not mine—is that they are good and true friends of the Government and, like the Olsens and Prices of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, are well and truly tucked away from prosecution when the time comes.

As I have stated before, the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation is the very best political insurance company. A donation is a policy to do as you like and avoid paying income tax at the same time. A perusal of events in the finance company world over the last six months suggests that a thorough clean-up is necessary. I have amassed a file bordering on Watergate proportions. I have no doubt that the committee headed by Mr. Keith Campbell, which is currently inquiring into the Australian finance industry, will have taken note of these machinations. I hope that the committee will not shy away from recommendations that will give a few, well-chosen belts to some of our so-called financial whiz kids, even though they may well be connected with the Liberal and National Parties.

One practice that has already proved fatal is the promotion of secondary finance groups by a primary banking arm, as in the case of The Bank of Adelaide/FCA. It is for this reason that I am unhappy with the structure of the locally based Bank of Queensland. This bank holds only a trading-bank licence, yet it has been permitted to spawn a finance company and a building society, with basically the same board of directors. Both subsidiaries now far outweigh the bank in size and, I might add, make considerable market play out of their association with the bank. The building society, Security Permanent, operates out of banking chambers. It is by itself bigger than the bank. This

must pose serious questions to bank shareholders, because of the tail-wagging-the-dog situation. The question must arise, "Who is managing whom?"

This is a matter over which the State Government has direct jurisdiction through the Building Societies Act, and I should like to see that Act amended still further in this State to preclude real estate agents and land developers from sitting on the boards of permanent building societies.

Incidentally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I note that the Security Permanent Building Society places great stress on its advertisement "You can bank on a Queenslander". I am reliably informed, however, that the actual advertisement was made in Sydney. The music for the advertisement was originally offered to Castlemaine Perkins Brewery, which promptly rejected it. Need I say more?

The bank's finance company is Permanent Finance Company, and I will be looking with some interest at its latest balance sheet to ascertain the spread and direction of its investments. I suggest that the Government do the same.

In closing my remarks on this matter, I should just like to make the observation that the chairman of this nice little club-like group—and, of course, a good friend of this Government—is the recently knighted Sir Ernie Savage. By coincidence, Sir Ernie Savage just happens to be chairman of the Government's Housing and Building Societies Advisory Committee. Sir Ernie would hardly have been knighted for his services to the accounting profession. I can only assume that he balanced some favours for the Government in addition to his group's annual reports.

Finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to again bring to the attention of the House the smell connected with the now-defunct Queensland Permanent Building Society. There is still a cover-up over the collapse of that society almost two years ago. It took some eight months of persistent questioning by me to obtain information concerning loans made to directors. Some of the loans to the directors are already recorded in "Hansard" in a document tabled by the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General last week. A former director, J. V. Hodgkinson, got a loan of \$18,000 to build a second home at Mermaid Beach. The idea is that a building society should lend money for a first home, not a second home.

A letter from the administrator, tabled by the Minister last Tuesday, reveals that records and files are still in one hell of a mess. The Building Societies Act should be further amended to preclude directors of building societies from granting themselves loans.

As all honourable members are aware, at the time of its collapse the Queensland Permanent Building Society was the second

largest in Queensland and the eighth largest in Australia. The directors should not be allowed to walk away unscathed. There should be an official inquiry into all the ramifications surrounding the collapse.

However, one person who has managed to dodge some well-deserved flak is the executive director of the Association of Permanent Building Societies, Mr. Maurice Stitt, known affectionately among his colleagues as Colonel Blimp. He was very close to the directors of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, especially the bumbling, incompetent managing director, Lloyd Price. Stitt must have known of the incompetency and mismanagement of this society, but he did nothing except make a clandestine visit to my office to persuade me that the Queensland Permanent Building Society was an economically viable society. To use an old adage, Mr. Stitt fiddled while Rome burned, or dithered while the society collapsed.

In my opinion, Mr. Stitt's occupation of the directorship of the association leaves much to be desired. His administration has seen the collapse of nine societies—yes, nine societies, Mr. Deputy Speaker—the Queensland Permanent, Tasman, Family Permanent, Town and Country, T.U.B.S., City Savings, United Savings, Commonwealth Public Service, and Great Australian. Clearly his track record is not good. It leaves much to be desired. In my opinion, the best thing that Mr. Stitt can do for the building society industry in Queensland is to resign.

**Mr. ELLIOTT** (Cunningham) (2.59 p.m.): I take this opportunity to congratulate the new Speaker on his election to that high office. In common with all other honourable members, I believe that he will do a first-class job and will be impartial in playing his role.

I take the opportunity also to pledge my loyalty and that of the electors of Cunningham to Her Majesty, and to congratulate His Excellency the Governor on his Opening Speech. His Excellency has proved himself not only to be a man of ability but also to have that sterling quality that allows him to walk with kings, as it were, but never lose the common touch.

This is a very real thing in Queensland. He is always out and about in the outlying areas of the State or in the metropolitan area. He continually displays his ability to talk to anyone, to understand problems and to take in what he is there to look at.

I take the opportunity to express the immense sense of loss that all of us in Cunningham felt after the brutal, senseless slaying of Lord Louis Mountbatten and the other innocent victims of this tragedy. That outrage was a typical example of terrorism at its very worst. It should serve to unite all decent people against the tactics of the I.R.A. and other terrorist organisations. Lord Louis stood for all those virtues to which

we should all aspire. For my part, I would rate him as the greatest leader Britain has ever produced.

**An Honourable Member:** What about Winston Churchill?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** I think Mountbatten was even better in many ways.

I take the opportunity to give credit where I believe credit is due. I refer to the British Prime Minister, who was recently in Australia. All members on both sides of the House would do well to study her various interviews while in our country, particularly the interview with Mr. Michael Willesee, when we were given an insight into this outstanding lady's ability and straightforward style which she so ably displayed. She also displayed immense courage and understanding in her quick response to the tragedy in Ireland. We would all do well to look at our own performance with a view to displaying greater leadership and giving the public something to look up to, rather than cynically question and criticise the role now played.

At this stage I should like to refer to some of the problems that face the electorate of Cunningham. Most of us use the Address-in-Reply debate to refer to problems in our areas. I do not want to sound like a cracked record, but I know that we do tend to push the same problem time and time again. However, if we are not prepared to do that, constituents wonder what on earth their member is doing.

Since my last Address-in-Reply speech there has been a considerable improvement in rural conditions. It is fair comment that the beef and dairy industries are immensely better off. All of us, whether we come from rural or city areas, should be only too happy to see that. This improvement has made a tremendous difference, and will continue to do so, to the economy of Australia in general. It has a flow-on factor. Regrettably that factor is not understood by many people. If the beef and dairy industries continue to prosper, there will be a tremendous flow-on to secondary industries. When the beef and dairy industries are doing well, they are one of the greatest spending forces in areas that promote jobs and opportunities for secondary industries.

Naturally I would like to talk about soil erosion. I think I heard the honourable member for Brisbane Central say, "Oh, heavens, not again!" At the risk of sounding like a cracked record I will ask, plead and do anything else I have to do in an endeavour to ensure that we get further recognition of the very real problem of soil erosion. It is not just a problem facing the farmers in my area. It is a national problem of Australia-wide significance. As I have said time and again, we have no greater resource than our soil. If we do not look after it, we will go nowhere in the future. Our

children and their children's children will live to rue the day if we do not look after this resource.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** The soil?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Precisely—the soil.

I recognise what has been done already. In particular, I pay tribute to the structure that the Minister for Primary Industries was partly responsible for establishing in our soil-erosion hazard declared areas. I refer to the area group committees. The structure is there and the people accept it, but it needs a little impetus to get it really rolling. However, there are some problems.

So far as I am concerned, the first relates to works of general benefit, such as, where there is a soil-erosion problem, cross-road drainages and so on that need correction. Because the reduction of these problems is of general benefit, the present subsidy arrangements are not good enough. We should look at these matters very closely. The authority or the responsibility has not been pin-pointed accurately enough. In this instance the responsibility should be given to the local authorities. It is essential that they be given further financial incentive to get on with the job.

If a catchment is being planned in a soil-erosion hazard area from the top of the hills to the valley floor, it is useless trying to get landholders to do something if they know only too well that the whole project may be thwarted by a difficulty in the outlet at the bottom of the valley catchment or in some other area where there is a joint or general benefit in which the Government does not appear to be carrying out its role. That makes the farmers believe that it is useless to do anything at that stage. When the position is assessed accurately it is realised that we desperately need to get this particular responsibility understood and accepted, with the Government picking up the tab for its share of what is obviously a public benefit.

**Mr. Davis** interjected.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The honourable member for Brisbane Central has limited knowledge. Possibly his ancestors had a great knowledge of ploughing up and down hills, but at this stage of the game most people with any brains realise that the only way to work land is on the contour, at the same time using strip cropping and maintaining stubble retention to try to alleviate the erosion problem. Very few people still plough up and down hills. It may happen in isolated cases.

**Mr. Warner** interjected.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The honourable member for Toowoomba South is not far wrong when he says that they may be slightly mentally defective.

**Mr. Davis:** They are National Party supporters.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** I do not care whose supporters they are. Even if they are members of the National Party, that is their problem. They should have enough brains to realise that they should do what is necessary to alleviate the problem. I would not defend anyone who has not enough brains to use the methods that are available today.

**Mr. Davis:** Why do you want Government support all the time?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** We are looking for support in the area of general benefit. If the honourable member had enough intelligence to understand what I said before, he would know what I am talking about.

The soil-erosion problem is tied very closely to the problem of insufficient water resources and the depletion of the underground aquifers in the Condamine River basin. The Premier was in the area in recent months and inspected both problems. To follow that up—the other day the chairman of the area group committees (Mr. Ross Stirling) came down for a meeting with the Premier, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Water Resources, with a view to getting better liaison between all departments. There has to be a continuity of thought and action so that projects are not held up by one department through the lack of full understanding and co-operation with other departments. If that problem is not sorted out, it will cause great difficulties.

The depletion of underground aquifers is counter-productive in two ways. It affects landholders by reducing production of their grain and fodder crops and also affects the local authorities, many of which depend almost entirely for their water supplies on underground aquifers.

**Mr. Davis:** Are you a Gatton graduate?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** No, I am not a Gatton graduate.

It is important that we proceed with a solution to this problem. A great deal of preliminary work has been done for Stage II of the Leslie Dam. A recent Press release from the Premier indicated that a start to the programme was under way and that a further \$150,000 had been committed towards regulatory weirs on the Condamine. The Lemon Tree weir has already been started. He gave an undertaking that the other regulatory weir to be built further upstream will also be started this financial year. There is a fair possibility that the weir for the diversion of water from the Condamine River into the north branch of the Condamine will enable landholders on the north branch of the Condamine to harvest water from those flows, thus alleviating pressure on the underground aquifers that those farmers are presently pumping from. If we could get this programme under way, it would have a very real effect in alleviating the overpumping of the aquifers.

