

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 1979**

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## TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 1979

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, and ordered to be printed—

#### Reports—

Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops, for 1978–1979.

Chief Safety Engineer, Chief Inspector of Machinery, Construction Work and Weights and Measures, for 1978–1979.

President of the Industrial Court of Queensland, for 1978–1979.

The following papers were laid on the table—

#### Orders in Council under—

State Development and Public Works Organization Act 1971–1979.

State Counter-Disaster Organization Act 1975–1978.

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Regulations under the Public Service Act 1922–1978.

Report of the Pyramid Selling Schemes Elimination Committee for 1978–1979.

### PETITIONS

#### RATES CONCESSION FOR PENSIONERS

Mr. GYGAR (Stafford) presented a petition from 3,285 electors of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will pass legislation to permit every local authority to accept from all concession-card bearing pensioners a sum not greater than fifty per cent of rates and charges; and provide for recoupment of lost income to all local authorities from Consolidated Revenue.

Petition read and received.

[A similar petition was presented by Mr. Burns (3,284 signatories), and that petition was read and received.]

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1. MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROLS

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

Will he act to introduce amending legislation to permit the people of Queensland with cars registered outside the metropolitan area to remove pollution-control equipment introduced under Australian Government Design Rule 27, which increases fuel consumption by some 3 to 7 per cent, increases the cost of a new vehicle by some \$125, reduces power by 8 per cent and can only be regarded as the height of ridiculousness in a State where the population distribution is for most parts of the State one person per 20 square miles?

Answer:—

The points made by the honourable member are appreciated. However, I understand that the question whether it is feasible and in the public interest for a manufacturer to be required to provide two types of cars, one for cities and one for country areas, and how such a system would operate in practice, is listed for consideration by the Australian Transport Advisory Council in February 1980, when the cost and benefit inherent in a “two versus one car” strategy will be closely examined.

My belief is that all these controls and requirements will be eliminated in the not-too-distant future when a non-pollutant source of energy such as hydrogen will be available. A Sydney engineer, Mr. Horvath, has invented a highly efficient system for adaptation on motor vehicles.

#### 2. BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

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

Will he immediately introduce legislation to make all beverage containers returnable, attracting a compulsory statutory deposit, as present containers increase the cost of an average soft drink by some 8c to 12c and it costs local authorities approximately one-third of their garbage-disposal expenditure to collect and dispose of these non-returnable containers?

Answer:—

As the honourable member is no doubt aware, some 12 months ago an ad hoc committee of Government members was formed to examine the imposition of deposits on beverage containers and to report on its findings. The committee has recently submitted a report on its proposals. When the report has been examined, I will be in a better position to consider the desirability of implementing legislation to deal with this complex problem.

#### 3. SCHOOLS FOR SHEARERS AND STOCKMEN

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

(1) Will he arrange for a shearing school at Hughenden, Richmond, or Julia Creek, as a large percentage of the State's wool clip comes from the mid-west of North Queensland and the nearest of these three towns to the school recently held at Longreach is nearly 300 miles away?

(2) Will he further investigate the possibility of holding a similar school to train stockmen for cattle as well as sheep work, as one station at Hughenden, for example,

was seeking some 20 employees for mustering and had to commence the annual muster with only five men?

(3) Will he investigate the proposal by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to set up a semi-permanent training school for rural employees at Richmond, a proposal that involves the purchase of only a few thousand dollars worth of equipment and employment of, at most, two permanent employees?

*Answers:—*

(1) A shearing school for 10 beginners is scheduled to be held on a property near Longreach for six weeks commencing 8 October 1979 and one for 10 improvers on another Longreach property for 17 days commencing 22 October 1979. These schools have been organised by the Queensland Wool Producing Industry Training Committee, whose membership is drawn from the United Graziers' Association, Australian Workers' Union, Wool Classers Association of Australia, Graziers Co-op. Ltd., United Graziers Co-op. Shearing Coy. Ltd., Queensland Department of Education—T.A.F.E. section—Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Department of Labour Relations and Commonwealth Department of Employment and Youth Affairs.

The holding of further schools at other centres will be reviewed at a meeting of the council of the U.G.A. to be held in Longreach during the conduct of the beginners and improvers schools.

(2) Training of stockmen for the cattle industry would be done most appropriately by a cattle committee similar to the Queensland Wool Producing Industry Training Committee of the sheep industry.

(3) My staff in Richmond have not been consulted by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. I understand that their proposal has not yet been finally formulated.

#### 4. ISSUING OF FREE ROAD TRANSPORT PERMITS

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

(1) Is he aware that a free permit cannot be issued to a grazier carting his own wool if he has travelled from his property to the nearest point where permits are issued carrying such a load and that at present the grazier has to travel each time to such point where permits are issued and return to his property each time before he can proceed with a load?

(2) As this could involve hundreds of miles, will he approve of a more convenient way of issuing these free permits?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) The situation referred to by the honourable member was provided for some years ago by the Department of

Transport's instituting a system of extended permits whereby such a carrier completes the necessary documentation under his own permit issued by the department with details being submitted to the department at the end of each month. Alternatively, a grazier carrying his own wool could telephone the police station involved in advance of the trip being contemplated, to obviate the necessity of travelling to the police station in the first instance. Subsequently, the permit may be obtained in the course of the journey.

Both of these systems have proved to be satisfactory over a period of years. However, if the honourable member could give me details of specific problems being encountered by any grazier, I will have the matter referred to the Commissioner for Transport so that appropriate arrangements may be made to suit the particular circumstances.

#### 5. TOOWOOMBA COURT HOUSE RESTORATION

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

(1) When will the restoration of the old Toowoomba Court House recommence?

(2) Has the previous contractor defaulted and, if so, what action is being taken against the contractor, and when will new tenders be called to complete this restoration?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) A quotation was accepted for external restoration work on the old courthouse building at Toowoomba. After cleaning-down work had commenced, it was found that the sandstone walls had deteriorated considerably and there was a noticeable variation in colour on the different faces. As it was then considered not practicable or economic for the contractor to continue with the contract as specified, it was terminated by mutual consent.

Amended documentation has now been prepared by a local firm of architectural consultants to enable fresh tenders to be invited for this work. It is expected that the fresh tenders will be invited at an early date.

#### 6. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, KARUMBA AND NORMANTON

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

(1) Will he show on a map of Karumba (a) the extent of the electricity supply franchise, which Messrs. Raptis and Sons have in that town and (b) the built-up parts of the township that are excluded from the franchise area?

(2) How many residences and other buildings are outside the existing reticulated area at Karumba?

(3) As I have been advised by the Premier that responsibility for electricity supply in other than the franchise area of Karumba lies with the Far North Queensland Electricity Board, where has the F.N.Q.E.B. placed Karumba in its order of priorities for townships awaiting reticulated supply?

(4) What is the maximum electricity demand at Messrs. Raptis and Sons' powerhouse at Karumba?

(5) Has an estimate been made of the likely maximum demand for electricity in the entire Karumba area?

(6) What is the maximum electricity demand for Normanton?

*Answers:—*

(1) (a) I have delineated in red on the attached map of Karumba, which I table, the extent of the electricity supply franchise held by A. Raptis and Sons. (b) I do not have exact information about other development.

(2) See answer to (1).

(3) The Far North Queensland Electricity Board has no plans at this stage to provide electricity supply in Karumba.

(4) 1 450 kilowatts, which includes A. Raptis and Sons' processing factory.

(5) No.

(6) 328 kilowatts.

#### 7. PRE-SCHOOLS, COOK ELECTORATE

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

(1) For which townships in the Cook electorate have pre-school centres been firmly planned?

(2) What townships in the Cook electorate are listed in his department's order of priorities for pre-school centres?

(3) When are pre-school centres likely to be constructed at Normanton and Weipa?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) The attached schedule, which I hereby table, shows the existing pre-school provisions for all state schools in the Cook electorate. As I consider these provisions to be adequate at present, my department has prepared no plans for the establishment of additional pre-school facilities.

#### 8. ABORIGINAL HEALTH STAFF BUILDINGS, NORMANTON

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

(1) When were the demountable buildings supplied for use by the Aboriginal health team staff erected at Normanton?

(2) How much money did the buildings cost as they stand?

(3) Are the buildings going to be used in their present position by the people for whom they were intended?

(4) Are the buildings to be relocated and, if so, where will they be relocated?

(5) If relocated, what is the description of the land on which the buildings are to be placed?

(6) Will he consider allowing the buildings to be used by a social worker who has been appointed by the Carpentaria Shire Council?

*Answers:—*

(1) The buildings were erected on the old Hospital Reserve in Normanton in mid-1975.

(2) The two duplex buildings and one office building cost a total of \$56,922.

(3) The buildings will not now be occupied in their present situation.

(4 & 5) The buildings are to be relocated on the Court House Reserve (Reserve R13) in Brown Street, Normanton, such reserve being under the control of the Minister for Works and Housing.

(6) Finance for the buildings was provided by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs by way of unmatched grants for accommodation for staff of our Aboriginal Health Preventive Medicine Programme and the buildings are still required for that purpose.

#### 9. IMPROVEMENTS TO THANGOOL AND JAMBIN STATE SCHOOLS

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

When will work commence to (a) replace class-rooms at Thangool State School as the old antiquated demountable class-rooms used at present are to the detriment of young pupils attending that school, (b) improve the library facilities at Jambin State School, which are too small and have no lights or fans for the 65 pupils attending that school and (c) provide more rain-water storage facilities for the school residence at Jambin?

*Answer:—*

I thank the honourable member for his continued interest in education in his electorate.

(a) The forward-planning of my department has noted the provision of additional teaching spaces at the Thangool State School to replace the present demountable building. However, in view of the demands on the funds available to my department for such work, no indication can be given at this time as to when the new teaching spaces will be provided.

(b) Jambin State School has been noted in the forward-planning of my department for the provision of additional library space. However, in the light of the restricted funds available to my department at this time, no indication can be given as to when the additional library space will be provided.

(c) The matter of rain-water storage at the official residence should be referred to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing.

10. COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC FOR EMU PARK

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

As I have received many requests for a Community Health Clinic to be built at Emu Park and as this area is expanding rapidly, will he undertake to give consideration to Emu Park's having this much-needed amenity?

*Answer:—*

The honourable member would be aware that Emu Park and the surrounding district are at present being serviced by staff from the Community Health Services Centre at Yeppoon. The needs of Emu Park will be kept under constant review by my department.

11. INFORMATION GIVEN IN APPLICATIONS FOR KANGAROO-SHOOTING PERMITS

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

(1) In relation to the issue of shooters' permits and kangaroo tags, what precautions are taken to ensure that the signature of the owner on whose property the applicant states he has permission to shoot is, in fact, genuine?

(2) Are penalties provided for false or misleading information given by the applicant and, if so, what are they?

*Answers:—*

(1) It is not possible to ensure that every such signature is genuine, but if a landholder complains or if there is any suspicion that the signature is forged, the matter would be investigated.

(2) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement in an application is liable to a penalty of \$1,000 or imprisonment for 12 months.

12. CLARE WEIR AND WIVENHOE DAM PROBLEMS

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

As he told the House during the last session of Parliament that he would make a full report on the cause of the problems at

Clare Weir and since that time there have been newspaper reports of a \$1,500,000 Wivenhoe Dam miscalculation that will cause long delays and higher electricity charges to Queenslanders, will he now give this House a full and detailed report on these two costly problems?

*Answer:—*

I will comment on the two matters raised by the honourable member for Lytton as follows:—

Clare Weir

Some details of the mechanism that led to the failure of this weir were set out in a reply that I gave to the House on 5 June last in response to a question from the honourable member for Mackay, but I will restate the position fully again.

Structural failure of the left abutment of the weir became apparent on 10 March 1979 on the rising stage of a flood which during the following week reached a height of 7.7 metres above weir crest level. While this flow of some 15 000 cubic metres per second is not a particularly large flood by Burdekin River standards and has a return period of about five years, it had been preceded by persistent moderately strong flows in the river during January and February.

Since the March flood receded, the extent of the damage has progressively become more readily accessible. Concrete works on the left abutment and the first five of the 24 spillway monoliths have failed or subsided into a deep hole scoured in the river bed in the area of breaching.

The original weir design involved extensive hydraulic model testing in an erodible bed model to achieve dissipation of the overflow and avoid excessive scouring of the sandy river bed and bank. The model testing was carried out for a wide range of flow conditions, including very high floods, but did not show up the mechanism by which failure of the structure occurred.

Since the failure of the weir, the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation was re-engaged to carry out redesign, including further hydraulic model studies, at a larger scale than previously, to ascertain the cause of failure and the work required to ensure security in future.

This work has identified the reasons for the failure. The failure was due in part to protracted moderate flows in the January to March period, coupled with configuration of the left abutment which resulted in deep scouring immediately downstream of the first two overflow monoliths. This scour resulted in the undermining of the concrete monoliths and their subsequent settlement. Only by running the hydraulic model at a constant flow rate for unusually long periods could the deep scouring, which led to failure in the prototype, be reproduced in the latest model.

The recent model tests also indicate that heavy rock protection downstream of the weir will be effective in preventing deep scouring in the future.

It is estimated that the cost of reconstruction to the original design situation will be of the order of \$1,650,000. Additional work required for design modifications will bring the total cost to, say, \$2,000,000.

Reconstruction of the weir has commenced. Cofferdams have been placed around the damaged area and other works are now in hand.

The Queensland Water Resources Commission and the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation are working closely to determine the best procedures for achieving security of the site at all stages of the reconstruction. While it is desired to complete reconstruction to fixed crest level, if at all possible, before the next wet season, if this should not prove practicable, the works will be stopped and left in a safe condition for the wet season.

#### Wivenhoe Dam

Before commenting on the matter raised, I would draw to the honourable member's attention that two separate projects are under construction in the Wivenhoe area, namely, Wivenhoe Dam itself, and the Wivenhoe Pumped Storage Project involving Splityard Creek Dam and the power-station.

In so far as Wivenhoe Dam is concerned, recent excavation in the spillway area has shown a need for pre-stressing of the sandstone rock in the 35 metre deep cutting at an estimated cost of about \$550,000.

The prestressing of the rock excavation is necessary to overcome the effect of some diagonal cracking which occurred in the horizontally bedded sandstone and raised some doubt about the stability of the excavation during the construction phase.

When the need for this extra work became evident, it was decided to recall tenders for the Stage 3 construction of the Dam. The recalling of the tenders will result in a delay of about four months in the date when water will be available in the dam for the pumped storage project and a delay in final completion of Wivenhoe Dam of some 12 months.

The problems experienced and the solution adopted are not unusual in deep excavations. There has been no miscalculation.

The foundations for Wivenhoe Dam have been thoroughly investigated and the design selected is the most economical for the site having regard to accepted world standards for the performance and safety of such structures. Throughout the investigation, design and excavation stages, consultations have been held with the well-known international engineering consultant

J. Barry Cooke, who has endorsed the spillway arrangements and the remedial measures adopted for stabilising the excavation.

I am assured that the extra cost of the dam and the delay will have an insignificant effect on the cost of electricity generated in the associated pumped storage project.

It is understood that some problems have also been experienced in the inlet channel to the hydro station. These works are not directly associated with the construction of Wivenhoe Dam itself and are being constructed by the State Electricity Commission to designs undertaken for them by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation.

#### 13. MEAT CORPORATION OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND PROCESSING WORKS

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

(1) With reference to the unanimous vote of no confidence in the National Party carried by the Cattlemen's Union at the North Queensland conference over the National Party's handling of land purchases by meat processors and overseas interests and as National Party conferences, ex-servicemen's organisations and others have for a number of years sought a register of land owned or leased by alien corporations or individuals, what percentage of (a) freehold and (b) leasehold land in Queensland is owned by alien individuals, corporations, etc.?

(2) What percentage of Queensland grazing land is owned by meat corporations or affiliated companies?

(3) What was the result of meetings between himself, the Cattlemen's Union and others on the question of meat-processor domination of meatworks through Queensland and the Northern Territory and other growing fears of small graziers?

(4) Is it possible for a particular meat processor to dominate a particular meatworks, thus controlling prices, etc., and, if so, which processor or group and meatworks are involved?

(5) Will he detail the landholdings of the State's five top meat processors and their associated companies?

*Answers:—*

(1) The information sought regarding foreign ownership of land in Queensland was conveyed to this house on 14 September 1978, in response to a question by the honourable member for Bundaberg. For the information of the honourable member for Lytton, I am repeating the advice that I gave previously on this matter.

Report by a Government-appointed joint committee of senior officers of the Departments of Justice and Lands revealed late in 1976 that of the 780,250 rateable properties (freehold and leasehold) owned in Queensland by companies and individuals, 10,920 were owned by companies and individuals who have an address for service of notices outside Australia.

These figures indicated that, at that time, 1.39 per cent of the total number of rateable properties in the State were known to be owned by companies or individuals having an address for service of notice outside Australia.

Although the committee's report produced no evidence to establish that foreign ownership of land in Queensland had reached excessive proportions, or was likely to reach such proportions in the future, nevertheless the Government decided, responsibly, to keep the whole situation under review, and should at any future time it see a need to take action legislatively or otherwise, it will certainly do so.

Such need for control, if and when it arrives, no doubt would include consideration of a register of land held or in process of being transferred to non-resident non-Australians.

(2) It is difficult to ascertain the actual total area of land in Queensland used for grazing purposes, but as far as it can be ascertained from departmental records, the percentage would be about 3.5 per cent.

(3) The result was that recent purchases of pastoral holdings by meat processors in Queensland do not present any problem.

(4) Theoretically, it is possible for any meat processor to dominate a particular meatworks provided the processor owns enough country and stock to do so. None of the meat processors in Queensland at this time are in such a position. As already advised, I will be keeping a close watch on any transfer proposals.

(5) This information is detailed in the attached lists, which I seek leave to table and have incorporated in "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

TANCRED GROUP

Company	Lease	Area
Tancred Family .. .. .	G.H. 16636 .. .. .	11 936 hectares (46.1 sq mls)
	G.F. 16641 .. .. .	8 215 hectares (31.7 sq mls)
	G.H. 16633 .. .. .	8 084 hectares (31.2 sq mls)
	Hughenden District	
	G.H. 16634 .. .. .	8 106 hectares (31.3 sq mls)
	G.H. 16635 .. .. .	8 093 hectares (11.12 sq mls)
Tancred Brothers Pty. Ltd. ..	Caerphilly Pastoral Holding ..	246 km <sup>2</sup> (95 sq mls)
	Astrea Pastoral Holding .. ..	624.188 km <sup>2</sup> (241 sq mls)
	Aurora Pastoral Holding .. ..	1 230.245 km <sup>2</sup> (475 sq mls)
	Leconsfield Pastoral Holding ..	271.949 km <sup>2</sup> (105 sq mls)
	Meltham Pastoral Holding .. ..	2 340 km <sup>2</sup> (903.5 sq mls)
	Special Lease 41244 .. .. .	13 071.346 ha (50.5 sq mls)
Tancred Brothers (Queensland) Pty. Limited	Kynuna Pastoral Holding .. ..	880.596 km <sup>2</sup> (340 sq mls)
	Riversleigh Pastoral Holding ..	2 523.167 km <sup>2</sup> (974 sq mls)
	Holt Pastoral Holding .. .. .	448 km <sup>2</sup> (173 sq mls)
	Saxby Downs Pastoral Holding ..	2 266.288 km <sup>2</sup> (875 sq mls)

Cranford Pty. Ltd. . . . .	Cammeray Pastoral Holding . . . . .	150-039 km <sup>2</sup> (58 sq mls)
	Imbi Imbi Pastoral Holding . . . . .	202-02 km <sup>2</sup> (78 sq mls)
	Leilavale Pastoral Holding . . . . .	1 521-266 km <sup>2</sup> (587-4 sq mls)
	Rangeview Pastoral Holding . . . . .	290-079 km <sup>2</sup> (112 sq mls)
	Boomarra Pastoral Holding . . . . .	1 084-688 km <sup>2</sup> (418-8 sq mls)
	Gleeson Pastoral Holding . . . . .	246-049 km <sup>2</sup> (95 sq mls)
	Quail Creek Pastoral Holding . . . . .	261-589 km <sup>2</sup> (101 sq mls)
	Effie Preferential Pastoral Holding . . . . .	243-459 km <sup>2</sup> (94 sq mls)
	Australasian Grazing Pty. Ltd. . . . .	Clarina Pastoral Holding . . . . .
Rockwood Pastoral Holding . . . . .		200-88 km <sup>2</sup> (77-56 sq mls)
Rockwood Freehold . . . . .		440-5 km <sup>2</sup> (170-08 sq mls)
Ferdinand Pastoral Co. Pty. Ltd. . . . .	Gregory Downs Pastoral Holding . . . . .	1 563 km <sup>2</sup> (606-6 sq mls)
	Total Area . . . . .	20 284 km <sup>2</sup> (7 834 sq mls)

## ANDERSONS

Company	Lease	Area
Andersons Meat Packing Co. Pty. Ltd.	Raymore Pastoral Holding . . . . .	326-339 km <sup>2</sup> (126 sq mls)
	Wheeo Pastoral Holding . . . . .	883-186 km <sup>2</sup> (341 sq mls)
	Total Area . . . . .	1 209-525 km <sup>2</sup> (467 sq mls)

## F. J. WALKER GROUP (SWIFTS MEATS)

Company	Lease	Area
King Ranch Pastoral Company	Barkly Downs Pastoral Holding . . . . .	8 445 km <sup>2</sup> (3 260-6 sq mls)
Swift Australia Ltd. and King Ranch Pty. Ltd.	Buckley Pastoral Holding . . . . .	942-756 km <sup>2</sup> (364 sq mls)
Amagraz Limited . . . . .	Karumba Pastoral Holding . . . . .	94-794 km <sup>2</sup> (36-6 sq mls)
Pastoral and Development Pty. Ltd.	Mt. Surprise Pastoral Holding . . . . .	1 541 km <sup>2</sup> (595 sq mls)
King Ranch Pastoral Company	Freehold Land, Tully . . . . .	202-02 km <sup>2</sup> (78 sq mls)
King Ranch Development Company Pty. Ltd.	Carpentaria Downs Pastoral Holding . . . . .	1 181 km <sup>2</sup> (456 sq mls)
	Lyndhurst Pastoral Holding . . . . .	2 032-63 km <sup>2</sup> (784-8 sq mls)
King Ranch Development Company Pty. Ltd.	Elgin Downs Stud Holding . . . . .	328-929 km <sup>2</sup> (127 sq mls)
King Ranch Development Company Pty. Ltd.	Disney Pastoral Holding . . . . .	476 km <sup>2</sup> (184 sq mls)
King Ranch Development Company Pty. Ltd.	Avon Downs Pastoral Holding . . . . .	953-116 km <sup>2</sup> (368 sq mls)

King Ranch Development Company Pty. Ltd.	Lanark Pastoral Holding .. ..	327·375 km <sup>2</sup> (126·4 sq mls)
King Ranch Development Company Pty. Ltd.	Goodoawada Pastoral Holding ..	108·456 km <sup>2</sup> (41·875 sq mls)
	Total Area .. ..	16 633·1 km <sup>2</sup> (6 422·05 sq mls)

VESTEYS GROUP

Company	Lease	Area
Coolullah Pastoral Company ..	Coolullah Pastoral Holding ..	2 130 km <sup>2</sup> (822·397 sq mls)
Western Grazing Company ..	Morstone Pastoral Holding ..	1 844·072 km <sup>2</sup> (711·999 sq mls)
	Doongmabulla Pastoral Holding ..	776·997 km <sup>2</sup> (300 sq mls)
Oban Pastoral Company ..	Oban Pastoral Holding .. ..	2 680 km <sup>2</sup> (1 034·753 sq mls)
	Freehold Rockhampton .. ..	Not known
	Total Area .. ..	7 431·069 km <sup>2</sup> (2 869·15 sq mls)

V. SMORGAN AND OTHERS

Company	Lease	Area
400 Ronsdale Nominees Pty. Ltd.	Cadell Pastoral Holding .. ..	5 154·077 km <sup>2</sup> (1 990 sq mls)
	Middleton Park Pastoral Holding ..	342 km <sup>2</sup> (132·1 sq mls)
	Total Area .. ..	5 496·077 km <sup>2</sup> (2 122·1 sq mls)

14. AIRPORT SALES OF FISH AND CRABS

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

(1) As most visitors to Queensland from interstate find our mud crabs, barramundi and reef fish equal to or better and cheaper than anything available in their home States, has the Fish Board considered setting up a small retail outlet at Brisbane and other tourist airports to sell live or freshly packed fish and crabs to visitors returning home?

(2) If the board has not considered such a proposal, will he seek an investigation of my proposal, which will make it easy for people returning home to take with them a true Queensland delicacy in special travel packs?

Answers:—

(1) The board has established retail outlets at its markets located at Colmslie, Sandgate, Wynnum, Cleveland and Scarborough. In addition, retail outlets are established at all markets from Mooloolaba to Cairns.

Visitors to the State may order parcels of seafood from the board's markets. The parcel is packed in dry ice for any lengthy travel.

Several years ago a Queensland-based seafood-processing company spent considerable time and effort and advertising on a national basis to air freight small parcels of reef fish, prawns, crabs and scallops to all parts of Australia to householders seeking Queensland seafood products. The venture was unsuccessful through lack of response. This was probably due to the fact that other distribution arrangements already cater adequately for the southern markets.

(2) It is thought that the cost of operating small retail shops at airports would be prohibitive because of the high labour costs that would be involved in manning these outlets outside normal working hours, which would be necessary if their services were to be available to a high percentage of travellers. However, the board is very conscious of the need for active marketing of its products, and proposes to direct greater effort into the development of new sales initiatives. I thank the honourable member for this suggestion, which can be considered along with other possibilities.

15. EXPENDITURE ON BRUCE HIGHWAY IN  
No. 2 DISTRICT

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

In each of the last five years, how much money has been spent on the section of the Bruce Highway in No. 2 Main Roads District?

Answer:—

The following expenditures have been incurred on the Bruce Highway in No. 2 District of the Main Roads Department over the last five years.

—	Permanent Works	Maintenance	Total
1974-75	2,122,442	378,717	2,501,159
1975-76	3,067,088	579,243	3,646,331
1976-77	3,359,701	563,674	3,923,375
1977-78	3,713,015	625,383	4,339,398
1978-79	3,759,686	698,776	4,458,462
\$	16,021,932	2,845,793	18,867,725

The figures indicate an increase of almost \$2,000,000 in 1978-79 over the expenditure in 1974-75.

16. REZONING APPLICATIONS, SHOPPING  
CENTRE SITES

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

With reference to his answer to my question of 28 August concerning regional shopping centres in which he stated that the question of over-provision of shopping centres is taken into consideration when applications for the rezoning of lands for that purpose are dealt with, over the last five years—

(1) How many applications for rezoning of shopping centre sites have been rejected on the grounds of over-provision?

(2) Where are the locations involved in these applications?

Answers:—

(1) Fourteen applications for the rezoning of land to permit the establishment of shopping centres have been rejected by the Governor in Council over the past 5 years.

As the honourable member will be aware, the grounds for refusal are, in general, based upon not only one factor, such as the balance of zones, but also such aspects as the effect on the amenity of an area, the effect on essential services, traffic flows and the like. Refusal of an application is rarely, if ever, based upon one single consideration.

(2) The locations and applications are as follows:—

Bundaberg City .. .. .	2
Cairns City .. .. .	1
Gold Coast City .. .. .	1
Ipswich City .. .. .	1
Hervey Bay Town .. .. .	1
Albert Shire .. .. .	1
Ayr Shire .. .. .	1
Caboolture Shire .. .. .	1
Landsborough Shire .. .. .	1
Logan Shire (previously Albert)	2
Pioneer Shire .. .. .	1
Thuringowa Shire .. .. .	1

It will be noted that there are no rejections of applications in relation to Brisbane City Council area. This is because that council considers applications for approval in principle, which indicates to a potential investor whether the council is likely to favour a particular proposal or not. There is some merit in this approach, as the prospective applicant does not have to commit himself to land purchase until the views of the council have been obtained.

17. SIGNPOSTING OF ROADS TO SURFERS  
PARADISE

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

With reference to my question some months ago concerning the provision of indicator signs to Surfers Paradise at the off-ramp at Nerang and also signs for the purpose of directing traffic to Surfers Paradise along Ashmore Road through Benowa, when will action be taken to install these signs?

Answer:—

In answer to the honourable member's earlier question, I replied that the possibility of providing a suitable sign at the Ashmore Road intersection with the Nerang-Southport road would be investigated. I now advise that such a sign will be provided. Details of the sign are currently being drafted so that an order can be placed for its manufacture. The sign will be erected immediately it is received from the suppliers.

18. FREEWAY LAND, GOLD COAST CITY  
AND ALBERT SHIRE

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

(1) With reference to the freeway route on the Gold Coast as published in the last Gold Coast City and Albert Shire Planning Schemes, will he supply details of how much land in the City of Gold Coast and the Albert Shire is still owned by the Government and at what locations are the lands sited?

(2) How much land, and at what locations, has been rezoned back to its original zoning or a zoning different from that for freeway purposes?

*Answers:—*

(1) Details that the honourable member seeks will be supplied in writing as soon as possible.

(2) It is not possible from the time available to determine the area of land involved, as the land zoned for freeway purposes, in most cases, was not the subject of a survey plan. The town planning scheme for Albert Shire Council did not zone any land for Main Roads Department freeway purposes, accordingly no information can be provided in relation to those lands in the Albert Shire area. With regard to the town planning scheme for the Gold Coast city, certain lands were specifically zoned for Main Roads Department freeway purposes at the request of the Main Roads Department and with the agreement of the Gold Coast City Council. Later studies by Main Roads Department indicated that lands in this area were no longer required for freeway purposes and, as a result, certain lands under private ownership have been rezoned at the request of the owners or by agreement.

The lands which have been rezoned from Main Roads Department freeway purposes to provide for other purposes are as follows:—From Middleton Street, Southport to a point approximately 200 m north of Cotlew Road; from Bamboo Avenue generally southerly to the Nerang River, for a width which varies but may be taken as 120 m in width; and from the southern side of Tallebudgera Creek to Coolabah Drive to the west of Palm Beach, again for an approximate width of 120 m. All lands other than those mentioned are still zoned as special purposes (Main Roads Department freeway).

#### 19. ESSENTIAL SERVICES BILL

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

(1) With reference to his statements that under the proposed essential services legislation, in the event of strikes in a particular essential service, Crown employees may be directed to work in that service, will the employee still be regarded as a Crown employee with all the rights and privileges associated therewith during the period he is engaged in that essential service?

(2) What is the position with regard to continuity of employment in the event of a protracted strike?

(3) If the Crown employee is a public servant, will he be bound by and subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act whilst engaged outside the Public Service?

(4) To what industrial award provisions will the Crown employee be subject while working outside his normal employment?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) An employee of the Crown who performs work in an essential service pursuant to a ministerial direction would perform that work as part of his duty as an employee of the Crown.

His performance of work different from his usual work is not seen as affecting—

(a) The continuity of his employment by the Crown;

(b) His status as a public servant, if he is one;

(c) His rights and obligations attaching by reason of his having the status of a public servant; or

(d) The industrial award to which he is ordinarily subject in the performance of his duty.

#### 20. T.A.B. COVERAGE OF RACE MEETINGS

**Mr. Jones** for **Mr. Houston**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) How many race meetings in Queensland are covered by the T.A.B. on meeting dates when it does not have all its agencies in operation?

(2) What are these meetings and what is the extent of the coverage?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) Of the 329 T.A.B. offices in Queensland, 20 offices in more isolated areas operate on a Saturday-only basis, and the Queensland meetings normally serviced by these offices are the Saturday metropolitan galloping meeting and the Albion Park trotting meeting. They do, however, provide a full service on all public holiday meetings.

The only other scheduled Queensland meetings not covered by all T.A.B. offices are the Redcliffe trotting meeting on Friday night and the Gold Coast greyhound meeting on Monday night.

For the Redcliffe trotting meeting, a further 47, that is, a total of 67 of the 329 offices, do not provide a service.

In respect of the Gold Coast greyhound meeting on Monday night, a full coverage is provided by 253 offices. This meeting is not serviced by the 67 offices not operating on Friday nights and, in addition, a further nine offices do not handle Gold Coast greyhound operations.

For the sake of convenience, I will supply to the honourable member, in letter form, a list of the 76 offices involved in these various arrangements.

21. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TO  
HOMOSEXUALITY

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

With reference to the policy statement contained on page 52 of the current A.L.P. Policy Handbook, which states that, if it is elected to Government, Labor will legislate to remove criminal sanctions against homosexual acts between consenting adults in private, will he outline the Government's attitude to this sort of proposal and give an undertaking that by contrast the National-Liberal Government is not contemplating any such action?

*Answer:—*

I have seen the policy statement of the A.L.P. As far as I am aware, there have been no discussions at Government level on this matter.

22. COST OF A.L.P. MATERNITY-LEAVE  
POLICY

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

Will he estimate the cost of another A.L.P. 1979 policy promise to grant maternity leave of up to six months in any one year to a Government employee, with positions left open for three months subsequent to the confinement and with this period of absence to be taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating long service leave, annual leave, or sickness leave benefits, etc.?

*Answer:—*

The proposition is so improbable that I have no firm figures. However, some estimates prepared on what it would cost to grant six weeks' maternity leave on full pay to female Crown employees show the costs at close to \$5,000,000 per annum and a six-month leave provision would therefore cost around \$20,000,000. The other leave accruals would add a further sum to a total cost of approximately \$23,000,000. For any additional months' leave the A.L.P. proposes, an additional \$4,000,000 per annum should be added to costs.

23. BREAKDOWNS ON SOUTH EAST FREEWAY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article that appeared in the August-September issue of "The Road Ahead", which is the official organ of the R.A.C.Q., complaining about an alleged dangerous situation that exists on the Brisbane Captain Cook Bridge owing to the lack of emergency stopping lanes, and the difficulty experienced by R.A.C.Q. patrols,

who are frequently required to press themselves against the guard-rails more than 30 m above the Brisbane River when attending to stationary vehicles in what they describe as a nightmare situation?

(2) Is he also aware of their stated intention of providing an emergency towing service for a trial period?

(3) Has the Main Roads Commissioner, as suggested in the article, been contacted by the R.A.C.Q. with the request that his department urgently consider the provision of overhead signalling devices on the South East Freeway that will be used in conjunction with T.V. monitors to warn freeway drivers well in advance of lane closures due to breakdown or other reasons?

(4) Is the Main Roads Department considering this suggestion, has a decision yet been made, and when can action be expected on this matter?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. I also noted in the article that the same procedure has—"been successfully employed to peak hour breakdowns on the Story Bridge for the last two years".

(3) Yes.

(4) The Main Roads Department initiated investigations into this matter prior to receipt of representations from the R.A.C.Q. It is one aspect of a current research examination and no further action is proposed until these findings are at hand.

24. HEAD LICE IN SCHOOLS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the present serious epidemic of head lice in many schools?

(2) As many parents are totally unaware of what head lice look like and of their effect on children and honestly believe that it could not happen to their children, will he issue a public warning, stressing the importance of thorough efforts to eradicate the problem?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) Although of recent years there has been an increase in the incidence of head lice in schoolchildren, a recent survey carried out by the Division of School Health Services of my department shows that this incidence is now greatly reduced.

I have issued many Press statements on this subject to alert parents to the problem and the need for continued vigilance. The various divisions of my department are continuing their endeavours to educate and advise parents, teachers and the general public on methods of preventing

head lice infestation and appropriate treatment if requested. This is a matter for parental responsibility to ensure their children's hair is kept free of infestation.

25. RENAMING OF ALBANY CREEK SOUTH STATE SCHOOL

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

As the Albany Creek South State School's very active parents and citizens' association is keen to promote its school with silk-screen-printed T-shirts, school uniforms and letterheads, etc., using the proposed name of Albany Hills State School, has the new name been approved and, if not, when is it expected that the name unanimously requested by that association and me will be approved?