**Mr. Davis:** You would have got a decent sort of dam if you had had the insides to support the Millmerran scheme.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** That just goes to show the lack of understanding the member for Brisbane Central has about that area. Even with Stage II of the Leslie Dam, there will still be an over-commitment of water from the Condamine. The only possibility of getting the required amount of water for a scheme at Millmerran lies in bringing water from a really big project over in New South Wales, such as the Clarence scheme. In the past, many members, such as David Cory, who was the member for Warwick before Des Booth, have supported such a project. The member for Toowoomba South (Mr. John Warner) has spoken at length about that scheme, and I have no doubt he will do so in the future. I believe that, if such a project could get off the ground, a scheme at Millmerran would be a very real possibility.

We have had a very real problem with the Glenlyon Dam. It was built for irrigation, and even if gates were erected on the top of the wall, we would still have insufficient water to provide for the irrigation that is projected for that area and a powerhouse.

The next river is the Mole River. It is possible that, under the New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Act, the Mole River Dam could be built and that water used. Once again, Opposition members could have a pretty fair argument with their friend Mr. Wran. All of the irrigators on the New South Wales side of the border—I know they would not vote for him—would make a pretty fair sort of noise and would get very upset at any suggestion to take that water.

The water problem is of very real consequence in the Cunningham electorate and we are very worried about it. The two biggest problems in that electorate concern soil erosion and the water resources in that basin. Those two matters are closely interrelated with the general viability of the area, and we need to keep it viable.

The honourable member for Toowoomba South would know only too well that, if the Darling Downs area and the area farther west were not viable and not progressing, Toowoomba would die. It is as simple as that. Toowoomba is very much dependent on that area.

**Mr. Warner:** It earned \$14,000,000 last year for the economy of Queensland.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** That is right.

We must consider the revenue earned by the Government and the provision of export earnings from those areas. It is a tremendous area and it is an important resource area to both Queensland and Australia.

**Mr. Davis:** What you are saying—

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The honourable member for Brisbane Central seems to be very keen to interject.

It is not unreasonable to ask for some assistance to get Stage II of the Leslie Dam off the ground, and the provision of a reasonable amount of money to alleviate the soil erosion problem.

I should now like to make some comments on the Federal Budget. It is regrettable that many of our State colleagues tend to consider only the shortcomings and problems in that Budget rather than look at its positive areas. I should like to take a few moments to speak about some of its more positive areas. The Federal Government has done its level best to bring down a responsible Budget. It will reduce the deficit and that is absolutely essential.

**Mr. Davis:** Including \$2,010 million at the motorists' expense. And you are supposed to be supporting road transport!

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** What about the farmers? No-one is being hit harder than the farmers in connection with the fuel problem. I do not intend to be parochial and cry poor mouth. We must be constructive and look right across the board at the whole Budget. It is a great move to reduce the deficit. The Budget will reduce taxation slightly.

**Mr. Prest:** Where?

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** If the honourable member wants it accurately, it is 2.57 per cent.

One particular aspect of the Budget that I feel should be commended in a real way deals with onshore oil exploration. Because of the energy crisis, I believe the decision to provide tax incentives for onshore exploration will be a very real benefit. With a bit of luck we will see many more wells drilled as a consequence of that decision. A conversion allowance has been provided for firms switching from oil-fired burners to alternative energy sources. Surely Opposition members would have enough brains to understand that that is a good thing.

**Mr. Davis:** That has been our policy for years.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Well, there you are, don't knock it. Instead of always nit-picking and yelling and screaming when someone does something constructive, Opposition members should accept it. This has always been the Opposition's big problem, and I believe it will always be the Opposition until its members realise that they have to be constructive instead of destructive.

I would now like to make a few other points about the Budget, particularly as it relates to country areas. At this stage I must take the Queensland Graingrowers'

Organisation to task because I believe it has been a little bit hard to get on with. The Budget provided for 20 per cent depreciation on storage facilities, and it is rather nit-picking for the Graingrowers' Organisation to say that it wants a 100 per cent deduction in the year of purchase. I am certain that everyone who buys a silo would like to get a 100 per cent deduction, and so would anyone else who buys anything, but we have to be realistic. I think a 20 per cent depreciation allowance on silos, hay sheds, and that type of thing is not bad. Members must remember that the purchaser also receives an additional 20 per cent by way of the investment allowance, which makes a total depreciation of 40 per cent in the first year. I think anybody who decries that is being a little bit hard to get on with.

I now turn my attention to the problems of small businesses. I have always been a firm supporter of the concept of small business. I am not at all keen about multinational corporations or big public companies. I believe small businesses are much more likely to employ local people, adopt a more responsible attitude and do something for the local area than the bigger businesses. I was very pleased to see that the Commonwealth Government recognised this by increasing the retention provision for trading profits from 60 to 70 per cent. This will obviously assist small businesses by making more money available for internal expansion and help avoid the situation where small companies are forced to go public.

In view of some of the interjections of the Opposition and the topical nature of the subject, before I resume my seat I should say a few words about the fuel shortage. I would like to go on record as saying very clearly that I told people in my area a long time ago—not just a few months ago—that I believed it was in the long-term interests of the grain industry and the area in general for property owners to improve their fuel-storage facilities. I have heard various Opposition members having a go at the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services on this subject, but let us get something very clear. I see a great deal of difference between, on the one hand, a farmer's holding sufficient stocks to be able to ensure that at all times after a crop is planted he has enough fuel on hand to harvest that crop and, on the other, his buying in enough fuel to be able to run his total operation for two or three years. The latter practice is against the national interest. There is no justification whatsoever for people to indulge in that sort of hoarding—and in my opinion, that is what it is.

We have heard a lot from people who should know better. I was interested to see that Mr. Newman has been able to understand the fuel situation better. He has come out and said that he can understand why people need to put away reasonable supplies of distillate. He has stopped talking along the lines, "All you need to do is convert

from distillate to L.P.G." Here in Queensland it is totally ridiculous to suggest that we could convert to L.P.G. the Caterpillar tractors that are used in the grain areas. To suggest that shows that at times people in Canberra tend to get isolated. They tend to reach the stage where they just do not understand the position.

I am sure that what Kevin Newman, who comes from Tasmania, says is correct when it refers to Tasmania. The small tractors that are used across the top part of Tasmania could well be converted to L.P.G., which could be obtained from Bass Strait, but here in Queensland L.P.G. is not a viable alternative, and I think that anyone who suggests that is definitely——

**Mr. Warner:** Off the track.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The member for Toowoomba South is dead right.

I should also like to take this opportunity to say that I support, up to a point, the Federal Government's price structure for petrol. I do not believe that because we are farmers, people on the land, we have any justification for saying that we should pay less for petrol.

**Mr. Davis:** You are paying less.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Not for petrol.

**Mr. Davis:** For diesel you are. Of course you are paying less.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** Once again the member for Brisbane Central is confused. He is confusing the diesel situation with the petrol situation. I obtain a diesel certificate only when I operate a diesel-powered tractor on my farm. I do not see any reason why somebody else should pay me a subsidy when I use petrol in my car. I should not be any different from anybody else in that regard. The only people who I believe would be justified in receiving some sort of assistance would be those who live further out than I do. Compared with the people right out in the country, I consider myself to be in the suburbs. Those people have to travel long distances on property roads and on unmade roads. They do not receive any money for their road systems. I believe that there is justification for petrol price equalisation in those areas, but I do not believe that people in my area are justified in asking for a petrol concession. Once again it might be said that I am at odds with the Queensland Graingrowers' Organisation in that regard.

I shall not use the full time allotted to me as I know other members wish to raise in this Address-in-Reply debate today the various problems in their areas.

**Mr. BISHOP** (Surfers Paradise) (3.29 p.m.): I am glad to have the opportunity to support the member for Callide, who moved the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech. I record my allegiance and that of my constituents to our system of government as represented and symbolised by the Governor.

It also gives me a good deal of pleasure to congratulate the new Speaker on his election to that office and to assure him of my present and future support.

I wish to address myself particularly to the question of the multiplicity of huge shopping complexes and the detrimental effect that they are having on small business in the State of Queensland.

**Mr. Davis:** Why don't you concentrate on Surfers Paradise?

**Mr. BISHOP:** Small business is something about which the honourable member would know very little.

**Mr. Davis:** I am spokesman in this Chamber for small business.

**Mr. BISHOP:** Let me assure the honourable member that that is no qualification. I have just listened to the honourable member for Archerfield speak for 40 minutes in his usual superficial fashion, and he did not devote one second of his time to his shadow portfolio—not one second! I find it quite extraordinary that he did not mention anything about the subject on which the A.L.P. has elected him to be its spokesman in this Parliament. He did not say anything about works and housing.

**Mr. Davis:** May I ask you a question? Did you pay \$5 for that book?

**Mr. BISHOP:** Does it matter how I got hold of this book?

**Mr. Davis:** Yes, it does.

**Mr. BISHOP:** Is it a secret book?

**Mr. Davis:** No, but it is copyright. If it is copied, you must pay for it.

**Mr. BISHOP:** When I read the garbage in it, I wonder why the A.L.P. would want to make its policy handbook copyright.

Let me refer to what the honourable member for Archerfield, the great character assassin of the Labor Party, should have been talking about. Why did he not speak about expanding the Ministry of Works and Housing to incorporate urban and regional development? I do not know what that is supposed to mean. Perhaps it has some relation to the Department of Urban and Regional Development of the former Labor Government in Canberra, under which Mr. Uren was able to spend thousands of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise is quoting from a document. Will he be tabling that document later? I request that he table it later.

**Mr. BISHOP:** That was a terrific point of order; I congratulate the honourable member for taking it. I am sure that, if he waits round for the next 18 months, he will hear all about what is in this book.

Let me return to the situation of small business in this State. I am sure that the honourable member for Brisbane Central would realise that the only statutory body in Australia aimed at helping small business is the Small Business Development Corporation of Victoria. From the data bank of information compiled by that corporation, it has been established that nationally there is a 70 per cent probability that a new business will fail within five years of its inception. Statistically, that is a staggering failure rate, and it should give caution to those budding entrepreneurs who are contemplating launching themselves into the business world.

There is no doubt that many people jump into a new business venture totally unprepared for the problems that will face them. It would be sensible, I believe, if small businessmen took advantage of the established Small Business Section of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, which offers assistance to small businesses where there are one or two proprietors. Two experienced counsellors, together with back-up staff, go out and visit the operators of small shops. The full resources of the department's technical section are at their disposal, and professional personnel are employed in disciplines such as economics, accountancy and engineering, and they are required to travel throughout the State on assignments.

A programme of small business education has been initiated by the department and, because of its practical nature, has wide acceptance within the industry. In conjunction with the Department of Education, courses of business management are now available through T.A.F.E. colleges. Certificate-type courses are available free of charge and are offered out of business hours. Subjects covered by the courses include practical business management, record keeping and business planning.

I would suggest that, instead of perpetrating garbage of the type that is in its policy handbook, the A.L.P. would do much better to promote some of the activities of the Government in assisting small business.

Today I wish to speak about not so much that problem facing the small businessman as the added difficulty facing him as the result of the startling growth of regional shopping centres. The regional shopping concept in Queensland has grown enormously, and I want to say a few words about the methods being adopted in establishing the complexes.

In Queensland more than \$3,500 million is spent each year on consumer goods. The battle for these dollars is now considered to have reached a very dangerous level. The battle is being waged between the large department chain and chain-store operators, supermarkets and the small independent retailers. In Queensland the two largest combines are Woolworths and Coles, who, with their associated companies such as Big W, B.C.C. and K mart, now control 43 per cent of the retail food market in the State. A planning and expansion campaign, with a programme of 34 new outlets, will cost some \$200,000,000. Obviously that will significantly increase their current 43 per cent control of the market.

It could be said that Queensland is about to be swamped by southern capital, which over the next few years will drive the nuisance competition provided by the small trader right out of the State. In my view, it is important that the position of the small businessman be watched by this Government. A number of people will say that in our free-enterprise system it is every man for himself, or "If you can't stand the heat, don't get near the fire." That attitude is all very well, but what concerns me is that the small trader should have an equal opportunity to survive. At present he may not be getting that.

If we go back into history to mediaeval times and look at the way the system operated, we see that in those days the lord of the manor controlled the whole thing. Surrounding him he had his farmlets, shopkeepers and businessmen. He owned their businesses; he owned their lives. He was the squire of the manor and they could not live without him. Over the years, free enterprise fought to break itself loose from the grasp of that mediaeval manorial-type system, and it succeeded.

I wonder whether private enterprise today is defeating its own purpose. I wonder whether we are now getting back to the system of those old days when the squire ran everything. Today the owner of the shopping centre controls everything around him. If a businessman doesn't like it, he is forced out. Those on the outskirts get broken by the system. I would not object so much if the shopping complexes strata-titled the small shops to the small businessmen, and allowed them to control their own destiny. In a moment I will speak about the type of attitude adopted by some of these large complexes.

A large monopolistic operator walks into an area after a small trader has built up a business, buys huge slabs of land at unrealistic prices and has the land rezoned. In many instances he applies pressure on the local authority. The small trader is then forced to fight for his life. The public is conned into believing that the supermarket operator offers cheaper prices to the consumer when, in fact, as is claimed, the opposite is the

case. For example, Brenda Payne the president of the Queensland Consumers' Organisation has stated that in Victoria meat prices are 12.1 per cent dearer in supermarkets than in butcher shops and 16.2 per cent dearer in supermarkets than in wholesale shops.

There is no reason to suggest that it would be any different in Queensland. On my own experience, it is no different on the Gold Coast. She has advised the consumer to look to the future and to consider the long-term consequences of these shopping operations. She feels that if small, independent retailers are squeezed out, not only will retailers suffer but prices will escalate without competition from the small traders. The result will be that the consumer will suffer.

We claim to be a free-enterprise community, with the consumer dictating to the market. That philosophy is fine if all things are equal. Many small businessmen feel that they are not equal. I will quote but one of the letters written to me by small businessmen in my electorate to indicate what they think. It is in these terms—

"While the developers of these shopping centres talk about 'serving the public', I really wonder if this is the case. Frequently the shopping centres are built much before a demand develops, and then they only serve the purpose of putting out of business smaller Independent Retailers, like myself, who for a number of reasons do not wish to become involved with them. Two such reasons being, much higher rental than we are currently paying, and a desire not to be subjected to onerous regulations laid down by Corporations based in Sydney and Melbourne. I realise, however, that you cannot stop 'progress' but what I am against is unfettered progress, and I ask that you and your colleagues give serious attention to the proposal that permission to build large shopping centres is only given after extensive studies are made into public demand, economic effects and the environment factors."

**Mr. Warburton:** How do you gauge whether or not small businesses are in fact serving the public properly?

**Mr. BISHOP:** I hope to explain that shortly.

Some shopping centres have been built with community purposes in mind. They do provide an undeniable benefit overall. Such a one is in my electorate, and I refer to Pacific Fair. It is an unusual type of development. It is a tourist attraction as well as a business operation. It provides community services and fills a need. Some others do not. For example, the proposed Santa Barbara development opposite the Chair Lift at Nobby's Beach is a shocker. It is sandwiched between the existing Nobby's Beach shopping centre and the adjoining Waterway Wonderland centre. I understand that it will provide nothing that an adjacent

supermarket chain store does not. I point out that 30 small shops already exist on either side of it only a few hundred yards away.

The residents did not, and do not, want that particular development. The shopkeepers do not want it, the Albert Shire Council did not want it but the High Court did. In effect, it will replace a caravan site that the public and the tourists want. That might answer the question asked by the honourable member for Sandgate.

I shall refer now to another shocker, that is, the development proposal by the Hudson-Conway group on behalf of a Target supermarket complex. It is on land over the road from The Southport School. The land is owned, I understand, by the diocesan trust. The developers are waging an all-out public campaign through misleading advertising, and in some circles it is suggested that they are placing heavy pressure on aldermen. The "Gold Coast Bulletin" carried a headline, "They tried to bribe me", and the article read—

"I was told to hush it up", says alderman."

He also said—

"I would like it to be made known that I have been approached with the suggestion that if the council were to make certain decisions, then there would be the possibility of personal financial reward."

He said that the most recent bribe attempt related to a matter still before the council. He would not reveal the name of the people or company involved, but he said the matter before the council could indirectly affect thousands of Gold Coast people. He was reluctant to give the Press more substantial details about the circumstances of the offer.

Quite bluntly, they are seeking to bribe the community into acceptance by offering some type of community hall on the land they have an option to buy. However, nothing they are planning can disguise the fact that their only contribution to the community will be another supermarket in that area, which the community requires like a hole in the head.

In my view, the major concern is the inability of the undeveloped Bundall Road to take the traffic that this will generate. I understand that an attempt is being made to get local government approval for the development of another 70 acres very close to this one. If shopping centre developers are prepared to build four-lane highways through the coast, provide freeways or do something to help the community, there may be some attraction; but, of course, they will not do that. They are interested in satisfying their own greed.

If local authorities are not prepared to act in these instances, then the Minister should. As he stated in answer to a question from me, he can do so. On 28 August he said—

"I can assure the honourable member that the question of over-provision of

shopping centres is taken into consideration when applications for the rezoning of lands for that purpose are being dealt with."

I would hope that the Government would act. It is a necessity that it should.

Yesterday the Minister for Local Government answered the honourable member for Wynnum in these terms—

"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."

He said that the Government does have regard to over-saturation of localities with shopping centres.

**Mr. Warburton:** I doubt that he has the power.

**Mr. BISHOP:** All we can go on, I think, is that he has said it twice in this House in the last week or so. In view of what is about to occur all over Queensland, he is going to have ample opportunity to protect local authorities in the decisions that they have to make. I hope he does.

The matter has become so serious in Victoria that the Hamer Government is reviewing procedures in respect of the issuing of permits for new regional shopping complexes. It is reviewing the matter in Victoria. Queensland should do the same. I notice in the Press in the last day or two that we are about to launch into applications for huge shopping centres in our sporting grounds—in areas that were provided for public use for other purposes now and in the future.

A newspaper article dated 28 August deals with an application to the Brisbane City Council. The headline reads, "Lang Park Plan faces opposition." The article reads—

"The Brisbane City Council is expected to block plans by the Lang Park trust to lease part of its Brisbane Rugby League headquarters site for a \$3 million shopping centre.

"He said the council would favour a small shopping centre, but not a \$3 million complex which would create traffic problems, distort the area's development and seriously affect existing shopping centres at Paddington. Business in the inner city also would be affected."

That is probably a very true statement. There is a considerable amount of evidence showing that shopping complexes are causing strain in the community.

I refer now to a speech made by a person who is critically interested in this area. He is very knowledgeable on the subject.

He happens to be representing the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers' Association and made this speech at its 32nd annual conference. He said—

"What we want is sensible, controlled development.

"Do the Local Government Act, the associated Town Plans and Local Authority By-laws give any protection to the Independent Retailer and Small-Business Man? They may be designed to do so but it just does not happen. To date the situation has been this. Let's take the example of a large Developer, whether it be a private Company or one of the 'Major Chains', who lodges an application for re-zoning for Local Business with a Local Authority. When considering the limited finances of the average Shire Council you will find that it faces a dilemma. Really there is only one thing they can do when they receive such an application—and that is approve it, irrespective of any adverse effect it may have on the amenity of the area or on existing businesses or on residents close by. If they do not approve the application, the Local Authority can most assuredly expect a Local Government Court appeal from the 'wealthy' Developer. In the case of the Brisbane City Council, each party to an appeal bears their own costs."

That, of course, is the same with most councils that I know of and it is certainly the case with the Gold Coast City Council. He continued—

"However, in the case of Shire Councils it is different. Although the Judge may use his discretion, in most cases the losing party must bear his own costs plus those of his opponent. Therefore we have the situation as it has been and is now, where, to avoid an appeal by the Developers, the Shire Councils appear to rush their approval through and pass their recommendations on to the Local Government Minister for final approval. The costs I have referred to can be anywhere between \$15,000 to \$30,000. Just recently, The Cairns City Council rejected an application for a large Shopping Complex and immediately was confronted with an appeal by the Developers. That Council now faces legal costs of \$30,000, which they can ill afford."

That is not uncommon. The Santa Barbara case on the Gold Coast is a classic example of a local authority not wanting a development, refusing approval and eventually the higher courts going over its head.

**Mr. Warburton:** It is correct, though, that no local authority in Queensland has the right to refuse an application by a developer because of the reasons you are outlining, and only the State Government can give it that right?

**Mr. BISHOP:** That is correct. In my view the local authority cannot give approval. The Government can control the situation, according to the Minister.

The developers know that they have the councils over the barrel. They know also that a private individual—the resident, the small businessman and even a group of small businessmen—cannot afford to lodge an appeal under the present system. The odds are that he will lose.