*Answer:—*

On 1 August last I received a request from the parents and citizens' association of Albany Creek South State School requesting that the school's name be changed to "Albany Hills". Apart from an inquiry from the association as to the correct name of the school received earlier in the year by my Regional Director of Education, no previous correspondence on this matter can be located by my department. The site has been referred to in the papers of my department and the Department of Works as "Albany Creek South" since as early as April 1975; this name has been officially approved by the Queensland Place Names Board. Up to the present no consideration has been given to recommending the name "Albany Hills" to the Board, but, following the association's request, my regional director was asked to comment on the proposal. I am presently awaiting his advice.

26. RECLASSIFICATION OF ROADS

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

(1) With reference to the proclamation commencing on page 2174 of the Government Gazette of 25 August and page 2048 of 18 August, which of the new classifications involve an uplifting of the classification and which involve a lowering of the classification?

(2) Which are roads that were not classified previously?

(3) What is the change in contribution to be made by the local authority in each case?

(4) What roads in the Pine Rivers Shire and Brisbane City Council areas have been reclassified since 1 July 1977?

*Answers:—*

(1) The only change in classification in the schedules relates to adjustments to declared roads in Nerang following construction of the Nerang bypass. The road through Nerang which was previously declared as the Pacific Highway has been declared as the Nerang Connection Main Road. All other roads listed in the schedules were included because of the preparation of new declaration maps which are being progressively prepared for all declared roads with metric scales and to conform with updating of the Main Roads Department roads inventory.

(2) All roads in the schedules were previously declared.

(3) The only change in contribution by a local authority relates to the Nerang Connection Main Road. Any permanent works undertaken in future will involve repayment of 10 per cent by the Albert Shire Council.

(4) None.

27. BREAD CONTRACTS, GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES

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

(1) Is he aware of an article in "The Northern Miner" headed "Premier Vetos Bread Contract", wherein it described the Premier's action in vetoing a contract in favour of a local bakery?

(2) Is he also aware of a contract granted to Regal Bakeries of Rockhampton to supply bread to Woorabinda settlement, at the expense of the Baralaba baker, who has been deriving approximately one-third of his income from the contract?

(3) In view of these circumstances, will he explain the Government practice in respect of letting contracts for the supply of bread to Government instrumentalities throughout the State?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I am aware of the article. However, contracts let by the State Stores Board are a matter for my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services and I suggest that the question be redirected to him.

**Mr. Yewdale:** I do so accordingly.

28. STATE GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

**Dr. Lockwood**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Will he consider having prepared a State Government calendar showing required fees, date and address of lodgment for all Government forms, permits, licences and returns, as a working guide and reminder for all who have business with the Government?

*Answer:—*

I appreciate the background behind this question and the assistance which may be rendered to the community, but it would be a difficult and a costly task which, if produced, would be a cumbersome document containing a mass of irrelevancies for many people.

I consider that those persons and businesses dealing with a particular Government agency can readily ascertain details of their obligations which could then be specific and capable of an efficient diary reminder application. Because of this and in view of the Budget stringency, at this stage I do not propose that the additional cost involved be incurred.

#### 29. CANCER AS NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

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

(1) Is he presently able to advise (a) the purpose of the proposed notification of cancer and (b) the stages and types of cancer that will be declared notifiable diseases?

(2) Will clinical diagnosis suffice, or must positive diagnosis be reached in each case by histopathology, blood or other smear test, X-ray or biochemistry?

(3) Will doctors be permitted to freeze, burn or otherwise destroy simple skin tumours without resorting to biopsy?

(4) Is it envisaged that full surgical audit of all specimens removed at operations could become mandatory upon making cancer a notifiable disease?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) The purposes of the proposed registration of cancer are to enable description of the nature and extent of the disease in Queensland, to assist epidemiological surveys aimed at elucidation of causal factors, to provide information for education of the public and the medical profession, to determine survival times and to assist planning of services for management of cancer.

It is proposed that all malignancies, excluding those of the skin but including melanoma, shall be notifiable.

It is intended that registration will be made on a patient's separation from hospital, the manner by which diagnosis is established being determined by the attending clinician, who is also responsible for the management of individual patients.

Surgical audit is not proposed to be a function of the cancer registry.

#### 30. AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION REGISTRATIONS

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

(1) Has the Australian Heritage Commission proceeded with the registration of (a) Cooloola, (b) The Como Scarp, (c) Inskip Point, (d) Rainbow Beach and (e) half of Tin Can Bay, with a view to conserving, improving and presenting the National Estate?

(2) If so, does this mean that the Commonwealth will (a) build access roads through the Cooloola National Park, (b) limit fishing in Tin Can Bay and (c) take total charge of all tourist activities in the Cooloola/Tin Can Bay region?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) I am informed that the Australian Heritage Commission included the Tin Can Bay area on its interim list published in the Commonwealth Government Gazette on 21 November 1978. An interim listing means that the commission proposes to include an area on the National Estate Register unless, as a result of objections, it decides not to go on with the listing. In the case of the general area referred to by the honourable member, the Queensland Government objected and no action has since been taken by the commission to either remove the area from the interim list or to place it on the National Estate Register.

The significance of either an interim listing or inclusion on the register is that Commonwealth Ministers, departments and agencies must take note of the listing in any decision-making process. It should be noted that the listings do not bind the State or local authorities in their decision-making. Registration of the Cooloola/Tin Can Bay area would not give the Commonwealth Government the power to take the type of action outlined in the honourable member's question.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### OVERSEAS TRIP BY MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

**Mr. CASEY:** I ask the Premier: In view of the way in which the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads sarcastically brushed aside a question from the member for Murrumba in this House last week regarding his accountability to the Parliament for his pending five-week trip to Europe and the United States, will the Premier, in the interests of proper ministerial accountability to the Parliament, table in this House, prior to the Minister's departure, a detailed itinerary of his trip, including such things as its purpose and places to be visited, and also instruct him, as a Minister

in the Government, to prepare a detailed report during his tour for presentation in this Parliament on his return, thus showing the type of ministerial accountability that was outlined publicly by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on 16 July this year?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I remind the Leader of the Opposition that what a Minister does and does not do is a matter for Cabinet and the Government. In turn, a Minister is responsible to the Auditor-General, whose reports are tabled in this House. The Leader of the Opposition often claims that he is the alternative Premier. I wonder if he is suggesting that we ought to have tabled in this House a report on where he goes every day and night and where he travels with his wife around the State and interstate. I wonder if he is going to suggest that we have tabled in this House a report showing all his expenses, which are very considerable indeed and which cost the taxpayers of Queensland a lot of money. The Leader of the Opposition has to stop trying to score cheap political points through questions of this nature. As he well knows, the Auditor-General reports on all expenses incurred by Ministers.

**Mr. Casey:** I am prepared, in answer to the challenge issued by the Premier, to table my expenses provided he does exactly the same.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! This is question-time and I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition ask his next question.

**Mr. Casey:** You provide every detail, including who goes with you.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

#### S.G.I.O. BUILDING SOCIETY

**Mr. W. D. HEWITT:** I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Has his attention been drawn to an article in the Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin", wherein the Federal Labor member for Capricornia, Dr. Everingham, urges pensioners to open savings bank or S.G.I.O. Building Society accounts and states, "The S.G.I.O. Building Society is Government guaranteed and safe as a bank"? As this statement is in error and, if believed, gives the S.G.I.O. Building Society an unfair advantage over its competitors, will the Minister give a clear and unequivocal assurance that the S.G.I.O. Building Society is not Government guaranteed?

**Mr. LICKISS:** I want to make it patently clear that no permanent building society in this State is Government guaranteed, and that includes the S.G.I.O. Building Society. However, I should like to add that, because of the Government's policy and its legislative initiatives, this industry in this State is on a very sound basis.

#### OVERSEAS TRIP BY MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: As he was chosen to introduce the Essential Services Bill in this Parliament, is it correct to assume that his trip, beginning next week, to Austria is in fact a Government mission to the birthplace of another politician who held industrial sentiments similar to his own, Adolf Hitler?

**Mr. HINZE:** Every part of my overseas tour is designed specifically to be of some benefit to the State of Queensland. As you will appreciate, Mr. Speaker, I shall be looking at roads in the various countries in which I am travelling, and because the Department of Main Roads is such a big department, spending enormous amounts of money in this State, most of my activities will be designed to gain knowledge that will be beneficial to Queensland.

I got into a bit of a spot previously when trying to answer the honourable member for Archerfield. I certainly do not intend to get hooked a second time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MISS LAMPTON AT YARRABAH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

**Mr. GYGAR:** I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs: In view of recent allegations in the media, will he advise the House if it is a fact that the Queensland Government has objected to the appointment of a person to a position at Yarrabah on the grounds that the proposed appointee has undergone a sex-change operation?

**Mr. PORTER:** This Government advised the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 5 May—over four months ago and long before any of us had heard of Miss Lampton, who has achieved some prominence up there—that it rejected any proposal for its funding of what is essentially a Federal position. It creates for us the quite untenable situation of an officer on our reserve who has no obligation whatever to us but in fact is the employee of another Government. The present fuss about the transsexual Miss Lampton is therefore quite irrelevant as far as the position of this Government is concerned. The matter was taken up over four months ago, and it was based only on the principle involved. I sympathise with the Federal Minister's embarrassment in this matter but, after all, the situation is all of his own making.

#### ESSENTIAL SERVICES BILL

**Mr. PREST:** In directing a question to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, I refer to the concern expressed by the Australian Journalists' Association (Queensland District) that sections of the Essential Services Bill will be an obstacle in the way of balanced media coverage of

industrial disputes. I now ask: Will he order that an immediate study be made by the Crown Law Office of section 37 (4) in order to determine the degree to which the provision will operate as a judicial instrument of censorship upon impartial and balanced news coverage of industrial events? Does he agree that under that section certain persons may find themselves faced with severe court penalties for nothing more than exercising the basic freedom of speech and the freedom of the Press through statements that they believe to be fair and in the interests of the public?

**Mr. HINZE:** In answer—

**Mr. Casey:** Have you got your riding orders for today?

**Mr. HINZE:** I don't need any riding orders, particularly from clowns.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is necessary that I seek from you a ruling in regard to the Essential Services Bill. Opposition members are continually asking questions in relation to it. Surely they understand and appreciate that the Bill was printed to give everyone the right to scrutinise it, to criticise it and to form opinions upon it. At the appropriate time the Bill will come before the House for the second-reading debate and discussion on its clauses. I believe that a simple request could be made of Opposition members to contain themselves until then and to debate the Bill when it comes before Parliament at the appropriate time.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I take the Minister's point. Last week I allowed a question in relation to the Bill because its introduction had been debated and it had passed the first reading. If members persist in asking questions of this type, in all instances they will be disallowed.

**Mr. CASEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker. On this measure, as you said, you ruled last week that questions could be asked of the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. The Minister, in introducing the Bill and publicly afterwards, stated that it was the intention that the Bill would be available for all people so that they could raise any queries or questions on it. Surely members of Parliament have a right and a responsibility to ask questions in the right and proper place, which is the floor of this Parliament, and direct them to the Minister accordingly.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I am not moving from my previous position. The question that was addressed to the Minister referred specially to a comment that was made by the Australian Journalists' Association. At no time can a Minister be responsible for newspaper reports. I believe that, to ask a Minister a question in the House based on a newspaper report, should not be permitted, and I maintain my original stand.

#### GOVERNMENT STEPS TO REDUCE ROAD FATALITIES

**Mr. AUSTIN:** I ask the Minister for Transport: In view of last week-end's catastrophic road carnage, what steps does he plan to take to reduce the growing number of road fatalities?

**Mr. TOMKINS:** Like everybody else, I am aghast at the road accidents that have occurred not only last week-end, but also throughout this year. It appears that Queensland is facing one of its worst-ever years. The trouble relates not so much to what we should be doing, but to a lot of carelessness by drivers generally. The Traffic Advisory Committee is to meet today. Our department is conferring with the Police Department and our commissioner is raising this very matter to see if we can do something to reduce road accidents. We have all sorts of experts in the road safety field. They can give the right advice, make assumptions and so on, but what is being done is having very little effect on motorists. It is a sad state of affairs. I am pretty sure that the only way to teach a motorist is to try to educate him. We will not teach him by legislation.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Educate some of your lot.

**Mr. TOMKINS:** It would be like trying to educate the honourable member; he would not go very well, either.

If a man is a careless driver, he remains that way. Unfortunately, it is a continuing process. Many suggestions are made. Some people say that we should reduce the speed limit, while others blame alcohol. There are many possibilities. I assure the honourable member that what has happened has not gone unnoticed. We are holding this meeting today, and shortly we are to hold a seminar on road safety, which will be attended by a visiting American, Mr. Tofany. Maybe something will come out of that. It is not a very easy matter to handle.

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—FOURTH AND FIFTH ALLOTTED DAYS

Debate resumed from 6 September (see p. 353) on Mr. Hartwig's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. AHERN** (Landsborough) (12.1 p.m.): At the outset, I wish to convey a message of loyalty on my own behalf and on behalf of the electors of Landsborough to the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I also wish to thank His Excellency the Governor for the speech with which he was pleased to open this current session of Parliament. I also wish to convey

to the new Speaker my congratulations on his election. I was delighted when the honourable member for Fassifern was elevated to the position of Speaker. I express the hope that he will have a long term in office, and that he will have the initiative to promote some reform in the operation of this place and to make sure that as our Parliament goes into the 1980s we will have a legislature that is more contemporary and attuned to the needs of modern Queensland.

In his speech the Governor made extensive reference to very large developmental projects throughout the State. What heartening news it was, and what substantial developments they are. These are exciting times as far as investment in the State of Queensland is concerned. Such development has been the hallmark of this Government since its election in 1957—almost a generation ago. It has led to charges by our opponents, and also by some people generally in the community, that ours is a business Government. There are many people who are using the more pejorative term of multinational Government, which I believe is a very unfair description. The direction our Government is taking is certainly right. What is wrong is that the public relations exercise that is coming across to the people of Queensland is not good. We are an employment Government, and the development we are promoting around the State of Queensland is designed to produce jobs, and better jobs, for Queenslanders. We can be more appropriately described as an employment Government, and that is what I would like to talk about today.

The recently announced building of a new aluminium smelter is an exciting project indeed. It will provide hundreds upon hundreds of extra jobs for Queenslanders and extra revenue to the Government in this State. For every job of this type created, an extra 2½ jobs are created for Queenslanders in service industries. That is the type of information that every Queenslanders should be happy about.

Unemployment is a most serious concern today. I should think it is the most important public concern in Australia today, but there is also a high degree of pessimism and, indeed, confusion in the community generally and amongst decision-makers as to what we ought to do about it. I want to say that I agree with the bishops and some of the newspaper writers who have been criticising us for saying that we are accepting it, that as a nation we are starting to rationalise about it and make excuses for it, and that we are using terms such as "dole bludgers" and so on as excuses for the problem.

That will not do! That is not something we in Queensland have accepted, and the development strategies that this Government has promoted are directed primarily towards creating new employment in Queensland. There is evidence that we are having a great deal of success in what we are doing. Of

course, this requires a constant effort, and my purpose in rising today is to suggest that we ought to renew our efforts in this direction. I hope to make some suggestions about it. There are all sorts of options, programmes and opinions on what State and Federal Governments ought to do to meet this problem in the future. There are those people on the opposite side of the political fence to me who say that the public should simply employ them to dig holes and fill them in again, as it were. I doubt that that is a very sensible proposal.

The Federal Government is operating the Give-a-Kid-a-Job programme. There are programmes operating federally, too, which subsidise employers to take on young people for a limited period, and then the subsidy ceases. There is the effort of the Commonwealth Employment Service. There are those people who say that the primary success ought to be in the private sector. There are those who talk about the future role of private agencies in the area of employment. There are pre-employment schemes and pre-vocation schemes, and I suggest that I probably have not covered more than half of them.

Today, I want to look at some of these schemes and to offer suggestions on how we might improve our performance as a State Government, and how the Federal Government might improve its performance, too. I suggest that there ought to be some pruning of some of the less successful programmes at the same time.

It must be acknowledged that the great opportunity to create new employment in Australia must come through promotion in the private sector. Of that there can be no reasonable doubt. This requires, of our Ministers and departments generally, a continuous effort, day after day, to bring new development projects here, to assist them to overcome the difficulties that they face and to encourage them to expand in our State and create those hundreds of new jobs that are required. That initiative and that programme cannot be overstated.

We have to promote our State more. We are doing some very good work now, but we have to do more. We have to say to business as a whole in Australia, and indeed overseas, that business is most welcome in the State of Queensland. We have had some success in this regard. Indeed, we have taken some new initiatives across Australia. We have opened up offices interstate to tell business just that—"You are welcome in Queensland, because we want the employment that you will generate in our State."

We are the enterprise State in Australia, and that is recognised across the nation. I want to suggest also that we should look at some new initiatives, to tell Australia as a whole and every Australian that we are the free-enterprise State. We might even rub out that little motif "Sunshine State" on the bottom of our car number-plates and substitute the words "Enterprise State". That is the sort of thing about which I am talking.

Those are the bold new initiatives that other countries in the world have taken in order to encourage investment. There is an excellent opportunity in the State of Queensland today.

I think that we should continuously look, too, at the number of planning checks that we make on absolutely every business enterprise that comes to this State. I sometimes think that we are mad with all of the planning checks that we make—and they are fewer in Queensland than in the other States. They make it almost impossible to get some investment and thereby some employment, which is what our people want.

We, as a Government, have been looking in the long term at our taxation strategy, and there has been some misunderstanding about that, too. What it is all aimed to do is to bring more employment to Queensland. What we are saying is simply this: we are going to give taxation benefits not only to employers but to employees, because the lower rates that we are offering will bring more business and therefore more revenue.

The pay-roll tax initiative is the most important one of the lot. It is a tax on employment in the State. If we can get a scaling down of that employment tax, we will get more employment, and, we would hope, more pay-roll tax revenue in the State of Queensland. That is the rationale behind our strategy, and it is a good one.

We must have universal community acceptance, too, of resources development. Our resources have to be developed. I think there is a community realisation that this State has generous resources and that they ought to be developed in the national interest, with reasonable planning checks being made. However, there ought to be more talk about that.

There ought also to be more talk about business profits. Surveys have shown that Australians as a whole think that profits are too high, and that eight out of 10 Australians have extravagant ideas about what profit represents in business in the community in which we live. But profit is to business and capital, and therefore to employment, what breathing is to a living organism. If there is no profit, business dies. There has, of course, been a deliberate campaign to confuse people in this regard; but the community simply must accept that if more employment is to become available, more capital must be used to generate more profit.

Half of the capital for new development projects in Australia now comes from profits. If we are talking about expanding employment opportunities in this State—and we are all hopeful of doing that—I remind the House that a capital investment of \$300,000 is required to create each new mining job, and half of that has to come from profits. In the petroleum industry, a capital investment of \$80,000 is required, in manufacturing industries \$25,000, simply to create one

new job for an employee. One sees advertising campaigns encouraging people to put on additional staff, and so on. However, without new capital investment, a job cannot exist, and that is something that Australians, and Queenslanders in particular, must accept.

The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development has a key role to play in this State, and there is no doubt that it has been doing an excellent job. But today there is a wait of 18 months for a loan to a pioneer industry, and that situation clearly is not acceptable when hundreds of jobs would be available in pioneer industries waiting to begin but unable to do so because the Government is 18 months behind in its building programme. It is simply a question of money; but when the creation of employment opportunities is being discussed—and it is being discussed every day—getting that type of investment going ought to be given high priority. I remind honourable members that for every job created in a new industry, two and a half jobs will accrue in service industries.

Industrial estates in areas in which private business has been successful are full, and other industries are waiting for extensions of those estates. That also should be a high-priority project of the Government of this State.

The Government must look critically at expanding further the tourist industry and its associated industries. There is no doubt that the tourist industry in Australia has a key role to play. It is an employment-intensive industry in which the labour component is not likely to be replaced by computer chips. It is directed towards young people, and youth unemployment is the principal problem in Queensland, and indeed Australia, at present. The industry does not require tariff protection; nor does it require a great deal of taxation support. It is the type of industry that ought to be promoted to a greater extent than it is today.

The Government should insist that many of the projects that are in the pipeline be expedited and that the planning checks required should be made rapidly so that hundreds and hundreds of jobs can speedily come on line for young people.

The question of tariffs is an important one in this State when employment is being considered. We must face the problem realistically and say, "Let us do Australia, and Queensland in particular, a favour by seeking to promote those industries that require no tariff protection, or very little tariff protection." Indeed, that is happening already in this State. However, sometimes one tends to forget it, and I should like to remind the House of some figures showing the benefits and the burdens of tariff protection in the various States.

New South Wales has a benefit of \$187,000,000 on its private industry, and a burden of \$198,000,000 or a net loss of

\$11,000,000 through tariffs; Victoria has a benefit of \$312,000,000, a burden of \$151,000,000, which means a plus of \$161,000,000. In Queensland the benefit is \$25,000,000, a burden of \$86,000,000, a loss of \$61,000,000; South Australia has a benefit of \$22,000,000, a burden of \$51,000,000, a loss of \$29,000,000 by way of tariffs; Western Australia has a \$7,000,000 benefit, a burden of \$47,000,000, a net loss of \$40,000,000; and Tasmania has a benefit of \$8,000,000, a burden of \$16,000,000, a loss of \$8,000,000.

In the future we have to look at the promotion of those industries that will require less tariff protection. Tariff protection is a tax on all of us, no matter how it is looked at. If there is a 100 per cent protection on an article, as there is on bedclothing at the moment, when the article is purchased it does not matter whether the additional cost is a tariff or a tax, it has to be paid just the same. In Australia at the moment the tariff on bedclothing is in excess of 100 per cent. There has to be a day of reckoning across Australia. There needs to be enormous restructuring, and when we are promoting new developments we ought to take that into account. We need to adopt forward thinking, realise what is going to happen and insulate ourselves against that sort of problem that is created in human terms for those involved.

We ought to take a look at private agencies. We have not updated our private employment agency regulations since 1964. They are still written in pounds, shillings and pence. I have no doubt that private employment agencies have a role to play, and an expanded role. They are our regulations, not a Commonwealth matter, yet we have not got around to looking at them since 1964.

Many employers have said to me that the future lies in expanding the role of these organisations. Many employers have been very critical of the services being offered by the Commonwealth Employment Service. Of course, opinions vary. Personally I have no complaints about the sort of work it does for me. However, many employers and employees are very critical of the efforts of the Commonwealth Employment Service in providing a service to the community generally in a key area. There have been complaints about rudeness. Employers tell me that hundreds of people are sent to them for the same job, but 50 per cent of them are not qualified for the task and 50 per cent of them are not interested in the job but only in having a form signed so that their social service benefits can continue. Many employees say that they are sent to a company by the Commonwealth Employment Service only to find that the job had been allocated to someone else at least a fortnight before. They hadn't had a chance of getting the job right from the start.

I am not suggesting that we ought to fold up the Commonwealth Employment Service completely. What I am saying is that we

ought to give serious consideration to updating the role of private agencies in Queensland. Those within the private agencies organisations who have come to see me have said that they would not object at all if there were a complete proscription in relation to registration fees for those who are applying for employment—no registration fee at all. But they feel that an opportunity ought to be offered to them to recover some moneys from those who are successfully placed in employment. They would then start to build up a rapport with employers who have constant demands in this regard and, at the same time, build up a public reputation with those who are seeking work. An involvement of private enterprise in this field would appear to me a very successful thing to embark upon. The State Government and Federal Government might even look at subsidies for some of their advertising costs as a means of assisting them.

It is probably desirable that the operation of these organisations be taken from the Department of Labour Relations and placed in the hands of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development. If that were done, we would see a much more meaningful programme of help given. So today I call for a review of the role of the private employment agencies in the State and the giving to them of a greater role to play in finding employment. That is something positive that this State Government could do. On what I have heard from the private employment agencies and the employers who have come to see me about this problem, I am convinced that such a step would substantially help overcome the problem.

The 17-week employment scheme has been a disaster. It ought to be wound up. The amount of money that has gone into it has been pretty useless. The scheme is now counter-productive. Many employers are simply employing young people for 17 weeks, then standing them down and employing someone else. Besides being counter-productive, that leads to a high degree of disillusionment among young people. I say quite openly that the scheme ought to finish right now. It has not done what it was thought it would do.

The Federal Government, whose scheme it is, might look at delaying some of the subsidy payments over a 12-month period until we see the performance of the employers and until we can determine whether the scheme has been working. As of now, it is not working; it ought to finish.

This problem is a major one in the area that I represent. Many disillusioned young people who have been trying hard and who, at the end of the 17-week period, found themselves finished and washed up have come to see me about it. They are totally disillusioned about the whole deal.

If we are to promote our State as a private-enterprise State, we ought to look at some longer-term measures. What I am saying is that we need to take a new, hard look at all the regulations, all forms of taxation, all incentives, the role of government and the role of business. We should do that with a view to increasing the chances of success in combating the problem. Other countries have succeeded in overcoming the problem. Some States under some federal systems have achieved a remarkably high rate of success. It is time for us to look at some further innovation in this direction. I have put forward some suggestions and I now wish to put forward a further very important proposal.

If we are to be the standard-bearer, if we are to be an enterprising Australia—that is what I want, that is what my party wants and that is what the Government wants—if we are to achieve something in relation to employment, we must look at some of the initiatives that have been taken in the United States of America and the success of those initiatives. There is no doubt that some of the steps taken in the United States have been tremendously successful and innovative.

An initiative that is worthy of study was taken in the State of Georgia, where back in 1963 business was looking at the type of problems that confront us now. The decision was made to create a Chair of Private Enterprise at the Georgia State University.

Since that time, a total of 33 Chairs of Private Enterprise have been established at American universities. As many as 30 others are in the making. This fact could be quite relevant to the argument that is presently going on over the cuts in funding at tertiary level. That problem is likely to get worse in the future. It is a problem that confronted tertiary education authorities in the United States.

The Chair of Private Enterprise exists to spur understanding of private enterprise through the study of economics, history, management and human behaviour, and to disseminate that knowledge through teaching, conferences, public address and publication.

The Georgia enterprise was the first of its kind in the nation. The chair has been emulated now by 50 colleges and universities. The purpose is to work actively to develop through the total educational field the type of environment that will enable private enterprise to prosper and multiply. The sort of thing I am talking about is this: an academic chair is usually occupied by educators who continue to teach, write and think; Georgia State does more. It oversees and finances seminars, workshops, lectures and scholarships in the whole Atlanta area. Indeed, 112 Atlanta businessmen and private foundations provide money for texts, information services and scholarships for 500 teachers in public, private and parochial schools.

As tomorrow's businessmen progress through school, these teachers gradually make them familiar with the hopes, the aims and the accomplishments of private enterprise.

What I am getting at is that it is just not simply something that it is going on in a hermetically sealed unit at a university. It is something that has a wide influence over the total State scene. If we are to be the enterprise State in Australia—the standard-bearer—these are the sort of things we can do, and ought to do, in Queensland. The Georgia State University Fact Sheet discloses—

“Georgia State's Chair of Private Enterprise was established in 1963 with the support of Atlanta's business and educational communities. The Chair currently has a number of programs aimed at students, teachers, professionals and business people.

“The Individual and the Future of Organizations is the Chair's distinguished lecture series.

“Workshops for High School Students—an intensive exploration of the American economic system as it relates to the student's life and future.

“Center for Business and Economic Education—In 1964 the Chair developed the Center which is now an affiliate of the Joint Council on Economic Education. The Chair continues to co-operate closely with the center in teacher education programs.

“Economics for the Professions—Programs to address the particular economic understanding needs of specific professional groups including journalists, physicians, dentists and clergy.

“In House Employee Economic Education—Provides economic information and perspective for employees in relation to their roles as consumers, producers and citizens.

“Publications: Newsletter, Chair of Private Enterprise History, Franklin Foundation Lecture Series, and occasional papers.

“Fellowships—one in economics and one in business policy.

“Community Assistance—Programs of assistance in applying private enterprise principles to problems of downtown revitalisation in small and middle-sized communities.”

This has generated a great degree of enthusiasm across the United States among educators and businessmen for what is feeding that country. Likewise it would generate enthusiasm in what is feeding the State of Queensland and what is creating employment strategies and employment opportunities for ourselves and our children. We are an enterprise State. We have to get a greater understanding of education in it.

The sort of thing that this ultimately produced happened in 1978 when an Association of Private Enterprise Education was established across the United States. The

association consists of academic programmes designed to promulgate accurate and objective understanding of America's business system in its many aspects and components. Membership in the association is open to all who support its objectives. Through its annual conferences, newsletter and roster, the association acts as an information exchange among those involved with private-enterprise education; advanced teaching and research in the American system of private enterprise; enhances communication between universities and business; and encourages the creation of private-enterprise education programmes in colleges and universities.

That is the sort of thing that has happened over a long period to get business and the education institutions really enthusiastic about the programme and a greater degree of community understanding about it that is not in evidence either in this State or across the nation. If we are to be the enterprise State, these are the types of initiatives we have to take. The Goodyear Foundation has totally financed one of these programmes. It has produced an information booklet in which, as a starting point, it talks about overcoming the economic illiteracy that is so startlingly evident throughout American society. It says that overcoming this problem will take time and extensive commitment by the business community.

The booklet states—

"It is urgent that we start in the areas where we can accomplish the most with readily available resources.

"Acting on this proposition, Goodyear has concentrated its economic education activities in universities, secondary and elementary schools in the vicinity of the corporate headquarters. By operating close to home it is possible to monitor the programs, evaluate their effectiveness, assist in such areas as the securing of guest lecturers as well as to make whatever adjustments are needed. It also makes it easier for management to participate.

"It is hoped these programs will have a ripple effect, leading to realistic economic education in schools throughout the United States, in co-operation with other corporations.

"Primary attention has been directed to the classroom. We believe this is the arena in which we should join in the competition of ideas and ideologies—the critical place to make certain that the facts are kept straight.

"Here we can reach the minds that are most receptive, less cluttered with pre-conceptions and bias. In doing so, we can help encourage young men and women to aspire to careers in the world of business. The excitement, challenge and opportunity to provide real service to mankind are still there. And the catalyst is the entrepreneurial spirit and profit incentive.

"Here, too, particularly at the college level, we have the opportunity to reach young men and women who will be the future opinion leaders. It is vitally important that tomorrow's political leaders, journalists, educators, lawyers, doctors, sociologists, clergymen and other professionals have a basic understanding of the American business system. They can and will have a major impact on the system in terms of public opinion, legislation and regulations."

This is the type of incentive, the type of movement, that will be essential if we are to have a really great State of Queensland based on enterprise, investment and the creation of better employment opportunities for ourselves and for our children. We have a better opportunity in Queensland than in any other State of Australia as far as this is concerned. The recent by-elections have shown that the general initiative we have taken in this State has the support of the public, but there is a greater opportunity for public support in the future if we generate these types of programmes in Queensland. There is no doubt at all in my mind that this is the major type of initiative that we need, and I suggest that the Queensland Government, which since 1957 has been very innovative in this regard—it has been the major thrust of our programmes and we have been elected ever since—ought to endow a special Chair of Private Enterprise at one of the State's universities to provide the catalyst for this type of programme to begin in this State, where so much is happening today and where there are great opportunities for the future.

We should encourage the business community to support the Queensland Government in this great initiative so that we can look, by the turn of the century, to greatly expanded private-enterprise employment projects that will provide an adequate stratum of careers for ourselves and our children. We are the enterprise State. What I am asking for is a greater degree of innovation and some new initiatives by the private-enterprise Government of Queensland.

**Mr. D'ARCY** (Woodridge) (12.35 p.m.): In commencing my speech, I should like to pledge my loyalty and that of the electors of Woodridge to Her Majesty the Queen. I should like to congratulate the new Speaker of this Parliament on his election to that office; he is a colleague from a neighbouring electorate. However, in doing so, I agree with the statement of the member for Landsborough that this Parliament should look seriously at many of the procedures that it has followed for some time. I trust that we will have a productive period during the term of the new Speaker of the Queensland Parliament.

There are considerable problems in the Woodridge electorate. These problems exist in many of the urban areas in Australia, but they are more significant in the densely

populated Housing Commission areas that make up the Woodridge electorate. By far the greatest proportion of the population in the Woodridge electorate lives in the Kingston area. However, the population also extends to Rochedale, Springwood and Shailer Park on the other side of the Pacific Highway. I should like to dwell for a few moments on some of the problems facing the people in those areas.

Since the 1977 State election, there has been tremendous progress in the provision of road-works in the electorate of Woodridge. People living in this area are now able to bypass the Pacific Highway to a great extent. Previously, they found it very dangerous to cross the Pacific Highway in this area. Honourable members know that in this Parliament I have fought for the construction of service roads into Springwood and into areas along the Pacific Highway down to the Redland Bay turn-off, which is at the southern end of the electorate. This work has been carried out progressively. Of course, after many fatal accidents have occurred on the Pacific Highway in this area, traffic lights have been installed. The service roads, which up to 18 months ago were nothing more than goat tracks, have been bituminised. Within a month the new overhead crossing on the Pacific Highway will be opened. That will alleviate some of the problems caused by Gold Coast traffic at week-ends. On a week-end, it has been virtually impossible for residents in the Springwood area to move from one side of the Pacific Highway to the other across the heavy Gold Coast traffic.

Of course, on that point, back in 1964 this Government pulled up the railway line to the Gold Coast. At that time it promised a full four-lane highway to the Gold Coast. Such a highway still has not been constructed. Because of this Government's failure to act in this direction, the people who have moved into these southern suburbs have been penalised.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Are you suggesting that this Government does not keep its promises?

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I suggest very strongly that this Government has not kept its promises, certainly in regard to transport in this area.

Just to divert for one moment—it was almost ludicrous to hear the Premier offer the constituents of Redcliffe a railway line if they voted for the National Party candidate in the recent by-election. Of course, I was a candidate in the Albert by-election in 1970 when he did exactly the same thing. Now he is suggesting that he will put a railway line back to the Gold Coast. This Government could not wait to pull down the bridges on the previous railway line and to sell up the land. It acted quickly to get rid of the railway line to the Gold Coast. What amazed me—I do not think it ever came out in the Press—was that although the Government pulled up the railway line to the Gold Coast through Beenleigh, it left open

the spur line from Beenleigh to Beaudesert. In fact, more than a decade later it is still open. Under the circumstances, it was absolutely ridiculous that that line should have remained open. The same excuse could have been used to close it down.

**Mr. Davis:** What about the meatworks? Would that be one reason?

**Mr. D'ARCY:** One of the basic reasons why the line was left open was that there were meatworks in Beaudesert. But if we are looking at the question from the point of view of the railway line serving the population, it was a ridiculous situation. The railway line now serves a densely populated area. Also, the Commonwealth Games in 1982 will make a tremendous difference to the southern suburbs of Brisbane. Of course, the railway line is being updated and electrified, and it is not before time. There will be an electric train service to Kingston by 1982, and that will serve my electorate. If a Labor Government had remained in office after 1957, all the Brisbane suburban railway lines would have been electrified by about 1964. The action being taken by the present Government is a decade too late.

A new high school is to be opened in the Shailer Park area for the beginning of the 1980 school year, and the sewerage in north Woodridge, which has been a tremendous problem, has been completed.

Kingston Road is another main arterial road into my electorate. When I was member for Albert from 1972 to 1974, that road ran through my electorate and I was promised that road-works would be carried out on it. On becoming member for Woodridge, I was somewhat disconcerted to find that the work had not been done. When Labor members representing the area were defeated in 1974—I refer to myself in Albert and Ted Baldwin in Redlands—and Doug Sherrington retired and Labor lost the seat of Salisbury, no further work was done on that road till I was re-elected in 1977, when the top end of the road came into my electorate. Because of the volume of traffic that Kingston Road carries, it is a great shame that the work was not carried out. It is now a double-lane road only a short distance past Compton Road, but fairly shortly it will extend to Smith Road and the Argonaut Shopping Centre, where I have my office.