There are a number of other matters having a detrimental effect on the investment in small businesses today that the Government should be studying closely. Landlords are getting away with certain practices that are forcing good tenants out of business and preventing them from selling or assigning their leases or being able to obtain extensions. One of the unsavoury practices that is becoming all too common is the increase or calculation of rents on a percentage of gross turnover. This is common, of course, to the shopping complex chain. New lessees or tenants are charged key money and provision in leases is being made for the shopping complex chain to claim a percentage of the goodwill and content of a business when it is sold.

To claim that all landlords are unscrupulous would, of course, be foolish, but judging by the number of complaints that I receive in my electorate, there are a few consistent ones on the Coast who make a habit of screwing tenants as hard as they can. There is no doubt at all that the small, independent retailer is in a war, on the one hand, with his landlord and, on the other, with the huge supermarket developer, the huge shopping complex operator, who is trying to gobble him up.

I will give honourable members an example of what I mean by this and read to the House a transcript of a tape recording of a conversation between a developer and a retailer. The developer states—

"But—if I could just finish and just make the points—I'm not here to have a debating argument—I'm here to make a dollar and X is a personal friend of mine and so is Y . . . I was talking to them both last week and they are going to spend real dollars if they are threatened, by first signing a cheque where you guys have to pass the hat around and get A, B and C to come along and D and so it goes on . . . I believe and there are a number of ways they propose to do it, which is not my position to talk about, but I believe that it can only hurt the smaller bloke—you worry about today, not so much your future, but you've got to be around tomorrow by making a quid today and the sort of fight they can conduct against you I believe can be economically injurious, they have ways and means . . . you know that as well as I do and of course if one of them was to knock off all the better sites the strongest independent owner like people like yourself that virtually own a number of stores, would take great steps to weaken the personal financial position of the strongest key people involved and personal losses on a regular basis can knock the

stuffing out of most people—so I think that if I were in your boots I'd be wanting to fight—I'd be wanting to fight by expanding, upgrading, maximizing my resources rather than fighting what I call a rearguard action which is just going to get the big boys back up and when the big boy coughs, sneezes, the little fellow gets pneumonia, so if I were in your shoes I would be talking to people like me so we are doing it for so and so and so and so, what can you do for us? Now there are plenty of Companies like mine that are active in this sort of work with expertise and there is no way you are going to get the stores that you want out of the resources of your own people."

**Mr. Davis:** Is that still the developer?

**Mr. BISHOP:** Yes. In other words, the developer is saying, "You join us. You sell out to us. You get with us or we will crush you to death." Let us have a look at another example at this type of approach by so-called free enterprise and big business today. This article appeared in "The National Times" of 28 July—

"One wonders whether some wag had dropped a truth drug into the water cooler at a retail traders seminar in Melbourne last week.

Myer chief executive Keith Rosenhain opened up with details of how developers and large retail stores go about getting approval for new shopping centres and discount outlets in Australia:

"It's almost a little bit like those people who are in government services and know people and they can get some influence and get the laws changed a little so you can get it (a new retail development) put together."

What greater frankness could one get than that—the chief executive of Myers saying, and being quoted in the Press as saying, that they use undue influence to get their way? Surely that lends credence to my remarks today.

Firstly, the Government should have a close look at the way in which these huge shopping complexes are starting to come into this State. We should not fall for the furphy that, within the free-enterprise ethic, these huge operations represent free enterprise. In my view, they do not represent free enterprise at all.

As I said at the beginning of my speech, we are getting back to the mediaeval approach to business, with the squire running everything. He sat in the middle of his castle and owned everybody for miles around him. If a person did not get on with him, or could not work with him, or if he could not pay him his 10 per cent, he was out. I repeat that if these big-time operators are fair dinkum about supporting the small retailer and creating new jobs, let them strata title the small shops in their complexes.

**Mr. Ahern:** Some of them require that the cash registers be wired up to their offices.

**Mr. BISHOP:** That is the newest development. I am glad that the honourable member reminded me of that. It is true that the privacy of a man's business is going out the window. These big-time operators are requiring that the cash registers be wired to a central computer so that they can examine the take every day and then rip off their bit of the money.

I believe that if this Government believes in free enterprise, as it constantly says it does, it should do something about this type of thing. It should look closely at it. As a result of the unethical methods that I have outlined today, there is a rising swell of discontent in the community.

**Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (4.3 p.m.):** This debate affords members the opportunity of making an address to Parliament in reply to the speech delivered by the Governor when he opened this second session of the Forty-second Parliament. The Governor's Opening Speech sought to outline some of the Government's initiatives for the coming year, including proposed legislation, and some of its expectations for the State of Queensland. As a back-bencher or private member who, because of party affiliations and political agreements, generally supports the Government, I welcome this opportunity to make a few comments which, I believe, are pertinent to the State's future.

The coalition Government of the National and Liberal Parties that has governed Queensland now for over 20 years has, above all else, demonstrated a continued commitment to private enterprise. It is a Government dedicated to individual and corporate initiatives. It is a Government that recognises the rights of private ownership, and it has always sought to protect those rights. It is a Government that says that if a man is prepared to work harder than his neighbour, he should enjoy the fruits of that labour, and that the profit or wealth that he can accumulate from it should not be taken away from him by the State.

This recognition of the profit motive as a basic approach to government has, I believe, been responsible for the fact that Queensland has had an economic growth rate well above the national average. Even now, prospects for 1979-80 are bright and there has been a renewed growth in business confidence. Projects already announced for that period represent substantial increases over 1978.

Indeed, Queensland is Australia's fastest-growing State, with 1,947 projects, valued at \$15,030 million, announced or under development at this time. The State has a well-balanced economy and provides 23 per cent of the nation's exports whilst accounting for only 15.2 per cent of Australia's population. In 1977-78 it generated overseas foreign exchange of \$2,044 million from its overseas trade surplus. This materially

assists in the nation's development, as does the State's contribution of 23.7 per cent of the national value of mining production at the present time. Queensland's energy resources of coal, shale-oil, oil, natural gas and uranium are well known internationally.

General industry and commerce that flow from these basic resources have provided an impetus for a growth in job opportunities at a rate well above the national average. In Queensland there are 625,000 civilian wage and salary earners, excluding agricultural workers. They represent 13.1 per cent of the national total, a figure that has grown steadily from the 12.3 per cent that it was in 1971.

Another great encouragement that the Government has been able to give to industry is its moderate scale of taxes and charges. I am, of course, referring to State taxes and charges, which are the lowest of any State in Australia. I have some figures here that have been prepared by the State Treasury and made available to members, and I should like to put them before Parliament so that they can become part of the permanent record. In fact, I believe that they are so significant that I seek leave to have them incorporated in "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES—TAXATION, BY STATE AND TYPE OF TAX  
1977-78  
(\$ per capita)

Type of Tax	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Total
Estate, Gift, Probate and Succession Duties .. .. .	19.37	23.44	7.85	14.56	12.19	12.54	17.42
Property Taxes—							
Land Tax .. .. .	24.62	15.96	7.02	15.28	12.18	9.54	17.10
Local Government Rates (A) ..	89.96	84.76	73.39	66.58	65.74	79.35	81.35
Metropolitan Improvement Rates		3.57	..	..	2.17	..	1.17
Other .. .. .	0.05	..	..	0.79	0.11	..	0.10
Total Property .. .. .	114.63	104.29	80.42	82.65	80.20	88.88	99.73
Liquor Taxes .. .. .	10.96	8.97	11.32	8.53	10.62	9.16	10.16
Taxes on Gambling—							
Lottery Taxes .. .. .	6.25	19.16	4.07	6.69	5.12	4.12	9.33
Poker Machines Tax .. .. .	19.71	..	..	..	..	..	7.09
Racing Taxes .. .. .	15.82	17.39	9.84	8.92	11.37	7.25	14.04
Other .. .. .	1.29	0.24	0.88	..	..	5.70	0.90
Total Gambling .. .. .	43.07	37.02	14.79	15.61	16.49	17.06	31.37
Taxes on Ownership and Operation of Motor Vehicles—							
Vehicle Registration Fees and Taxes .. .. .	32.78	36.29	27.14	32.84	37.06	36.09	33.34
Drivers, etc., Licences and Fees	5.53	4.23	3.11	3.48	3.12	4.36	4.36
Stamp Duty on Vehicle Registration .. .. .	9.33	11.59	4.75	12.28	4.87	8.87	9.11
Road Transport Taxes .. .. .	0.23	1.85	1.30	0.07	1.92	2.65	1.05
Road Maintenance Contributions	3.82	2.58	2.52	3.76	4.29	0.44	3.21
Motor Car Third Party Insurance Surcharge and Duties ..	..	2.05	..	1.45	2.74	1.11	0.97
Total Motor Vehicles .. .. .	51.69	58.60	38.82	53.88	54.00	53.51	52.04
Payroll Tax .. .. .	114.00	105.33	81.66	94.03	98.59	85.61	102.54
Fire Brigades Contributions from Insurance Companies .. .. .	6.35	9.05	10.75	6.30	10.06	8.33	8.15
Stamp Duties N.E.I. .. .. .	47.51	62.22	46.37	47.36	45.49	34.00	50.78
Business Franchise Petrol Gas Tobacco .. .. .	7.38	6.84	..	7.09	6.88	..	5.79
Fees from Regulatory Services N.E.I. (A) .. .. .	5.74	6.09	7.68	3.73	4.05	3.86	5.75
Other Taxes, Fees, Fines, etc., (A)	9.88	13.60	12.72	12.18	12.33	3.40	11.57
Total Taxation .. .. .	430.56	435.45	312.37	345.90	350.90	316.36	395.30

(A) Estimated.

Source: Taxation Revenue, Australia, 1977/78—Australian Bureau of Statistics.

**Mr. LANE:** As we look forward into the financial year 1979-80, with the Budget due to be brought down within three weeks and possibly an election within the period covered by that Budget, we would be negligent if we did not carry out some examination of the Opposition's contradictory and contrasting policies.

In embarking on this exercise, we are fortunate that in Rockhampton in February the Opposition party, the Australian Labor Party, held a State conference at which a

comprehensive review of its policies took place. All the members of the A.L.P. in this Parliament had an input into that conference, and the so-called shadow Ministers, or parliamentary spokesmen, had a major say in the drafting of individual policy statements under the headings of the portfolios that they are supposed to shadow.

To date, that conference has been renowned and reported principally for the embarrassing argument that involved the Federal Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Hayden) and his

chosen delegate or proxy to the A.L.P.'s administrative committee (Senator George Georges), and for the piece of superficial play-acting by the Leader of the State Opposition (Mr. Ed Casey) in respect of that matter. After the members of the Trades Hall Left-wing establishment made it clear that, for reasons of their own, they were unhappy with Senator Georges, Mr. Casey came out, in a show of bravado, on the same theme. This display of overacting had one real benefit for the Leader of the Opposition. It distracted the media and the Queensland people from the detailed policy decisions of the conference, which, in total, amount to a programme of economic disaster for the State of Queensland. Fortunately the A.L.P. organisation has recently detailed the decisions of the conference in a policy handbook, which has become available to us.

**Mr. Davis:** We are proud of it, too. Make sure that it is recorded in "Hansard" that I said we are proud of it.

**Mr. LANE:** I thank the honourable member for Brisbane Central. Did anyone miss that?

I intend to outline just a few of the more obnoxious sections of this policy handbook so that they will be available on the permanent public record. Before doing so, I should like to make it clear that prior to its publication it was checked by the A.L.P.'s parliamentary spokesmen who sit with us here today. This is made clear in the editor's note at page 3, which states—

"Wherever possible these up-dated versions of the policy were distributed to the State Shadow Ministers before they were set in type. Following the typesetting, all Shadow Ministers received a copy of their proposed policy for proof-reading prior to publication.

This document therefore represents the most accurate available record of policy decisions made by the First State Conference."

The booklet is divided into areas of ministerial responsibility to match the various Government departments. I will choose two of those departments for comment. They are indicative of the remaining 16 departments dealt with in the booklet.

**Mr. Davis:** Do you know something? We have searched around but we cannot find a Liberal Party policy or a National Party policy.

**Mr. LANE:** You have not looked in the right place.

The first department I refer to is that of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, which is dealt with at page 25 of the booklet. It carries a smiling photograph of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It commences—

"A State Labor Government will . . . Use taxes and charges to encourage a pattern of resource allocation which facilitates Labor's regional, environmental, employment, social welfare and like policies."

What does that mean? It is certainly not a statement calculated to encourage investment in Queensland. Taxes and charges are to be levied not on the basis of equity or profitability, not after taking into account return on investment, but "to encourage a pattern of resource allocation which facilitates Labor's policies", some of which are quite unrelated to industrial development or the general development of this State.

Under the heading "Workers Councils" it continues—

"A Labor Government will set up a Committee to encourage worker participation in management with an education programme informing all sections of the community of the ensuing benefits."

I ask: what ensuing benefits? There certainly have been none in South Australia where this concept has been tried out at great expense to the taxpayers.

**Mr. Austin:** Did you know that the business people in South Australia, for the first time in the history of the Government, have joined together to campaign against the Government?

**Mr. LANE:** Yes.

Under the heading "Statutory Bodies" in the same section of the handbook we see—

"That committees be formed to examine the social and economic advantages of forming statutory bodies—separate from the State public service—to become involved in mining and secondary manufacturing industries in Queensland."

These people have turned the clock back 30 years, to the days of State-owned butcher shops and the State jam factory. But this is Ed Casey's A.L.P. in 1979. They go further now, to State-owned mining and secondary manufacturing industries in Queensland. I wonder how the coal miners' union feels about State ownership. Perhaps coal miners would become part of the Queensland Public Service. I wonder with whom State factories and State manufacturers would be competing. There would be no competition. If the Australian Labor Party were not serious about this, it would be childishly ridiculous.

I move now to page 28, to Mr. Houston's final responsibility, under the heading "Public Sector". It reads—

"An A.L.P. Government in Queensland will take all steps necessary to protect and expand the public sector in this State, recognising that a thriving public sector, including State-owned enterprise, is a practical and responsible method of ensuring that the resources of Queensland are enjoyed equally by all Queenslanders."

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. LANE:** I enjoy the "Hear, hears!" from members opposite.

This is an all-embracing statement that really let the cat out of the bag. It is a deliberate onslaught on private industry, dedicated to increasing the public sector—the Public Service. The kindest interpretation that can be placed on it is that this commitment is made by the Opposition in some naive belief that the State can do it better and cheaper than can the process of free competition among private industry. Some naive belief! That, of course, is a fallacy. It has failed wherever it has been attempted. Even in 1979 the Leader of the Opposition has not learnt that lesson.

I turn now to page 62 in the Labor Party's policy booklet, which refers to the Department of Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs. The photograph of the honourable member for Rockhampton North appears at the commencement of this section. We have it already that he has proof-read what follows, and approves of it. Mr. Les Yewdale, the former secretary of the Rockhampton Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation, is today the Opposition spokesman on Labour Relations matters. Under the heading "Industrial Democracy" this appears—

"An A.L.P. Government will introduce legislation designed to develop the capacity of unions and their members to carry out intervention in all aspects of managerial prerogatives.

"It will establish within the 'Premier's Department' a Unit for Industrial Democracy which will provide:—

(1) A broadly based education programme to enable workers to participate fully in the introduction of industrial democracy in the work place.

(2) The development of laws on Industrial Democracy suited to the needs and aspirations of the workers of the state.

(3) An Advisory service to assist in the introduction and development of industrial democracy in industry.

(4) The development of legislation relating to the rights of workers and the community generally to access to all information appertaining to the running of companies in Australia."

I go back to the first sentence, "An A.L.P. Government will . . ."—there is no "may" about it—". . . introduce legislation designed to develop the capacity of unions and their members to carry out intervention in all aspects of managerial prerogatives."

I referred to the dictionary and found that "intervention" means interference.

**Mr. Davis** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** The honourable member may consult the dictionary himself.

That policy denotes interference in management. On looking up the word "manage" in the dictionary, I saw that it means, "To have effective control of." Under an A.L.P. Government the unions will, by the

very definition contained in the dictionary on the centre table, have legal backing to interfere in management and take control of industry.

What will that do to the concept of private ownership in this State? It will deny it, of course. This so-called industrial democracy is anything but democratic. As it is enunciated in this document, it amounts to more than worker participation; it amounts to full worker control. It has no place in our democratic system. When Australians become aware of what is the A.L.P. policy—what the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Casey, stands for—they will reject it.

I go on to page 63 of the document under the heading "Government Employees"—

"The standard of living of Government employees will be progressively improved by:—

- Introducing one week's paid paternity leave for any employee required to care for a wife and/or children prior to, during, or following a confinement;

- Granting Maternity leave up to six (6) months in any one year to an employee. Of this period six (6) weeks will be paid for prior to the actual confinement and positions will be left open for a period of three months subsequent to the confinement. Such period of absence shall be taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating Long Service, Annual or Sick Leave entitlements, etc.;

- Granting paid study leave of no less than one (1) week per annum to employees selected by their union to attend approved study course. In certain cases leave may be extended and paid for up to six (6) weeks per annum;

- Ensure that all Government employees have approved periods of leave of absence, including accident pay, counted for the purpose of Long Service, Annual Leave and Sick Leave, etc., provided such periods do not extend beyond six (6) months at any one time."

Does anyone in this House or anyone in this State really believe that Queensland, at this time in its history, can afford those propositions? What additional tax burden would that place on all Queenslanders? In relation to paternity leave specifically, the Treasurer indicated yesterday in answer to a question that it is difficult for the Treasury to make such an estimation. He said that "it would be nigh impossible for the A.L.P. to make such accurate cost estimates".

**Mr. Warburton:** Don't you believe it.

**Mr. LANE:** Then let the honourable member give us his cost estimate of that proposal for paternity leave.

**Mr. Warburton:** You are telling the story.

**Mr. LANE:** No; let us hear it from members opposite. They are the people who provided an input into this policy. Let us hear

a costing here today on the floor of this Parliament so that every Queenslander knows.

The Treasurer went on to make the point that to make policies without any idea of the cost seemed to be totally irresponsible, but typical of the way in which an A.L.P. Opposition goes about its task.

Recently, the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services said that his department estimated the cost to this State of the paternity leave proposal as \$1,000,000 a year. That is based on an estimated average ordinary weekly wage for Government males of \$200, the number of State Government and semi-Government male employees being 95,000 and the proportion of births for married males in Queensland being 87 per cent. On that basis, it would cost the Queensland taxpayer \$1,000,000 to implement just the first sentence of that policy relating to benefits for Government employees.

I turn now to the second proposal relating to annual leave, long service leave and sick leave credits on a pro rata basis for overtime. In answer to a question on that, the Treasurer indicated yesterday 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." He went on—

"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."

Let me go a little further into the booklet. There is plenty more to come. An A.L.P. Government would give clear undertakings to expand and rebuild the Government labour force and, where that was not practicable, contracts would be given to companies.

**Mr. Davis:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. LANE:** The honourable member for Brisbane Central says, "Hear, hear", once again on behalf of the Transport Workers' Union and the Trades and Labor Council in Queensland.

This policy represents a deliberate crushing of private contractors at the expense of taxpayers, who would have to finance it if a Labor Party ever got into power in this State.

**Mr. Gygar:** Is it true that the document specifically calls for the closing down of Walkers Ltd. in Maryborough?

**Mr. LANE:** It does not specifically mention Walkers but, by a clear statement contained in it under the "Transport" heading, Walkers in Maryborough would be sent to the wall. And we have the statement of

the honourable member for Brisbane Central, the Opposition's spokesman on transport, who confirmed that in his speech earlier today.

Under the heading "Trade Union Training", which is further on in the booklet—

**Mr. DAVIS:** I rise to a point of order. I believe that the honourable member for Merthyr said that I said A.L.P. policy would close down Walkers Ltd. It is completely untrue that I said it. That is a complete untruth. It is not even mentioned in the booklet, so I want it withdrawn.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Kaus):** Order! The honourable member wants that statement withdrawn.

**Mr. LANE:** I withdraw that statement.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I rise to another point of order.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There will be only one point of order at a time.

**Mr. DAVIS:** This is a second point of order. Is the honourable member permitted to read a brief prepared by the honourable member for Toowong?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr. LANE:** I shall interrupt my speech and, for the sake of the record, make sure that the honourable member for Brisbane Central, who is the A.L.P. spokesman on transport, is not misunderstood here today. I shall quote from page 112 of the booklet that I have been referring to. At the top of the page, the booklet says that an A.L.P. Government would—

"Modernise railway workshops to enable the manufacture of locomotives, rail-motors and rolling stock."

We now know that the railway workshops—the biggest is situated at Ipswich—will in future be manufacturing locomotives, rail-motors and rolling-stock if a Labor Party ever becomes the Government in this State. It will take work from Walkers Ltd. in Maryborough and ultimately it will have to close down because of the taxpayers' subsidising of the railway workshops at Ipswich. Walkers Ltd. will be put out of business. That is what will transpire. Anybody who reads my speech today will be left in no doubt about that proposition.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I rise to a point of order. Can the honourable member refer to an earlier speech today?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr. Scassola:** Can we assume that the honourable member for Brisbane Central knew what he was doing when he framed that policy?