Work on the road has been too slow. Although improvements have been made to the northern end of the road, the southern end, in the Browns Plains/Marsden area and into Loganholme, has been allowed to go to pot and the signs have not been maintained. I think it was only the week before last that a lad was killed on the section just south of Wembley Road. It was particularly badly marked. A little extra bitumen had been put on it, and a garage in the area had thrown down some additional bitumen that went straight into pot-holes when vehicles driving straight along the road went over it. Before that fatal accident, there

were no road markings there; now it has been marked. Despite the fact that I have reams of correspondence about the road and answers from the Minister, it appears that no action will be taken until a fatal accident occurs.

The situation is similar when requests are made for the upgrading of lights outside schools. It appears that no action will be taken until accidents occur. However, it is pleasing to see that improvements are being made to Kingston Road while a Labor member is representing the area.

The activities of the Housing Commission are very important to the Woodridge electorate. I am pleased to see that the Minister for Works and Housing is in the Chamber, and I might mention that I have some problems for him. The commission is now providing town houses in areas such as Woodridge. This development is proving successful, and it will continue to be successful because it suits the type of people for whom it is designed. It is crazy to provide a house on a 30-perch or 36-perch block of land for, say, a single-parent family. One cannot expect a woman with a number of children to maintain properly a large backyard. It is no wonder that Housing Commission areas in electorates such as mine became something akin to ghettos in which yards were in very poor condition. The provision of town houses leads to the development of a better community spirit. If people want gardens and lawns, usually the commission provides a common area when it builds town houses. People can also have pot plants and greenery inside their homes.

**Mr. Kruger** interjected.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** That is correct. There is scope for people to grow plants in pots and improve their environment.

The commission has shown a bit of common sense by not putting tenants of one type together. Even in the huge block that is being built on the corner of Mayes Avenue and Kingston Road, provision is being made for people of different types—for example, pensioners, deserted wives, young people without any family, and young working people throughout the area. There is a social mixture within these areas, and I congratulate the Minister and the commission on that concept.

From the building point of view, the education system in my electorate has improved. However, having been a school-teacher and the principal of a school, I cannot agree that temporary class-room buildings are a success. I know that many of them have become permanent temporaries. Virtually every school on the boundary of my electorate has temporary buildings. Because of the fast growth in school population, I think more servicing schools have been provided in my electorate than in any other area in Queensland. Most of the schools in my electorate have enrolments over the 1,000 mark. Temporaries are still

not the answer. With the slowing of the works programme, schools in my area are suffering in comparison with the established schools in Brisbane. We are finding that libraries, new toilet blocks, tuck-shops, etc. are not being provided as basics. With the exception of the new school at Shailer Park, we are not being provided with sufficient amenities at the schools in my area.

**Mr. Wharton** interjected.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I am not complaining about the modular ones. The Minister is still shoving old temporaries down there.

The most disadvantaged school in my electorate, and one that the Minister has looked at, is at Slack's Creek. It is more unfortunate than any other school in the area. I have new schools at Springwood North, Springwood Central, Woodridge, Harris Fields and Mabel Park. All honourable members would remember the old Slack's Creek school on the side of the highway. It grew from a one-teacher school to what it is today. It is now serving one of the fastest-growing areas in the electorate as a result of the housing to the south and the commission area to the west. The enrolment at that school has increased very quickly from 400-odd to 900-odd. The Minister has told me that he is not going to build a new primary school there. Next year the enrolment at that school will be about 1,400, despite the Catholic school that has been built behind it. The Slack's Creek school has been disadvantaged because it was an established school. As the enrolment started to increase, the old buildings remained and some temporaries were provided. It did not get library facilities, a tuck-shop, a health room, an administrative block and other amenities that all the other schools in the area were able to get. That school deserves special consideration, but it has not received it. I take the Minister to task on that point.

We have heard what a great job this Government is supposed to be doing in the field of education. The cessation of library subsidies has given a hard knock to the State's education system. When Ministers open schools they say how great modern education is. Modern education is, more than ever before, based on the use of libraries. These days we do not have the set textbooks of the past. The cessation of library subsidies has really hurt my area. Last week a magnificent library was opened at the Woodridge North State School. The Commonwealth and State Governments helped with that library, but that is one of the few schools in my electorate with a substantial library. Kingston State High School has a magnificent library, too, but I am thinking of the students in other schools in my electorate who do not have the same advantages.

While talking about schools, I would like to refer to school crossings. It is unfortunate that some come under the control of

councils and some under the control of the Main Roads Department. They are very expensive items. Nevertheless, in areas of high-density population, they are a necessity. We hear a great deal about the carnage on the road. It is crazy to think that the Government cannot afford to protect children on their way to and from school, yet that is the situation.

In my electorate there are several schools outside which traffic lights should be installed. At present the crossings create a dangerous situation. Admittedly, some of the crossings are the council's responsibility, but others are the responsibility of this Government. If it were fair dinkum, it would take over the control of all pedestrian crossings outside schools. It should do that to protect the lives of young Queenslanders. In view of the total Government expenditure, the sum involved could not be considered to be very great.

Both Paradise Road and Smith Road have narrow strips of bitumen. Approximately 1,500 students who attend the Mabel Park State School are forced to cross Paradise Road. Yet that road is not even properly built up; it has a ditch on each side. I might add that it is now a main road. Parking facilities in school areas are also sadly lacking, as are toilet facilities and parade grounds.

One problem that has not been overcome is that created by the Compton Road underpass. Compton Road is a main arterial road leading to the western portion of my electorate. Accident after accident has occurred at the underpass. As I understand it, money was to be allocated by the Government for work to be carried out there. However, because the Premier took over the project from the Co-ordinator-General's Department, the money has not been spent.

On one side of the railway line lies a narrow strip of bitumen and, on the other, a goat track. With the heavy volume of traffic under the railway line the goat track becomes deeper. Eventually the council comes along and empties a load of gravel into the hollow. The result is that the first truck to come along after that collides with the railway bridge over the underpass. Two weeks ago a high horse-float attempted to pass under the railway line and collided with the bridge. The horse, which was unprotected, was decapitated and its head fell onto the ground beside the road. It was not a pretty sight. Further serious accidents could quite easily occur at that location. I hate to think what would happen if a train were to become derailed and fall onto the road below.

The honourable member for Landsborough has referred to youth employment. This is a substantial problem in the Woodridge electorate. Although the national unemployment level is less than 10 per cent, the level in Woodridge is much higher, at about 15 to 20 per cent. It is frightening that so many

of our young people are unemployed. It is even more frightening in areas where it is hard for them to obtain employment.

Like some other areas in Queensland, Woodridge has been maligned by the Press and the public. I guarantee that if a lad who is seeking employment gives his address as Woodridge he will stand very little chance of getting the job. In contrast, a lad from Clayfield or Ascot experiences little difficulty in obtaining employment. Ability does not seem to matter; the test seems to be where the young man lives.

However, the people of Woodridge have a tremendous community spirit, and I predict that within the next decade Woodridge will cast aside the reputation that has been given to it by the Press. However, as I say, at present that reputation is affecting job opportunities for young people who live in the Woodridge area.

The member for Landsborough said that the State and Federal Governments were making job opportunities available. He did not say, however, what they were. The State Government should do a great deal more to create employment opportunities. In saying, "Oh, it's a Federal responsibility," it is only burying its head in the sand. We in this Parliament have a right—and we have the ability and the resources in Queensland—to do something about relieving unemployment, particularly for our younger people.

I believe that our education system is still not meeting the demand for proper education of our young people. On many occasions in the past I have spoken about technical education and the apprenticeship system, which are not working properly and have not worked properly for a long time. Even the report of the Committee on Education headed by Mr. Ahern did not place sufficient emphasis on what should be happening in the field of education. We need an after-school, job-education system that will work. Other countries that have experimented in this field have come up with solutions. Admittedly they may not all work here, but they are solutions. We would do far better if we were to train our younger people rather than to allow them to subsist on the dole. We would be better off using the money that they would be paid to train them for reasonable jobs.

People in my electorate have been disadvantaged by the huge increases in petrol prices. Many people on the outer fringe of Brisbane find it necessary to drive long distances to work. In the past few years petrol prices have almost doubled, with the result that the real wages of these people have been cut substantially. The problem has not been met by the arbitration system.

**Mr. Warburton:** It is an additional tax.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** It is an additional tax, just as health costs are.

Health costs probably affect my electors more than any other electors in Queensland because we have no major hospital within

cooee. The new hospital at Mt. Gravatt is under construction, and later in my speech I intend to speak at length about health matters. The fringe, urban areas of Brisbane are disadvantaged substantially by both the State and Federal Governments by back-door taxation imposed through petrol and health costs. People residing in the outer urban areas traditionally are on lower incomes than those living in the wealthier and middle-class areas, and are therefore more seriously disadvantaged.

The Federal Government provides medical treatment for socially disadvantaged people. My first point is that no-one likes being described as socially disadvantaged, whether he is or not. My second point is that some doctors in Queensland—and according to certain reports published in "The National Times" and the "Bulletin" there are many doctors—refuse to sanction this form of medical treatment. In my area that is a tremendous disadvantage. Even in the Springwood area, with its more middle-class population, tremendous hardship is suffered. It is not realised that five or six years ago many of these people took on large mortgages. They still have to meet their payments despite the fact that unemployment is affecting them. In areas such as mine doctors should adopt a more reasonable approach.

When the Deputy Premier was Minister for Health, he promised to provide a number of holding hospitals. Those honourable members whose electorates they were to be in will recall clearly what was promised. My electorate and those of the honourable members for Sandgate and Everton were promised holding hospitals. They were to be provided mainly in Labor electorates.

**Mr. Shaw:** Mine was to be the first.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** That is so.

Despite questions asked about these hospitals, they have been buried. The old Albert Shire Council was promised a holding hospital. I was on the deputation that met the then Minister for Health and was told that plans were being drawn up. However, they have been buried. The people now have no chance of getting from this Government any type of hospital, let alone a holding hospital. Week after week and time after time I read Press headlines to the effect that new hospitals were to be provided, but we have not sighted any new hospitals in our area.

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

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I have a lot of points to cover and, if I cover them fairly quickly, I am sure members will understand.

Before the lunch recess I mentioned hospitals and the fact that the Government has apparently shelved plans for the provision of holding hospitals throughout the suburbs. I am also concerned about the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital. Although it is still

under construction, there have apparently been a number of substantial changes made to it, according to what I have read in the Press and heard from the contractors. This is a disappointment, as it is quite obvious that the hospital's facilities will be curtailed, to the detriment of the people in the south-east region. It is quite obvious that a new hospital should be built between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, perhaps on the southern outskirts of Brisbane, to cater for the large population of the area—over 60,000 people in the Woodridge area alone.

I mentioned the Housing Commission, in passing, before lunch. On many occasions I have asked the Minister for Works and Housing to appoint welfare officers to the Housing Commission. At present the commission appears to be carrying on a vendetta against its tenants, particularly those who, according to the commission, have for some reason or other fallen behind in their rental payments. How the commission can allow tenants to get several hundred dollars and, in some cases, thousands of dollars behind in rental payments is beyond me. This occurs mainly because the commission's inspection officers are virtually spying on people and then, without consulting them, dropping the rental rebate and sending them a bill for back rental. This practice has become particularly prevalent in recent months. I find that the commission is not allowing people to pay this money back over a period, as has happened in the past, but is asking for a lump-sum payment. For single-parent families and others in similar circumstances, this is virtually an impossibility.

I believe the contract signed by Housing Commission tenants is too difficult for them to understand. Unfortunately, the tenant normally does not read the contract properly, if at all, and is not sure of his or her responsibilities. I believe the contracts should be straightened out, particularly as tenants are now paying rents comparable with market values. In addition, the commission is at the moment, in my opinion, selling its houses at above-market prices. I have had a reasonable amount of experience in the real estate world, and I believe that Housing Commission tenants could obtain a better deal from the local real estate agent than from the commission.

Opposition members are receiving complaint after complaint about this vendetta being waged by the commission. It is not adopting a reasonable attitude towards its tenants. One case that was brought to my attention involved a deserted wife with a family who asked her husband to come from interstate and stay with the children while she visited her very sick mother. The commission immediately discontinued the rental rebate and charged her back rental without even asking her why she had gone away.

Only today I heard of a case in which a husband had taken a job for which he received less than the dole. The commission again dropped the rental rebate and charged the tenants back rental from 16 March. It then refused time to pay, even though the woman had notified the commission at the time that her husband had commenced work on 12 March.

I heard of another case recently of a family—again a contract situation—with a young son who turned 16 and did not go on the dole even though he was out of work. Because the family did not notify the Housing Commission of this occurrence, it immediately dropped the rental rebate. It can do so under the contract, but how the dickens can people understand exactly how the contract works? The young fellow was virtually doing the Government a favour in not going on the dole.

While I am dealing with the Housing Commission and the building industry, I want to refer to something that is very important to this Government. We continually hear about what is called the free-enterprise Government of Queensland which is supposed to protect free enterprise and the people who operate businesses in this State. There is a very large building industry, particularly a building-supply industry, in my electorate. This building-supply industry is being hammered by this Government's inept legislation. At the present time, it is impossible to protect the people in this industry against bankruptcies and the shysters in the building industry.

The supplier, through a contract, gives credit one way or another to a builder. How many suppliers will be in trouble over Nema Constructions? Will they get their money? Apparently not. There are small sawmillers, such as the Lang Brothers, in my electorate. There are people such as Hans Althoff of E. S. & A. Plasterboard, which is the biggest supplier of plasterboard in Australia. The bad debts facing these people are more than \$100,000 a year. The laws of this State do not protect them against people who go out of business. Some builders and contractors in this State deliberately set out to defraud. They go out of business and then set up business again in a very short time. This happens particularly in the building industry. I think it is scandalous that the building-supply industry is such an open target. Because of a lack of suitable legislation, the public is being robbed, too. Obviously, these people are not paying taxes on their businesses.

I think that the House-builders' Registration Board of Queensland must bear some of the blame for this position. It is not interested in the morality or the business ethics of builders. Builders are able to erect outside their premises signs with the words "Builders' Registration No. so and so". These people are not paying their debts. They are not paying the suppliers. Then, under the laws of this State, they are able to sell their

product. Yet the suppliers have no call on them when they are declared bankrupt. This Government is not interested in amending the laws to protect small businessmen. I believe that this matter is important in this State, particularly in the areas where builders' suppliers are situated.

In recent times the Liberal Party has been harping on the Labor Party's policy. I should like to outline some of the more important aspects of our health policy. The Health Department is the most bureaucratic department in the State. It is also the most inefficient. It is the worst department in the State. It is a conglomerate of sections, and one section does not know what the others are doing. That great reformer, the member for Ipswich, eventually became Minister for Health. As such, he was an absolute disaster. He mouthed platitudes for the Press and he became their white-haired boy, but he did nothing about the Health Department of which he had been so critical as a back-bencher. The present Health Minister is the former Leader of the Liberal Party. He has been operating a centralised department that has been reasonably efficient within this Government. But now he is setting up a conglomerate of sections in the Health Department, and he has not come to terms with the situation. He does not know how to operate within the bureaucracy of the Health Department. As I say, the department is a complete disaster.

There are so many sections operating within this department in Queensland at the moment, and they are not even operating together successfully. There are bureaucratic jealousies and other tremendous problems in the Health Department. The hospitals in some areas are controlled by hospitals boards, but the Health Department has a big say in the running of these hospitals. Some dental clinics come under the Health Department and others do not. In some areas there are dental clinics attached to schools. There is the Maternal and Child Health Division and the Community Health Services section. In addition, some councils operate their own health departments and involve themselves in immunisation programmes. An itinerant health programme is being conducted in the State. Again that is a separate section. Some of these sections are operating successfully, but they do not come under the one department. As I have said, one section does not know what another section is doing.

The Labor Party plans to regionalise the health services of this State. We plan to put health services under the control of various regions. By doing so, we will eliminate the problems now facing the Health Department. Each region will control its own budget and will have total control of all the health and ambulance services, including the staff, within the region. The staff of the department will have a say in the

running of the region and a say in the election of a health commission, which will operate under the Minister.

The Labor Party in office will also set up a national safety council that will have control over such things as the chemicals used in farming and food additives. This will help control 2,4,5-T, 2,4-D and problems such as the one that arose yesterday with Nestle's milk.

**Mr. McKechnie:** Are you going to ban 2,4,5-T? You said you were going to ban it.

**Mr. D'ARCY:** No, I did not say that. I said that what should happen—and I have said it often in this Chamber—is that 2,4,5-T and other chemicals should be taken off the market till they have been given a clean bill of health. They could get that through a national safety council in which members of the community, doctors, academics and professional technologists and chemists at our institutes would participate.

I wish to mention two other matters that need urgent attention. The first is cost containment in Queensland hospitals. The Minister has had quite a lot to say about cost containment, and the Federal Government has set up several committees. The Sax committee and the other committees set up by the Federal Health Department are totally and utterly ineffectual. They are looking at long-term productivity. The first criticism that one must make is that people in this State with a vested interest—doctors, health administrators and staffers—are the people on the committees. They have a vested interest in ensuring that there is no cost containment of health charges in Queensland. That is a very important point.

The Sax committee set out to devise a method for improving productivity, efficiency and cost containment in hospitals by limiting bed use. The total health budget of the Commonwealth of Australia for a year is about \$4,200 million. The cost containment that the committee has come up with is less than 1 per cent. Perhaps that is a substantial amount of money, but it is very little when viewed across the board.

No consideration has been given to patient control in hospitals and to what patients are going to do. In Queensland, patients in hospital have no rights. They have no control over their medical records. It is necessary that patients have some say in what is done with their medical records and in over-spending generally in hospitals. Only with patients and doctors working together will we get some cost rationalisation in hospitals. It goes much deeper than that with services such as pathology. Recently Dr. Kevin Hourigan, at the Mater Hospital, called on doctors to face up to their duty to fight rising medical costs. Any doctor at any hospital in this State—in fact, any doctor in this Parliament—will tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that doctors themselves are largely responsible for high medical costs.

Let me turn now to the question of medical insurance. I should like to advise Queenslanders to scrap their medical insurance. I have said it before, and my advice is based on sound economic management. Sir William Knox and Haydn Sargent called me irresponsible for making such a statement. In a recent issue of "The Bulletin", the Australian Consumers' Association agreed with what I had to say. After looking into the matter, "Choice" magazine agreed with what I had to say. The "National Times" has also agreed. They have all said, "Let us get it straight. You should not be in the scheme."

There are now such things as the thrift cover, the basic cover, the minimum cover, the maximum cover, the low-package deal—various degrees of coverage designed to appeal to the penurious or the adventurous, depending on their point of view. Despite the variety and the options being offered, the Australian Consumers' Association maintains that it is probably cheaper for most people to meet their overall health costs than pay the heavy premiums required by the health insurance funds. No matter how the costs are calculated or which kind of cover is chosen, the association claims that the cost of health insurance is at least three times as high as the amount that the average family expects to pay in health costs in a year. It may be even higher than three times the cost.

Well, what is the best buy? To the Australian Consumers' Association, the answer is quite simple. It says, "Don't insure, because you're paying between three and six times as much if you do insure."

(Time expired.)

**Mrs. KYBURZ** (Salisbury) (2.30 p.m.): During the Address-in-Reply debate we have heard speeches on wide-ranging topics. Some of them have been extremely interesting as members have tried to relate their remarks to their electorates.

Today I would like to begin with a comment about the coalition. Much has been written in the Press recently about disharmony in the coalition, separate Senate tickets and so on. In a way it is a pity that we enter this new session with a great deal of disharmony in the coalition. There seems to be a feeling on the part of some people that a coalition is a corporate body that goes on and on ad infinitum. I would remind those people that a coalition is formed only after an election when each of two parties, or, indeed, up to 13 parties as in Italy, has not sufficient numbers to form a Government. Therefore no individual party or group of parties should go into an election with the total consideration of itself forming a coalition after the event. I am particularly concerned about the issue of the separate Senate ticket. There has been some consideration by sections of both parties to do deals, and certain sections ought to be reminded of the grass roots

feeling of the Liberal Party and of the fact that those policies cannot be changed just by the wave of a pen.

However, fortunately, there is equal disharmony in the Labor Party. I say "fortunately" because I find that that disharmony is just as healthy as the disharmony within the coalition. After all, politics is a power-struggle game. There is no doubt that this sort of power struggle will go on and on. The public fronts that some people on both sides decide to put on are just so false that I am convinced that the public can see through them.

Some of the particular matters to which I wish to address myself concern issues relating to child laws. Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the Basil Stafford Training Centre for the Intellectually Handicapped. I have only total praise for the staff of that centre. They are working under extremely difficult conditions with intellectually handicapped children, some of whom are young adults and others are very young children. Their problems range from gross mongolism to brain diseases which make them very difficult to handle. The staff try so hard to give the children a happy environment, and a meaningful environment. I must admit that I was quite overcome by the enthusiasm with which they do their work.

It is heartening to see such enthusiasm in such a centre. But they have an uphill battle. They are battling a Health Department that, at times, is like a faceless and tone deaf bureaucracy. When requisitions or requests are made, sometimes they have to wait from two to five months for an answer to a simple letter. That's not good enough. It is no wonder that members of that staff and the staffs of other health institutions become totally disillusioned with the "bureaucracy". They see it as a non-caring corporate body of minute scurrying public servants who don't care about the people who are at the work-face. I know what it is like to be on a staff and not even receive replies to letters written. Because those people are carrying the work-face duties, they ought to be given primary consideration, in the sense that they are the *raison d'être* of the bureaucracy itself. After all, if there were not Health Department institutions, there would not be a corporate Health Department.

Recently the Law Reform Commission was asked to deal with the rationalisation of laws governing children and the prosecution of children. There is no doubt that the tasks that we have been set for child law reform are quite wide and quite frightening. There is such a vast differentiation between the laws of the various States, that a child dealt with in Queensland would not be similarly dealt with in other States.

I am not running down the way in which children are dealt with in Queensland. In fact, I believe that the courts are taking into consideration many of the things that

should be taken into consideration, including the psychological consequences not so much of action as of non-action.

The Law Reform Commission was asked to deal with the treatment of children within the criminal justice system and the whole criminal justice stream. This entails dealing with the child not only before it is dealt with in court but also post-court. Children at risk of neglect or abuse by parents are those who will come under current consideration. They are the ones upon whom I wish to dwell today.

I firmly believe that the guide-lines currently being considered by the Welfare Department in relation to laws dealing with the family and children within the family are leaving that area too open to parents who wish to neglect or abuse their children. The primary consideration within the family should be given to these children, because far too often children are given back to parents who were abusing or neglectful parents. I have seen this occur many times. Social workers will decide that it is more important to keep the family unit intact. I simply do not agree when a child will probably better find its own way without the overall umbrella of abusing parents or parent.

We must look at modern trends in care procedures for children. In fact, the Law Reform Commission, in its paper, states that it is considering care procedures. These procedures arise when children are beyond control. This applies particularly to those who are exposed to moral danger, those who are not receiving an adequate education and those whose proper development is being neglected with the result that their health is impaired. The Law Reform Commission is considering both the mental and psychological health of these children.

I will be interested to see the Law Reform Commission's recommendations. I believe that one such recommendation will be that uniformity of laws within Australia should take place immediately. In its paper it draws attention to the desirability of making all laws governing the protection of children the same as those in New South Wales. I believe that many of the current procedures are doing the best that can be done for the children, within the strictures, confines and limitations of the courts.

I know that there has been the promulgation of legal assistance for some children and indeed I have received some letters in relation to that matter. I do not know whether that would help; I genuinely believe that everyone involved in these cases would have the best interests of the child at heart. I will read the Law Reform Commission's report very carefully, particularly in relation to sentencing procedures.

I shall deal now with the commission paid to real estate agents. It has concerned me to see in every Real Estate Institute journal—and I do not know how many have been published this year—reference to the need

to increase real estate fees. In the February issue, the president's message was in these terms—

“Our pursuit of an increase in the commission on real estate sales continues. It has been well-publicised throughout our membership that the Institute is seeking parity with the Scale that applies in New South Wales. It is a fact that the commission on real estate sales in Queensland is the lowest in Australia with the exception of Tasmania.”

The president made a mistake there and corrected himself. The article continues—

“It is also true that real estate agents are unable to provide their clients with the full service that they deserve if commission rates are kept down to their present low level.”

Later, the following appears—

“However, it is usually overlooked that an agent provides many hundreds of hours of free service to the public for every sale that eventuates.”

I have one noun to describe that statement. It is “hog-wash”; it is absolute and utter tripe. I am totally against any increase in the commission paid on real estate sales in this State. I sincerely believe that many real estate agents do not earn their commission. There may be those who do—in fact, I am sure there are. Some real estate agents say that they spend many hours on a client, and I have no doubt that they do.

The fee paid in real estate commission, either for purchase or sale, can come to some thousands of dollars. It is a hidden cost in the purchase of a home. It is a quite frightening amount for a young couple purchasing a home. Usually they do not consider it when trying to work out how much they should be borrowing or how much they should be putting aside.

When we consider the figure that can be apportioned to a carpenter, plumber or electrician for his effort in building a house, it is disproportionate that a real estate agent should earn between \$1,000 and \$1,800 when the skilled tradesman, such as the carpenter, who does a lot of work on the home and has had many years training (and may also be well versed in other trades) usually earns only \$800 to \$900 from a home that costs \$30,000. When a real estate agent sells a property for \$30,000, he earns \$1,700. The returns are totally disproportionate.

Currently, it is common practice for real estate agents to be both builder and vendor. In other words, they make a profit on the building—and all they do is subcontract—and they make a profit on selling. That is equally unfair. The purchaser of the house is probably putting between \$7,000 and \$8,000 in cool cash into the hands of one person. I simply cannot think that that is fair.

I am totally opposed to increasing real estate commission. I know that the Justice Department has been approached on a number of occasions this year to increase commission, and I know that other honourable members have mentioned this fact. I know equally well that many Government members would oppose an increase in commission, because the commission is quite enough as it stands today.

Another matter that concerns me is the mooted imposition by Telecom of a time charge for local calls of a longer duration than three minutes. Telecom tried to say that it is not considering such a move. A number of elderly people telephoned me to say that the telephone is their only means of communication, and that they had read that all local calls over three minutes were to be charged for per minute.

I read this extremely expensive publication titled “Outcomes” by Telecom (it is supposed to be a public document, but it is difficult to read), which is part of the “Telecom 2000 Report”, which was equally difficult to read. I draw the attention of members to section 4.4, “The Community Consensus”. This is a document supposedly written for the public, and yet it states—

“The notion that all control for decision making should be given to the community presupposes the possibility of developing a single community view. This would be an uncommon event, and, if it did happen, an authority like Telecom Australia could only ignore the community view . . .”

If Telecom is ignoring the community view, as indeed I think it and a lot of other public bodies do, then it does so at its peril, because I sincerely believe that bodies such as this have been given far too much power in decision-making and the planning process. Telecom has an inflated concept of what it stands for. After all, Telecom is a public body, a supposedly democratic institution, but when one reads through this book one sees that basically what the community thinks is never taken into consideration. I make a public plea that no consideration whatsoever be given to an extra charge being made for local telephone calls over three minutes' duration. Unfortunately, I know that Telecom has already moved into the central exchange the equipment necessary to enable a charge to be made for such calls. I know that a lot of people are extremely concerned about it. I find it quite frightening, particularly when we consider that there are not only elderly people but also handicapped people whose only means of communication is their telephone.

I now turn to the report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Enforcement of Criminal Law in Queensland. I have raised this report again and again in this House. I have asked the Justice Minister questions about it and he has unkindly and indecently fobbed them off on to other Ministers. The fact remains that there are many issues raised in this report that should have been considered by

this Government, but it does not seem to be able to come to grips with them simply because they are difficult issues, the attempted solution of which could create ripples in the Police Force. The recommendations made in this report are, I believe, extremely rational, clear and fair.

The primary recommendation with which I wish to deal today concerns police cadets. There has been some discussion of late about the Police Academy and what does or does not go on there. I believe that many facets of the education of police cadets in the academy today are extremely commendable in that there are new courses on psychology, sociology and ways to deal with the bureaucracy, things that policemen ought to have at their fingertips. The report states—

“In the past and for reasons we shall discuss soon recruitment has left much to be desired and, as a result, the police force today is unrepresentative of the talents and the sensibilities to be found in the general community.”

It states further—

“But even more important is the need to look at who is being kept out of the police force as a result of the recruiting system than at who is going in. This system . . . ensures that the very energetic, the really intelligent, the best educated, in short, the most talented members of the community stay out or, if they have chanced to enter, that they get out.”

I think that is a great pity. There are many good young people in the Police Force, many of whom I have had a chance to meet recently, who are feeling straitened in their position because of the petty impositions placed on them. This report tackles that problem. It discusses the hierarchical system of the Police Force and the institutionalised service structure that pushes down so many of the younger policemen and women who would have so much more of a future if they were not members of the Police Force.

On the question of who enters the Police Force, the report refers to the Police Union, which places a great deal of emphasis on seniority as far as promotion is concerned. I believe that the Police Union is far too strong in its overall ruling of the Police Force. Whether the Police Union is a union as such or just another outside body, I do not know, but I do decry the warring within the Police Force between the Catholics and the Masons, and there is no point in trying to cover it up any longer. It is not mentioned in this report *per se*, but it is hinted at. When one reads between the lines, one sees, I believe, that the commissioners were extremely well aware of this current primitive bickering that is going on in the Police Force between the Catholics and the Masons. It seems disgusting that such an event can occur in this year of supposed enlightenment and education. I know that some members here are Masons and others are Catholics but, fortunately,

being a woman I am not entitled to be on either side, because in the subculture of women those two things do not count.

The other matters that I wish to raise concerns nurse education. I am extremely concerned about the future of nurse education. It is time that we had a long, hard look at the future of nurse education in this State. So much has been said by the Board of Nursing Studies about pushing nurse education into the sphere of colleges of advanced education. I do not believe that the theory of nursing is the be-all and end-all. I believe that nursing is a caring profession; that the main capabilities of a nurse should be compassion and genuine caring for patients. The fact that nurses also need to have theoretical training in their work does not escape me. However, I do not believe that they will become caring professional people in a college of advanced education. Colleges of advanced education were not intended to provide courses of that sort.

I equally berate the empire-building in which so many principals of colleges of advanced education are currently engaged. I could not really care less if they continue writing letters to members of Parliament who raise any matter that they do not like. The fact is that far too much money has been poured into colleges of advanced education. I would say that, over the last six years, millions of dollars have been poured down the drain in colleges of advanced education. Other facets of education should be given higher priority.

We now know that the all-important years in the education of a child are those when the child is aged between one and five years. Indeed, a child's education in those years is now receiving the least attention. Parents who are incapable of communicating with their children need the most help. Therefore, I believe that money should currently be going into that end of the child-learning scale.

Colleges of advanced education are advertising frantically for students. One can read their advertisements any week-end in “The Australian” or indeed in “The Courier-Mail”. All of the courses are listed. They take mature-age students and undergraduates who have failed.

**Dr. Scott-Young:** They are trying to survive.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** The honourable member's interjection is succinct. They are trying to survive. I believe that each lecturer has to make sure that the places in his class are filled, or he gets the chop.

I think that this Government ought to consider reversing the policy of moving nurse education into colleges of advanced education. I believe that it is detrimental to the nursing profession as a whole to keep nurse education in colleges of advanced education. There have been complaints from some sections of the nursing profession

about the pettiness that goes on in some hospitals in the training of junior nurses. I do not believe that that pettiness is the result of the institutionalised learning that takes place within the hospital. Probably it is the result of the fact that in the past nurses have had a fairly low opinion of what their job entails. Nowadays, they are beginning to realise that they are important—and, indeed, they are—in the field of patient care.

Some of my constituents have written to me about this matter, and I was very interested to read of their deep concern about being asked to go back and renew their studies at a college of advanced education. An exactly similar thing has happened in the teaching profession. If a teacher has not upgraded himself or herself to a four-year-trained standard, he or she is no longer able to teach and is required to do full-time training for a year during the day or for two years at night. Whether or not that is good or bad, only those who have undertaken those courses are able to judge. In my opinion, the majority of teachers would have at their fingertips a number of the matters that are currently in the course.

Whether or not a woman who trained as a nurse five or six years ago has forgotten many of the theoretical matters with which nurses are now dealing is, I believe, a moot point, because a compassionate, caring nurse will quickly catch on. Perhaps problems might arise in the case of nurses who have been working in nursing homes. A nurse who had specialised in that area might well have trouble in returning to a general-hospital situation. Many of the letters that I have received have been very concerned about the problem, and I think it is a matter with which nursing authorities have to come to grips. I hope that there will be future discussion on it.

The nurses themselves have not been asked what they want. They have not even been questioned by the hierarchy in the Nursing Federation as to whether or not they agree that nursing education should be changed.

The other matter about which I am very concerned is that a ridiculous little group—and I do not really know what they call themselves—has been putting advertisements in the newspapers under the heading “Cosmic conspiracy”. I have a feeling that it is the League of Rights in drag; I have a feeling that it is designed to knock the United Nations, knock the Club of Rome, knock the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, knock any person in any religious sphere who comes out in favour of increased welfare payments. It is a whole lot of mixed-up mumbo-jumbo. However, I really am fearful that behind this may be some—I would not say “religious sect”; I would say “pseudo-political-religious sect” dressed up in foreign colours, colours that I believe are conspiratorial in their public aspect.

The League of Rights has been very active lately, printing nice little pamphlets about what a bank for Queensland would do. The pamphlets probably are hog-wash. I do not know; I refuse to read them. They go straight into the bin, and anyone who sends me a League of Rights pamphlet should know better than to do that. I am sure that other honourable members in this Assembly would take the time to read them. But if the League of Rights is showing films round the suburbs under the heading “Cosmic Conspiracy. Who owns the money that comes in and goes out? What is the Club of Rome? Do you agree with the United Nations?”, probably anyone going to a meeting would go out of sheer inquisitiveness, to find out what on earth the cosmic conspiracy is.

A meeting was held at Sunnybank last week. I would have liked to have a plant at that meeting—in fact, I should have considered asking someone to go to that meeting deliberately—because that sort of hog-wash is quite frightening when one sees it springing up everywhere in the community. The fact is that the League of Rights is gaining its money and its power from gullible little people. The lack of education of persons who are taken in by that sort of hog-wash and nonsense is understandable. Whether such persons are capable of questioning such phrases as “cosmic conspiracy” really worries me. I do believe that they could be well-meaning people. The fact that they probably do not understand the ramifications of what they are following would never occur to them. An attempt to accuse such a body as the Club of Rome of hypnotising the economic systems of the whole world is quite unbelievable to me. When I first read the advertisement I laughed and then I thought, “Well, it’s not as stupid as it looks. There’d be a lot of silly people who would be taken in by it.”

The League of Rights puts out these pamphlets as if printing were going out of style. It probably even pays people to distribute them. Therefore it is not beyond understanding that more and more people are being taken in. These cosmic-conspiracy, pseudo-political groups should come clean and tell the public who they are. Are they a political party in disguise? Are they a pseudo-economic pressure group? Are they a religious sect? Which are they? They should come clean and tell the public what they are. The public has a right to know. If there is any backing from any political party, I should like to know about it. It is a tragedy.

Of late I have received letters from constituents who have been extremely worried about the constant setting up of boards by this and other Governments. Earlier this year there was a great deal of discussion about the Brisbane and Area Water Board. Certain pamphlets were organised and signed. They were supposedly signed by constituents. I took the trouble to write to every person who wrote to me about the

matter. In my letter I explained what was behind the Bill. Seventeen people made appointments to see me because they were disgusted that their name had been supposedly signed. One gentleman in my electorate asked me to use his name. His name is Mr. Best and he lives in Pevny Street. He was totally up in arms because his name had been signed on one of these "pamphlets"—for want of a better word. His name had also been signed on a petition presented to Parliament about the cruelty to cattle on trains. He signed neither of the documents. He wanted me to know that he didn't sign them. He wanted nothing to do with them and was not at all concerned about them. I wonder how many of those pamphlets from all over Brisbane carried signatures that were not authentic.

I believe that there is equally organised cooking of the electoral rolls. Yesterday the Minister for Justice said that there was going to be a marriage of State and Federal electoral rolls. That gave me a laugh of the worst kind. He has been aware that the electoral rolls in this State have been in disarray since the last State election.