**Mr. LANE:** I have serious doubts about his participation in the framing of that policy. First of all, he would lack the ability. He is not sufficiently articulate to manage such a thing. I suggest that it was prepared by the officials of the Transport Workers' Union and the Railway unions to suit his purposes, and he merely presents it before the Queensland public and takes full responsibility for it.

**Mr. Davis:** I do, too.

**Mr. LANE:** He said, "I do, too." Let us have that on the record while points of order are being taken.

I shall now go further into the booklet and deal with "Trade Union Training." It states—

"The A.L.P. will legislate to provide paid leave for employees selected by their unions to attend Trade Union training courses."

Labor will legislate! That leave will not have application only where it can be afforded; it will not be voluntary in any way. The proposal will be imposed on industry against its will and with no regard for the capacity of a particular industry to pay. That is a very determined statement.

Finally, still under the photograph of the honourable member for Rockhampton North, this statement appears—

"The A.L.P. in government will actively encourage the development of industries owned and/or controlled by workers on a co-operative basis."

How will they be actively encouraged? Who will pay for this encouragement other than the taxpayers? That is what I want to know. Let honourable members opposite answer that! Who under this concept will qualify as a worker to receive the assistance and encouragement promised? No doubt they will be selectively chosen, presumably by the Labor movement, which would have to accept responsibility for this policy. I would like to know, and the honourable member for Brisbane Central might like to answer this, will they be communes on the Chinese-Marxist model; will they be kibbutzes on the Israeli model; or will they perhaps be just more "dictatorship of the proletariat" as interpreted by Lenin? Whatever it may be, I submit that it will be completely unacceptable to the Queensland people now or at the next election.

What is certain is that all of these policies and many more are absolute and binding on the Australian Labor Party's parliamentary members who sit opposite here today. Just in case there should be any doubt about this fact, I shall now quote at length from the A.L.P. Constitution and Rules as passed by the same State conference held in Rockhampton in February this year. Under the heading "Violation of Platform" clause 8 reads—

"Members of the Party in Parliament, or Members of Local Government or other Public Bodies who violate the Platform

as agreed upon by the Convention shall not attend or take part in any Caucus Meeting of the Party."

Let us move on to the next heading "Members Bound by Caucus Decisions". Clause 9 states—

"Any Member of a Federal or State Parliamentary Labor Party or a Municipal or Local Government Labor Party who refuses or fails to abide by the decision of a duly constituted Caucus shall render himself liable to expulsion from the Party.

Provided always that such decision is not contrary to any decision made by a duly constituted State or National Conference."

Let us move on to clause 107.5 (a) under the heading "Decisions Binding on Candidates", which reads—

"All endorsed Australian Labor Party members or candidates shall be bound by the decisions of the latest Conference and the latest Platform, and shall sign such Platform when called upon by the State Council to do so."

As I said, these policies that I have enunciated here today are binding on all members as well as being current in 1979-80. They clearly show the hypocrisy of the attempts of the Leader of the Opposition to present himself as a moderate leader who would respect the position of private enterprise in this State. What every Queenslander should ask himself is: what deal did the Leader of the Opposition make when he came in from the cold, when he rejoined the Labor Party again after years of expulsion? How was he obliged to compromise himself to reach his present position? Obviously, by the rules of the Australian Labor Party, when he rejoined he was required to endorse the policies of which I have given but a sample here today. In fact, he does so in a foreword written by him to this very booklet. He endorses those policies. He endorses all of them. Perhaps he does not like it, but I hope that I have helped to make an honest man of him politically by spelling out just what he stands for. I do not hear anyone wanting to defend him. Of course, I am aware of his unpopularity among members opposite.

Today, I have given him something to answer. Let me assure the House that he will be afforded the opportunity to do so. He will be questioned, because I and my colleagues have gone to the trouble to make these extracts of the Australian Labor Party policy available to nearly 2,000 influential Queensland community leaders. They are people Mr. Casey will have to face over the next few months.

Of course, this man so often likes to refer to himself as the leader of the alternative Government. If he wanted to be an honest man, he could give an account to this Parliament, that is, if he had the courage, which I sincerely doubt.

As for the Government, it stands on its record of providing unprecedented development, a high standard of living and a great future for Queensland as Australia's leading free-enterprise State, which is something that will continue for years to come.

**Mr. VAUGHAN (Nudgee) (4.36 p.m.):** Firstly, I should like to congratulate the new Speaker on his election to that office. I fully appreciate the job that he has before him. It will be a difficult and thankless one, and one that will place on him demands far beyond any that he has encountered to date.

I should also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Woodward on his appointment to the position of Clerk of the Parliament.

I want to begin my address today by stating that I firmly believe that in this Parliament there is a definite need for a union to be formed to protect the interests of its members from the actions and attitudes of the Premier and his Cabinet. I say this because of the extreme difficulties with which I have been confronted since 20 March this year in trying to establish an electorate office.

**Mr. Lane:** Are you the No. 2 political sook of this Parliament?

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** No, I am not. Because the honourable member is a police stooge, and the Premier knows that, he will not get into Cabinet.

I had hoped that I would not have to raise this matter here, but, because I feel that I have been unfairly treated by Cabinet, I have been left with no alternative, and want to place on record details of the trouble that I have had. Not only have I personally been inconvenienced; my family and my constituents also have been inconvenienced.

After I was elected as the member for Nudgee in 1977, I set about looking for premises for my electorate office. I waited until October last year, and after being unsuccessful in locating suitable premises, I set about to find premises that I could purchase. Having regard to the Peel report, I took steps to ensure that I would not transgress upon the requirements on an elected member of this Assembly.

Suitable premises were located. They were along the same lines as premises occupied by other members of this House. On 20 March this year I wrote to the Minister for Works and Housing, advising him of the location of the premises that I had found and requesting that the necessary action be taken. On Friday, 29 March, there was an inspection of the premises by the Department of Works, and I was given to understand that everything would be O.K. On Wednesday, 18 April—approximately a month later—I telephoned the Department of Works about the progress of the setting up of my electorate office. I was advised

that the matter had been referred to the Minister and that it might be June before modifications could be effected.

On Monday, 21 May—approximately another month later—after waiting very patiently for some word from the Minister about the progress of the setting up of my electorate office, I telephoned the Minister's office and requested that a decision be made on my application. I was advised by the Minister's secretary that she would check and get back to me.

On Wednesday, 23 May 1979, the Minister's office phoned me back and advised that my application was not approved and that a letter was following. On Friday, 25 May 1979, I received a letter signed by Mr. Newbery. In fairness to the Minister for Works and Housing (Mr. Wharton), I point out that he was overseas and Mr. Newbery was acting in his stead. The letter advised that my request had been discussed at Cabinet recently and was not approved. No reason was given; just that it was not approved.

I telephoned Mr. Newbery's office regarding the contents of the letter and asked for further details. I was informed that it could not give me any further information, and I was advised to speak to Mr. Newbery about the matter. Unfortunately, he was not available.

On Monday, 28 May, I telephoned Mr. Newbery and I requested to see him personally to explain my situation. Having regard to the fact that he may just have picked up the correspondence that had been left by the Minister for Works and Housing (Mr. Wharton), I wanted to explain in detail what my situation was. Mr. Newbery said that, because he had to go to Cabinet, he could not see me till at least 4 p.m. I said that I was prepared to set out my contentions in detail in writing so that they could go to Cabinet. Mr. Newbery asked me to send them in in writing and he would take them to Cabinet. He said it would take only another week and that should then clear the matter up. I subsequently wrote a two-foolscap-page letter to Mr. Newbery and forwarded copies to every Minister in Cabinet.

On Tuesday, 7 June 1979, which was the last day on which Parliament sat, I spoke to Mr. Newbery just outside this Chamber and asked him whether there was any decision on my letter. He said, "No decision to date", but that the position looked promising. He asked me to phone him early the following week, and I explained to him that I wanted to know my position so I could get my application for an electorate office telephone lodged in time for the new telephone directory, entries for which closed on 15 June.

Because I was absent in Western Queensland, I arranged for my secretary to phone Mr. Newbery's office on Monday, 11 June, and remind him of the discussion we had had so that he could pursue the matter that

week. My secretary was advised that Mr. Newbery had contacted the Works Department and that the Works Department would be contacted again at a later date.

On Friday, 15 June, on returning from the country, I phoned the Works Department to ascertain whether I could go ahead and arrange for a phone for my electorate office in premises that I had obtained and of which I had advised the Minister on 20 March. I was told that, because Cabinet had not approved the office, permission could not be granted.

**Mr. Porter:** Tell the full story.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** Will you shut up?

The Works Department agreed to check the position again. It phoned me back and advised me that Cabinet had decided that the previous decision stood.

**Mr. Porter** interjected.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I do not expect any different treatment from the likes of the honourable gentleman.

**Mr. Porter:** Tell us the full story—that is all we are asking.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I will tell the honourable gentleman the full story.

**Mr. Porter:** You have shown no signs of doing it yet.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** Wait till I get to the end of it!

The Works Department advised that Cabinet had directed it to find suitable office accommodation for me. I phoned the Minister's office again and queried my position. I said that I would like to know why my application had been rejected, and I was advised that I would be written to.

On Tuesday, 19 June, I telephoned the Minister's secretary and requested an appointment to see the Minister regarding my electorate office. I was advised that the Minister would not be back in Brisbane till Monday, 25 June. I was advised that the Minister would be told about my request when he phoned in and I would be informed whether or not he could see me.

On Monday, 25 June 1979, I again phoned the Minister's office. The Minister was not in but was expected down from his electorate. I was advised that the Minister had been told that I wanted to see him urgently, and I was told that the Minister would be informed again when he arrived and I would be phoned back. In fairness to the Minister, I must say that he phoned me and advised that, because the house that I had located was owned by my branch of the Australian Labor Party, Cabinet would not approve the premises.

**Mr. Porter:** That is true.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** That is fair enough. At least I did not try to hide anything. I set everything out in my letter of 20 March. I

discussed the matter with the Minister personally and explained everything in detail. At no time did I try to hide anything from the Cabinet.

**Mr. Porter:** So what? Does that make it right?

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** The smirk that the honourable gentleman has on his face is enough to sicken anybody. I know that he cannot change his face—which is his bad fortune.

I referred to the location of the electorate offices of other members, and I further explained why, in desperation, the house had been purchased.

**Mr. Porter:** A clever little trick.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** It was not a clever little trick. I spent 11 months trying to obtain an electorate office. I could not get a suitable one, so I decided to take the only alternative, which was to purchase a place.

**Mr. Frawley:** Who purchased this house? Whose name is the house in?

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** The house is in the name of the Banyo-Northgate East Branch of the Australian Labor Party. Surely it does not matter what name it is in. A member can have an office in his place of business. The honourable member for Mt. Isa has his electorate office in his chemist shop. The Minister for Welfare has his office in a house.

**Mr. Wharton:** Not owned by the A.L.P., though.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** No. It is owned by Ord Industries, another furry company.

The Minister advised me that the Department of Works had obtained a shop, and that it was negotiating with the owner on the amount of rent. I said that I preferred the premises I had found and asked what I had to do to get them approved. The Minister said that he would get in touch with me; he was still going to try. I give all credit to the Minister for trying on my behalf. Of course, the decision was not his; it was a decision of Cabinet, or some members of it.

On Wednesday, 27 June, the Minister phoned and advised that Cabinet would not reverse its previous decision. He said he could not give me any guarantee at all as to what the position would be if some other person or persons owned the house. I even asked if it would make any difference if the premises were sold and we paid all the stamp duty to the Government and the house was put in another name. He said, "No, it won't make any difference at all. Cabinet has made a decision." The Minister said he would see what could be done to get me an office. I forwarded a letter to the Minister. I then phoned the secretary to Cabinet requesting advice as to how I could appear before Cabinet to explain my position.

Subsequently I was advised I had to write to the Premier, who was the chairman of Cabinet.

On Friday, 29 June, the Department of Works phoned again. As I was absent from Brisbane, a message was left that the department would phone back on Monday, 2 July. On Monday, 2 July, the Department of Works phoned and advised that two suitable premises had been located in the Banyo shopping centre. I advised the department that I was still trying to get before Cabinet to explain my position. On Monday, 2 July, I delivered a letter personally to the Premier's office requesting to appear before Cabinet. On Wednesday, 4 July, I received a letter from the Minister giving details of the two offices that had been located for me by the Department of Works.

On Thursday, 5 July, I received a letter from the Premier. I had written to the Premier asking that I be allowed to appear before Cabinet to explain my case or, alternatively, to speak to him personally so that I could place all the facts before him. A letter from the Premier dated 3 July stated—

"I have your letter of 2nd July, 1979, concerning the question of the location of your Electorate Office. You enquired whether you might be able to put your personal views about its location either to Cabinet or alternatively, to me.

Cabinet as you know, has made its decision, and quite frankly I cannot see any reason whatsoever for it to be altered. Hence, I am declining your request.

The matter is one for my colleague the Minister for Works and Housing, the Honourable Claude Wharton, M.L.A., and I have therefore directed your letter to him."

I phoned the Minister's office regarding the Premier's letter, and I requested a reply from the Minister to my letter dated 27 June. On Friday, 6 July, the Minister's secretary phoned and informed me that the Minister advised that Cabinet would not approve the house under any circumstances. I phoned the Department of Works and informed it that I was prepared to accept the office it had located for me alongside the T.A.B.

On Monday, 9 July, the Department of Works phoned and arranged for an inspection of that office, which I had accepted. Arrangements were made to inspect the office on Tuesday, 10 July, but the Department of Works indicated that the owner was now having second thoughts about the transaction. Initially I was advised that the rent was going to be \$100 a week. Then I was told that the owner would accept \$80 a week. When someone from the Department of Works went to see him, it was going to be \$65 a week. He was beaten down to \$52.50 a week. He agreed at that stage to rent it to the Department of Works. When we went to sign on the dotted line

the owner changed his mind, and again I was without an electorate office. The problem was that the owner of the premises wanted a lease that the Department of Works was not prepared to grant. So these premises, too, went by the board.

**Mr. Frawley:** You were unlucky.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I am surely unlucky.

A letter was forwarded to the Minister advising of my reluctance to accept the office near the T.A.B. On Tuesday, 10 July, the Department of Works phoned and told me that the owner had changed his mind. I phoned the owner to find out what the problem was. He told me that he wanted a lease and he felt that the rent offered by the Department of Works was not sufficient. He said that he wanted to see his accountant. To cut a long story short—he subsequently said that he was not prepared to rent to the Department of Works.

On Thursday, 12 July, in desperation, I phoned the Deputy Premier (Dr. Edwards). I thought that with the Premier's absence overseas I might be able to talk to someone else and get my point of view across. I explained all my problems to him and pointed out that I had sent a covering letter to every Cabinet Minister explaining my situation—proving that I was not attempting to hide anything. He was very sympathetic but said that he had not even read my letter. That is fair enough; Ministers are very busy people.

On Friday, 13 July, I inspected the second office located by the department. It was not completed at the time; it was finished off subsequently. It was approximately 30 yards from the premises I selected initially.

**Mr. Wharton:** We were trying to help you get an office.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** That is certainly so, but I had tried for 11 months. I even accepted the first office that the department located, but that fell through.

I looked at the premises on 13 July. They were in the process of being renovated. I agreed to go back when most of the work was finished.

Subsequently I received correspondence from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer sympathising with my position but virtually giving me nothing. I suppose that is the extent of what I can expect.

**Mr. Frawley:** How much rent did the A.L.P. want for this house?

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** Much less than the department is prepared to pay.

On 28 August, after I had been down to the Gold Coast, I inspected the premises in which the Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation had his electorate office. It is in a building called "National House".

**Mr. Wharton** interjected.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** Hold on, I have been pretty fair to the Minister. The office is in "National House", which happens to be the building in which the National Party Club is located. In the foyer of this building a plaque on the wall reads—

"NATIONAL HOUSE  
SOUTHPORT

THIS BUILDING WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ON  
THE 2ND DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1974

BY

HON. JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN, M.L.A.  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE RT. HON. DOUG ANTHONY, M.H.R.  
LEADER OF THE COUNTRY PARTY.

DEVELOPED FROM AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT  
OF COUNCILLOR C. H. (CHARLIE) HOLM,  
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL  
PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, ALDER-  
MAN IVAN J. GIBBS, DEPUTY MAYOR OF  
THE CITY OF GOLD COAST, CHAIRMAN OF  
THE BUILDING COMMITTEE, BUILDING  
COMMITTEE ARCHITECT BARRY BARNES,  
F.R.A.I.A. AND ASSOCIATES, DESIGNED AND  
CONSTRUCTED BY W. SHORT BUILDING AND  
CONTRACTING CO."

I repeat that I did not try to hide anything so far as my electorate office was concerned. I venture to say—and it was suggested to me—that had I had the house in my wife's or my family's name it would have been O.K.

**Mr. Porter:** Is Mr. Gibbs buying this building?

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** No, it is owned by the National Party.

The rates are paid to the Gold Coast City Council by a company called 80 Nerang Street Pty. Ltd., which happens to be the address at which the building is located. The company was incorporated on 27 July 1973. The registered office of the company named 80 Nerang Street Pty. Ltd. is South Coast Wrecking Company Building, Brisbane Road, Labrador. The shareholders in the company that owns it—or the company in whose name it is registered—are Ivan James Gibbs, of 1 Ashton Street, Labrador, who has one subscriber share, and Carl Henry Holm, Gold Coast Highway, Ormeau, who has one subscriber share. The directors are Ivan James Gibbs, 1 Ashton Street, Labrador; Carl Henry Holm, Gold Coast Highway, Ormeau; and Stephen Samuel Barker, 6 Hill-top Avenue, Labrador. He is the alternate shareholder for Ivan J. Gibbs. Not only that, but Ivan J. Gibbs is also the manager. I would assume that, as a Minister of the Crown, he is receiving a remuneration from the Government in respect of his position.

As far as I can see, he is only a front. Next week, I am going to ask the honourable gentleman to explain the position about "National House". I don't care now. I have tried my damndest to sort the matter out, but I have come to the conclusion that one

can't be honest with a bunch of bush-rangers. I am certainly not going to be honest in the future with those people.

**Mr. Porter:** A very queer idea.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I have tried to be honest in this place, but one cannot be honourable with a mob of highwaymen. When we look at the purpose for which the Johannes Bjelke-Petersen Foundation was established, we can see what it is all about. It is nothing but a protection racket—a racket set up to coerce money out of people for the purpose of setting up offices. They can rest assured that sooner or later—and it will be in the not too distant future—there will be a change of Government in this State, particularly now that the essential services legislation has been introduced. I warn them not to expect any mercy from members now on this side of the House. They certainly will not get any from me. I won't forget the sort of treatment I have received from them.

**Mr. Gygar:** You should have a look at some of our offices. Mine is so small that I can't even put the Government-issue desk inside it.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** The one I am going to be saddled with is pretty small, too, but I have to accept it.

For almost two years I have been forced to inconvenience myself by having my office in my house. I was reluctant to do so. It has upset the whole household. I have saved the Government \$4,500 in rent. But that is by the by. When one sees the treatment the Cabinet hands out to a person like the member for Landsborough (Mike Ahern)—and the member for Archerfield touched on it today—one begins to understand the thinking of the mob of so-and-sos in the Cabinet.

**Mr. Porter:** That's not nice.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I have no respect for those gentlemen whatsoever. It irks me to even call them "gentlemen".

**Mr. Bourke:** They're really a pack of sweeties when you get to know them.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I have no wish to get to know them.

I would now like to refer to an answer to a Dorothy Dix question posed to the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police on 29 August last by the member for Somerset. He referred to a statement in "The Courier-Mail" attributed to me in respect of electricity supply in this State. I do not know whether the Minister has read the recent "Financial Review", but that set out the position. The Minister never misses an opportunity to denigrate people in this House. He never misses an opportunity to cast aspersions at me and allege Communist affiliations. I tell the Minister here and now that the next time he smears me in this House I will get down on the floor of this Parliament and smear

him all over the place in respect of some of his activities. If he wants to play it rough, I will play it rough also.

**Mr. Porter** interjected.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I don't like to take that sort of stand, but I am not going to cop the tactics and treatment dealt out by the Minister and the likes of Mr. Porter—the smirking Mr. Porter.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Gunn):** Order! The honourable member will refer to "the Honourable the Minister", not "Mr. Porter".

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** The Minister.

The Minister for Mines, Energy and Police referred to a lack of knowledge on my part. At least I served my apprenticeship in the electrical trade and have been associated with the electrical industry for a period of 13 years. I think I know a little about it. I have not been spending my time riding horses and doing other things around a property. He said I was corrected by the manager of the firm. Certainly I made a statement on a matter published in "The Courier-Mail" recently about a boost to aluminium production in this State by the Comalco company. The article in the paper actually said that Comalco would have its first two pot-lines operating in 1982 and its second two pot-lines operating in 1983-84. That is what "The Courier-Mail" reported. Unfortunately I did not get "The Australian". Apparently the correct report appeared in it. But I was amazed to hear the Minister say that I seemed to derive a great deal of satisfaction and glee when an industry went to New South Wales. Why would a Minister who is supposed to have a few brains make an irresponsible and irrelevant statement like that? Obviously he was raving.