**Mr. Underwood:** It saved you.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** Don't let the honourable member talk about saving me. I can tell him that the Labor Party in my electorate put fictitious names on the electoral roll. Those people don't even live at the addresses given. I know what the Labor Party gets up to. I would be very mindful of people like the sons of a candidate who put their name on the electoral roll at an address that does not even exist. By the time they are caught up with, they have voted. They have cooked a vote. I will tell the honourable member now that the person who has nominated for the A.L.P. in the seat of Moreton voted three times in the Federal referendum. I did not want to say that; I was goaded into saying it. She was seen and she was caught, but no action was taken against her. People who lodge multiple votes ought to have the book thrown at them. They ought to be out and off the roll for ever.

**Mr. Davis:** Name her.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** I don't need to name her; she will know I am talking about her.

The disarray of the electoral rolls is quite shameful, especially in the light of the way in which they can be cooked and the manner in which people can get on the roll or off the roll at will. Some people put their sons and daughters' names on the roll three times at three different addresses. I am deliberately refraining from naming people. This is quite frightening. To refer to the publication as the "electoral roll" is nothing more than a giggle. It is nothing more than a list of names of pretending people who will vote for a member if they feel like it and who might or might not reside in an electorate, depending on the date on which they might decide they will

make up a name and address. So don't refer to them as electoral rolls. They are nothing more than a fraud, a front, a facade and a sham.

Complaints have been received from both sides concerning the Redcliffe by-election and the electoral rolls as a whole. Every single electoral roll in Queensland needs examining. It is about time that Queensland began employing the Federal electoral roll system.

The qualification of one month's residence is not sufficient. A number of people who holiday in Queensland and are known to be of one of two political persuasions could quite easily be talked into having their names entered on the electoral rolls. If, as I do, other members write to people whose names are recently included in the roll, they will quickly discover that people who have been holidaying in Queensland, conveniently just prior to the State election, have had their names included in the roll. However, because I think other members are concerned about the one month's residence, I do not believe that it will gain acceptance.

I wish to raise one other matter in the time left to me.

**Mr. Davis:** That's right, breathe in deeply. That's the trouble I have.

**Mrs. KYBURZ:** Thank heaven I don't have the honourable member's gravel voice; but he has a sweet face to make up for it.

I want to refer now to the State Government subsidy that was mooted in Sunday's Press for the building of a film and television studio. The Press release was circulated by a man who is no friend of mine—Mr. Allen Callaghan. He, of course, is chairman of the Queensland Films Corporation. The article is one of the most disgusting I have read. It is the product of an arrogant public servant.

Mr. Callaghan stated that a \$5,000,000 film and television complex would be built on the Gold Coast and that the Government would contribute the sum of \$2,000,000. He went on to say, "The company does not wish to be named at this stage. It has done its homework very well and it is prepared to put its money where its mouth is."

I suggest that Mr. Callaghan has a hide in not telling the public which company it is. He has a duty to name the company, where it comes from, whether or not it is a New South Wales company, who its shareholders are, whether any Cabinet Ministers are shareholders in it, and whatever else might be involved. When I read the article I thought, "I smell a rat." Whether or not we will be able to sniff out that rat from its hole, I do not know.

I am in the process of writing to other honourable members because I believe that there would not be one member—either Government or Opposition—who would not have a good use in his electorate for the sum of \$2,000,000. The fact that that sort

of money could even be considered for such a wasteful project as a film and television hall, which is an anachronism in the modern film-making world, is quite beyond belief. I urge Mr. Callaghan to come clean—come clean!—and tell us what the company is, and who is behind it.

**Mr. FRAWLEY (Caboolture)** (3.11 p.m.): I firstly congratulate Mr. Speaker, the honourable member for Fassifern, on his election to that high office. I am quite certain that he will carry out his duties in a manner comparable to that of all former Speakers. Without doubt he will be an asset in his new position.

At this stage I pledge my loyalty and that of my constituents of Caboolture to the Throne. I congratulate the Governor, Sir James Ramsay, and Lady Ramsay on the manner in which they are conducting themselves, travelling the State and proving themselves to be worthy representatives of the Queen.

I cannot let this occasion pass without offering my sincere congratulations—and I hope I will not embarrass him—to Mr. Woodward on his appointment as Clerk of the Parliament. His is a very worthy appointment. Before his term of service is finished, I am quite certain that he will be one of the most successful Clerks of the Parliament in Australia.

As everyone knows, I represent the electorate of Caboolture, with an area of 2 025 sq km.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** And it is a beautiful electorate.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I will take that interjection. It is a beautiful electorate, and on many occasions it reminds me of the honourable member.

It is the 31st largest electorate in the State, and is one of the best electorates in the State. I am honoured to represent it. I hope that I may continue to do so despite attempts by some people to oust me. Incidentally, the people who are trying to get rid of me are not all members of the A.L.P.

**Mrs. Kyburz:** Do you mean Mr. Page?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** No; he is a good friend of mine. If they were all like him, I would be quite safe.

Many people criticise the Government's spending on education. I intend to list some of the expenditure on education in the area I now have the honour to represent. After spending 5½ years representing the electorate of Murrumba, which I represented quite successfully—and Caboolture, despite the criticism by some people of my decision to nominate for Caboolture, represents half of the former Murrumba electorate—I am quite certain that I will continue to represent Caboolture.

The work carried out in schools in my electorate was certainly the result of good representation. When I say that, I do so with a sense of humility. I am not blowing my trumpet; I am merely stating the truth. As everyone knows, I merely present the facts and let people judge for themselves. A pre-school was built at Narangba at a cost of \$71,622. It opened in 1978. At the Dayboro State School, I was responsible, through my representations to the Minister, for getting a principal's office, a larger library, a staff work-room and additional class-rooms built at a cost of \$32,700. Incidentally, I go on record as saying that the Minister for Works and Housing—I do not say this because he is in the Chamber; I do not want to embarrass him—is always willing to listen to any back-bencher from either side of the House. A.L.P. members must agree that he will listen to any problems. He is a Minister worthy of that name, one who carries out his duties as we would expect of a Minister of the Crown. I say sincerely that he is a very good Minister.

In 1978, a new teaching block was built at Morayfield at a cost of \$64,000. At Burpengary I had a new toilet block constructed at a cost of \$32,900, with extensions to class-rooms costing \$102,630. At the Caboolture State High School, a communications block costing \$251,727 was built. It included three teaching areas, a staff-room, a sick bay and various other rooms. The basket and volley-ball courts were replaced at a cost of \$23,382. All this was the result of good representation.

At the Caboolture Primary School a new teaching area was built at a cost of \$44,000. Extensions to the tuckshop were also added. I should say that they were the result of strong representations to the Minister. All of these facilities were deserved. As I finish this list detailing what has been done for the schools in Caboolture, I issue a challenge to certain people to say that they were not well deserved in this electorate.

A new tuck-shop was built at the Deception Bay Central State School at a cost of \$39,700. This school had one of the worst tuck-shops at any State school in my electorate. It was not the fault of anybody; it was just an old school. Incidentally, it was built when the A.L.P. was the Government, so members can understand what sort of a school it was.

At the Elimbah State School accommodation for a combined pre-school and Grade 1 class was provided at a cost of \$35,300, and at Bribie Island there were additions to an existing two-storey class-room block at a cost of \$80,000. This was the result of continued representation, in spite of some of the Labor disrupters who do nothing but disrupt the parents and citizens association at the Bribie Island State School.

A new primary school was erected at the Deception Bay North State School at a cost of \$462,170 and opened this year.

A total of \$1,201,448 was spent on education facilities in my electorate in 1978. There are other small items such as painting and other repairs. For 1979, other work has either been approved or is already under construction. At Peachester a new septic toilet block is being built at a cost of \$32,000. At the Beerwah State School a pre-school has been built at a cost of \$62,955. At the Deception Bay North State School a new teaching block has been approved, which will cost \$102,000. At the Morayfield State School a new teaching block was built at a cost of \$44,000 and a new tuck-shop is under construction at the present time and will cost \$39,000. A demountable class-room has been brought to the school to serve as a library. It has been completely renovated and is quite satisfactory. A covered games area and a covered link to the toilets have been built at the Woodford State School at a cost of \$33,880. The toilets at the Woodford State School were connected to the sewerage by the Caboolture Shire Council at a cost of \$41,600.

At Delaney's Creek State School—many members will probably not know where that is—a septic system has been approved. It was needed for many years. This is a one-teacher school with about 27 pupils, but it is in a growing area. This system will cost \$30,400.

A new dental clinic costing \$55,775 and various other work has been carried out at the Caboolture State School. Some areas have been bituminised and additional seating and an extra parade ground have been provided. A new fence has been erected around the boundary of the recently acquired land at the Caboolture State High School, and additional seating erected under the school. The entrance to the high school has been bitumen-surfaced. I can recall taking the Minister there to see it and he approved the work, at a cost of \$4,100. In addition, an arts and crafts room has been erected at the school at a cost of \$50,000. A new double teaching area in a modular class-room building has been provided at Narangba. There is a new primary school under construction at Caboolture at the present time at a cost of \$826,704. With the land, the total cost of this primary school is very close to \$1,000,000. A new special education unit is under construction now at Caboolture at a cost of \$566,880.

Land has been purchased at Morayfield for a new high school to be built in 1981. Land has also been purchased at Beachmere for a new State school and land has been bought at Burpengary also. Land has been purchased for a college of technical and further education at Caboolture adjacent to the present high school. Various work has been carried out at Mt. Mee and Burpengary. Land has been purchased at Golden Beach, Caloundra, for a new primary school. More class-rooms have been built at Deception Bay, Narangba and Bribe Island, and land has been bought at Beerwah for a new high school.

All these education facilities have been supplied by this Government, which has a great concern for education. Anyone who says that this Government is neglecting education facilities in the electorate of Caboolture is not speaking the truth. It is the result of good representation, as I said before, and a recognition by the Government of the importance of the area. I would like to issue a challenge to the president of the Queensland Teachers' Union, Mr. Schuntner, to say that this work in the Caboolture electorate is not warranted, especially to the parents of children attending the Caboolture State School and the special education unit. More than 60 per cent of all Works Department construction and maintenance funds have been spent on education in recent years, and during 1978-79 a total of \$92,000,000 was spent on maintaining and expanding education facilities throughout the State.

Since 1974 the amount spent annually has increased by approximately 40 per cent, and this does not take into account the considerable spending on items such as teachers' salaries and administrative costs. But it does give an indication of the high priority given by the Queensland Government to meeting the education needs of this State. Mr. Schuntner, of the Queensland Teachers' Union, has stated that the Government has little concern for or understanding of the needs of children's education and that more funds should be available for education purposes. Schuntner, of course, is a socialist, and he spends a great deal of the money of the Queensland Teachers' Union on pushing the A.L.P. cause. Queensland has seen a substantial expansion in education facilities in recent years, and this State Government has been able to maintain a rate of expansion of education facilities far in excess of anything that occurred under the last A.L.P. regime.

Whilst I am on the subject of schools and teachers, I inform the House that recently I read in the Press a letter from a group of teachers at one of the Aspley schools. They expressed concern for children in the country and said that they are educationally disadvantaged. They stated that over the last five years the Education Department and the Queensland Teachers' Union have worked together to produce an incentive transfer scheme to improve the quality of education in Queensland. I am in favour of certain parts of this incentive transfer scheme, because I believe that anyone who teachers or works in a remote area should be given extra remuneration. But I was rather appalled by the sentiments expressed in the letter.

If teachers are so concerned about educational disadvantages in country schools, why don't they do something positive about it? Why don't some of them apply for long-term transfers to the country? If teachers were as concerned about the educational climate in country areas as they are about the possibility of financial disadvantage to themselves if they leave the comforts of the

city, there would be no need for the teachers' union to enter into any controversy with the Queensland Government over the implementation of this transfer scheme. If teachers are waiting to be offered incentives to go to the country to work, their response to this move would be more out of consideration for what they will get for themselves than for what they can offer children.

The letter that I have referred to states that teachers and parents care, and the writers then ask the question, "Do politicians really care about our children?" I think that we do. The tone of that letter implies that children in the city receive a high standard of education while those in the country are disadvantaged. I do not agree with that. I think that many of the teachers teaching in the country at the present time are highly qualified. If these teachers are so concerned about the quality of the education given to children in the country, why don't they do what the missionaries did—go out and teach for nothing and spread education in the same way as the missionaries spread the word of God? That would show how sincere they are. These people are complaining about being transferred to the country only because they want more money.

**Mr. Fouras:** Why don't you donate your salary to them?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I am not against their getting more money for teaching in the country. I am just against the hypocritical way in which they are going about getting more money for themselves.

Recently in Victoria the Fifth National Homosexual Conference was held. Of course, the teachers' union in Victoria had a seminar on homosexuality. It had a special feature in its paper, which is called "Campaign", in which it stated—

"Doing it in front of kids. On Saturday 1, gay teachers are invited to register for an all-day seminar on Homosexuality and Human Relations Education sponsored by the . . . Victorian Secondary Teacher's Association."

The involvement of these Victorian teachers' unions and a senior sex educationist in the campaign to promote homosexuality in schools is certainly going to cause a lot of concern to many parents. One of these people is a Mrs. Delys Sargeant. She is a senior lecturer at the Melbourne University and a member of the editorial board of "Forum", which at the best can be described as high-brow pornography. In fact, I have made a speech in this Parliament about this filthy book called "Forum", which is edited by Bettina Arndt.

**Mr. Milliner:** Do you read it?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I read one copy of it. It was given to me by a teacher from one of the schools in my electorate. He had confiscated it from one of his students. He asked me whether I would mind reading it

just to see what a filthy book it was. I am always amazed at how the executives of Gordon & Gotch, who must have children and grandchildren, allow themselves to be the distributors of such a pornographic magazine.

**Mr. Davis:** Why don't you cancel your subscription now?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I have never subscribed to any of these publications.

The involvement of the teachers' union in Victoria in homosexual education follows similar action in New South Wales and Queensland. There was an outcry in New South Wales when the Teachers' Federation in December 1978 adopted a policy in support of the participation of homosexual teachers in sex life and education courses. This is something that we have to watch in Queensland. In fact, the teachers' union here took up the cause of a militant homosexual whose name I will not mention. He has had his studentship terminated by the Queensland Government.

I am not against people being homosexuals, even though I abhor homosexuality and believe that such people are certainly not normal. However, no homosexual or Lesbian teacher should be allowed to teach sex education in Queensland schools, and I sincerely trust that the stage is never reached in this State at which that is allowed to happen.

Some of the special grants given by the schools commission are absolutely ridiculous. With the present high unemployment of teachers, I should say that it would be far better to eliminate grants for special projects and employ more schoolteachers. When one reads about some of the absolutely ridiculous projects being undertaken with grants and sees the amount of money being spent on them, it is easy to see that there must be a bunch of idiots on the Australian Schools Commission. Take this one, Mr. Deputy Speaker: a co-ordination of counter-sexist resource material. It is to cost \$8,374. Another one is a project entitled "Australian Women at Work". Two teachers at Thomastown High School in Victoria are going to make a film examining working women in Australia. There is no need to make a film to examine that; one can see women working anywhere. It is to cost \$19,000. What an absolute waste of money!

Another grant is to a female teacher at McLeod Technical School in Western Victoria for a human relations programme that looks at sexuality and the relationship of people. They all seem to be talking about sexism and worrying about what is going to happen.

Another one is for \$15,000. It is to a female teacher for a non-sexist resource centre programme. I wonder whether all the teachers who are teaching non-sexist programmes are Lesbians, or whether they have a hang-up about somebody. It always

seems to be women undertaking these programmes. I think they are a complete waste of money.

**Mr. Austin:** I had a public meeting in my electorate and Rona Joyner kept asking questions about sex. Do you think she has a hang-up about it?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I really believe that Mrs. Joyner is a woman who has the welfare of everyone at heart. I would have no hesitation in recommending that Mrs. Joyner be on any board set up to draw up a programme of sex education in Queensland. I think that Mrs. Joyner should be put on the Literature Board of Review and also on the Films Board of Review. She is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in. I have a great deal of admiration for Mrs. Joyner. She has done a great deal for this country, and she will continue to do so.

**Mr. Austin:** Is she on your electorate council?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** No, she is not. If she was, I would welcome her.

Let me return to the Australian Schools Commission. I was side-tracked earlier by a very reasonable interjection by the honourable member for Wavell. Another programme is called the Women's Movement Children's Literature Co-operative—where the hell do they dream up these names?—which, at a cost of \$13,000, is investigating four aspects all aimed, again, at overcoming sexism. Why does it always involve sex? It seems to come into all the programmes. The programme involves the compilation by a trained children's librarian and the printing of a list of currently available children's books.

Some of the projects being funded by the Australian Schools Commission are purely and simply a duplication of existing services. They are a complete waste of money.

Let me now issue a warning against an insurance company called the Combined Insurance Company of America. They are not only a bunch of thieves; they are crooks also. I shall tell honourable members how they "touched" a young fellow in my electorate. I have here a statement—I sent a copy of it to the Minister—that on Sunday, 20 November, the young fellow fell and hurt his right wrist at the Kilcoy bike track. On Monday, 21 November 1977, he had his wrist X-rayed at the Prince Charles Hospital. Seven plates were taken and no fracture was apparent. He was told that the wrist was sprained and to strap it up in an elasticised bandage for a week.

His wrist was painful, and after a few months he went to see an orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Toft, at Inchcolm, who referred him to a Dr. Matthews at Ballou Chambers. He had X-rays, and when Dr. Toft examined the X-rays he said that the operation was out of his field because the bone had been broken far too long to be reunited.

He was then referred to Dr. P. Millroy, of Inchholm, who is an orthopaedic surgeon specialising in silicone bone replacement. Subsequent consultation with Dr. Millroy suggested that a silicone scaphoid bone replacement in the right wrist was the best, possibly the only, way to get normal movement back into his right wrist, so he agreed to an operation.

All the time that he had been riding motor cycles in competition he had been insured by the Combined Insurance Company of America, and the representatives of the company had told him that he would be covered in the event of any accident involving a motor vehicle in motion anywhere.

On 1 November 1978, he was operated on in the Princess Alexandra Hospital. His old bone was removed and a silicone scaphoid bone was inserted. Six weeks later, after X-rays were taken, he was informed that the bone was not sitting in place and that the operation would have to be redone, with a smaller silicone bone inserted. In the meantime, he was visited by a representative of the Combined Insurance Company of America. When he gave him all the details of the accident, the representative advised him that he would be able to claim on his insurance policy. The representative also said that he would relay the impending claim to the Brisbane office as at that time he was still within the 30 days' claim time allowed.

On 6 November 1978, a Ms. Leonie Peirce, another representative of the Combined Insurance Company of America, came out to see him to renew his policy. After explaining to her about the accident, she assured him that he would be entitled to claim on his policy, so he renewed the policy for another six months. Soon after seeing Mrs. Peirce, a claim form came in the mail. He made a few mistakes in filling it in and he got another form and sent that back to the Combined Insurance Company of America.

On 4 April 1979, a Mr. Mike Davies and another representative who was being field trained came to see him. They wanted to know whether he wished to renew his policy before the next six months was up, as they would not be in his area again. Once more he explained the circumstances of the accident, and Mr. Davies told him that he would have no trouble in receiving payment for all the time off work while he was incapacitated. He renewed his policy for another six months, which cost him another \$61.85.

After filling out the claim form and sending it away, he received a letter saying that he would not be receiving any payment. The Brisbane office, which he subsequently visited, told him that it could do nothing about it, and he had to write to Sydney to a Mr. Eddie Yates, the head of the claims office of the Combined Insurance Company of America.

Recently the Combined Insurance Company of America had another representative down in Redcliffe, where the company had a Cliff Patterson insured. Mr. Patterson cut his hand, but the company would not pay him. It said that he was covered from the day he paid his first premium, but it would not pay him because it said he had not been in long enough. Just last month the company came back again for another payment, and he showed the representative the door.

It is about time we did something about these insurance companies that disclaim anything said by their representatives. The Combined Insurance Company of America knows damn well that its representatives are telling people that they are covered for all sorts of accidents, yet when the time comes it does not want to pay up. It is about time such companies were exposed for what they are.

I have been concerned recently about some members of the clergy, whose names I will not mention, becoming political activists.

**Mr. Davis:** Oh come on, name them.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I think the honourable member would know to whom I refer.

I believe that the first duty of a clergyman should be to his parishioners. He is there to look after the sick and the maimed, and the children, and to give spiritual solace. He is not there to run around the streets demonstrating. With your indulgence, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to read a little poem which certainly illustrates what I am saying. It reads—

“I went to Church the other day to free  
my soul from sin,  
I was looking for the preacher, but the  
preacher wasn't in.  
The sexton then assured me that there'd  
be no use in waiting,  
‘The preacher's gone away,’ he said, ‘to  
do some demonstrating.’

“‘What I want to know,’ I said, ‘and I  
will make myself quite clear,  
While they're off demonstrating, who's  
running things down here?  
Who's taking care of sinners, who's leading  
us in prayer?  
Who's feeding all the lost sheep that  
wander by right here?  
Who's baptising babies, and another  
thing,’ I said,  
‘Who's looking after sick folks, and bles-  
sing all the dead?’

“The sexton was a wise old man with a  
twinkle in his eye,  
He looked at me and scratched his head,  
and this was his reply,  
‘Son, what I'm going to say to you might  
strike you kind of odd,  
But since no-one's here to help, put your  
question up to God.’

“So I asked Him all those things last  
night, when I bent my knee in prayer,  
‘O Lord,’ I prayed, ‘please tell me who's  
running things down here?’

The Lord sent down an Angel, it was  
enough to make me sob,  
The Angel said—‘The Devil, and he's doing  
a damned good job.’”

I think all ministers, clerics and what have  
you should read that and, where necessary,  
get back to what they were ordained to do,  
namely, to look after their flocks and not  
keep involving themselves in political demon-  
strations, as we have seen in various places  
in Brisbane.

**Mr. Davis:** Who wrote the poem?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I am not going to answer  
the stupid interjections from the honourable  
member for Brisbane Central.

I congratulate the honourable member for  
Pine Rivers. He made a very good proposal  
about the development of Anzac Square. His  
speech during the Address-in-Reply debate,  
when he produced plans, was one of the best  
I have heard while I have been in this  
Parliament. I certainly congratulate him  
on putting up such a good proposal and for  
being concerned, as I am, about any  
redevelopment of Anzac Square. I oppose  
anything at all that will change Anzac Square.  
I am not a returned serviceman. I am,  
however, an ex-serviceman. Because I did  
not go overseas, I suppose I have very little  
in common with returned servicemen. Never-  
theless, I believe that the shrine in Anzac  
Square should be left as it is. It was erected  
to the memory of certain people and it  
should not be touched. I intend to fully  
support the member for Pine Rivers in his  
submission.

To turn to another subject—recently,  
rumours were floating around my electorate  
to the effect that this year the State Gov-  
ernment would not make any grants to sport.  
That rumour is typical of the many spread  
by members of the A.L.P., who seem to  
take great delight in spreading such rumours.

**Mr. Underwood:** Tell the truth.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I am telling the truth.  
Since my election to the seat of Murrumba  
in 1972 and to Caboolture in 1977, I have  
had to put up with a lot of downright lies  
spread throughout my electorate by mem-  
bers of the Australian Labor Party. I am  
not claiming they are members of this House;  
they are members of the party. Some of  
them seem to take great delight in joining  
p. and c. associations and in sitting at the  
meetings night after night criticising the  
Government. No matter what it does, it is  
criticised by those people.

One of the greatest disruptionists is a  
woman who is a declared bankrupt. She  
owes money to people all over Brisbane  
and she goes to p. and c. meetings just to  
cause as much trouble as she can. The same  
thing can be said of a number of other  
people, all of whom seem to be prominent

members of A.L.P. branches. They attend p. and c. meetings and try to blame the Government for everything.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** You are making that up.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I am not making it up. From now on I will not be as nice as I have been for years. I will give as good as they have been dishing out.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Since I entered this House I have not heard such a disgusting speech.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** The member for Wolston need not talk. I can cite one or two ballots that he has rigged. There was Baroona, when Frank Melit won the ballot and something was found to be wrong with it. It was then given to some Left-winger named Camp. There was also the ballot for Brisbane Central. The member for Brisbane Central would not be here if it was not for the rigging of the ballot by the member for Wolston.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I rise to a point of order. The remark made by the member for Caboolture is completely incorrect and I want it withdrawn.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Row):** Order! The honourable member for Caboolture will withdraw the comment.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** If the member for Brisbane Central thinks I said he rigged the ballot, I withdraw that. He would not be smart enough to rig a ballot; he couldn't rig a ballot.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I rise to a point of order. I want an unqualified withdrawal. The member for Caboolture said the member for Wolston rigged the ballot for the Brisbane Central electorate.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Caboolture will withdraw any allegation that is embarrassing to the member for Brisbane Central.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** Certainly I will withdraw any such allegations.

**Mr. R. J. GIBBS:** I rise to a point of order. I ask for a withdrawal of the honourable member's comment. I find it offensive. It would be impossible for me to rig any ballot, particularly one in which the member for Brisbane Central is concerned.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I think the matter has been clarified.

**Mr. R. J. GIBBS:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker—I disagree with you. The reference was made to me and under our Standing Orders I am asking for a withdrawal.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** To save any trouble, I will withdraw anything—whatever they want.

A member of Parliament often has an opportunity to play politics when he is dealing with a local authority. I want to

instance one occasion on which I could have played politics with the Caboolture Shire Council, but didn't. I backed it up and saved the council a lot of money. During the 1974 flood a great deal of flood damage occurred in the Caboolture Shire. When the council put in its claim to the Co-ordinator-General, it made an honest mistake. It claimed for only a small amount of about \$46,000. It received a grant of State/Commonwealth money for restoration of flood damage in April 1974 of \$34,500. After the flood water receded on various roads in Caboolture it was found that the damage was far greater than originally assessed. The council wanted to submit a revised estimate. I made representations on behalf of the council. I could easily have allowed the council to stew in its own juice, but I did not do so. The chairman of the council was the A.L.P. candidate who opposed me in 1972. We had a good working relationship.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** He was a very capable candidate; he almost took the seat from you.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I agree. The chairman of the Caboolture Shire Council was the best candidate to stand against me—far better than the two candidates the A.L.P. fielded against me last time.

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

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Row):** Order!

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** The chairman of the Caboolture Shire Council who stood against me in 1972 was far better than the A.L.P. candidate in 1974 and the two A.L.P. candidates at the last election. The A.L.P. scraped the bottom of the barrel and resurrected a man who stood against Frank Nicklin in 1964. He had one foot in the grave, but they brought him out to have a go at me. He also stood against the member for Landsborough. I think he got about 13 per cent of the votes.

I made representations on behalf of the Caboolture Shire Council to the Co-ordinator-General. Through my representations the council got a further grant of \$281,410 in addition to the \$34,000. The council would not have got that extra sum if I had played politics. I believe that a member for an area, irrespective of his political party should work in with the council for the benefit of the area, irrespective of the council's political colour.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Would you agree that that should apply to Ministers, as well?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I am certain that it does apply.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Come and look at the schools in my electorate.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I know areas represented by Ministers in which the councils are quite happy with them.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** When you say that, you would be the greatest falsifier who ever stood up in this Parliament.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** All the names the honourable member is calling me are music to my ears. My people know that I am doing some good; when the honourable member stings me to the quick, they know that I am doing my job properly.

Since this Government came to office in 1957, after the Labor split, it has proved a boon for Queenslanders. Look at the development that has taken place in Queensland over the years. I think of high schools, for instance.

**Mr. Davis:** What about the railways? What about the old coaches?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** Well, look at the electric railways and all the other railway systems. And there will be more railways before we are finished. Look at all the assistance we have given to sport. I recall that when I was a young man and people approached Labor, all Labor ministers could think of was two-up and s.p. betting and what cut they could get out of it. Labor did not give a halfpenny to sport when it was in power.

**Mr. Davis:** Who built the track at Mt. Gravatt?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** It was built by the Brisbane City Council. It was the second best thing Clem Jones did. The best thing he did was to resign as Lord Mayor. It should not be forgotten that he did not build the track with council money only. Federal Government money was also used.

When Labor was in Government, it did exactly nothing for sport. I could tell honourable members about some of the sport that Labor was interested in, but I will not do that because Mr. Deputy Speaker would stop me.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** It was the sort of sport in which you are interested in your electorate. That is why you go round to those strange places all the time.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** The people in my electorate know the type of sport I am interested in.

One has only to retrace history to see what the Labor Party did not do. It did not even supply a bus to take students to the technical college. When I was in the electricians class at the technical college with the honourable member for Windsor, we had to walk down to the college. No bus was provided for students. Students did not get a thing in those days. Conditions today are a lot better than they were in those days and students are a lot better off.

**Mr. Davis** interjected.

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

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Row): Order! Multiple interjections will not be tolerated by the Chair.

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I sincerely believe that a lot of consideration has been given to apprentices, students and all other people taking part in education not only by the present Government but also by all Governments since the days of Sir Francis Nicklin. Members must admit that the State has gone forward since 1957 when we took over the Treasury benches. Just look around at what has gone on in Queensland since those days. Look at the mining industry. As far as A.L.P. members are concerned, all the coal can stay in the ground. They do not want uranium mining, but I note that their mates down South have now changed their policy. This has occurred because they realise that public opinion is on the side of the uranium miners. We have to mine it whether we like it or not. If we do not mine it, someone will come in and take it. Anyway, most of the uranium that is used overseas goes to nuclear power stations, and anybody with a brain in his head, even the honourable member for Nudgee—I will give him a bit of encouragement here—would know that the uranium used in a nuclear power station could not possibly be used to make an atomic bomb. It is low-grade uranium and it is absolutely impossible to make a bomb with it.

**Mr. Vaughan:** What is the chemical formula?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I cannot remember it.

**Mr. Vaughan:** Is it U203 or U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I will be honest; I cannot recall. I did pretty badly at chemistry at school. But at least I spent a day in a nuclear power station, which is a sight more than I can say for anybody opposite. I realise that one day in a nuclear power station does not make me an expert, but at least I had an opportunity to look at some of the safety precautions that are adopted. The plant I visited was in a place called Pickering near Toronto in Canada.

**Mr. Underwood:** Was it Three Mile Island?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** No, don't be ridiculous. The Ontario Hydroelectric Authority, which incidentally runs the nuclear power stations in Canada, was good enough to give me a tour of the plant. Groups of environmentalists and conservationists were also there, and they were quite happy with what was being done in the area. So anyone who talks about the export of our uranium contributing to the proliferation of atomic bombs does not know what he is talking about.

Once again I extend my congratulations to Mr. Speaker on his election to his high office.

**Mr. Moore:** What about the mover and the seconder?

**Mr. FRAWLEY:** I am sorry; I forgot about them. The honourable member for Callide did a very fine job in moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in

Reply, as did the honourable member for Ithaca in seconding the motion. Incidentally, the honourable member for Callide is at present under threat in his electorate from an upstart who could not even hold his own seat. When one thinks of the service that has been given to this House by the honourable member for Callide, one is amazed that he is under challenge by someone who is, to put it bluntly, a political idiot who could not even hold his own seat. It is pretty safe to say that the honourable member for Callide has the support of 99 per cent of the branches in his electorate. I can say that because I have spoken to many of them and they have assured me that with any selection committee or plebescite that is run fair and square, as I have no doubt it would be in Rockhampton, the honourable member for Callide will certainly be back in this House after the next election.

**Mr. FOURAS** (South Brisbane) (3.49 p.m.): One of the increasingly important and volatile problems in my area is that of Aborigines who are found drunk in public places creating some sort of friction between themselves and the white population. Recently I was amazed when I heard that the Aboriginal and Islander Community Health Service was refused permission by the Boonah Shire Council to set up a drug rehabilitation centre at Aratula. There are very few existing establishments in South-east Queensland for the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug-affected persons, and no camp such as the one proposed by the Aboriginal and Islander Community Health Service.

The proposed camp site of some 143 ha has tremendous historical significance to the Aboriginal population. There is no other site in the Moreton region that is suitable for such a rehabilitation camp. There are no houses within sight of the proposed camp, and the utmost care has been taken to ensure that satisfactory sanitary arrangements can be made.

At a meeting of Boonah residents and the Aboriginal and Islander Health Service Committee, it appeared that the main objections to the establishment of a camp were Aboriginal access to firearms and lack of supervision. There is no doubt that during hunting times Aborigines would have access to firearms. However, this would be supervised at all times, and firearms would be locked away when not being used for this purpose. At no time would there be more than 25 people at the camp, and it would be reasonable to assume that a staff of four, which is the proposal, could supervise that number of people effectively. I think that a lot of pressure has been put on the Boonah Shire Council by this State Government to ensure that consent was not given, and I shall go into that later.

I have gone around my electorate with the people who go to the parks and give breakfast to the Aborigines. One sees them lying on park benches and tottering out of

toilets. One sees the sad state that they are in. Yet this Government refuses to accept a proposal that would help to rehabilitate them, simply because the project would be federally funded. That is an appalling state of affairs and this Government ought to be ashamed of itself.

I think that this programme would provide benefits other than medical rehabilitation. They would include workshop activities, road-building, hunting, farming and the production of Aboriginal artefacts. Under the programme the site would be upgraded, for example, by the provision of a water-supply system. Therefore I think that this proposal covers social as well as medical rehabilitation. When we are trying to rehabilitate Aborigines, I think it is vitally important that we should provide social rehabilitation. It is not much good giving an Aborigine in the city area a dole cheque or a pension and letting him live within two kilometres of a hotel. Some of them cannot cope with it. Seventy per cent of Aborigines in my electorate have not got a job. They have to be given an opportunity to go to an environment that is suitable to them, so that they will have a chance to become worthwhile and useful members of the community.

It is not good enough to say that we have a drug referral centre in the city, because obviously it is not succeeding. One only has to drive around Musgrave Park in the early hours of the morning to see the extent of the problem. Aborigines are dying in the parks. Unless a programme such as this is set up, they have no chance.

The 1977-78 annual report of the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs states—

“The Aboriginal alcohol situation is seen by the Department and the Government as needing special consideration. Both the problems and their causes are complex. It is realised, too, that Aboriginal communities and organisations need to be given appropriate assistance in their attempts to control the effects of excessive alcohol consumption on their people if the broader goals of self-management and self-sufficiency are to be attained.”

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs emphasised the importance of preventive measures in the Aboriginal alcohol programme, of supporting community decisions to restrict alcohol consumption and of supporting Aboriginal-run rehabilitation and follow-up services. At the end of 1978 there were 35 Aboriginal-run alcohol rehabilitation centres around Australia.

I think that the reasons for refusing consent set out in the letter from the Boonah Shire Council are absolutely ludicrous. They are wrong in law and I think that they are politically motivated. The letter from the Boonah Shire Council states that town planning consent was not given for certain reasons. The first reason is, “Non-availability of all-weather access. Inadequacy of construction of existing road

access". Some Aborigines who are suitably housed in an area of 143 ha and who plan to build some roads themselves are given an excuse like that for not being granted town planning consent.

The next reason is "Excessive traffic generation in the circumstances". What a ridiculous excuse! The next reason is, "Possibility of flooding . . . Inadequacy of proposed buildings . . ." Right through, these reasons are tenuous, unrealistic and wrong. For instance, take this one: "Unacceptable damage to flora and fauna will result". There are going to be 25 Aborigines on a 143 ha site, and the Boonah Shire Council says that it will not give its consent because there will be unacceptable damage.

Another reason is "unavailability of telephones". If one looks at the council's reasons, one sees that it has put in every reason for refusing consent because it knows that possibly it will be fighting an appeal.

Let us look at the other reasons, which become a little bit more political. The second list of reasons refers to "Inadequacy of proposed staffing". The council does not think that a full-time staff of four people for 25 Aborigines is adequate. In my opinion, that is not a reasonable assertion.

There is also reference to inadequate facilities. I believe that the town planner who submitted, at a cost of about \$7,000, a town plan for consent by the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs went fully into all these matters. Again one sees red herrings drawn across the track as to why the Boonah Shire Council cannot give consent to the site.

The next reason is, "Lack of arrangements for the security of the inmates". They are 10 km away from the nearest house, but the council is concerned that they will not be secure.