**Mr. Porter:** You should not rely on articles in the Press.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** In reply to the Honourable the Minister, I was quoting what the Minister for Mines had to say. If the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs opens his ears—I know he is going deaf and also is a little bit dumb—he will hear what I have to say.

The Minister talks about my wanting industry to go to New South Wales! The Queensland Coal Board annual report last year shows that Queensland exported only 19 862 tonnes of steaming coal whereas New South Wales—our competitors in this field—exported 4 300 000 tonnes. What is the Minister doing? He is sitting on his backside talking about development in this State, but we do not see any of it.

We have reserves of 9 000 million tonnes, but only 130 000 tonnes came from the Collinsville Coal Company in September 1978. In October 1978 the coking coal-mines at Oakleigh, Normanton and Amberley closed down, and the Minister had a 16-day overseas

tour in October and November 1978 to try to sell coal. He went to Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines. He also had an overseas tour in August 1977 to Brazil, the United States and Japan. Then he has the hide to cast aspersions at me, alleging that I am sending business to New South Wales! Apparently he has a 16-day overseas tour each year, yet we are being outbid by New South Wales. We exported 19 000 tonnes of steaming coal and New South Wales outbid us and exported 4 300 000 tonnes.

**Mr. Kruger:** They are junkets.

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** Of course.

In the past nine years Queensland has exported only 94 000 tonnes. And the Minister has the hide to accuse me of sending industry out of the State! He is the Minister and he is not doing a damned thing about it. He is talking a lot on his Sunday night programme.

**Mr. Bourke:** What are the figures for coking coal?

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** About 20 000 000 tonnes. Instead of closing mines down, he should be trying to open some.

In regard to the power supply in the State, the Minister said that he would immediately state through the Press and in this Chamber whether something was radically wrong with the plant. There certainly was something wrong with the plant at Gladstone Power Station. If the Minister has not read the Q.E.G.B. annual report for 1978, he has not been doing his homework. There were problems with the boilers and the coal stacker.

I should like to read into "Hansard" what the Q.E.G.B. had to say about Gladstone Power Station. The report reads—

"Major causes of lost availability were flame-viewing aggravated by wet coal"—

which I said was the problem—

"and boiler tube leaks"—

which I said was the problem—

"and clinker build-up due to a combination of high furnace exit gas temperature and low ash fusion temperatures."

At that time the Minister said, "There are no big problems at Gladstone Power Station. They are only teething problems." The report continues—

"The Gladstone Power Station boiler plant did not entirely meet the Board's specified performance requirements. The Board was not satisfied with the progress by the boiler contractors in identifying the most appropriate remedial measures. The Board therefore augmented its own resources with assistance from specialised consultants with international affiliations. Investigations, design appraisals and development of design modifications were carried out in conjunction with the boiler contractors."

Yet the Minister had the hide to say that it was only a simple problem that was rectified by the contractors. The Minister did not tell the House the truth. The truth is there in the annual report. I would like to know how much extra it cost the people of this State for the repairs and modifications that had to be carried out to the Gladstone Power Station.

It was also noticeable that the report stated that Gladstone's availability was 86.6 per cent. I would like members to remember that figure later on when I discuss the comments the Minister has made about the availability of power in this State up to 1989. I reiterate, and the honourable member for Cunningham might be pleased to hear this, that we are not going to have enough power unless we get on with the job of building another power-station right now. There are a lot of things that the Minister has not allowed for.

The Government makes a lot of noise from time to time about all the industries that are coming to this State, but the fact is that if a lot of new industries come to this State we will need additional power. Take the Rundle oil-shale deposits, for example. When developed, they will require 540 MW, and that has not been allowed for by the State Electricity Commission. That was contained in the report to State Cabinet on the Millmerran and Tarong power-stations. Of course, it was announced recently by the Premier that Cabinet—as though the wizards in Cabinet would have any idea—intended to bring forward the construction of the Tarong Power Station by 15 months. Fifteen months early!

I now want to refer to the confidential report to Cabinet by the State Electricity Commission, of which we all received a copy, at the time of the controversy over the Millmerran and Tarong power-stations. Page 7 of the report stated—

“The Generating Board has advised that they will require 7½ to eight years for the design and construction of a new power station on a new coal-field if a reasonable degree of operating reliability is to be expected. Thus, on assumption of an instruction to proceed early in 1978 . . .”

It should be remembered that there was no instruction to proceed in early 1978. At that time there was a controversy over Millmerran and Tarong and all the programmes and plans of the State Electricity Commission were in respect of Millmerran. The Commission had to redraw virtually the whole programme. It will be remembered that the State Electricity Commission recommended Millmerran as the original site, but

the State Cabinet wizards changed their minds and decided it would be built at Tarong. But the S.E.C. says—

“Thus on assumption of an instruction to proceed early in 1978 the earliest practical date for the commissioning of a new power station will be October 1985.”

That is what the State Electricity Commission said in its report, yet we hear Cabinet saying that construction will be brought forward 15 months. I say that the Government is going to run into the same sort of problems at Tarong as it ran into at Gladstone, because the power-station has been only half-planned. If it is going to rush things, it will cut corners. Why is the Government cutting corners? Why is the Government bringing the construction of the Tarong Power Station forward? It is doing it because there will be insufficient power to supply the industries of this State, particularly having regard to the announcements by Comalco and Alcan about their stages of development.

**Mr. Porter:** Surprise, surprise!

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** The Minister just would not know. I know that he is a wizard and has had a great education, but that is as far as it goes. I made inquiries of the Q.E.G.B. and found out that it says that it can be done but that it will mean additional cost. Having regard to the way in which the Government of this State finances electricity development, that means only one thing, that it will be an additional cost to the electricity consumers of this State.

We have seen what has happened already. Electricity consumers have been belted about the ears through highly inflated increases in tariffs over the past 18 months. On 1 April last year the consumers of South-east Queensland had their electricity tariffs increased, not by 15 per cent as the Minister foreshadowed, but by 18.4 per cent. We saw another increase on 1 July this year. The Minister said it would be only 10 per cent. But it was not 10 per cent. If one makes a calculation on the average account using 250 units for power and light a month, that is, 750 units a quarter and 300 units for hot water a month, that is, 900 units a quarter, one finds that the average increase for the consumer is in fact 13 per cent.

**Mr. Kruger:** Do you think it might be that they are not capable of making these recommendations?

**Mr. VAUGHAN:** I do not think that this Cabinet is capable of anything. I have a lower opinion of this Cabinet than I have of anyone else.

Turning to the Tarong situation—I have said that it will result in additional costs being imposed on the electricity consumers of this State. We are told that we are a low-tax State. This is tax by stealth. The

real story about electricity tariffs is that, because of limited access to loan funds, there has to be a greater degree of self-financing in this State. That was stated in the second report of the rationalisation committee of the State Electricity Commission when it was looking into the rationalisation of the power industry, which was implemented from 1 July 1977. Because the electricity authorities have limited access to loan funds, there has to be a greater degree of industry self-financing.

The ordinary domestic consumer of electricity will be hit to leg to pay not only the additional cost of the Tarong Power Station but also the cost of bringing its completion forward by 15 months. Japanese generators are to be used, and roads and bridges will have to be altered in order to get them to the site. This will all add to costs.

I return to what the Minister had to say about the alumina smelter. He referred to the amount of power that would be required. One of the reasons for the electricity situation in this State being in such a mess is the failure of Comalco to announce when it was going to build its smelter.

I shall go through the history of this particular programme. On Thursday, 3 March 1977, it was announced in the Press that "Gladstone may get a smelter". There was reference to a \$360,000,000 plan, involving a \$280,000,000 smelter at Gladstone and an expansion at Weipa. On 23 April 1977 the chairman, Sir Donald Hibberd, announced that Comalco hoped to make a decision to go ahead with construction of the proposed Gladstone smelter before the end of that year. On 3 August it was announced that Comalco had let a \$1,000,000 contract for the clearing of the land for the smelter. But in the report a Comalco spokesman stressed that the letting of the contract did not signify that the smelter contract would definitely proceed.

On Monday, 9 January 1978, in the "Telegraph" I stated that the Government should demand that Comalco give a firm decision on whether the smelter was to be built and when it was to be built. On Friday, 21 April 1978, the chairman of Comalco said that the directors had decided in principle to go ahead with the smelter. He said that two pot-lines would be in operation producing 180 000 tonnes, that construction was likely to begin by the end of 1979, and that it would take about 2½ years to complete the smelter. We have seen the numerous announcements about the construction of the smelter. Of course, the Government has been making great play on it.

Then on 3 August of this year Alcan said that it also would build a smelter. It must be noted that in the reports to Cabinet

on assessment of future electricity demand in this State all that the State Electricity Commission allowed for a smelter up to 1982 was 160 MW. Yet we find that Alcan also will require 160 MW by 1983. The Minister has said, "Oh, yes, we will have the power." Of course, what he intends to do is to try to bring forward the construction of the Tarong Power Station.

Then we have seen the grand announcements about the Rundle oil-shale project. Only the other day Mr. Anthony said that this project will overcome our oil-supply problems. I have asked the Minister in this House how much power will be required for this project. It will take 520 MW of power. Where is that power to come from? Comalco has announced that a third and fourth pot-line will be in operation by 1989.

In addition to that, headlines in the Press say that the Blair Athol coal-mine is to go into production—\$2,000 million worth of export coal. Of course, there is only one little problem. A railway has to be laid and a terminal has to be built at Hay Point, for which the Government cannot get finance.

Three Ministers have gone overseas seeking finance for the Hay Point coal-loading terminal. When Mr. Knox was Treasurer, he went overseas and came back saying, "I have almost got \$280,000,000. It is almost in the bag." Earlier this year the present Treasurer went overseas. He came back and said, "Well, everybody is rushing to lend money to this State." Unfortunately, although he went overseas to obtain \$168,000,000, he came back with only \$45,000,000. Then the Premier went to London and made an announcement about the German Creek coal-mine and the Oaky Creek coal-mine—\$600,000,000. The only problem was that Houston Oil and Minerals did not tell the Premier that it was going to suspend construction work for nine months.

Of course, honourable members are aware that one of the big difficulties is that, even if Houston Oil and Minerals obtains contracts, it cannot export the coal. It has a contract to supply 500 000 tonnes of coal to a Dutch steel maker, but it has to export that through Utah's Hay Point coal-loading facility. One of the things holding up the development of export coal-mines is that the State Government has to build a second coal-loading facility at Hay Point. Because not all the contracts for German Creek and Oaky Creek coal are firm contracts, an assurance is required that there will be a throughput of at least 5 000 000 to 6 000 000 tonnes.

(Time expired.)

Debate, on motion of Mr. Wharton, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.17 p.m.