One gets back to the political reasons when one looks at the third set of reasons given by the Boonah Shire Council for not giving the Aboriginal Health Service consent to build the rehabilitation centre at Aratula. The first one is, "The proposed development is for a purpose related to public health, jurisdiction wherein is vested in the ministerial Department of Health of the State of Queensland." Of course, the council is saying that only the Queensland Government has the right and an ability to provide programmes of this type for Aborigines. The Government is not doing that. As I said earlier, Aborigines are dying in parts of South Brisbane. They are causing increasing friction with the white residents there, because any person who is drunk, whether he be white or black, is not a very nice person to have wandering around a community. The situation is that the Boonah Shire Council is saying that the State Government has responsibility, using that as an excuse not to give consent, and the State Government is doing nothing about it.

Again the council says, "Medically recognised policies and standards of care for the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug-affected persons have been established and are administered on a State-wide basis by the Alcohol and Drug Dependence Service of that Department". The shire council is making a value judgment that it believes that, in the interests of the people, what the State Government is doing is adequate and that the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs can do nothing to further the needs of these people. Honourable members on this side of the Chamber know how little the State Government cares about Aborigines and how little it does for them.

I accuse the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs and the Government of being party to this denial of consent to a very reasonable proposal by people who wish to do something for the type of people I have in my electorate who are sitting around and dying on park benches. I believe that the reasons for refusing it are unreasonable, that the decision is contrary to law, and I hope that this will be found to be so if there is an appeal on it.

If one looks into the matter properly—and town planners to whom I have spoken have—one finds that under the provisions of the town planning scheme for the Shire of Boonah, which were gazetted in February 1978, consent should have been given. Surely some of the petty matters that have been mentioned could have been discussed and consent could have been given if that had been done.

I should like to read from what a sub-committee set up to look at the Aboriginal drinking problem said in regard to the need for a rural rehabilitation camp. Its major finding was that isolation from the urban pressures was a very necessary ingredient for some people to be successfully rehabilitated. It said that a peaceful and natural environment also assisted. It believed that a camp structure provided a feeling of harmony with nature, and that would help. It believed that facilities for vocational and therapeutic development, such as market gardening, arts and crafts, hunting, and so on, would also help.

This was a project that would have provided all these things for people in South-east Queensland; but the Government involved itself in the decision of the shire and—I again accuse it of duplicity on this—said, "You can't have it. We cannot be shown up by the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs. We cannot be shown up for not doing our job for these people. Let them say that we can provide the services for them, and then not provide them at all."

The next issue I should like to raise is that of children at risk. Only last week I was called by a lady in my electorate who lives in Regent Street, Buranda. She said she

was concerned about some children who were living in a disused house. Apparently they were sniffing glue and getting into other sorts of mischief. When I called to see her, there was a police car in front of her residence. I was a little concerned because I had said that I would call on her a couple of days earlier. When I arrived I learnt that a minor theft of some \$30 had occurred. The police sergeant said to me, "Look at that." The kids concerned had been through the Children's Court before and they had been freed. He said, "What a shocking system we have." That was a very simple argument for the police sergeant. Those kids were 15 years of age. They were not able to get the dole and not able to survive. They had been thrown out of their home or totally neglected.

There are dozens of kids in that position in my electorate who are living at risk, sleeping under bridges or in disused houses, some of them even sleeping in public toilets. If they can't get the dole what can they do? They have to steal. Even those who do qualify for the dole find great difficulty in getting it. I made inquiries from the Department of Social Security. I said, "What sort of check do you need on these kids before you can give them the dole?" I was told it was very important that they prove their identity. I was also told that a driving licence or a savings bank passbook was not acceptable, but suitable evidence would be an original birth or marriage certificate, or an extract issued at least five years earlier. Further suitable evidence would be an original motor vehicle registration form, a group certificate covering at least six months' employment or a credit card showing an applicant's address. Children who had been kicked out of home or had left home would have none of those things. The department also said that in the case of a school-leaver a recent school report would be suitable. Most of those kids have run away from school, and therefore do not have such a report.

When the police turn up on such occasions, they say that the answer is to take them to the Children's Court. Why are they then let free by the Children's Court? It is obvious. We have no facilities for such children in the State. What is the alternative? The alternative is to send them to Westbrook or the Wilson Youth Hospital. The Wilson Youth Hospital is nothing more than a gaol. In that environment those kids would become hardened criminals. They would be mixing with types who would make them worse. Their only crime is that they are unloved and unwanted. Because they have to steal to survive in our society, they have to be treated like criminals. I don't subscribe to the argument put forward by the sergeant of police who said, "It is not our fault, mate; they should end up in gaol." What a ridiculous sort of statement.

I again accuse this Government of not caring enough. These children are at risk. Many young girls end up in massage parlours; many of the boys end up being used in homosexual rackets. The lives of many such kids have been totally destroyed because this Government will not set up a crisis accommodation centre and will not introduce a system under which various facilities would be available to them. As it is they do not even have somewhere to have a shower and get cleaned up before they go for an interview for a job. There needs to be a proper system so that they can more easily prove their entitlement to the dole. They need to be able to take advantage of the variety of social services that are available.

I was appalled when I turned up at that scene on that occasion. When I explained it all to the lady next door, she agreed with me. There was no way she couldn't feel sorry for those kids. She said, "More has to be done for them." We need a caring Government. A lot has been said by the Minister for Welfare. When he took over last November, he said, "We are going to have a new concept—a new family welfare department." We are still waiting for it. That was a promise contained in the Government's policy speech. Two years have passed, and nothing has happened. When we on this side talk about the answer to the welfare problems, we refer to community-based programmes. The Minister agrees with us, but he does nothing about it.

I turn now to another issue. My electorate contains a large number of lone parents. Unfortunately, it is clear that the number is on the increase. Society has a responsibility to ensure that children in such families are not disadvantaged. Approximately 11 or 12 per cent of Australian families are lone-parent families. The level in my electorate would be as high as 20 per cent. Therefore, lone-parent families constitute a significant minority in our society and a large number of children are reared for at least part of their lives in such a situation.

Lone-parent families face a twofold problem. The first aspect concerns social needs of both a physical and an emotional nature. A large percentage of single parents suffer a significant drop in income as soon as they find themselves in that position and, as a result, their life-style suffers. Because of that, the children also suffer. They also have the trauma of changing schools and changing places of residence. They suffer a great emotional problem. Any study made of lone-parent families produces evidence of stress upon them.

The greatest problem, however, is poverty. A recent survey of incomes of families headed by lone mothers showed that at least 50 per cent are living below the poverty line. Unfortunately, the position will get worse. I am pleased to report, however, that in the most recent Federal Budget benefits by way of reduced doctors and chemists' fees were made available.

Recently I was called upon by a woman who, because her domestic situation was untenable, left her husband. She has four children, one of whom is subnormal. She asked me for help in obtaining a Housing Commission home. Although the social worker involved furnished a report stating that there was no chance of reconciliation and although I made representations on her behalf to the Minister, he said that she had to wait one month before she could be placed on the list of persons seeking accommodation. That is a shocking situation.

This woman was living with a friend in a small two-bedroom place. Her position was unreal. It was at least six weeks before she was found accommodation. Even then, she had to go out into the sticks to live.

There is an urgent need to provide more Housing Commission accommodation in the inner-city electorates. Such accommodation would allow lone parents to become integrated in the community and to be placed within the reach of community facilities and services such as shops and transport. The Government should provide more accommodation of this type.

A need also exists for child-care facilities for pre-schoolers and for care in vacation and after-school hours. There is a need for lone-parent families to be provided with such a service, and with one that is subsidised. They cannot afford to pay the high cost of private rental, nor can they afford to pay for private child care. The community would benefit from the provision of such services to lone-parent families, thereby allowing lone parents to re-enter the workforce and regain their self-respect. They need this range of family support services to give them some chance of rearing their children in an environment that would not impose too great a stress on them.

As to vacation and after-school programmes—I was disappointed to learn that one of the programmes in my area, conducted by the East Brisbane Community Centre, was not funded. I refer to the recent August vacation programme, which, because the application to the Department of Children's Services was a couple of days late, did not receive any funding. That programme was an innovative one. I believe that the department sends along to it any persons who express a desire to learn how such programmes work. In fact, the department refers to it a number of children from poor homes. On this occasion, this programme, which commenced some years ago, was refused funding on the excuse that the application was a couple of days late. That is shocking.

A survey conducted at the East Brisbane State School showed that 24 per cent of the children attending that school are latch-key children. They are children who have nobody to go home to. Is it better to have after-school and vacation programmes, in which children are picked up after school, given afternoon tea, allowed to play with

other children and to do their homework, or to have them go home, where they get into trouble? This Government can be accused of distributing unfairly the money that it gets for these services. Some of the programmes are allocated much more than they want in money and staff.

They went ahead with the East Brisbane Community Centre vacation programme and ran up a loss of \$512. The loss would have been much higher if the staff had not accepted lower salaries and the parents had not run raffles to pay for outings. But the quality of the programme was not as high as formerly. They did not have funds for similar outings, or for the staff to take the children away from the premises. They could not afford the necessary staff. Over a number of years this programme has proved its worth in a very needy area, and it is a crime that it is not funded on a continuing basis. I am sure that I am expressing concern on behalf of all the parents in the area when I say that something better has to be done; that the funds have to be allocated on a fairer basis. I urge the Minister for Welfare to look at funding on the basis of my comments relative to this community centre.

I have been told that many women's refuges are having difficulty in meeting running costs. Queensland and Western Australia are the only States that do not fully fund the difference between the Commonwealth subsidy and the cost of running refuges. In Queensland, the people running the refuges have to find 25 per cent of the capital costs and 12½ per cent of the running costs. It is difficult for them to get 12½ per cent of the salaries and other expenses. Of the 18 refuges currently operating in Queensland, eight are associated with churches and the other 10 are run by private organisations. Without doubt community support is forthcoming for establishing refuges and that support continues to be high, but that is not necessarily reflected in the balance sheets. Many refuges attract volunteers and originally get some money to set themselves up, but it is not appropriate to say to such refuges in their second or third year that they are required to pay 12½ per cent of salaries. That requirement is having a fairly serious effect on refuges.

On the average in Queensland, one part-time professional person is employed in each refuge, whereas in New South Wales refuges the number is three. That creates many problems. Much more can be done when more staff is available. For instance, the staff can go out to look for housing; when the inmates are secure, the staff can try to find suitable housing for them. We know that it is at least a month before the Housing Commission considers an application, and it is possible for several weeks to elapse before accommodation becomes available. To get a quicker throughput in the refuges, adequate staffing is essential so that accommodation can be found.

Secondly, follow-up services are required. Follow-up visits must be made to women in the accommodation that has been found for them to determine whether they need any further support—moral or otherwise. In Queensland, a high proportion of women placed in a secure situation return to the refuges. The blame for this situation can be traced to the fact that the refuges have to find 12½ per cent of the salaries paid to the staff. Because of this requirement, they cannot do the sort of counselling they wish to do, and they cannot look for homes or supply back-up social services. So I think that it is imperative that in the next Budget the Minister for Welfare makes sure that he finds enough funds to bring Queensland into line with other States which provide full funding for women's refuges.

A commonly advanced argument against 100 per cent funding of salaries is that increased staff levels will mean decreased involvement of volunteers in refuge work. This has been demonstrated to be untrue in New South Wales. In a report from the New South Wales Department of Youth and Community Services, which administers the grants to women's refuges in that State, it is stated that a study has been completed costing volunteer labour to New South Wales women's refuges. With the full 100 per cent funding, it is as high as it ever was. Therefore I again urge the Minister to look at this problem.

Finally, I would like to talk about the economy and what is happening in my area with regard to the declining economic status of industries, particularly labour-intensive manufacturing industries. Although it has not been reported very widely in the Press, the firm of Paterson Reid & Bruce, which is a softgoods manufacturer and distributor in my area, is closing down in October. A total of 160 jobs will be lost.

We hear a lot in this House about the tremendous investment in mining in this State and how good that will be for employment. But mining is a capital-intensive industry that, compared with other labour-intensive industries, generates very little employment. There is no doubt in my mind that the labour-intensive sector of the Queensland economy has caught a chill. I believe that we will find that sector of the economy declining as more and more industries rationalise and move to the lucky States of New South Wales and Victoria. South Australia is obviously in the same boat as we are.

I know of migrants who came to this so-called lucky country because they thought it would provide them with an opportunity to live better and educate their children to a high level. But what do they find? They find that job security is such that one or other of a married couple is out of work. I believe that in my electorate the unemployment level among migrants who have come here in the last decade or so is approximately 20 per cent. After paying high rents

and trying to live on one salary of \$140 or \$160 a week, they cannot get ahead, and very sadly, because I think most of them would vote for me, they are moving down to Sydney. Some are even returning to their country of origin. There is no doubt that the labour-intensive industries which use migrants, particularly migrant women, as factory fodder are declining, and therefore job opportunities for migrants are also declining.

While I am on the subject of employment, particularly security of employment, I must say that I was appalled—I have to say this publicly so it can be reported—at the cut-back of some \$54,000,000 in the Special Youth Employment Training Programme in the last Federal Budget. This was done at a time when the Prime Minister could find some \$30,000,000-odd to purchase two Boeing 707s in which to jet to Africa, carrying with him \$40 bottles of wine, as well as to take Mr. Peacock from one side of the country to the other. That was a shocking decision.

I have referred to young children living in disused houses and the lack of employment opportunities for them, and I believe that the Government is washing its hands of them. As the honourable member for Bundaberg said recently, the only way the Government can shorten the unemployment queues is to get the people to stand closer together. I believe Government members have washed their hands of unemployment. They seem to believe that if they belt the unemployed and create a smoke-screen so that the unemployed are seen as dole bludgers, they will make those who have jobs forget the plight of their fellow human beings.

Perhaps in one way they have been successful, but they are creating within the community tremendous social problems that we will have to live with in the future. I believe that any Government that is as callous and indifferent to the plight of the unemployed as is the Fraser Government should be very quickly thrown out. I believe that they are not being tough when they talk the way they do; they are just being callous. It is not a humane indifference. It is the indifference of a person who does not care.

There is an increasing number of inequities in our system. The statistics for the last five years indicate that the buying power of the average worker has been eroded by some \$17 a week, and that the profits of the big companies are getting bigger and bigger. In fact, I read a report the other day that 25 companies have some \$500,000,000 ready to use to take over smaller companies. We will get to the situation where the living standards of the people will decline and wealth and power will be concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. I think that that will create a very serious state of affairs. Perhaps then the workers will wake up and decide that they are not going to accept it any more. No matter how this Government tries to bludgeon them with legislation, such as the essential services legislation, or with

threats and intimidation, I believe that they will demand that their buying power and the living standards of their families are protected.

Members of the Opposition hope that some attempt is made in the State Budget to provide job training for the young. If the Federal Government refuses to accept this responsibility, I believe that the State Government should come in and do as much as it can in this area. I believe it would be good if the Government were to do this. It would show that it is a Government that cares about unemployed kids. We hope that there will be something in the next State Budget to do what was not done in the last Federal Budget.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD** (Toowoomba North) (4.22 p.m.): At the outset, I congratulate the new Speaker on his election to that position. In speaking in the Address-in-Reply debate, I pledge my loyalty and that of the electors of Toowoomba North to His Excellency the Governor as the representative in Queensland of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. When the Governor has visited Toowoomba he has been well and truly received by the people. I hope that he can find time to visit Toowoomba on many more occasions and that during his stays he will be able to meet many people. They certainly believe that he is doing an extremely good job and is an essential part of the Government of this State. Everywhere he goes, he is greeted with friendship. People are eager to explain to him their exact role in the community.

One of the things that I believe need to be said at this time, with the election of a new Speaker, is that there are a great many areas in which the Government can bring about reform. In this Parliament, I believe that there could be reform, particularly in the area of select committees. If there is one thing that the Select Committee on Education has demonstrated, it is that the people of this State see such a committee as performing a very important function of the Parliament. They see it as giving them an opportunity to put forward their views, knowing that their views will be considered. That is quite separate and distinct from making representations to their local member of Parliament. The Parliament chooses to sit on select committees members from all parties, so it cannot be said that these committees are set up for party-political purposes, and I think that the people appreciate that.

The Select Committee on Education has enjoyed a great deal of respect throughout the community for the work that it has done. It has tabled five interim reports to date. Its reports have been eagerly awaited and keenly read by all those people who have any interest in education. But there is a need for select committees in other areas. I believe that such committees could be set up by many of our Ministers to consider the problems of the day.

Apart from select committees, I believe that there should be set up in this Parliament standing committees that could meet regularly in the morning before Parliament sits. They should be open to receive deputations from people who are on the electoral rolls in Queensland, who could then put their views before a committee by appointment and those views could then be made known to the department.

That committee could consider such matters as comment on legislation and regulations. They could comment on policy, and they could also act by way of complaint. This is one matter that the Parliament should look at. In my opinion, it would bring a great deal more respect to the Parliament than it has enjoyed in recent years.

**Mr. Davis:** These committees are all right, but what about implementing their findings? I sat on a committee that inquired into crime six years ago and nothing was done about its findings.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD:** That is a point that ought to be made well known to the people. If committees do make findings and they are not acted upon, it is up to the Government of the day to say why it is not acting on them, and the Government can then be judged on that issue on its merits.

I certainly believe that there should be a great many more such committees, and people in the community should know that, apart from the select committee, the only committees that meet are Ministers' legislation committees. One of the greater moments of glory for the meeting of the joint Government parties was its decision that there would be meetings of the education committee to consider the great educational questions of the day. In the long run, an offshoot of that was the creation of the Select Committee on Education to consider the problems in the field of education.

There is also a need for some of the more contentious legislation, or legislation proposing sweeping reforms, to lie on the table after the first reading. Unless this is done, it will be necessary for legislation to be brought before the House again and again for amendment. Many amendments could have been avoided if legislation had lain on the table and submissions had been received from the public.

Yesterday a very important meeting was held between seven Cabinet Ministers, four members of Parliament, the Board of Advanced Education in Queensland, and the entire council, with the exception of one member, of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education. It was the second occasion on which the Council of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education had been summoned to Brisbane to take part in a conference over an alleged dispute.

In my opinion, there is still a need for an amendment to the Education Act 1964-1974 as it relates to colleges of advanced education

to put the legal interpretation of the powers of colleges of advanced education beyond all doubt. The meeting of 10 April this year was attended by the entire council, the Minister, the chairman of the Board of Advanced Education (Dr. Jim Allen), and four local members of Parliament. It did nothing to settle the dispute. Yesterday, an even larger meeting between seven Cabinet Ministers and what seemed to be most members of the Board of Advanced Education and most members of the Council of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, as far as I could see, rehashed the same ground, at very great expense. If learned people such as these cannot settle small inter-departmental conflicts, surely it is time the Act was amended and clear powers set out as to who shall settle disputes and in what manner disputes should be settled.

The Solicitor-General advised the Minister that the second sentence in section 51F (1) of the Education Act does not contain an independent head of power for the council of a college of advanced education and, therefore, all colleges of advanced education were subject to the direction of the Board of Advanced Education. Since that opinion was given by the Solicitor-General, all college councils in Queensland have been reappointed, and the following distinguished members of the Darling Downs community have not been reappointed to the Council of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, Toowoomba: Sir Alan Fletcher, former Minister for Education (1968-1974), who was directly responsible for the Education Act amendments relating to colleges of advanced education; Mr. Ken Fowler, an accountant, who was chairman of the finance committee and a foundation member; Mr. Nev Hodge, a builder, who was chairman of the building committee and also a foundation member; Mr. Rapoport, a barrister, who was chairman of the standing committee for staff affairs; and Mr. Mann, who runs a transport business in Goondiwindi, who was on committees. The point about all of this is that the Minister put the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education in a no-win situation. As soon as he sacked five of those members, he then put the remaining council members in the invidious position of selecting two out of the five for reappointment to the council. The best they could do was to appoint two and insult three.

At that meeting on 10 April the Darling Downs Institute pointed out that the Minister could be held in conflict with the Act in that all representatives to the B.A.E. were not associated with or representing colleges of advanced education. It is a tenuous point. For his part the Minister has taken steps to remedy this by appointing Mr. Bill Durack, an architect of Toowoomba and a member of the Board of Advanced Education, to be a member of the council of the Darling Downs Institute. That would seem to obviate the criticism levelled at him by the D.D.I.A.E. Mr. Durack will be a very welcome addition to the college council

of the D.D.I.A.E. He will serve on the D.D.I.A.E. and the Board of Advanced Education.

Mr. Len Ludgate is an accountant who replaces Mr. Fowler. The Minister's role in sacking the five board members when the D.D.I. could best appoint two of them needs to be publicised. The sacking of those five people, all good men with perfect records, started a whole series of rumours as to why they had been sacked. The rumours circulated not only on the Darling Downs but right here in Brisbane. To date the Minister has not made any attempt to clear their good name. It must be remembered that one of them is a former Minister for Education. All of them are held in extremely high regard on the Darling Downs.

The curious appointment to the Darling Downs Institute is that of Mr. Francis Lloyd Hennessy, from Queensland Nickel, Townsville. I would regard him as a Board of Adult Education hatchet man. So far as I can discover he has not previously been familiar with the Darling Downs or the Darling Downs Institute. It is difficult to see this man's having the expertise in our region of Sir Alan Fletcher, Mr. Ken Fowler, Mr. Nev Hodge, Mr. David Rapoport or Mr. Bob Mann. When appointed Mr. Hennessy had no special personal, professional or educational interests in Toowoomba, the Darling Downs or the Darling Downs Institute. Mr. Hennessy has been on the Board of Advanced Education for 10 years, and has visited the D.D.I.A.E. only once as a board member, so far as can be discovered. Since his appointment he has attended two meetings, but he is unable to attend emergency meetings because it is too far for him to travel. In addition to the cost of transporting him to and from meetings, presumably by air, the college will have to pay for his overnight accommodation.

If he attends all committee meetings of the D.D.I.A.E. council, together with inspections of various parts of the institute's activities, formal and informal engagements and promotional activities of the Darling Downs Institute in the Darling Downs region, a very heavy burden will be placed on the council and the budget of the D.D.I.A.E. It will have to pay for all of his travel. I have estimated that the cost of having Mr. Hennessy attend meetings will lie between \$6,000 and \$10,000 a year. However, if he is to be as diligent as those he replaces in attending council, committee meetings, inspections, promotions, etc., then the cost could rapidly rise to about \$30,000 a year. It should be pointed out that the attendance rates of all those five who were sacked was well over 90 per cent, and the performance of their duties in each case was exemplary. Mr. Hennessy will have an unenviable task to perform from Townsville.

The very appointment of this man to the college will cost the college the equivalent of educating between three and nine full-time students, depending on the frequency of

his attendance at meetings. In this time of austerity, I think Mr. Hennessy should resign his position in the interests of containing costs in education. He should resign in the interests of the economical operation of the Darling Downs Institute. He should resign also in recognition of the fact that his appointment was purely political and distinctly unpopular in the whole region.

Mr. Hennessy is an important man. However, I believe his services are needed in Townsville, where Queensland Nickel was severely embarrassed by the steep rises in the price of crude oil in 1974 and again in 1979. Queensland Nickel uses vast quantities of crude oil in the refining of nickel ore that is mined at Greenvale. I am told that each year it uses approximately 400 000 tonnes of crude oil. So I believe that Mr. Hennessy should be fully occupied in Townsville planning the conversion of the Queensland Nickel plant from crude oil to coal.

If Mr. Hennessy is going to be frequently absent from Townsville when attending the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, he will not be giving his full time and attention to the problems besetting Queensland Nickel. If that venture fails, there will be extreme consternation in Townsville and a vast increase in the number of unemployed in that city. A great many people rely on Queensland Nickel for employment.

There is another side to the argument surrounding the series of appointments to the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education. It comes to light in the Williams report, which predicts that student numbers at colleges of advanced education will increase, despite the lack of a matching increase in funding from the Federal sphere. Perhaps this prediction was based on the experience in Toowoomba, where the Darling Downs Institute has successfully provided external education for students in excess of the numbers estimated in recent years by the Queensland Board of Advanced Education.

All this was made possible by success at four levels. Firstly, more than 2,000 students have passed external examinations in approximately 150 subjects. These people have spread the word about the high standard of tuition and the regular follow-up and expertly organised vacation schools. Secondly, the Darling Downs Institute staff have researched community needs and matched those needs with courses that they can and do deliver. Thirdly, in the past the college council has managed the financial and administrative affairs of the college quite prudently. It has allowed expansion only after a solid base has been established and only after it has been given sufficient proof that the proposed course will succeed. Finally, the director of the college, Dr. Lindsay Barker, has the advantage of experience as director for 11 years and he is backed by the collective advice of his staff and knowledge gained by participation in the formulation of policies by a board superior to the Board of

Advanced Education. I refer to the Australian body, the Advanced Education Council, of which Dr. Barker is a member.

In these days of economic restraint it is refreshing to find a public body that can expand its work within its budget. But that has been its sin. It has expanded its services to students within its budget, and this has brought wrath from on high. Thrift in Government-funded bodies deserves publicity and acclaim. Instead, the Board of Advanced Education has reacted by recommending through the Minister, with ministerial backing, that several of the most prominent D.D.I.A.E. councillors be sacked. That has happened.

The Darling Downs Institute's growth in external studies has been nothing short of phenomenal. From a humble start a decade ago with about 100 students enrolled in external subjects and a tiny budget, it has grown to an external student body of 2,000, studying approximately 150 subjects.

The D.D.I.A.E. says that it is capable of expansion, but the Board of Advanced Education says that it should have only approximately two-thirds of its student number. Through dedication, drive and efficiency, the D.D.I.A.E. has been able to offer courses to many more students, even within the funds provided in its small budget.

Not all the colleges of advanced education in Queensland are thriving. Of course, this is part of the problem. In fact, two or three of them should be disbanded. Should that happen, the Board of Advanced Education, whose work was concerned primarily with establishing the colleges, would have its role severely reduced. It could even become redundant. In fact, the Commonwealth Government has ceased to provide tied finance to the extent of about \$500,000 of the funds that were formerly directed towards funding the Board of Advanced Education. Perhaps that is the writing on the wall.

The Board of Advanced Education is trying, by all means, to retain all colleges of advanced education in Queensland and thus it is continuing to try to justify its existence. It wants students who would prefer to enrol at the Darling Downs Institute to be forced to enrol at lesser institutes, some of which may be faced with closure. The students would be forced to turn elsewhere to take up their studies.

Difficult times are ahead for the Board of Advanced Education, and indeed all colleges. The sacking of prominent councillors of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education will not win friends in Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and Canberra for the Minister for Education. Perhaps it is time for the chairman of the Board of Advanced Education (Dr. Jim Allen) to take stock. He has had a fine career to date serving education as Professor of Chemistry and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Newcastle, and as executive officer of C.S.I.R.O. As chairman of the

Board of Advanced Education, he has helped Queensland colleges to become established. That aspect of his work is complete. If two or three colleges are disbanded and two or three pass to direct Commonwealth funding (I would again mention the William's report in which that was one of the recommendations), for example, the Darling Downs Institute and the Queensland Institute of Technology, the Board of Advanced Education could find itself looking after five or six small colleges, not the 10 or 11 it now cares for. The B.A.E. in that event could well be disbanded or become a much less powerful and influential body. In that event Dr. Allen would have to direct his obvious talents elsewhere.

In these times of economic restraint the Queensland Government could well use the budget of the B.A.E. elsewhere in education. That cannot be denied. Again in these times of economic restraint the Treasurer should direct that attendance money, travelling expenses, accommodation and allowances for councillors in all cases be limited to \$1,000 a year. That emphasises the problems experienced in appointing a man from a long way outside his region and expecting him to deliver a worthwhile service on behalf of the people of another region so far as education is concerned.

I appeal to the Auditor-General to pursue a policy of examining the cost-effectiveness of Mr. Hennessy's appointment to the D.D.I.A.E. council, and to make every effort to see that his fares from Townsville are not met by any Government department, educational body or association. He will be a very expensive addition to that council.

If quota systems are to be introduced as a Federal idea, they should be sold as a Federal idea. The D.D.I.A.E. has shown that Australia, and even Queensland, need to enrol students above quotas. Instances were given to the meeting yesterday of that being so.

While everyone agrees with the Board of Advanced Education that costs per graduate cannot readily be directly compared as they relate to colleges of advanced education, I do not think anyone in the Government would say that a measure of competition and efficiency in education is undesirable. Here is the problem. It concerns competition, efficiency and determination to succeed. At all times the Government must be seen to be fostering efficiency in all departments. If there are to be restraints in the economy affected by Federal and State Budgets, if there are to be restraints in the uncontrolled proliferation of courses, which will bring cut-backs in colleges of advanced education budgets, it is only proper that the colleges of advanced education should know what they can do, and do it. The Government can step in if they attempt uncontrolled proliferation of courses, and no-one would question the right of the Department of Education to do that. It has to be done to ensure fair play. It has to be done so

that there is not a waste of resources in the State. Nobody would object to that. We have to be seen to be efficient. The State cannot afford at any time to be seen to be backing inefficiency as part of its policy.

Since the sacking there has been a need for the Minister for Education to make a ministerial statement in Parliament on the dispute. In such a ministerial statement, he should explain the source of statements attributed to a senior Education Department official that have been leaked to the Press. He should tell the Parliament what he has done about tracking down the source of the statements and having them corrected, for a great many of them are wrong. He should comment on the truth of each of the allegations published and, in particular, on the claim that the Darling Downs Institute wants absolute autonomy, which I here deny. It has never been expressed that way at all to me or to any other member of Parliament, to the best of my knowledge. The Minister should also make a statement to the effect that he regrets the personal hardship, the slurs on character and the rumours of impropriety caused by the unprecedented action of sacking five leading citizens of the Darling Downs from the council and the compounding of that insult by his call for a judicial inquiry. He unnecessarily flamed the fire.

A great deal of what was said yesterday revealed that there was no fire at all and that the matter could all have been settled in a quiet meeting. However, it took a very expensive meeting yesterday—it cost in the order of \$4,000 or \$5,000 to assemble all of those people—to arrive at a conclusion that could have been reached by an inter-departmental note, if everything had been done according to normal, proper Public Service judgment and standards.

Of the Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister for Mines, Energy and Police, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, Minister for Survey and Valuation and four local members, none supported the call for a judicial inquiry. On this the Minister for Education stood alone. Until the Minister makes a statement, the public and the five former members of the Darling Downs Institute will never be sure that he did not intend to add insult to their injury. Nothing less than a ministerial statement thanking them for their service and paying tribute to their devotion to duty will do. At the same time the Minister could do something to resurrect their public standing by reinstating four of the five who were sacked from the council.

I believe that it is within the Minister's power to reappoint two. I believe it is within his power also to reappoint the two whom the college has applied to have reappointed. If at the same time he received a resignation from Mr. Hennessy or took to the Governor in Council a proposal that Mr. Hennessy's appointment be rescinded, which I believe is possible, then he could

reappoint the fifth member and go a long way towards saving the day and do a great deal to restore the faith of the people of the Darling Downs in the ability of the Education Department, the Darling Downs college, and perhaps even himself. I believe that it has to be done. It has to be done in this House, and it has to be done in the next few days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the attention you have given this speech. I do hope that in the next day or so we shall hear such a ministerial statement.

Mr. TENNI (Barron River) (4.48 p.m.): I take this opportunity to express my loyalty and that of my constituents in Barron River, one of the nicest electorates in Queensland, to the Throne and to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I congratulate our Governor and Lady Ramsay on the excellent manner in which they perform their duties throughout this State. I thank His Excellency and his gracious lady for visiting areas in North Queensland, and particularly the electorate of Barron River, on quite a few occasions since his appointment to that high office. Just as I do, he believes that North Queensland is a wonderful place to visit, a wonderful place to live and a wonderful place to retire to.

I also congratulate the honourable member for Callide on moving the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I believe he did a very efficient and effective job. I also congratulate the seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Ithaca.

Many problems have occurred in the electorate of Barron River over the past five years. Many of them have been attended to by the efficient member representing the area. However, in years gone by very little money was spent in the electorate of Barron River, and although a lot of work has been done in the past four years and nine months a lot more very urgent work is still required in the electorate. In my speech today I will endeavour to outline the problems as I see them and as they have been shown to me by the people I represent, that is, all the people in the Barron River electorate, irrespective of their political views, colour or creed.

The first matter with which I wish to deal may upset some of our Ministers. This will be very unfortunate, but I believe this is a time when I should speak on behalf of the people I represent, not the Ministers in this House. I am very concerned about the Cairns College of Technical and Further Education and the annexe at Mareeba. I am particularly concerned about the salaries paid to the instructors at this college. There have been unreal delays in paying these people their salaries. Only this morning I finished dealing with the case of an instructor at Mareeba who has waited eight weeks to receive any money. I still do not know what amount he was to receive today, but I do

know that it will not be in the vicinity of the \$1,600 due to him. He will probably be paid for three or perhaps four of the eight weeks' work he has performed.

This is not an isolated case. I am sure the honourable member for Cairns will back me when I say that this sort of thing is happening constantly. It is a problem that the Minister for Education, through the Treasury if it is the Treasury that makes the payment, should look at very seriously. No-one should be expected to wait eight weeks to receive money on which to survive, and that is exactly what is happening in the area at present. I could understand it if there was a delay of a week or so, particularly with people working only two or three hours every couple of days, but when a man has worked eight weeks full time, as was so in the case with which I have had to deal today, and only today has received a cheque for part of what he is owed, that is totally unacceptable and something will have to be done about it immediately.

I now ask the Minister for Education to take the necessary action to overcome this problem and make sure that it does not continue. I hope that the Minister, who is a very reliable and capable man, is listening to this debate and will take steps to overcome the problem immediately.

Another matter that was raised with me only yesterday concerns the possibility of Q.A.T.B. centres in Queensland being formed into zones. I have not heard officially from the Minister about this, but I can assure him that, having had something like 14 years' experience as a member of an ambulance committee, with some four or five years as chairman, I would not tolerate the zoning of Q.A.T.B. centres in Queensland. It cannot be accepted. The people who give generously to centres in their areas will not tolerate it. The contributions made by the people in this area and the voluntary work that they perform will fall away to nothing when they realise that the money being raised in the area is not held in the area to improve the vehicles, the equipment and the operation of the centre in that area. I should like it recorded here and now that any suggestion of zoning of Q.A.T.B. centres in the State of Queensland will be bitterly opposed by me. I only hope that the rumour I heard yesterday is nothing more than a rumour.

One of the other problems in North Queensland concerns police staffing. At the present time, police staffing in the electorate of Barron River and in the city of Cairns is in a drastic state. The police are understaffed beyond all reasonable limits, and the people I represent will not accept the problems and complaints that arise from this understaffing. I hope that the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police is successful in the Budget in obtaining an allocation for

300 extra policemen. If he is, I hope that many of those 300 will be stationed in North Queensland.

I would say that 20 extra policemen could be stationed at the Cairns Police Station right now. It is absolutely vital that more police be made available to cope with the crime, particularly the breaking and entering and the deliberate destruction of property, in the Cairns and outer Cairns areas. As a matter of urgency, a senior constable with four or five years' experience should be attached to the Mossman area. We know of the drug problems in the Cape Tribulation, Daintree and Mossman areas, as well as in many other areas of the State. It is essential that a sufficient number of policemen be available there to keep an eye on drug movements and to make sure that they are stopped.

I should also like the Police Department and the Police Minister to look at the development of the Barron River electorate. The development in the northern beach area near Edge Hill is unreal. This area is growing rapidly—probably more rapidly than any other part of the State. As I said earlier, many people from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea are building beautiful homes in the Cairns area and retiring there. I am referring to the Cairns area and to the Port Douglas, Newell Beach and Mossman areas. It is absolutely vital that a police substation be constructed in the northern beach area of Cairns, at Edge Hill itself, so that the number of available men can be spread throughout the growing area of the Barron River electorate. I stress that this matter must be given very high priority, to protect the honest and decent citizens of the electorate of Barron River.

I turn now to police buildings. The building at Mossman is a very old attachment to the court-house. I would not know how old it is, but it should be replaced, as also should the court-house. These buildings have not been looked at for a long time. A few alterations were done to them as a temporary measure, but it is most urgent that these buildings should be replaced in order to give comfortable working conditions to the police officers and the court-house staff in the buildings. New buildings would also provide a little bit of comfort to the people who visit the court-house and police station at Mossman. They would not have to stand on an open veranda. I say very firmly that I will not accept the present position much longer. The Government will have to take some action to provide a new police station and court-house in Mossman.

The police station in Mareeba, although a beautiful building, needs to be doubled in size. A very old building, which was the original police station in Mareeba, was shifted to the back of the new police station and turned into quarters for single police officers. Later, because of the expansion

of the Mareeba police district, it again became part of the police station. It is essential that accommodation for police in Mareeba be doubled very quickly, and I request that the Minister give the matter very serious consideration.

Many years ago land was purchased in an ideal location in Kuranda. A suitable police station should be constructed on the front of the land and a sergeant's residence at the rear. The old residence of the sergeant could then be turned into a senior constable's residence, which would overcome the present problem of accommodation for a second police officer in Kuranda.

Police vehicles are another great problem. In the Mossman area, there is now only a four-wheel-drive vehicle. That is ridiculous.

**Mr. Moore:** Give them a horse.

**Mr. TENNI:** We might as well give them a horse. It is essential that in centres such as Mossman a fast vehicle be available in addition to a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Because of the rainfall in the Daintree/Cape Tribulation area, four-wheel-drive vehicles are necessary for the investigation of drug problems and for searches that have to be carried out for people lost in the bush or for people lost in boats that may be washed up along the coastline. However, a vehicle such as a Falcon panel van should be available. It would have a bit more speed and would enable police to pick up those who disobey the law in fast vehicles or on motor cycles. It is hopeless for police to try to catch the culprits by using a four-wheel-drive vehicle, and a failure to catch them could result either in their own death or in the death of someone else on the road. A second police vehicle is required very urgently at Mossman.

Only a couple of years ago the Government began to improve police housing, but it has not moved quickly enough. Often police officers are transferred to places such as Kuranda and Mossman, where it is almost impossible to get accommodation; if it is available, the cost is out of the reach of the ordinary police officer. I should like to see much more money invested in the provision of accommodation for police officers transferred to remote areas of the State. More accommodation is required urgently in Kuranda, Mossman and Mareeba, which are now three problem areas.

I turn now to schools. A tremendous amount of work has been done on schools in the electorate of Barron River, and that is only to be expected because of the growth that has taken place. The fact that it is being so well represented is probably one reason for that growth. This Saturday the new Trinity Beach primary school is to be opened by the Minister for Education, and I was astounded to find that it is Government policy to do virtually nothing about the grounds of new schools and to leave it to p. and c. associations to attend to them. With a replacement school, such as the one

at Yorkeys Knob which was occupied last Monday week, the entire grounds and everything else are fully attended to.

Perhaps it would be easier if the reverse situation applied. When a new school opens in a new area, the p. and c. association probably has had no experience and certainly it has no money. The Government's dollar-for-dollar subsidy policy is not worth two bob unless the p. and c. association has some money of its own on which to base a claim for subsidy. The Government's policy towards grounds at new schools is totally wrong, and it is completely unacceptable to the people I represent. I request that when new or replacement schools are being constructed, the Government give serious consideration to bringing everything, including sporting facilities, up to the standard necessary to allow the school to operate as a good school.

Because of the development and growth of the Barron River electorate, I should like to see three more schools built as a matter of urgency. One should be constructed at Port Douglas. Everybody in the Chamber would know what Port Douglas is all about. It is a great tourist attraction. In this fast-developing area a considerable number of children in Port Douglas have to travel 14 miles by bus to the Mossman school, which is already overcrowded. I suggest that the land that is being looked at in Port Douglas be made available promptly, and that a new primary school be constructed as soon as possible on that site. As a result of the construction of the new bridge over the Barron River at Stratford, Holloway Beach has now become virtually a suburb of Cairns, particularly with the southern approach roads nearing completion. Therefore it is necessary that a school be built, on the land purchased by the department, in time for the commencement of the 1980 school year.

There are no high schools in the Cairns section of the Barron River electorate. At the present time children in my electorate travel up to 22 miles by bus to attend either the Cairns High School or the Trinity Bay High School, both of which are overcrowded. A tremendous number of high school students are available to attend a school somewhere along the northern beaches. At my request, departmental officers have sent to Brisbane a proposal to purchase land close to the new Trinity Beach State School for the future construction of a high school for children living at the northern beaches.

It must be remembered that the northern beaches area is the fastest-growing area in the Cairns district. A high school is required not only for the children in the northern beaches area but for those in the Stratford, Freshwater, Redlynch, Smithfield and Kuranda areas. Children have to travel by rail-motor from Kuranda down the range to the Cairns High School. A high school in that area should be given No. 1 priority in the State.

In my area the valuations leave a lot to be desired. I am deeply concerned at the present system of valuation in this State. I believe that similar problems are experienced in other States. With no disrespect to the staff of the Valuer-General's Department, might I state that I would sack the lot. The present system is simply no good. Mainly because of inflation, it is outdated. The present state of affairs is indeed a sorry one.

As an example I cite what has happened in the Douglas Shire. I could refer also to the Atherton Shire and many others throughout the State. In the Douglas Shire, the present valuation system has rated pensioners out of existence. I know that the Minister will come back at me and say, "It has nothing to do with us; it is up to the local authorities to charge rates." I point out however, that rates are based on the so-called unimproved valuation of a property. At places such as Newell Beach and Port Douglas landholders are paying as much as and even more than \$1,000 a year for 26-perch blocks. In some instances, they have been faced with a 60 to 65 per cent increase in rates following a new valuation. In some town areas there was a reduction in rates following a reduction in valuations, because the one rate in the dollar is struck for the entire Douglas Shire.

The effect that increased rates have had on people who retired to the beach is alarming. I am not prepared to accept it any longer. If the Valuer-General's Department is incapable of solving the present problem, it should be wiped and rates handed back to the councils, which were responsible for them in years gone by. It is utterly useless to continue with the present procedure.

Say a subdivider cuts up a large tract of land into 5-acre rural blocks and that for each block he charges \$35,000. The actual value of each block is probably \$20,000, and the additional \$15,000 is brought about by council requirements, such as bitumen roads, channelling and kerbing, drainage, water, power and so on.

When a land buyer fills in his valuation form he puts on it the total price of the land, namely, \$35,000. When the Valuer-General looks at the prices at which the land is sold, he assesses a high value and therefore imposes a high rate. The point I make is that a person who for a block of land pays \$35,000, of which \$15,000 covers improvements outside the block of land, should be entitled to put on his valuation form the sum of \$20,000. After all, that is the price of what he is buying; he is not buying outside improvements.

I have spoken to the Minister for Survey and Valuation in connection with this matter, but have not met with any success whatever. It is totally wrong that a land buyer should have to pay \$15,000 extra at the time of purchase and then, because of the high valuation that is shown on the Valuer-General's form, be forced to pay a high rate for the rest of his life. It is silly for the

department to carry on with this procedure, and it must be looked at very closely indeed. A person who pays a high price in the beginning should not be forced to pay through the nose for the rest of his life. The Valuer-General's Department should look at the actual cost of the land, not at the cost of the work carried out outside it. The outside work is demanded by the council. Surely to goodness the burden should not be placed on the land buyer for the rest of his life.

Another problem that should be looked at is the high incidence of theft at schools. I have received regular complaints concerning the theft of push-bikes from the Trinity Bay High School grounds.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Why don't you tell us about the time you were found drunk in charge of a push-bike?

**Mr. TENNI:** Was the honourable member actually drunk in charge of a push-bike?

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You were.

**Mr. TENNI:** I believe that the honourable member was also fined. Is that correct?

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You were fined.

**Mr. TENNI:** The stories I hear about the honourable member from different sources are unreal. He is in all sorts of places at night around Brisbane. I have been told that he is collecting money acting as a bouncer, but I do not know that that is correct.

The theft of push-bikes from the Trinity Bay High School should concern all of us deeply.

**Mr. Greenwood** interjected.

**Mr. TENNI:** The Minister is too late. I have spoken about his section.

Push-bikes today cost about \$200. It is a big loss to a family when a push-bike is stolen.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. TENNI:** I will just ignore him, Mr. Speaker. That is what he deserves.

At the Trinity Bay High School and many other schools throughout the State people come into the schoolgrounds in daylight to steal push-bikes from the racks that are supplied. I suggest to the Minister for Education that an instruction should be issued by his department to the principals of all schools, namely, that immediately a push-bike is stolen an announcement should be made on the parade ground. That is not done at most schools. If possible, the description, size, make of bike and serial number should be announced on the parade ground to all the children. Naturally the loss should also be referred to the police. My reason for making that suggestion is based on the fact that, if we do not take steps to catch a young potential thief or

scare him into discontinuing his activities, he will be a potential adult thief. It is essential that the Minister for Education should consider this suggestion seriously. All principals should be instructed to make an announcement whenever a push-bike is stolen. The children should be given a lecture on stealing. Everything possible should be done to prevent such thefts in our schools.

I shall now deal with developments by private enterprise in the Barron River electorate. I am amazed to see the millions and millions of dollars invested by private enterprise, and the work that is being created.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** It is not due to your representation.

**Mr. TENNI:** It is due to my representation—directly. I have been fully involved with every job in my electorate.

I think of people in my electorate who are investing \$12,400,000, \$8,200,000, \$4,300,000 and \$1,200,000, who have all come to me to ask for assistance. They do not go to Laborites. They know that Labor Party people do not believe in private enterprise; that means that they do not believe in employing people. I point out that about three out of four people are employed by private enterprise. Labor people knock private enterprise all the way. They describe them as multinationals, and as all sorts of naughty boys. We have only to look at the areas represented by Labor members to see the detrimental effect they are having on them. Even at the far end of my electorate, on the Bloomfield River—right on the point—construction is about to commence on the Cape York Reef and Game Fishing Lodge. It will be a beautiful lodge. People will be able to fly in by plane or helicopter, or arrive by boat, to relax while using the facilities at the lodge and engage in reef and game fishing. They will be able to look at many beautiful reefs. This is one of the most beautiful parts of the Barron River electorate.

Another fishing lodge is to be constructed just south of Cape Tribulation. Kern Bros. Ltd. is constructing a shopping centre at the junction of the Cook and Kennedy Highways. Coles are constructing a big new shopping centre in Mareeba. I could go on and on. Units, complexes and motels are being constructed throughout the area. The development is really fantastic.

One of the other things that I am a little concerned about (I am not just a little concerned about valuations; I am terribly concerned about them) relates to the abolition of road tax on 1 July, some months ago. I am informed that, although no money has to be paid, form No. 4 still has to be filled in at a police station. To me, this is a bit silly. Our police are overworked at the present moment but we are asking them to waste time filling in a form which produces no income whatsoever to the Government or the taxpayers of this State. I do not know

whether it is an oversight by the Department of Transport or whether Mr. Seeney, or whoever is the responsible officer, has not issued the necessary instruction. The sooner that is done, the better. It is plain stupidity and a waste of taxpayers' money to require these forms to be filled in. They are no longer necessary.

I could go on for hours.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Don't!

**Mr. TENNI:** I could speak particularly about the honourable member for Archerfield, but it would not be parliamentary to speak in a manner that would be truthful.

It is a pleasure to speak in this House and to listen to Opposition interjections which have no basis whatsoever. Opposition members do not even know what they are talking about. That is unfortunate, because personally most of them are pleasant fellows. However, they do not have the ability or the means to promote their areas. That is why they will never get anywhere in this State. They will never lead this State as long as their noses point to the ground.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. TENNI:** One only has to listen to their interjections to realise that, although there are a few exceptions to those comments.

The electorate of Barron River is very pleased with the Government's work in the area over the last four years and nine months. It is pleased because for the previous six years, and for many years before that with the representation it had, very little was done in the area. Since my election some work has been done, but not nearly enough to satisfy me. But I am a hard man to satisfy.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. TENNI:** They know it as well as anyone else.

There is no way in the world that I could be satisfied with the present rate at which work is being done. I would like to see something done urgently about road-works. The road from Kuranda through to Mareeba was constructed in 1943.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You've told us about that already.

**Mr. TENNI:** Most honourable members Opposite do not know North Queensland, with the exception perhaps of the member for Cook. The others do not know it at all. They never get up there. They would be knocked over, anyway, by the strong National Party support in the area. They would not have a chance.

The road from Kuranda to Mareeba was constructed in 1943. It has had so many sealing coats on it that the pavement is probably eight inches thick. However, it is sunken and narrow and it is hard to control a vehicle on it. Being the effective member that I am, I cannot be expected to accept

that type of road condition for the people I represent. There is no way in the world I will cop that. I am going to fight to make sure that that road is reconstructed so that it has a good, wide, straight, flat surface. I would like to be able to travel throughout my area on flat roads such as there are from Brisbane to the Gold Coast and to the Sunshine Coast. When I drive over those, I cry. I say to myself, "Woudn't I love to have roads like that up in my area!" And I am going to get them within the next two years. There is no way in the world that I will accept the present state of affairs. Improvements are slowly being made, but I want them carried out quickly.

I want the area developed, because we have people marching out of the socialist States of New South Wales and South Australia and settling in Queensland. We have to provide the facilities for this heavy influx of people from the socialist States. We must be able to cater for these people who are so dissatisfied with the place in which they are living at the moment and the representation they are receiving there. It is most important that we speed up construction in the Barron River electorate in order to provide good roads, bridges and amenities for those wonderful people who are getting out of the socialist States in the South.

**Mr. Speaker,** I thank you for being so very attentive and putting up with the disgraceful interjections of the Opposition. I look forward to speaking in this House on many future occasions.

**Mr. PREST (Port Curtis) (5.26 p.m.):** In commencing my speech in this Address-in-Reply debate I confirm not only my loyalty to Queen Elizabeth but also the loyalty of the people of the electorate of Port Curtis. The address given by Sir James Ramsay confirmed that we are very fortunate to have him as the Governor of Queensland. Both he and Lady Ramsay make us feel their great interest in this State and its people, and they seem to enjoy the onerous official duties which are part and parcel of His Excellency's high office.

I join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your election. It was unfortunate that three members of the coalition chose to vote informal instead of voting with their colleagues for you as the joint parties' candidate. It was something of a surprise to us on this side that the honourable members for Somerset and Hinchinbrook did not gain support from their colleagues, as both had had experience in the chair. It just goes to show the ruthlessness of the National Party when they were not even considered for Cabinet positions. It was freely rumoured around Parliament House that they paid the penalty for having been members of a committee that brought down a recommendation that did not please the Premier.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Disgraceful!

**Mr. PREST:** As the honourable member for Wolston says, it is disgraceful. It is also pretty true that they do not have much talent, but then who does in the National Party? It is obvious that \$5,000 will buy a Cabinet post at any time.

I would like to wish the former Speaker, Mr. Houghton, a very long, happy and healthy retirement. It is unfortunate that a man who spent so much time here should have to retire because of ill health. I saw Mr. Houghton here the other day and he looked quite well. We on this side really do not know the reason for his resignation. Some say he had gone a bit deaf in one ear, blind in one eye and had twisted ligaments in one shoulder, but since he has been relieved of the pressure his health has improved. Perhaps he will do a "Newbery" and nominate as a candidate for this House once again, but, of course, we do not know for which party.

It would be remiss of me as the Opposition spokesman on local government if I did not mention local authorities in this debate, because this year many local authorities are celebrating their centenary. We all know that local government is a very important form of government because it is so close to the people. The past 100 years have not been easy for local authorities. They have had to contend with years of drought, bush-fires and floods, which have caused great damage and hardship to the ratepayers of most shires. There have been a number of wars in those years, and they, too, placed a great strain on local authority finances. But we have also seen progress and prosperity over the years, particularly when there have been good seasons and primary producers have received good returns.

Local authorities have also been well served by dedicated workers. When we look back over those 100 years, we find that the men who worked for local authorities did not have the mechanised equipment that we have today but they did first-class work. They worked for local authorities during very hard times, but they did a damn good job. I am sure that we are all pleased to have been associated with local government in some way. We have seen many changes made to the Local Government Act. Some of these changes have placed massive added responsibilities on councils and at times have resulted in the imposition of added costs, but this Government has not given any thought to providing them with extra finance.

As I have said, during these 100 years, great changes have been made. Sewerage, libraries, town plans, parks and open spaces are as important today as was water carted from the town bore in goat carts or horse-drawn drays many years ago. These changes have brought benefits to the people, but they have had to pay for most of the services and amenities provided.

Changes have also been made in the area of lighting. We have gone from kerosene lights and fat lamps to electricity. In the early days, lighting was under the control of the local authority.

We owe thanks to many people who gave of their time to other people almost free of charge. One person who comes to mind is the late Mr. Behan, who died not very long ago. He did a wonderful job in local government, and he did it virtually for nothing. Another person in my own area who comes to mind is Mr. W. R. Golding. He was in local government for over 50 years.

**An Opposition Member:** In Gladstone.

**Mr. PREST:** Yes. He was involved not only in local government; he was also on many semi-government boards. He was chairman of the Gladstone Harbour Board for a long time. We all know the good work that was done by the Gladstone Harbour Board under his chairmanship. Bill Golding and others have not received very much recognition from this Government. Once these people retire, their deeds are soon forgotten. Unlike Ministers of the Crown, they do not receive knighthoods for services rendered. Ministers of the Crown receive knighthoods for services rendered, although they have been well paid for them. I believe that people in local government who have worked for the community are more deserving of consideration when awards are being handed out.

I can think of many other people in local government with whom I have worked. I refer to Harold Anderson, Tom Acton, Mickey Gardiner and Bill Barker. Each of those men served local government for more than 20 years. There would be hundreds of others of whom I do not know. I am certain that other members would know many such people.

In the early days of local government, the land-owners, the land barons, controlled council representation. The more land they owned, the more votes they had. All eligible people now have a vote. However, today the people may lose the representatives they have chosen, because the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads has the right to dissolve a council and appoint an administrator. This has been done in the past and other councils are being threatened with this action. I will have more to say about that later.

It is a different story in local government today. As I have said, years ago people worked for local government for next to nothing. Now some get into local government and get in for their share; at times they get in for more than their share. However, I am quite certain that not all members of local government do this. There are still some who get into local government because they want to help others, not themselves.

**Mr. Hansen:** They will never be fully paid for what they do.

**Mr. PREST:** That is true; they will never be fully paid.

This year, allowances have increased by 300 per cent. Chairmen of some councils now receive allowances of \$10,000 a year, plus allowances for meetings. That is quite a large sum of money for a part-time job. Of course, some treat it as a part-time job and take only expenses; others, although working only part-time, want to be paid for full-time employment and also to receive allowances from the money that is available.

Local government representatives are now able to do that legally because the Minister introduced amendments to the Act under which no maximum payments are prescribed. As I said, in some instances allowances and payments for meetings have risen by about 300 per cent this year.

I congratulate the people who in the past worked so hard in the interests of towns and shires and received so little in return. On the other hand, I condemn those who regard the ratepayers as fools and, although doing only a part-time job, seek to be paid very handsomely for what they do.

In my opinion, much will have to be done to assist local government or it will die. The stage has now been reached at which people are finding it beyond their ability to meet rates and charges. I refer particularly to pensioners and people who are unemployed. Some councils give concessions to pensioners, others give lower concessions, and some do not give any concessions. In my opinion, local authorities throughout the State should give remissions to pensioners on rates and charges and governments, State or Federal, should finance the cost of those remissions.

I was prepared to speak at some length on this matter, but it is pleasing to see that today petitions have been presented on behalf of the aged people of the State. I hope that in the near future the Government will act upon those petitions, which were signed by many thousands of people.

It is reported that the Brisbane City Council has given remissions of about \$8,000,000. Unfortunately, not all councils are run as efficiently and effectively as the Labor council in Brisbane. If they were, there would be some reductions in rates and service charges would be lowered. In many cases, problems arise because of a lack of administrative efficiency on the part of councils, but I shall not name the councils that I have in mind.

Today there is more discontent in local government than ever before, and the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads should be a very worried man because his actions, and those of the Government, have caused some of that discontent. Each day one reads of some council, body or person petitioning the Minister to take action

against a council. A fortnight ago the member for Callide presented a petition on behalf of Livingstone Shire councillors because rates had risen—some say by 70-odd per cent, some say by 46 per cent—for 1979-80. Even if the increase is only 46 per cent, I suggest that some investigation is needed.

It should be remembered that it is in the Livingstone Shire that Mr. Iwasaki is to build the so-called tourist attraction that is to bring great prosperity to the area. What is the reason for the huge increase in rates? Are the ratepayers of the Livingstone Shire paying for some of the lead-up work that is to be done by the council for Mr. Iwasaki's tourist centre? Many councillors were removed from office at the election in March, and some of them were guests of Mr. Iwasaki in Japan. I do not know whether the people of Livingstone are entirely behind this great tourist attraction.

I agree that Mr. Hartwig has now been singled out to pay the piper. Sir Robert Sparkes has told Col Carige—commonly known as Miss—to nominate for Callide. It is not that he could beat Mr. Hartwig for selection, but it is action in retaliation for Mr. Hartwig's daring to present a petition to have the council sacked, as it does appear that it is a council that will assist the Government and Mr. Iwasaki. Or was it because Mr. Hartwig did not agree with the Cabinet appointments?

Rate increases well in excess of the inflation rate are common this year. If such increases are allowed to continue, there will be continuing hardship on ratepayers. On many occasions this Government has passed legislation without a thought as to how it could be implemented or at what cost. The local authorities are called upon to administer the legislation but they are given no funds for that purpose.

The Government is about to cut subsidies on certain local authority works. At the Queensland Local Government Association conference in Mt. Isa, the Treasurer said that that was not to be done in the coming Budget. Whether or not that is contained in the next Budget, it will be done at some time. When it is done, it will mean an increase in rates and charges. The Government is giving a tax reduction to some people, but it is cutting back subsidies and placing an extra burden on local authorities, and so the extra cost falls back on the people again. Local authorities may have to cut back on their works programmes.

**Mr. Hansen:** There is the pigswill Act.

**Mr. PREST:** There is more than the pigswill Act. There are other Acts such as the Litter Act and the Noise Abatement Act about which the Government does nothing. It merely hands the responsibility over to local authorities and says, "Here, take control of this. This is in your corner. Do the best you can to solve the problem."

Because of the cut-back in subsidies, councils may have to reduce their works programmes. Naturally that would not be in the best interests of the progress of the shires, towns or cities. It would also affect employment. If there is a cut-back in local authority work, there has to be a cut-back in the local government work-force. As I have said, the Government has cut taxes in some sections. It wants to offset those tax cuts by placing further financial burdens on local government. The Government has shown no sympathy for local authorities in the past. That was stated by Mr. Fred Rogers, the chairman of the Queensland Local Government Association, in Townsville last year. At that conference he said that the Premier had more sympathy for Mr. Iwasaki and others of that type. He said they always had the ear of the Premier, but the Local Government Department had waited many months to try to get the ear of the Premier, without avail.

I do not always support the sentiments expressed by Fred Rogers. In what he said about the Premier at the conference in 1978 he may have been backing the old horse each way again. At that time Mr. Hinze had stated his desire to replace the Premier when he got the axe or retired. Now, Mr. Hinze, the henchman of the National Party, and his Essential Services Bill have the support of Fred Rogers. At the Queensland Local Government Association conference in Mt. Isa last Thursday Fred chose to—

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Freddie Rogers?

**Mr. PREST:** That's right. I am quite certain that we all know Fred Rogers. He stood as a candidate for the Liberal Party on one occasion. As one of my colleagues whispered, I am quite certain that Fred Rogers is looking for recognition of his services by way of a knighthood. Perhaps that is not so.

As I was saying, the Essential Services Bill had the support of Fred Rogers. At the Mt. Isa conference he chose to attack the trade unions. He must be going senile. That is something all the old fogies seem to do. They hop on the bandwagon and attack the unions.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** It is true, though, isn't it? He is senile?

**Mr. PREST:** Yes, he must be.

The person who started all this was the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. He appointed Mr. Andrews, Mr. Muhl and Mr. McPherson to administer the City of Gold Coast. When those people took over the administration of the city, they granted a nine-day fortnight to the white-collar workers on the Gold Coast. When the blue-collar workers asked for the same conditions, their request was refused. Apparently what was good enough for the white-collar workers was not good enough for the blue-collar workers. I am certain that Fred

Rogers is frightened that that concession will flow on, as did increment pay some years ago.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** I don't want to interrupt your speech, but during that period when the Gold Coast was under the control of an administrator didn't Mr. Hinze have a block of land rezoned at Burleigh Heads?

**Mr. PREST:** Many attacks were made on the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, but he was afforded a good deal of protection in this House, so we do not know the full truth of the matter.

As I was saying—if a nine-day fortnight is good enough for staff who work inside, it is good enough for those who work outside. In other words, if white-collar workers who work in air-conditioned offices are entitled to a nine-day fortnight, employees working outside under all types of conditions are entitled to receive the same conditions, or even something better.

I do not want to deal with flexitime enjoyed by public servants. If I did that, I would upset Tom Wallace. He would be annoyed if I were to speak against his so-called "angels". I have great respect for public servants, as I do for most people, but in any congregation there is someone who is not 100 per cent. Unfortunately, that one person can bring about the denigration of the whole staff. I am not saying that Mr. Wallace is wrong; I have the greatest respect for and get on well with most public servants.

To get back to Mr. Rogers—instead of attacking the trade unions, he should become more conversant with the facts. He should come out from under the Minister's shirt-tail and give to the local authorities the representation that they are looking for.

At the Mt. Isa conference it was plain to see that local authorities are unhappy about the distribution of local authority grants. When a crony of the Government got up and moved that the panel of members of the commission be congratulated on their work, his motion was soundly defeated. The defeat of that motion clearly showed that the local authorities in Queensland had passed a vote of no confidence in the Federal Government and State Government. The 1.75 per cent of personal income tax that is handed over through the States is lousy and is handled badly by the panel in Queensland. It is plain to see that the local authorities want the present panel of members sacked and a new panel selected to hear the 1980-81 submissions, which are due to be heard very soon.

Some councils were favourably treated, whereas others received less under Element B than in previous years. I do not entirely blame the panel for that; I know that in some instances the submission presented by council officers was worthless. They seemed to think that because a grant was involved they would get something out of it. They

were plain lazy or extremely incompetent. Indeed, it is plain that the local authorities were not treated equally, as I thought they would be. Because of their incompetent officers, councils have missed out on their entitlements. In the end, the ratepayers have to pay.

**Mr. Hansen:** Don't you agree that some local authorities have more disabilities than others, and need special recognition?

**Mr. PREST:** That is true.

This year the commission had to take into account three new shires, namely Logan, Aurukun and Mornington Island. I know that Aurukun and Mornington did not get much, but the Logan Shire got \$600,000, which was not too bad.

Some local authorities got more under element A (which is on a population basis) and got less under element B because of the submission they presented, or because of the way they were treated. The authorities seemed to think that their submissions were quite good. That is why they say that some were treated more favourably than others. That is why they defeated the motion to congratulate the members of the commission.

I fail to see why councils cannot bring down their budgets on time. The Brisbane City Council's budget has been out for weeks, yet some of the little tinpot councils are asking the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads for an extension of time.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** Most of them are National Party controlled; that is why they are so dim-witted.

**Mr. PREST:** That has to be looked into because the ratepayers, again, have to pay.

Some councils are getting an extension of time but, unlike the Brisbane City Council, which has rates coming in all the time, the outside shires are trading on overdrafts from 1 July until the discount period ceases at the end of October.

**Mr. Bourke:** Why do you say that? They may have a surplus.

**Mr. PREST:** Councils don't have surpluses. They are crying because they have insufficient funds.

**Mr. Bourke:** That shows just how much you know; the Toowoomba City Council runs at a surplus every year.

**Mr. PREST:** A council budgets only to cover expenditure. It either does that or it is taking the ratepayers down. That is the honourable member's attitude; he would fleece everyone to get a surplus for the next year.

The Minister should offer the councils a word of advice. He should tell them that he is not happy, and that they should get on with the job and get their budgets out.

I do not believe that all the fault lies with the Minister. Some problems lie with the local governments, and some are man-made. I am certain that if the Minister, with all his authority, stopped pussy-footing around looking after National Party members on councils, and treated all councils alike by making them toe the line, the local authorities would operate in the interests of the ratepayers. That is all that would be needed.

I am quite certain that local authorities need more finance, not less. I sincerely hope that the Treasurer does not cut subsidies on works to be carried out, that he increases grants and assists the councils to operate. He should give them a very good go.

I ask the Minister in charge of local authorities not to kill them, but to assist them. Today, local authorities like other bodies are finding it very hard to raise loans. While they have been granted permission to borrow, they are being prevented from doing so because the lending institutions are approached by borrowers who can afford to pay higher interest rates than they can.

That matter was mentioned by Mr. Nielsen of the Bundaberg City Council, who was reported in these terms—

"Banks and other lending institutions are diverting money to borrowers who can pay higher interest rates than local authorities, according to Bundaberg mayor, Ald. C. J. Nielsen. Local government was the 'Cinderella' when it came to raising loans for works programs, he said at a City Council meeting. Ald. Nielsen said he had been told that one institution loaned \$1 million to an organisation at more than 11 per cent interest.

"That was some of the money that should have gone to local government," he said.

"The Bundaberg City Council needs loans totalling \$1 million to finance this year's works program.

"Ald. Nielsen said his council had not received one loan offer this year from private banks, insurance companies, or other lending institutions.

"The State government was neglecting its responsibility to local government.

"When allocations are announced governments should make provision to ensure that local authorities are properly financed," he said.

"The State borrows money from overseas sources and re-lends it to semi-government institutions.

"It's about time the State created a pool of loan funds to look after local authority."

That is so. Local authorities are being strangled by the restrictions placed on them. They are finding it very difficult to operate under the present conditions.

I now turn to the other part of my shadow portfolio, Main Roads. The Leader of the Opposition spoke at length about the state of our roads in Queensland. He showed very clearly by his remarks just how weak was Queensland's case presented by the Minister. It is little wonder that the Federal Minister for Transport (Mr. Nixon) laughs at Queensland and its road system. There is no doubt that our Minister has his worries. It is obvious that he is glad to grasp the opportunity of an overseas tour at a time when the House is debating the Address in Reply and the Budget. He was asked about the itinerary for his overseas tour, but he refused to give it.

After 22 years of Tory Government in Queensland, the road north of Gympie is still a goat track. This year alone the road between Sarina and Mackay has been cut for 35 days.

**Mr. McKechnie:** Would you divert road funds from South Queensland to North Queensland?

**Mr. PREST:** The people in the country must be provided for. The Government is not doing that. This is 1979. The West still has dirt roads. Aren't the people there entitled to better conditions? Places 15 miles inland from the coast still have dirt roads.

**Mr. Jones:** They are one car wide. The tourists can't get along them.

**Mr. PREST:** That is true.

**Mr. McKechnie:** You haven't answered my question. Would you divert the money up there?

**Mr. PREST:** Of course we would. Why should we spend all of the funds on the Gold Coast and in Albert?

While the Minister is having one small section of the road in the North sealed, the rest of it is being washed away. There is no doubt about it. The Queensland motorist is being ripped off in no small way through increased registration, increased insurance charges, and increased fuel prices, which rise almost monthly. However, the Government can only blame the Fraser policies, supported by darling Doug. We all know darling Doug. The member for Flinders stood up here only last year and said that it was darling Doug's policy—the National Party's policy—to price petrol to a level where it was beyond the capacity of the motorist to pay—and that is what has happened. That has been recorded in "Hansard". We are seeing the proof of it today. As a result of the fuel levy being paid by the motorist, the Fraser Government will receive additional revenue of approximately \$2,300 million. What a rip-off! How much are the oil companies making out of it?

In 1977 the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads promised to inspect a couple of roads in my electorate of Port Curtis. One was in the Boyne Valley, where there is a farming community. The

other was in the Yarwun area. Of course, we all know what happened in 1977. It was an election year. The Government has as much chance of winning Port Curtis as the Minister has of flying. Consequently, the inspections never took place. The people in those areas have been promised bitumen by previous Ministers. The Minister is coming to Calliope's centenary in November. Surely he should honour the promises made by the Government and give the people in the Boyne Valley a bitumen road and put a bit of bitumen around the Yarwun area.

**Mr. Bourke:** If they vote for you, they're hill-billies and wouldn't appreciate a decent road.

**Mr. PREST:** Yes, but we all know that the member for Lockyer is a dill—and they vote for him.

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

**Mr. PREST:** I must say that the Minister has spent a little money in the Gladstone area this year. We are getting a couple of new bridges, but that is only touching the tip of the iceberg. The area has been sadly neglected by this National-Liberal Government for over 22 years.

*[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]*

**Mr. PREST:** Although we have the worst roads in Australia, the Minister seems content to sit back and allow the road toll to rise. It looks as though the road toll this year will be the worst in Queensland's history. Many reasons are advanced for this, but the Minister for Main Roads must, because of the condition of the roads, take some of the blame. We know that narrow and pot-holed roads, bad shoulders and what-have-you, as well as speeding and drink-driving, cause road deaths, but I am concerned about reports that one of the main causes of road deaths in this State seems to be collisions with power poles. I have asked questions on the subject of both the Minister for Mines and Energy and the Minister for Transport, but neither showed much interest in it.

To appreciate what I am saying, one has only to look at some of the headlines in the Press these days such as "Power poles are menace on the road" and "Highway hazards are real culprits". One article stated that it was cheaper to blame the victim of an accident than to remove the power pole. Another article stated that a survey done by Federal officers showed that one in 10 fatalities in the State this year were caused by collisions with power poles. I have here some photographs of cars that collided with power poles. As has been stated, it is cheaper to blame the people than to remedy the fault by removing the power poles.

In the very limited time I have left, I want to say to the Ministers concerned that with the great development taking place in Gladstone we will be looking for some

very positive action in the area in the coming State Budget, particularly in the field of education. The schools in Gladstone are inadequate to meet the needs of today, let alone the needs of the increased population that will follow the commencement of new construction work in a month or so. The problem will be very real in January 1980. Not only do we need schools; we need more accommodation. We need houses and more units for pensioners, unmarried mothers and lone fathers. This is what we want, and we will be looking for some very real financial assistance in the Budget.

The Gladstone Hospital has received approval to borrow \$1,000,000, but it has been pointed out to me that it faces the same problem as do local authorities, that is, the low interest rate that it is allowed to offer when borrowing money. There are no lenders available. Last year this Government made a big concession when it allowed statutory bodies to increase their rate of interest by .2 per cent. But it took the Gladstone Hospitals Board almost the whole of the financial year to raise \$50,000 just to have the plans drawn for the new surgical block, and now it has to borrow \$1,000,000 in order to start construction. They are finding it virtually impossible to do so, so the Government will have to come to the party and do something positive. The medical staff is doing a wonderful job, as are the nursing and domestic staffs, and they need the best possible facilities.

I have already mentioned education, and when these great construction projects begin we hope that employers will take on their full complement of apprentices. If they do that, the technical college that has been promised will have to be in operation by 1982. The Government will make money out of this development. It does not talk in thousands or millions today; it is talking in billions, and every time Government members talk about development they talk about the Gladstone/Calliope region. That is where the Government will get the money from, so that is where it has to spend money.

Last Wednesday, the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police refuted what the member for Nudgee said in his speech during the Matters of Public Interest debate, namely, that the State Electricity Commission gives directions to the electricity boards. I can assure the Minister that that is true. The State Electricity Commissioner at all times directs the boards throughout the State, especially when there is to be an increase in electricity tariffs or the appointment of a senior officer.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. GYGAR** (Stafford) (7.20 p.m.): In rising to speak in this debate, I am delighted again to reaffirm my loyalty and, I am sure, that of all my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen, as exemplified in this State by her representative, the Governor.

I should like to compliment Sir James Ramsay not only on the speech that he gave to this House in opening the Parliament, but also on the job that he is doing as Governor of Queensland. Sir James followed a very popular Governor who was literally idolised by many, many Queenslanders. Sir James is showing himself to be a great man in his own right, and one well suited to his high office.

I should also like to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his election to his high and exalted office. It is a great honour and one that has fallen to few members. I am sure that Mr. Speaker has the determination to carry out the duties and tasks that go with his office, and that he will be a very successful Speaker of this House.

I must also applaud the attitudes adopted by the previous Speaker, the Honourable James Houghton. He was one of the great Speakers. He appreciated the role that he had to play and he fearlessly and tenaciously played that role, regardless of personal consequences. I am sure all members have been saddened that Mr. Houghton has suffered from ill health of late years and would like to join with me in wishing him a long and happy retirement, which he so much deserves after a distinguished career not only as Speaker but also as a member of this House. We will all miss him.

My major purpose in this debate is to draw the attention of honourable members and the people of Queensland to the way in which the power of Parliament and our very system of government is being eroded. I think that we need to be constantly reminded that the decision-making process, the setting of policies, is the role of the Parliament, and that Parliament should only with great reluctance allow that role to pass from its hands.

The implementation of those policies clearly is the responsibility of the Executive, represented, as it is in this State, by the Cabinet. Parliament must be certain that the Executive carries out those functions. This system ensures accountability, for Parliament is directly accountable to the people and the Executive is directly accountable to Parliament.

It is unfortunate to note that we are rapidly approaching a position where those who govern will be answerable and accountable to no-one. This is not a new phenomenon. Power is passing out of the hands of this House and out of the hands of the Executive by virtue of regulations and statutory bodies. This trend will eventually make this Parliament quite powerless, and lead to a situation where the people's elected representatives will have no say at all in how this Government or this State is run. As I say, it is not a new phenomenon. It has been noted since prior to the Second World War. Perhaps it is summed up best in George Keaton's book "The Passing of Parliament", which was published in 1952.

Parliament and the Executive are losing control. I should like to examine two ways in which they are losing control and to suggest to this House methods by which we can fulfil our duties to the people of Queensland by being truly responsible and accountable for the acts of government taken in this State in the name of the people of Queensland. I refer firstly to regulations. At the moment it is undeniable that a strong case can be made that the community, and particularly business, is unnecessarily burdened by regulations in a vast number of ways.

The first burden is that no-one knows what the regulations are. If there are masochists amongst us who occasionally read the Government Gazette, they will see vast collections of meaningless gobbledegook saying, "To amend word four or five in such-and-such a paragraph". Often the effects of those amendments are devastating, but no-one who reads the document would understand that. And anyone who has to obey those regulations has to go through the long and onerous task of first finding where they were gazetted initially and then try to track down every amendment and put them all together to arrive at the rules that he is supposed to follow eventually. It is nearly impossible to do that. Therefore, the first thing that we must do is ensure that people can be aware of what regulations are. We must codify our regulations.

To find the current state of these regulations will, of course, be no easy task. Because regulations carry on ad infinitum as long as the Act under which they are passed continues, we would be forced to go back to the early days of this State, examine every Act and every regulation made under it, and see if they are still alive. I do not think that is an impossible task—a necessary one, and not impossible.

Although I must admit that in this State there have been many discussions and projections that one day we would have loose-leaf statutes, where people would be able to go immediately to a book and know what the laws of Queensland are, the last time we tried to put our statutes together, it took us 15 years. I do not think that the job is finished yet, although I noted that the Vagrants, Gaming, and Other Offences Act came out in a volume about two years ago, so perhaps they are finished. But it is not good enough.

This Government, or any Government, cannot expect people to obey laws and regulations that for all practical purposes are non-existent and unascertainable. There is a standing joke about laws being posted on the top of pillars by one of the Caesars. This Government—indeed, the Governments of most western democracies—are in no different position. The laws and regulations, particularly of this State, might as well be on top of a column in ancient Rome, because they would be just as accessible to the people there as they are now, buried in volumes of the Government Gazette.

These regulations, ascertainable or not, are costing us dearly, and I should like to quote to the House extracts from a recent study done by Eric White and Associates entitled "The Cost Impact on Private Business of Dealing with Government Regulatory Agencies", which was published earlier this year. After undertaking an extensive study of the impact of regulations, Eric White and Associates said—

"We have concluded from the study that industry believes—

(1) The Australian consumer is paying a very high price for the protection and other benefits afforded by government regulatory agencies;

(2) the cost is significantly greater than is necessary because of lack of co-ordination and duplication of demands on business;

(3) the cost of monitoring and complying with the information requirements of regulatory agencies is extraordinarily high and significant to the entire cost structure of Australian business;

(4) there is a great need for government, both Federal and State, to review the collection of data from companies to eliminate areas of duplication and waste and hopefully to reduce demands on the private sector;

(5) machinery should be established to permit increased government-business consultation on the cost implications, especially to the consumer, of regulatory agency requirements and on ways of streamlining their demands for information."

None of those findings, I think, is unreasonable.

Indeed, the Victorian Employers Federation have gone one step further. They have whole-heartedly endorsed those conclusions about cost and believe that a cost-benefit analysis should be undertaken on each and every regulation before it is introduced. In the "Employers' report", volume 9 No. 20, of 1 June 1979, the Victorian Employers' Federation published an article entitled "Cut Big Government Now", and proposed that an economic impact statement be brought forward by the Government on every regulation prior to introduction and that it should clearly show the costs of any action it wished to take, and, as a result, justify that action and cost to the community. The employees' report says—

"The time is now long overdue for the community to demand that the cost of any new regulation be balanced against its benefits to society."

That is not unreasonable. I doubt very much whether many members of this House receive and read the Government Gazettes on a regular basis, firstly because they would not have the time. These great mounds of paper churned out by Executive Government, usually about a quarter of an inch a week,

are beyond the comprehension of any one person. Once a person gets the Government Gazette, he cannot understand them, anyway, because, as I mentioned before, they delete words, add words, take out paragraphs and put in others, which means absolutely nothing to anyone who has not an extensive library of previous Government Gazettes to try to figure out what the heck they are referring to.

If we were to undertake this brave task and codify the regulations, I suggest that the first thing we would discover would be a large number that have outlived their usefulness—regulations passed many years ago to fit a transient situation that is no longer with us. These would fall by the wayside in any review, and that at least would certainly be worth the effort of codifying what is left.

The second thing we should look at is improving the process by which regulations are made. I think we can take a bit of a lead here from America where President Carter has gone on record as saying quite clearly that reform is necessary in his Government. Talking about regulations President Carter said that the draftsmen have "written regulations in the kind of gobbledegook that would employ a generation of law school graduates just to interpret them". As a result of that feeling President Carter issued a directive in 1978, No. 12044, on 23 March, 43 F.R. 12661, entitled "Improving Government Regulations", wherein he stated—

"As President of the United States of America, I direct each Executive Agency to adopt procedures to improve existing and future regulations.

"Section 1. Policy. Regulations shall be as simple and clear as possible. They shall achieve legislative goals effectively and efficiently. They shall not impose unnecessary burdens on the economy, on individuals, on public or private organizations, or on State and local governments.

"To achieve these objectives, regulations shall be developed through a process which ensures that:

(a) the need for and purposes of the regulation are clearly established;

(b) heads of agencies and policy officials exercise effective oversight;

(c) opportunity exists for early participation and comment by other Federal agencies, State and local governments, businesses, organizations and individual members of the public;

(d) meaningful alternatives are considered and analyzed before the regulation is issued; and

(e) compliance costs, paperwork and other burdens on the public are minimized."

If a Government could do just that, it would introduce a millennium so far as subordinate legislation was concerned. I doubt very much that Mr. Carter has made it work,

but it could and should be made to work here in Queensland, to show a way where regulations could be truly understandable and truly meaningful to the people.

The other point I should like to make is the need to eliminate useless regulations—regulations that were passed at times when they were needed, and which have now become just an unnecessary hindrance rather than the help they were intended to be. In this regard I propose that there should be introduced in all regulations a sunset clause, the like of which I will talk about with regard to statutory authorities. Basically this means that once the regulations have fulfilled their purpose, after a short time of, say, four or five years, unless renewed they cease to exist. This would at least have the one great virtue that every four or five years someone would have to look at them and put his name on the bottom of a piece of paper saying that they should continue. At last that would be a small measure of accountability at least. That is something that the system does not have now, and it is something from which all Queenslanders can benefit.

Secondly, I want to deal with statutory authorities and statutory bodies. I express quite clearly and without equivocation my total and complete opposition to any form of statutory authority, except in the most extreme circumstances. They are the curse of this system of government.

**Mr. Jones:** You did not vote against the Tourist and Travel Corporation when it was inaugurated in this House.

**Mr. GYGAR:** The honourable gentleman has noted that I did not vote against it. I am quite sure that in the coming years I will probably vote for more statutory authorities, because this Government and this system of government cannot cope with the changes that are required.

**Mr. Jones:** I am disappointed in you.

**Mr. GYGAR:** The honourable member is cackling away in the corner, as is his wont. He must have been watching his leader, who has become the expert in hopeless cackling. The honourable member's comment merely shows that he does not appreciate what I am talking about. If he tried to figure out what was going on and looked at our system of government, a little bit of light might shine through the mists that obviously infest the region between his ears.

In 1977 the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Government Operations examined statutory authorities. It issued a report entitled "Statutory Authorities of the Commonwealth". When that committee looked at these bodies, which are basically outside the control of Parliament and, in many cases, outside the control of the Executive, it found from the Public Service Board's Compendium of Australian Public Service information that there was a list of 120 such groups; in the Commonwealth Directory it

found 198; and on inquiry it found 241. At least 43 of those nebulous little bodies operate out in the nether regions without anybody even knowing about them. Yet these groups were making the laws and regulations that govern the way people will lead their lives. I regret having to say that the Queensland situation is not any better.

When the Commonwealth committee examined statutory bodies it determined that it would define a statutory authority as—

“A body or organisation, corporate or unincorporated, constituted by or pursuant to powers conferred by Act of Parliament, whose functions and authority are derived wholly or principally from Acts of Parliament or from subordinate legislation made under them.”

That is a fairly embracing definition.

On 21 March this year, I asked the Premier for a list of all statutory authorities in Queensland. In answer to the question the Premier gave his definition as—

“Those bodies other than Government departments that have been created by statute and have corporate identity.”

To those who know what corporate or unincorporated status means, that is obviously a far narrower definition. Unfortunately, we found that in Queensland, even within that definition, there were 502 statutory authorities. The Premier's list excluded the 134 local authorities. If one were to broaden the definition, there would be even more. In only three days of reading the newspapers I have discovered six others.

**Dr. Lockwood:** What? Not on the list?

**Mr. GYGAR:** They were not on the list. However, admittedly, the Premier's definition was much narrower than the previous one to which I referred. That number included advisory commissions under the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, the Boards of Advanced Education, Secondary School Education, Teacher Education, and Adult Education, a body known as the Aviation Advisory Council, to which the Minister for Health referred in answer to a question, the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board, the Queensland Racing Advisory Committee and others.

Quite obviously, there are a lot more than 502 statutory authorities kicking around in Queensland. I venture to suggest that there must be nearly a thousand, all exercising executive authority in this State out of the control of this Parliament and unfortunately largely out of the control of the Executive Government. Of the 502 listed by the Premier, 188 are not required to give an annual report either to the Minister or to the department; five have accounts that are not audited by the Auditor-General; only 37 report to Parliament; and 117 do not report to the Minister, to the department or to the Parliament. In other words, 117 of them are totally beyond control. These are not minor boards. Some of these non-reporting

boards exercise great authority. For example, they include the Sugar Board, the Wheat Board, the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing and 20 water boards.

Obviously water is an important resource in the State. It must be because we have 19 river improvement trusts, 20 water boards, 59 bore-water supply boards and six drainage boards. None of the water boards, bore-water supply boards or drainage boards are required to report or give audited accounts to the Minister, to the department or to the Parliament. Their only control is that they are audited by the Auditor-General.

In view of those facts I defy anyone to say that this House or the Executive Government really runs this State. I say that because we have 117 boards exercising the enormous power that they do, which are not responsible to anybody except themselves.

**An Honourable Member:** They get elected.

**Mr. GYGAR:** The honourable member said that they get elected. Some of them do; many of them do not.

The only exercise of power over these boards in many instances is that the Minister appoints the members of the boards from a panel supplied to him by a local authority, producer council or similar type of body. But once they are appointed, what do they do? It is not good enough to say that if they are not doing their job we will not put them back. We know in this House the trauma that we go through when any Minister tries to sack anybody. It happened with the city council sackings. We just don't sack them. Ministers will not do it. These boards must surely know that. They know that they do not have to report to the Minister and that the Minister will not sack them. All they have to do is not fiddle the books so that the Auditor-General does not jump on them. They can do whatever they like. And we call it democracy!

Something must be done about them. A report of the Senate committee at least gives us a bit of a lead. It made four recommendations about statutory authorities. The first recommendation was that an annual, comprehensive list of statutory authorities should be published. I doubt very much whether many people in Queensland in the normal body of the population would laugh themselves silly if the Government said, “We want an annual, comprehensive list of statutory authorities.” Most people, I believe, would reasonably assume that we know what they are doing, how many there are and what they are up to. But we do not. The Federal Government missed out on 120 of them and we missed out on about 400 of them. That, at least, is the basic minimum that should occur regarding these groups. How else can they be subjected to the scrutiny of Parliament that, theoretically, they are supposed to accept?

Secondly, the committee recommended that all such authorities should be subject to uniform reporting procedures. What are these reporting procedures that are recommended? They are not unreasonable demands. The committee just wanted them to say things like, "The Minister, through whom the authority reports to Parliament . . ." That, perhaps, is the first stepping-stone or stumbling block in this whole matter because most of them do not report to Parliament—only 37 in Queensland out of over 500.

The committee recommended that Parliament should be advised of the members of the authority and the terms of their appointment; the statutory powers, including the power of direction which the Minister has over the authority, and details of the exercise of any powers; and the statutory functions and services of the authority. It gets more and more ludicrous to think that this Parliament, which is supposed to run the State, if it wants to control what is going on, will have to ask for a list of what is out there doing the job that we and the Executive are supposed to do—not only asking them who they are but what the heck they are supposed to be up to. It gets worse and worse.

The third recommendation was that all of the authorities should be subject to audit by the Auditor-General. Frankly, when I saw that they were not, I was absolutely staggered. Statutory authorities set up by the authority of this Parliament which are going their merry way spending public funds, derived either directly from Consolidated Revenue, or through sums that they are able to seize by imposts on normal citizens, are not having their books audited by the Auditor-General of this State. Despite the many disputes that have arisen during the last 12 months over the exact role of the Auditor-General and who controls him, the Auditor-General is in theory supposed to be the man who at Parliament's behest ensures that the public revenue is properly expended. Yet there are bodies that are spending public funds and are able to slam the door on the Auditor-General if he tries to ask them what they are doing.

**Mr. Row:** Are you suggesting that all these boards are incompetent?

**Mr. GYGAR:** No, I am not making any suggestion that they are incompetent. There are so many of them that, even if a small percentage were incompetent, we would probably hear the explosion from here.

**Mr. Goleby:** Where do their operating funds come from?

**Mr. GYGAR:** I will give some examples later. Most of them come from Consolidated Revenue or from levies or imposts placed on sectional groups by virtue of the legislation that sets them up.

**Mr. Goleby:** They are financed by primary producers in their area.

**Mr. GYGAR:** The honourable gentleman seems to mistake what I am talking about. Primary-producer boards and marketing authorities are not the only statutory bodies. There are a whole lot of different ones. Very few of them come under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act. There are harbour boards, beach protection authorities, the Queensland Radium Institute, the Legal Assistance Committee, boards of advanced education, library boards, the State Electricity Commission, the Brisbane Forest Park Administration Authority, the Miners' Pensions Tribunal, the Queensland Commercial Pig Producers' State Council (that is under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act) and the Queensland Trotting Board. That board is a classic. The Auditor-General does not get a look at its operations. All it is required to do is furnish annual reports to the Minister.

Primary production is not the only area of activity. Everything is covered. In every field, power is passing out of the hands of Ministers and out of the hands of this Parliament. If anyone needs proof of that, he need only look at the Premier's answer to my question. The easiest way that departmental officers could find to supply the answer was to consolidate the list under departmental headings. Frankly, I see no department that does not have underneath it the names of statutory authorities. This is a whole new way of governing the State—a way unfortunately invented in the 1920s and 1930s to make life easier for Parliaments and for the Executive.

I would suggest that if anybody wants an easy life he should not come to Parliament and he certainly should not get into the Executive. A member of Parliament has a job to do, and either he does it or he gets out. He does not give it off to some outside body so that when things go wrong he can wash his hands of it and say, "It was not our fault. We didn't do it. It was that dreadful board."

Accountability is essential. If we are not accountable to the people for the acts of Government, then who is? Unfortunately the answer to that is, "Nobody." That is the reason why many boards were set up.

The fourth recommendation of the Senate committee is that sunset legislation be introduced to ensure that no authority continues to operate after the reason for its existence has disappeared. They are basic requirements that it is surely not beyond the power of this Parliament to introduce. We have to bring these bodies under control. If we do not do so, we are betraying the trust that the people have placed in us. They have put us here to govern and, if we are not willing to accept the responsibility for governing, for making decisions, and for the accountability that goes with them, we should all pack up and go home.

**Mr. Kruger:** That sounds like a Jim Killen speech.

**Mr. GYGAR:** I take that as a compliment from the honourable member.

Let us move now into the next question of sunset legislation, a concept that we hear bounced around from pillar to post but very rarely explained. Basically, sunset legislation requires that when an Act or regulation is brought into being either by Parliament or by the Executive through the Government Gazette, a limitation is placed on it. In other words, it is prescribed that it will come to an end after a stated period. Some positive action is required to keep it alive and, if no action is taken and no positive decision is made to have it continue, it fades out. It ceases and has no more effect on the people. This policy has been tried and proved all over the world. In the United States, over 26 States have now instituted sunset legislation to try to keep some measure of control over statutory authorities that have been created and have tended to go wild.

Many interesting examples of this type of thing have been discovered. The States of America have instituted a proceeding whereby every four or five years, dependent upon the State, a certain percentage of these boards are subjected to review by committees of the legislature. They are examined to see if they are fulfilling their purpose. Their roles and methods of operation are subjected to scrutiny, and if they do not make the grade they cease to exist. Some examples of these, for example, were discovered in Colorado where, under their sunset legislation, 13 agencies were reviewed in 1977. Three agencies were terminated, and these were real classics: the Board of Professional Sanitarians, the Board of Shorthand Reporters, and the State Athletic Commission. To cut down on the bureaucracy, the Parliament there decided to consolidate the Board of Barber Examiners and the Board of Cosmetologists.

There are probably some of these interesting little bodies floating around in this State. What are the dangers inherent in them? What is the problem that arises out of them? I will choose one example to illustrate the sort of control, or lack of it, that this Parliament, and possibly the Executive, exercises, and I hope that I do not get many letters from people who live in areas associated with them. In reading the Estimates for last year I observed that the Rabbit Control Fund was to be provided with \$462,000 from Consolidated Revenue for its operations in the 1978-79 financial year. I wondered what was the function of the Rabbit Control Fund and what stood behind this \$462,000. It was a one-line entry; there was no accountability, nothing else.

The Rabbit Control Fund was instituted by—surprise, surprise!—the Rabbit Act, which establishes two of these bodies, the Rabbit Control Authority and the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board. The Rabbit Control Authority has a public servant

as its chairman, and two ministerial appointees. It has the power to employ, to buy, to sell, and to set up the mechanism whereby rates are levied against primary producers and landholders in their area for the destruction and eradication of rabbits. There is in the Act absolutely no requirement to report regularly to the Minister or to the Parliament. Yet here is a body funded from Consolidated Revenue, employing people, buying and selling property—with the taxpayers' money, it should be noted—and advising on whether rates should be levied against the citizens of Queensland, but which is not required to report and have its activities scrutinised. I say to the Rabbit Control Authority that I have no particular axe to grind against them. It is just that they are an example of the sort of body that now exists.

The Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board consists of six persons. The Lands Commissioner is the chairman and there are five ministerial appointees. The Rabbit Control Fund is at least audited by the Auditor-General, and that is an advance, but should we really expect anything less when \$462,000 of the taxpayers' funds are being expended by them and when they are putting down rates to be levied against the people of this State? The power to levy and control taxes was what brought Parliament into existence in the first place. It was a fight over taxation that led to the American revolution—no taxation without representation—yet here, for all intents and purposes, is a taxing body that is totally outside the control of this Parliament. I would suggest, quite frankly, that probably no more than half a dozen members representing the districts in which it operates are even aware of its existence. Rabbits are visible. People can see them and probably understand them. But how many boards that deal with non-visible things are there around the place? What are they doing and how are they controlled?

I repeat that my major concern is accountability and responsibility. Someone has to be answerable for everything. If someone is not answerable, we are not a democracy. Somewhere, some way, people have to control these groups. The standard procedure that we accept under our theory is that the Executive implements laws and is answerable to the Parliament, and the Parliament is directly answerable to the people. Frankly, that system is breaking down not only here but everywhere else. A proliferation of statutory authorities and gobbledegook regulations is removing all accountability and answerability from everyone.

Surely it is a fairly basic point. If the people have entrusted us with the task of running this State, they should have the right to expect that they can come to us and ask, "What are you going to do to change it?" It is not good enough for members of this Parliament, either directly or indirectly because of the Ministers being out of the act, to say to them, "We can't control it;

we have no power." I think that it should be the greatest shame of all for a Minister to stand up in this House and say to any member that he appreciated the problems but regretted that he had no power over the board or authority that was implementing the decision that was disputed. If Cabinet has no power, the people have no power, and what sort of government is that?

**Mr. Jones:** You did not exercise your power when the statutory body was set up for the tourist commission. You did not vote against it.

**Mr. GYGAR:** The honourable gentleman is throwing out garbage yet again. If he thinks that the point of honour in this Parliament is the number of occasions on which one votes against the party line, I would suggest to him that he is sitting with the most dishonourable group of all. When did a member of the Labor Party last vote against the party line? It was in 1957 when Vince Gair, the last man of courage in the Labor Party, bucked the Trades Hall and stood up for what he thought was right.

**Mr. Porter:** He is Mr. Jones's hero.

**Mr. GYGAR:** I doubt very much whether he is. The man who had the courage to stand up is commonly reviled now as a scab and all the rest by the members of the Labor Party. The honourable gentleman merely seeks to dodge the issue. If he were part of the Government, what would he do about it? I ask him to answer that. He would do nothing. He should read the policies of the Australian Labor Party.

I do not think that this Government or any Government has a great deal to be proud of over statutory authorities, but the position would be even worse with the policies to be implemented by the Leader of the Opposition and his cackling cohorts over there. The Labor Party proposes to set up more than 70 new boards, authorities, committees and inquiries in addition to the ones about which I am speaking. Suddenly Opposition members are agitated. For 35 minutes they sat there nodding their heads and saying "Yes, that is right", and all the rest, but they intend to act in an entirely different way.

It is a problem and it will not be solved in the life of this Parliament or that of the next Parliament. I doubt very much whether it will be solved in the life of this generation of politicians, because to solve it we would probably need to take a whole new look at the system of government that we implement. We need to recognise first and foremost that we are accountable and answerable for our actions. Until we do that, we cannot complain if people look down on Parliament as being a toothless tiger and a house of hot air. It must have the power to act, to scrutinise and to criticise. It does not have that power over statutory authorities at the present time. Until it does, we

will have no answer for the people who complain that Parliament does not act in their interests and is in need of drastic reform.

**Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) (8 p.m.):** First, I join with other honourable members in complimenting and congratulating the new Speaker (Hon. Selwyn Muller) on his election to that very high office, and also put on record my appreciation of the very fine service given to this Assembly by his predecessor (Hon. Jim Houghton).

In speaking to the Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech, in which he outlined so well the growth and prosperity of this State, I should like to say what a fine Governor we have in Sir James Ramsay, who is ably assisted by his wife, Lady Ramsay. They have endeared themselves to the people of Queensland, and no matter to which part of the State they travel, they always take a very sincere interest in the development of the State and in the people who live in it.

On behalf of the electors of Redlands, and also on my own behalf, I again pledge loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth. It is pleasing to note that Her Majesty will again be visiting Australia before very long.

We refer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to our loyalty to our sovereign, to the nation, and to the State, and I am pleased that the Government of Queensland has embarked on a programme of distributing the Queensland flag to various youth organisations over the length and breadth of the State. It is very encouraging to note the response from these organisations, which are eager to receive a Queensland flag. I suggest that we, as a Government, broaden our guide-lines for the distribution of these flags, because many organisations that fall just outside the guide-lines that have been laid down are very anxious to have a Queensland flag and proudly fly it over their headquarters.

Australia is a great nation, and Queensland is the greatest State within the nation. It is the most decentralised State in the Commonwealth. As we look at the coastline and inland areas of the State, we see major towns and cities throughout those areas. That decentralisation has gone a long way towards giving Queensland the diversity that it has and also a spread of population and industry throughout the State.

**Mr. Frawley:** I would like to mention one thing. We have the weakest Opposition in Australia.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** We have the weakest Opposition in Australia. That is because we have the strongest Government in Australia.

Queensland's economic future is assured. Thanks to good Government and the free-enterprise system, we can proudly say that

Queensland is a State that is on the march. Let us look at some of the figures. Queensland has only 14 per cent of the nation's population, but it produces 25 per cent of Australia's wealth and has a trading surplus of almost \$2,000 million. If we compare that with our southern neighbours, particularly the State just across the southern border, we find that that State has a deficit of almost \$2,000 million. What a difference it makes to have a free-enterprise Government that is prepared to encourage industry and the development of natural resources, instead of a Government that is doing everything possible to hinder development, particularly in many of the mining fields. Australia's deficit would be far worse but for Western Australia and Queensland.

The sound policies that have been adopted by National-Liberal Governments since they were first elected to office 22 years ago have brought about this development. Let us look at the changes that have taken place in recent years. Let us look, for example, at the tax situation. Death and gift duties have been abolished; road tax and road permit fees have been abolished; workers' compensation, another form of tax by way of insurance, has been reduced by 10 per cent each year for the last two years. It is also very interesting to note that in most fields workers' compensation premiums in this State are less than half those in New South Wales. The registration fee for private motor vehicles in this State is only 60 per cent of that in New South Wales. The major payroll tax reductions that have occurred in this State—and I hope that they are going to continue—lead Australia in this field of tax concessions.

This Government, over the last 22 years of sound management, has been responsible for making Queensland the great State it is. When it took office in 1957 Queensland was looked upon across the nation as the "Cinderella" State—the State that had no industry, very little population, no incentive and naturally no development. The development of our natural resources has been the major factor in Queensland's prosperity. While giving encouragement to our vast primary industries, let us look at our grain industry, the beef industry, the sugar industry, and the dairy industry, which has now been restructured so that the dairymen of this State will at least have equity, something which their counterparts in other States have not got.

Let us turn to one of the newer industries, the broiler industry. It is one of the most efficient food-producing industries of the nation. I am very proud to say that the industry in this State is in a very fine position as a result of the legislation brought down by this Government. That legislation has given the processors a stabilised industry and the growers an equitable return for their labours. It is interesting to note that the conversion rate in the poultry and broiler

industries is second to none in food production. Most of the meat chickens that are purchased from supermarkets today are only 48 to 49 days old. That gives some indication of the efficiency of the industry and the conversion rate of grain, which is so essential to the industry. What is more, it is a high protein food.

Let us look at the employment and population growth in this State. Queensland is progressing faster than any other State not only in employment but also in development. No doubt this has been brought about by this Government's tax reform. This tax reform has brought an influx of settlers from southern States. If our population had remained static over the last four years, there would be no unemployment problem in this State. There would be so many job vacancies it would be an embarrassment. The increased numbers from southern States have far outweighed the extent of unemployment we have here. That only goes to show that undoubtedly this State has a degree of prosperity that none of the other States can speak of. South Australia is the only State that is losing population and increasing its unemployment. This is the result of the socialist Government in that State.

Let us look at our mining industry. It is all very well to be rather flippant about our prosperity, but when we look at our coal-mining industry and the tremendous development that has occurred in that field, we realise how fortunate Queensland is to have sufficient of this energy source to last many centuries at the present rate of use. Experts in this field have told us that at the rate at which coal is being extracted by the open-cut methods at the Bowen and Galilee basins there is sufficient coal to maintain our export markets for between 600 and 700 years. It is an enormous field of tremendous importance not only to the revenue of the State but to employment. We have that enormous field at Mt. Isa. Just recently we heard about the prosperity of that company. Out there in the North-west we have a large city providing employment for many thousands of people.

One of the lesser mining industries we have not heard so much about in recent years is the sand-mining industry. I am very happy to say that in my electorate we have the largest sand-mining enterprise in Australia. I give full credit to the sand miners. Those people have been criticised for many years for their endeavours in this industry. In the initial stages perhaps there were reasons for concern. That was before rehabilitation conditions were applied. The rehabilitation that has taken place on Stradbroke Island is a credit to those concerned. Those of us who made an extensive visit and inspection of the mining areas on that island just recently were most impressed. The rehabilitation of the dunes and the coastal areas is a credit to the sand miners. The only area that has not been mined, the area just south of Point Lookout, is a wind-swept

erosion area. The mining areas between there and Swan Bay look like a grazing paddock. They are green and fully restored. The spinifex grass that has been planted along the dunes has assured the stabilization of the sands in what was previously a badly eroded area.

Queensland, with its mineral wealth, only needs to find a substantial flow of oil for it to be named the "Texas of Australia". The gas-fields are being developed and will, I am sure, become a very important source of energy for industry and motorists.

I would like to think that this Government gives every encouragement to the setting up of drilling operations on prospective gas-fields and to their exploitation. Many southern States have adequate supplies of natural gas. On the other hand, Queensland has been forced to import quite a considerable quantity. However, it is interesting to note that the Surat Basin, in which drilling is presently taking place, gives every indication of providing a major gas flow.

The electorate that I represent is one of the fastest-developing electorates in Australia. Its boundaries are the same as the shire. I understand that this is the first time that this has happened in any electorate in Queensland. Since 1961 the population has grown from 5,000 to 36,000. Last year this prime area, which is a fast-growing residential area, recorded the construction of 1,228 new homes. The development that is taking place and the high standard of homes erected are a credit to those concerned. It is a shame that other areas have not adopted a policy of ensuring that premier residential areas have erected in them homes of high standard.

Tourism is a most important commodity not only to my electorate but also to the State. The new Tourist and Travel Corporation must develop our tourist industry, taking advantage of its unlimited potential. Tourism is a world-wide industry—it is the world's major industry. There is no reason why it cannot be at the top of the list of major industries in this State, which has wonderful tourist attractions.

In many areas of Queensland, tourism is completely untapped. When we think of tourism, we think not only of the coastal resorts and beauty spots but also of the natural resources and beauty spots that lie far inland. Queensland is a vast State, and every encouragement must be given to develop those areas.

Very often today we hear people claim that to attract tourists we must have poker machines and other things. I am sure that the majority of tourists are not at all interested in the introduction of poker machines into Queensland.

It is interesting to note that in eight days' time it will be 23 years since the legalisation of poker machines in New South Wales. There is no doubt that they have been responsible for many changes in that State.

The social and economic implications of poker machines are enormous. If spoken and written words of condemnation counted for anything, the poker machines would long ago have been wiped out. For years, through the media, concerned people, churches, social workers, reformists, psychiatrists, business groups and many others have been attacking this form of entertainment with great fervour. Even most people who play the poker machines severely criticise them. However, this magic money machine certainly has a lot going for it.

In New South Wales, for the 12 months ended 30 June 1978, a total of \$5,200 million was put through the poker machines in the clubs. In other words, on each of the 365 days of the year, \$12,000,000 went into the poker machines. On a per capita basis it means that \$853 a year was put into the poker machines by the 5,000,000 people living in New South Wales. That is hard to believe, until it is realised that it is physically possible to put \$90 through a 20c machine in just one hour.

I shall cite some further facts concerning poker machines. The most disturbing aspect is that the money invested in these machines adheres to criminals' fingers on the basis of \$30,000,000 lost in taxes. The criminal rake-off must be at least \$200,000,000 a year, plus the \$30,000,000 in unpaid taxes. Yet our A.L.P. colleagues are advocating the introduction of poker machines in Queensland.

As I said earlier, last year \$5,200 million went through the poker machines in New South Wales. That is \$1,892 million more than the amount spent on Australia's defence in the same period, \$1,670.4 million more than was spent on the nation's health, more than 8½ times the amount spent on housing and nearly \$2,000 million more than the Commonwealth spent on education. That is the type of money going through the clubs in New South Wales. It is even more disturbing to note that many of these clubs—and I would not deprive any club of adequate facilities—are branching out into other fields and robbing industry and private enterprise in the restaurant field, particularly in country towns of New South Wales. I strongly dissociate myself from their introduction to Queensland.

Poker machines make it far easier to gamble than lotteries because they speed up gambling and call for lower, piecemeal investment so that the victim scarcely realises how much he is losing until all his money is gone. I certainly hope that poker machines do not become part of the tourist industry in Queensland.

Transport, with its high fuel costs today, is becoming most important, particularly in the urban areas, where the motor car is used so extensively. It is obvious that a tremendous burden will be placed on the public transport system. As I said earlier, my electorate is developing rapidly. A major

transport link, providing a fast efficient service into this and other similar areas in the State, is most important. I look forward to the re-laying of the rail link to Cleveland. I am very pleased to think that, following my efforts in this regard and the co-operation I have received from the Redland Shire Council, construction of the link may commence this year.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. GOLEBY:** Opposition members will get a great surprise because the scheme will be started this year. It will give people in my area, particularly those living between Thornside and Cleveland, an adequate direct transport link to Brisbane.

On the south side of Brisbane a major Empire Games complex is being constructed. The new roads being built to my electorate will provide ready road access. Future planning must proceed. I urge the authorities, the Main Roads Department in particular, to provide for the widening of roads and new road accesses. When resumptions are necessary, they should be indicated and taken up immediately. It is not fair to put a planning blight on landholders for about 10 to 20 years. In some instances the Main Roads Department has indicated that it will require certain land but it is not prepared to resume the land until it is required for road purposes. Properties have been seriously devalued and it is very difficult for the landholders to effect a sale. If the Main Roads Department were to acquire the land immediately, it would do so at a much cheaper rate and the landholders would not have a planning blight hanging over their properties for a long time.

Water transport and boating in my electorate are very important. The people of Stradbroke Island rely on ferry services. I hope that every effort is made to investigate more fully the need for road access to Stradbroke Island by way of bridge links. The transport charge by barge to this tourist resort has now increased to \$20. With envisaged fuel prices increases in the very near future, the cost will increase even further. As I said earlier, boating and water transport are most important in my electorate because of its seven inhabited islands. In the group of islands in the southern part of Moreton Bay, we have Russell Island, Karragarra Island, Macleay Island and Lamb Island.

In this area the costs of water transport, which is the only mode of access to the mainland, have risen rapidly over recent months. At the present time the return cost of traversing the short distance across the channel is \$4. That is a high cost for a working man who travels to the mainland each day. I would like to think that through the Minister for Transport and the Treasurer it will be possible to assist the transport operator at this time, because before long, if these costs continue to rise in this way no-one will be able to afford to commute from the islands to the mainland for work each day.

It is also very interesting to note that unemployment benefits are not paid to those who live on these islands. I am not against that. No-one wants to create a paradise or a haven for someone to live in whilst collecting unemployment benefits. If travelling expenses continue to rise as they have been rising, family people, and many of those who have moved up from New South Wales and Victoria to settle in our fine climate on one of Australia's finest waterways are family people, will be forced to leave and seek employment and accommodation elsewhere.

A new commuter terminal is almost completed at Redland Bay at Weenan Creek. This commuter terminal will give to the island people and the boating fraternity of South-east Queensland a very fine, sheltered waterway with launching and mooring facilities, particularly for those who enjoy travelling down to Jumpinpin and the waterways of that area. By launching their boats and departing from this particular boat haven, they are in protected waters all the way to Jumpinpin.

The need for protection and development of our fishing industry is also of major importance not only to the electorate which I represent but also to the industry in Queensland. The fishing industry has vast resources that are virtually untapped. Unfortunately, many of the areas are being tapped only by foreign vessels, not vessels owned by Queenslanders and Australians. I urge the new Minister in this portfolio to give consideration to those fishing areas that lie only a short distance off our coast and assistance for the fishing industry and many private fishermen who have pioneered the industry in Queensland. They do not have the resources to exploit what is virtually an untapped and unknown field. It needs encouragement from a Government such as ours to make it possible for this area to be explored. I hope that the Minister will use the resources of his department to facilitate exploitation.

I return once more to the subject of transport. The road carnage has been mentioned in the House earlier today. It is a subject that is uppermost in members' minds. In recent months the toll has increased dramatically, for no apparent reason. In one year there will be a high figure and in another year it will be somewhat lower. However, it appears that deaths on Queensland roads this year will reach an all-time high. Every effort must be made to curb such an unnecessary waste of human life. Whether the answer lies in strict measures to be taken by the Police Department or new initiatives by the Government, I believe that strict controls will have to be placed on those who drive under the influence of alcohol. The introduction of low-alcohol beer into this State may be a step in the right direction. I certainly hope that this Government will do everything in its power to further develop that trend in an effort to reduce the road carnage.

Mr. SCOTT (Cook) (8.25 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I enter this Address-in-Reply debate on an allotted day. I offer to the Governor of Queensland the loyalty of the people of the Cook electorate, and I am not just following custom in saying that. Many speakers today have congratulated our new Speaker on his election to that position, and I also offer him my congratulations. I know the difficult job that he has to do. It was shown on the occasion when he first occupied the chair. He seemed to be totally mesmerised by the presence of the Premier, and this worried us greatly. I know that on reflection, and after he gets used to sitting in that chair as he has done in recent weeks, he will be a fair Speaker. I do not really think that in recent times the person who has occupied that position has been completely fair. It seems to me that that is a tradition that has been built up. It is attributable largely to the polarisation that has been imposed on this State by the actions of our Premier. I think it is a shame that in his political life one man should have made a crusade of dividing this State totally and completely, but that is exactly what the Premier has done.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Woodward on his elevation to the position of Clerk of the Parliament. Here again I am well aware of the difficulties that a relatively young person faces in the position. The whole weight of the traditions of this House, this institution of Queensland government, this Queensland Parliament, rests in the hands of those two people; chiefly the Speaker, as we all know, who is aided and assisted in every material way by the Clerk and the Clerk-Assistants. Unfortunately, we have seen these people denigrated in this House by the Premier. I think there is no worse employer than one who runs down the employees who work for him, and that was the situation that developed in this House last year. It was a deplorable state of affairs.

The divisiveness that has been allowed to develop in this State is epitomised by this iniquitous little document that I have here, the Essential Services Bill. These things are important to the electors of Cook, the people on whose behalf I am expressing loyalty to the Governor here tonight, because they would like nothing more than the disappearance of this divisiveness. I believe they are reasonably happy with their representation in this Parliament. They vote for the Labor Party, and they are very happy with its performance. They are not happy with the performance of this Government, and that will become even more evident at the next election. There is no doubt about that.

If ever a Bill was brought before this House on immoral and dishonest grounds, it is the Essential Services Bill. It will never work in Queensland. However, I believe attempts will be made to make it work. They will have to be made because it has passed its first reading and this Government now finds itself in a cleft stick. If it leaves the

Bill lie on the table, it will be thrown up at it on every possible occasion, and with great justification. It is shocking legislation. I do not think the Government really wants to take it any further along the road to making it the law of this State, but it will find that it is forced to do so.

The Government will do this in an attempt to have itself re-elected. It is well known that that is the only reason for the introduction of the Bill. It was not introduced in an attempt to bring about industrial peace and harmony. We have our fair share of that. The people of Queensland do not complain about industrial disharmony in this State. However, they do complain about the divisiveness that is being imposed on us. The Bill was introduced solely for electoral purposes. I am only quoting conventional wisdom when I say this—it is not original thinking on my part—but I am very happy to have the opportunity to stand up here and talk about it because the Government will rue the day it ever introduced this Bill. It cannot work. I note that the operation of the Act is defined as follows—

“This Act shall be read as one with the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1976 but where any provision of this Act is inconsistent with any provision of that Act or of an award or industrial agreement the provision of this Act shall prevail . . .”

Of course, that is what it is designed to do. I note that the interpretation clause reads—

“‘essential service’ means . . . any other service or facility, being one concerned with public health or a public utility, or any activity on which such a service or facility depends for its maintenance or operation . . .”

How is the Government going to define that in practical industrial terms? Of course, it will not be able to do so.

Then there is the section dealing with a proclamation of emergency and the powers of the Minister named in the proclamation. There is a little matter about costs, which I am sure will interest the people of this State. That section reads—

“If the Minister of the Crown referred to in subsection (1) or his delegate or any person acting under his direction or authority incurs any expense in or in connexion with the provision, operation or maintenance of the essential service in respect of which the Minister of the Crown is named in a Proclamation pursuant to section 5 (3), such expense shall be deemed to have been incurred for the benefit of the person who ordinarily provides, operates or maintains that essential service and the amount of such expense may be recovered . . .”

Of course, it will be recovered. That shows the divisiveness and the cost that this State faces as a result of the legislation.

I was rather taken with an extract from a recently published book entitled "More Unspeakable Adams" by Phillip Adams. It is a satire. He wants to give an award to the first larriking. He talks of Oscars, Sammies, Awgies, Logies, Tonies and Nigels—too many statuettes chasing too little talent. He has thought of a beauty—the Terries, the award to be presented to the political terrorist of the year. I know that honourable members can guess who that will be, but before they do I will tell them. It is to be awarded to our Premier. Phillip Adams states—

"The Terry for this year will undoubtedly come to Australia, home to the most successful political desperado of the decade who, having blown holes in the Constitution and hijacked Parliament House, is now showing his tender mercies to those unfortunate enough to be Aborigines or to have cancer."

Of course that was written at about the time of the Milan Brych episode. He continues—

"Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the lethal Lutheran, the creature from the black billabong—the Premier of Queensland. . . . Australia's smallest, noisiest and most irresponsible minority (one man with a handful of neanderthal henchmen) has kidnapped an entire state."

It is great stuff. One would think that it is extravagant or outrageous, but it is not; it is true. Mr. Adams concludes that the Premier is odds-on favourite to win the Terry, because a depressing number of Queenslanders seem to want Petersen or someone even worse. Rather prescient, I thought, picking on the Honourable the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads like that. It was done quite a long time ago. Continuing, Mr. Adams wrote that in a world of complexity and confusion, they want idiot-simple answers instead of debate. But that refers to a minority of the people in Queensland.

One of the things that we have had imposed on us this year is a shocking Federal Budget. There was a breathing space in Australia for the first few days after it was brought down, until people were able to gauge its full impact, until those who did an assessment of the devilry that was contained in it were able to interpret it properly and let us know just how people in Australia will suffer, and how retrograde a Budget it was. Because I know that the people in Queensland have felt and will feel its impact, I am not going to analyse it in any great depth. They do not like it at all, and that will be reflected in the voting at the next Federal election.

I want to comment on some aspects of the Budget. First, I want to say how dishonest the Queensland Government has been in trying to make out that it wants the Federal Government to reduce taxes. Australians know or should know that it is well within the power of the Queensland

Government to reduce taxes as much as it wants to. It will have all the scope possible to do that in the Budget that it will bring down on Thursday week.

Certain moves have already been made, and the State has suffered as a result of the Government's not having sufficient revenue on which to operate. People in my electorate have suffered because the Government has not had enough money to do the things that are needed. We have heard member after member on the Government side stand up in this Chamber and say that services are sadly lacking in their electorates. The honourable member for Barron River spoke about the poor state of roads in his electorate, and later I shall go into some detail about the roads in my electorate. Honourable members opposite want the services, but they are going through the motions of cutting taxes.

Under personal income tax sharing arrangements with the States, which is Fraser federalism, there is all possible scope for the Government to cut personal income tax. Why has the Premier been blatantly dishonest, in campaigning both in Gympie and in Redcliffe, in saying that he wants someone else to cut taxes? We know that this is the popular theme in America. It is the great thing over there to get on the tax bandwagon, and "The Australian" newspaper attempted to do the same thing with its "Join the tax revolt" slogan. What about the drop in services, the drop in things that people in the State need and deserve?

Under stage 2 of the personal income tax sharing arrangements with the States—I quote from "Payments to or for the States 1979-80", Federal Budget paper No. 7—the stage 1 arrangements continue but, in addition, each State has the right at its discretion to increase or reduce the personal income tax levied on residents of the State. Any additional income taxes so levied would be collected by the Commonwealth on behalf of the State or States concerned. Any rebate of tax in a State would be at the State's expense. Relevant Commonwealth legislation—the Income Tax (Arrangements with the States) Act of 1978—received Royal Assent in June 1978. To date, no State has passed the necessary enabling State legislation. Why not? I charge the Premier and the Treasurer of this State with total dishonesty in not doing what they said they were going to do, in not reducing taxes—because that is what they promised. That is not necessarily the way in which I see that things should be done, but it is the way in which honourable members opposite see it. If they had the courage of their convictions, if they had intestinal fortitude, they could do just that.

Under stage 2, each State will be able to legislate to impose a surcharge on personal income tax in the State additional to that imposed by the Commonwealth, or to give

a rebate on personal income tax payable under Commonwealth law, and to authorise the Commonwealth to collect the surcharge.

**Mr. Warburton:** They don't even need the legislation.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Of course they do not need the legislation. They can return to the people of Queensland at any time whatever tax money they wish; but, of course, they are totally dishonest and will not do it.

I quote from "The National Times" for the week ended 1 September—

"How Fraser's tax slug hits the families".

"The only people who will not be disadvantaged by the new tax schedules are those who receive no pay increases during 1979-80. But they, of course, will be heavily slugged by inflation."

**Mr. Hansen:** Health costs.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Yes, and a whole range of other imposts and surcharges—petrol prices and similar things.

Figures released by Eric Risstrom, secretary of the Australian Taxpayers' Association, show that the family bread-winner will be far more disadvantaged than the single taxpayer. So everyone in Australia will pay more taxes under Fraser federalism, under a Government which itself was also pledged to reducing taxation.

**Mr. Kruger:** They are deceitful.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Of course they are deceitful.

**Mr. R. J. Gibbs:** I suppose the only consoling factor is that, at the very best, they have only 12 months left in office.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Yes. They have one foot on a political banana-skin, if I might put it that way.

Taking Mr. Risstrom's tables, the lowest figure that he quotes is a 1978-79 income of \$6,000, growing to \$6,540 in 1979-80, and a person with that income will pay an effective tax increase of 134.63 per cent. How can that be reconciled with the Federal Government's statement that it is reducing income tax? A taxpayer with dependants receiving \$10,000 a year will have his tax increased by 8.93 per cent, or nearly 9 per cent.

The single taxpayer will be a little better off. The single taxpayer on \$10,000 last year and \$10,900 this year will pay an effective tax increase of 3.09 per cent. That is what we are faced with here: increased taxes by the Federal Government, a Government which promised a low tax profile for Australian people, and just sops by way of taxation reductions by the State Government, a Government which is in a prime position to reduce taxation.

The other important Budget item that will greatly affect people in the Cook electorate is the sharp increase in fuel prices.

That follows Mr. Anthony's fuel equalisation policy, which is an incredible slug for the people of Australia. When Mr. Whitlam was Prime Minister, criticism was levelled at his Government simply because it removed the petrol subsidy. At that time Labor Party supporters were criticised mainly for two things: the removal of the petrol subsidy and the removal of the superphosphate bounty. Look at the way in which these incredible fuel price increases have come about! I would not care to be the Federal National Party member in Leichhardt when he campaigns for re-election.

**An Honourable Member:** Fuel prices would be much higher now out in the back country.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Of course. We well recall that a sop was given to the people of Australia in that there was supposed to be a fuel equalisation programme brought in by the Federal Government. In inland areas the fuel price was supposed to be no more than 4c a gallon greater than the seaboard price. After all, Australia is an island and we have sea all around us. That is a dishonest way of determining fuel prices.

**Mr. Hansen:** It was a hoodwink.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Of course it was a hoodwink. People in Queensland are not going to be hoodwinked any longer. That will become very clear at the next Federal election.

**A Government Member:** You have made your whole speech out of quotes from newspapers.

**Mr. SCOTT:** I should like to make some comments on various industries in the Cook electorate, their importance to the people who live and work in that important area, and the difficulties they are faced with. I am not going to stop quoting from newspapers. After all, they are topical comments and they are what people in Australia read. It seems that when they do their political thinking it is worked out on that basis. We have seen the effect of campaigns in Australia to change Governments. I am looking forward with great interest to the campaign that will be waged in Australia to remove the present Federal Government, and certainly in Queensland to remove this State Government.

The tobacco industry seems to be faced with a concerted campaign to smash it. Once again I resort to quotations, as they are topical and effective. I quote from today's "Cairns Post"—

"The Cairns Hinterland branch of the Queensland School Transport Association has expressed concern over a Federal Government report which signalled the tobacco industry in the Far North may have to be wiped out and growers adjusted into other industries."

**Mr. Jones:** Shocking!

**Mr. SCOTT:** It is shocking. Apparently this was a report by the Commonwealth Department of Health which stated that cigarette smoking was incompatible with health. Of course, we have heard that all before. The statement I am quoting was made by Mr. Jack Bryde who said that the demise of the tobacco industry would create a big gap economically. There is no doubt about that. The many hundreds of people in the Dimbulah/Mutchilba area in my electorate and the Mareeba/Emerald Creek area in the neighbouring electorate will certainly suffer if the tobacco industry continues to be downgraded in Australia.

I intend to speak strongly in support of the tobacco industry. It has been faced with rising costs for fuel, tobacco-curing oil, and distillate, which is used for pumping water. Furthermore, electricity charges are continually rising, as is the cost of irrigation water. The Water Resources Commission has given some relief, but it was only a sop to the tobacco industry. It is not at all happy with the price it is paying for irrigation water. People who work in the industry and their families are continually faced with the phantom of rising costs.

This Government can make a more determined effort to reduce the cost of irrigation water. I am sure that, in conjunction with the Federal Government, it could do something to prevent the prices of distillate and other fuels from rising as sharply as they have. The tobacco industry is suffering. In fact, I would not care to be a National Party candidate campaigning in the tobacco areas at the next Federal and State elections.

Throughout the Cook electorate fishing is a most important industry. It is based mainly on Karumba but is centred also on Cooktown, Thursday Island and the Torres Strait islands. At Karumba, prawning is the major industry and it is a great provider of employment. A large number of prawning companies employ women on the processing side and both men and women on prawn trawlers. The area also contains a number of barramundi fishermen.

Both the prawning and barramundi industries are suffering from the lack of proper Government policies on development. Apparently a joint study is being carried out by the Australian Fisheries Department and the C.S.I.R.O. into the habits of the barramundi. That study should have been carried out long ago. For quite a number of years the barramundi fishing industry has been based in the Gulf.

An attempt was made to improve the position by closing the Peninsula rivers. However, I do not think that move was successful. I do not believe that the people who administer the fishing industry know enough about the habits of the barramundi to be able to implement policies that will allow the industry to prosper.

Both Karumba and Cooktown suffer from the lack of wharf facilities. A few weeks ago I was in Cooktown and I noticed that the only fresh water provided to the trawlers was through a half-inch garden hose. As many as 30 prawning vessels were tied up to the wharf in Cooktown, which is a relatively small fishing centre. When I tackled the Government about improving these facilities, I was told that the prawners, like the Arabs, could fold up their tents and go away. If the prawners did that, what would happen to these facilities that are provided at Government expense? The Government's approach is wrong. If the facilities are available, the people who use them certainly will not go away.

A fish-freezing plant has been constructed on Yorke Island by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. It is a good facility for the Torres Strait Islanders who fish in the area. Some of them and other people wonder whether the plant has been located in the most desirable site. It costs them as much as \$8 for 20 litres of petrol for their outboard motors. People on Darnley and Murray Islands who want to come over and use that facility have to rely on outboard motors that consume petrol at a fast rate. They, too, are forced to pay that very high price. More facilities similar to that on Yorke Island should be built. Their construction would do a great deal to relieve the serious unemployment problem that exists throughout the Cook electorate.

This year the beef industry faces drought and fires. The big build-up in the amount of combustible materials on grazing properties will cause serious problems in the southern part of the Cook electorate. The graziers, too, are faced with continually rising costs.

Mining is the most important industry in the Cook electorate. While a great deal of alluvial tin mining is undertaken, hard rock tin mining is also carried on in a number of centres. Tin-mining activities are undertaken in centres ranging from the Cooktown-Bloomfield area in the eastern part of the electorate, through Irvinebank and over to the Mt. Surprise area. It is a singularly important industry in the electorate and provides permanent employment and considerable wealth for a great number of people. I should like to see everything possible done to support mining in the Cook electorate. I shall shortly point out how these industries are suffering.

It is essential that the efficiency of the Irvinebank Treatment Works be improved. The operators of the plant are battling, on a very small budget, to try to increase efficiency to the stage where ore can be crushed to provide a reasonable return for the miners who work so hard to make a living in the industry. The Government has treated the Irvinebank Treatment Works very shabbily. Over the years the works have

been allowed to run down. While the price of crushing ore has increased sharply, efficiency is well down. If the Government were to spend a reasonable sum on the treatment works, the people of Irvinebank and others in a wide-ranging area, as well as all the people in the State, would benefit. The hourly crushing rate at Irvinebank has increased by 25 per cent. It is now no longer economic for people to put through ore with a low tin content. That is a pity because people with access to low grade ore could make a living if the facilities were available to crush the ore. The efficiency of the Irvinebank Treatment Works must be increased greatly.

Tourism could hardly be called a major industry in the Cook electorate. There are simply no facilities for tourism. I should like to see them developed, but the only way they can be developed is by the Government's spending money on road construction in the Cook electorate.

Next year the Second World Wilderness Congress is to be held at Cairns. I cannot impress too strongly on honourable members the importance of that congress to Far North Queensland. It will bring to Cairns hundreds of people from all over the world. After the congress deliberations are over, many of the people will move into the Peninsula area, over the Gulf and to the Torres Strait area. While they will be interested in what they see and what they do not see, they will leave North Queensland either as ambassadors for the area or as people who can only offer criticism of it. Because of the conditions of the roads and the cost of travel, it seems to me that they will leave the area in a critical frame of mind. That is a shame, because this is a wonderful area with great potential. It has a lot to offer. I would like to see its advantages presented in a way that makes them accessible.

**Mr. Mackenroth:** They have a good member, too.

**Mr. SCOTT:** I accept that interjection.

The difficulties faced by the industries referred to relate particularly to fuel. I must keep harping on this matter because it is so important at the present time. Last Tuesday evening a meeting was held in Cairns. I was unable to attend it, but I was told that great concern was expressed by a wide range of people. Fishermen complained that they could not take their fishing boats to sea because they could not get sufficient supplies of distillate. I am sure it would have been attended by farmers, too. It was certainly attended by fuel distributors. The people up there are having great difficulty with fuel supplies. The blame can be sheeted home not only to the fuel companies but also to the Government. If there is a product that has to be used in this State to allow people to work, that product

should be promoted by the Government and everything should be done to see that people receive their fair share of it. Instead of bringing down divisive legislation, instead of trying to polarise this State, the Government should be trying to do something about the important things.

I have mentioned the roads of the Cook electorate on numerous occasions. I have also mentioned that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads on his last visit up there flew over them to inspect them. I made some quite sarcastic comment that that is not the way to do it. I have since discovered on a flight to Weipa that it is possible, if one is familiar with the roads, if one has driven over them and driven through the bull dust and the creek crossings that have no culverts or bridges. One can get some idea of what the roads are like up there.

**Mr. Moore:** We are ploughing through bull dust here.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Am I annoying the honourable member? I have another nine minutes before my time expires, so he will have to sit there and cop it.

**Mr. Mackenroth:** Go away and grow some hair.

**Mr. Moore:** I need bull dust for it.

**Mr. SCOTT:** If the honourable member for Windsor comes up to the Cook electorate, he will get it all over him. In fact, it will be stopping people from bringing their minerals to crushing plants, and it will be stopping people from bringing their cattle out to the abattoirs and to the markets. That is what the bull dust will be doing up there because it is thick on the roads. The roads are breaking down and not enough money is being spent on them.

The Cook electorate is not well served with railway lines. There is only a very short stretch of line.

**An Opposition Member:** It has more than Redcliffe.

**Mr. SCOTT:** That is a point well taken. At least we have one. The people of Redcliffe have a long time to wait for theirs. It is just another broken promise—another election sop that didn't quite work.

I would like to remind honourable members that the railways in Queensland were built in the old days. They were built right throughout the State by a Labor Government of the day and they were built to provide services to Outback people. I ask honourable members to form a mental image of the way those railway lines were built in the old days. They were built the hard way, but the money was found to build them. The need was realised and the work was done. Now that the emphasis has shifted more to roads, we have an inept Government that cannot build roads.

An Opposition Member interjected.

**Mr. SCOTT:** I ask the honourable member not to remind me of Redcliffe again, because I know the Government can't build railway lines down there, either.

We have an inept Government that will not give service to the people of this State where it is needed. While the people of Redcliffe apparently are being denied a railway line, I am concerned that the Forsyth railway line will be closed by this Government. I know that people who live up there feel that they are under continual threat. I would like the Government to give an unswerving commitment to keep that line open. The Minister for Transport has been up there. He knows the way it serves the people and I urge him to keep to his word and keep that line open.

**Mr. Akers:** He gave that assurance up there.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Let us see that the Minister does in this case.

**Mr. Jones:** Take it from the Minister, not from Akers.

**Mr. SCOTT:** Yes, I will take the undertaking from the Minister.

The other way of looking at what is happening is to consider the services in the area—and the services that the people do not get. I have continually pressed the Minister for Education about the lack of high schools and the need for full high schools at places as far apart as Weipa and Cooktown. We are treated to the old platitude that there just are not the numbers. The Government ignores the need and talks only of numbers. That is not good enough.

I have asked about pre-schools. In fact, I asked a question today about pre-schools in the Cook electorate. The answer is illuminating, to say the least. I have been presented with what appears to be a very comprehensive table setting out things under all sorts of headings. I am certainly going to analyse it. Because it is a very shallow table, it will not need analysing in depth. But under the heading "State Pre-school Centres" the Minister can quote only Dimbulah and Karumba. What a shocking state of affairs. Pre-school education is the most important part of education. Let us provide for the young ones before they go into primary school; let us give them all the pre-school education that is so necessary.

I would be remiss if I did not speak about the Aboriginal communities in the Cook electorate. They have wide-ranging problems and the existing legislation, the Aborigines Act of 1971—since amended in this Chamber in a very minor way—has been criticised in this House. It binds them down too much; it stops them from managing their own affairs. The policies of the Department of

Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement are aimed at keeping these people back, not allowing them to make the progress that they deserve to make and should be making. We hear them criticised in this House by racist members. In fact, the last attack was made by that perennial racist speaker, the member for Barron River, who delights in rising in this Chamber—

**Mr. Bishop:** You're not supposed to speak disparagingly of members of Parliament.

**Mr. SCOTT:** I am not speaking disparagingly; I am pointing out what that man does in this Chamber. The member need not worry; his words speak for themselves. I have been called a white engineer by people in this House, whatever that means, and the member for Barron River mentioned that the member for Cook lives in Cairns. It is well known that in its efforts to win back the Cook electorate the National Party has endorsed two candidates for the next election. I am not going to stand up here and blow my own trumpet, as the member for Barron River did this morning. I believe that the electorate is well served and that the people who will vote in the next election will recognise this. The member for Barron River can talk about where I live, but if he thinks his party's candidate is going to win the election by saying he will live in Dimbulah, he has another think coming. The people in Normanton, Cooktown, Thursday Island, Mt. Surprise and Georgetown will not be too happy about that. Let him promise that he will live in Dimbulah and I will be laughing all the way to the election because it will not go over too well with the people up there.

But I know that the people in Barron River will be interested to know that their member has moved his electorate office. I do not think that the people of Mareeba were very concerned about the fact that he had his electorate office there, but he has now shifted it and he will certainly feel the effects of that at the next election. Whenever he rises in this House, he makes racist remarks. He did not even take his full time in his Address-in-Reply speech this afternoon. He had nothing to say! All he did was skite about what a good member he was. With his racist attitudes, he is only playing to an audience. He has moved his electorate office down to Smithfield with a totally cynical approach in mind. He knows he will not get many votes in Mareeba, so he is going to play up to the people who live in the northern beaches area. He will not get their votes anyway, because when they are travelling in and out to work he will not be in that office to attend to their problems. So he will lose votes all the way along the line. If he thinks the people on the northern beaches are going to be impressed by his cynical approach, he has another think coming, and Keith De Lacy will be the next member for Barron River.

I will now sum up. I should not allow myself to be diverted by the problems of the member for Barron River because he will not be around long enough to cause anyone any concern. To reiterate, the electorate of Cook has a great many needs, not in terms of its representation but in terms of the services that the Government is not providing. That is what I want to see rectified, and will see rectified when we have a change of Government in this State. I could speak about these matters until I was blue in the face but I would not make any impression on this insipid Government, which needs to change its policies. In my speech in this Address-in-Reply debate I ask that these needs be met and that there be less divisiveness in the community.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. HANSEN** (Maryborough) (9.5 p.m.): Might I, in my opening remarks, pledge the loyalty of the people of the electorate of Maryborough to Her Majesty the Queen and to her representative in this State, who I believe carries out his duties in a very respected manner. He does not buy into controversy. I believe that he has restored some status to the position of Governor.

I should also like to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to that office. I think you know that I did not vote for you. Nevertheless, I believe that you have taken over a rather difficult task and I will endeavour to see that your authority is upheld at all times.

I also congratulate Mr. Woodward on his appointment to the position of Clerk of the Parliament. It is a position of great responsibility within the House.

I think that most thinking members of the House are concerned about the reduction in the authority of the Speaker, who represents the Parliament and its members and not the Government. His authority and the authority of the Parliament have been whittened to some extent, and there is now Executive control. That viewpoint is shared not only by me but also by some members on the Government side.

The Labor Party has put forward the proposition that there should be a Public Accounts Committee of this House, consisting of both Government and Opposition members. That committee would be authorised to report to the Parliament on matters of public expenditure. I believe that the establishment of a Public Accounts Committee is also the policy of the Liberal Party. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer has said that the Liberal Party goes along with the proposition to establish a Public Accounts Committee but that this is not the time to establish it.

I believe that the Parliament must account to the public of Queensland. It might be said that members of Parliament do this

when they go before the people every three years, but I believe that the people want to know what is happening in Parliament. They want to know why certain decisions are made and how they are being made. I think that the honourable member for Stafford mentioned earlier that from time to time all sorts of wordings appear in the Government Gazette and that it takes a fairly experienced person to understand what they mean.

Apart from the establishment of a Public Accounts Committee, I believe that there is an even greater need for the establishment of a Public Works Committee, consisting of representatives from both the Government and the Opposition. The Government would have a majority of members, and would also nominate the chairman. It could be modelled on the Public Works Committee that has operated very successfully in the Federal Parliament for many years. I believe that such a committee could investigate all public-works programmes that involve the expenditure of \$200,000 or more. It should report to the Parliament and to the Minister for Works and Housing. I believe that it could be of assistance to him.

I have heard many questions directed to the Minister for Works and Housing, even this year, about various contracts that have been let. He has been asked why certain work has been carried out and why certain sites have been chosen for certain projects. I believe that a Public Works Committee, consisting of members from both sides of the Parliament—it would not be a lopsided committee—could gather this information and make it available in a report. That would assist the Minister for Works and Housing and his staff, and I do not think it would take up a lot of their time. I do not think that a great deal of additional expense would be involved. Perhaps there would be some cost for travelling, but travel facilities are available to members of Parliament to enable them to investigate work sites and building programmes. It would allow a greater understanding of the programmes that are being carried out, and I think it would assist the Minister for Works and Housing, not with the actual granting of contracts but in knowing exactly how the work was being carried out and the money expended.

A number of projects have been approved by the Queensland Government. Honourable members will recall the controversy over the siting of a new powerhouse. Nobody knows exactly why Tarong was chosen in preference to Millmerran. The facts have never come out. All we know is that the people of Queensland will be paying much more for their electricity because of that decision.

**Mr. Gunn:** Rubbish!

**Mr. HANSEN:** If that is not so, give us the reasons.

Executive control of this Parliament is, I believe, one of the reasons for the resignation of the former Speaker, and in the past other members have complained that they have been overruled by senior public servants. They feel, with some justification, that they are there only as members of a mushroom club—kept in the dark and fed by the Public Relations Bureau with whatever is considered to be of benefit to them. I can well understand their frustrations. Look at the number of members of Parliament who have resigned from the Government in recent times—the former member for Clayfield (Mr. John Murray), the former member for Wavell (Dr. Crawford), the former member for Warwick (Mr. David Cory)—all giving similar reasons of frustration, disillusionment and disgust. Feeling that they were not playing any part in this place as representatives of the people, their only answer was to resign and let others see if they could do better.

At various times there has been a good deal of talk about Budgets. Much emphasis has been placed in our society on balanced Budgets, although there have been deficits in Federal Budgets for a number of years. I regard deficit budgeting—and I think that most honourable members would agree with me—as a loan against the future or expenditure of a nature that would bring long-term benefits to the State.

Budgets can be balanced or brought into credit by not spending money for the purposes for which it was allocated, and I wish to speak about one such instance. During the 1977 election campaign, the people of Maryborough were told that \$200,000 had been allocated towards the cost of a tidal barrage across Tinana Creek, this being part of the irrigation scheme involving Tinana Creek and the Lower Mary River, with tidal barrages across both streams. It is merely coincidence that the budget of the Maryborough Hospitals Board for that year was reduced by exactly the same amount—\$200,000. I ask: where was that money spent in the 1977-78 year? That is where it was supposed to be spent. Was it spent? Nobody knows. There is nothing there to show that it was spent. Was it spent on planning? There is nothing to show. It seems that the money was not expended and went towards achieving a balanced Budget for the next year.

**Mr. Akers:** You are talking about things in Maryborough. Have you read your own party's policy on the construction of railway carriages? In future, none will be built in Maryborough.

**Mr. HANSEN:** I think I know my party's policy.

**Mr. Akers:** It is obvious that you don't.

**Mr. HANSEN:** I know the party and I know its policy. I know that for many years railway carriages and wagons have been built

in Maryborough by a firm for which I have worked and which is turning out good work for the Railway Department. It will continue to build them for Labor Governments in the future. I am certain that because of the present energy crisis there will be a greater need than ever for the type of locomotives and railcars that are being built by Walkers in Maryborough. I am not at all worried about other people's interpretation of the Labor Party's policy. Labor people will carry it out, and they know exactly how it will apply.

What is the present Government doing about that irrigation scheme? It is one that can be justified. The previous Liberal member for Maryborough agrees with me in that regard. People want to know what is happening. Where did the \$200,000 go? The expenditure on this scheme can be justified in the light of the severe drought in the last two years and the losses incurred by cane farmers in that immediate area, even without considering the loss of income suffered by people dependent on the economy of the sugar industry.

I wish to speak about a matter where a certain amount of discrimination appears to exist. It concerns the Department of Health. I refer to the sisters who visit the schools to examine the children. The sisters are denied the use of an official motor vehicle. Admittedly they are paid mileage allowance for the use of their own vehicle. The sister based in Maryborough has been told that she can use public transport. She can visit the schools in Mundubbera if she catches the slow train at 3 a.m., arriving there about midday. No public transport is available in Mundubbera. I know of one sister who used to travel from one place to another by goods train. She was a very dedicated woman. She had not turned 60 years of age when she died. I believe her early death was brought about by all the strain of catching trains and trying to carry out her work properly. She gave up a lot of her spare time in trying to encourage children to participate in after-school activities.

In many areas no public transport is available. If the sister based in Maryborough wants to go to the schools at Childers, she has to travel by train. The train stops at Isis Junction, which is about—

**Mr. Blake:** About 10 miles.

**Mr. HANSEN:** The honourable member for Bundaberg lived in that area for many years and he is a better judge of distance than I am. From Isis Junction she has to get transport to the schools. She has to depend on the goodwill of teachers in the area or the charity of members of the public.

The school sisters carry out a remarkable job in the early detection of child health problems. I am personally grateful to one of the sisters. She detected an eye infection in one of my daughters. With

medical treatment, the problem has been rectified. But for the keen observation of that sister the defect could have gone unnoticed, and we would still be wondering why she was not doing so well at school. Travelling time could be reduced to a third if the sister was provided with a motor vehicle to cover the area. It is a large area, stretching from Maryborough to Hervey Bay and up into the Burnett electorate, which is represented by the Minister for Works and Housing. It even stretches into the Auburn electorate, represented by the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources.

The provision of a car is essential. The payment of 13c a mile for car allowance is no compensation for the damage done to a private vehicle that is driven under such conditions. Earlier a member said that anyone who travels on country roads needs a bigger car. I believe it is economical to have a bigger car for that purpose, and it also provides additional comfort.

**Mr. Blake:** We want one for the speech therapist, too.

**Mr. HANSEN:** We haven't got a speech therapist; there are not enough to go around.

I want to deal now with the problems facing the meat-processing industry. An examination should be made of the reasons why in recent times a number of meatworks have closed down. Two in particular are the Biloela meatworks and F.J. Walker's works in Maryborough. The latter is a division of Swifts, and at it approximately 204 meatworkers were stood down for a period of from six to eight weeks.

From inquiries I have made of people associated with the industry, I understand that a number of other meatworks in Queensland are working only two or three days a week. I do not know whether meatworkers are better off working short weeks or working full weeks for a short period and then being stood down for an extended period. If they were stood down for an extended period and were not able to find alternative employment, they would be eligible for unemployment benefits. If, however, they are working even only one or two days a week, they are not entitled to them. If they have long service leave due to them, they have an obligation to take it and are not eligible for unemployment benefits.

The Minister for Primary Industries is in the House. I urge him to have an investigation carried out into the reasons why the meatworks have closed down. Has this happened because there is a stockpile of processed meat for overseas orders? Is it because prices on overseas markets are not profitable? Is it because livestock prices are too high? Or is the situation affected by other influences?

**Mr. Lane:** It started with Whitlam, you know.

**Mr. HANSEN:** The member would have us believe that everything started with Whitlam. In Whitlam's day there was no doubt about our loyalty. What did his critics say when he wanted to make Queen Elizabeth the Queen of Australia? They said he was being disloyal. But what did the Queen say about it? She said it was an honour and that her father would have dearly loved to be made King of Australia. She thanked Mr. Whitlam personally, and I was present when she did it. The member for Merthyr has been blaming Mr. Whitlam for everything for the past six or eight years. If the things that Mr. Whitlam did were wrong, why haven't Mal Fraser and Doug Anthony corrected them? They are not prepared to do it.

**Mr. Jones:** They see the wisdom in them.

**Mr. HANSEN:** They have certainly seen the wisdom in them. They were there to "turn on the lights". I think all of us are in the dark.

To get back to what I was saying—the meatworks are facing problems. I ask the Minister to adopt a reasonable attitude towards the points that I have raised. I would not expect the member for Merthyr to give sympathetic consideration to the problems that I have mentioned, but I believe that the Minister for Primary Industries is one who accepts his responsibilities and will do something to solve those problems.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Wharton, adjourned.

#### UPPER BURDEKIN CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED VALIDATION BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN** (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (9.25 p.m.):  
I move—

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill to confirm and declare the validity of—

(a) the registration of the Upper Burdekin Co-operative Association Limited as a primary producers' co-operative association under the Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923–1978;

(b) the objects of the association; and

(c) all acts, matters and things done or purporting to have been done by the association as an association registered under the said Act;

and for matters related thereto; and that so much of the Standing Orders relating to private Bills be suspended so as to enable the said Bill to be introduced and passed through all its stages as if it were a public Bill."

This co-operative was created in September of 1978 and its aims were to investigate the feasibility of constructing a tramway for the

carriage of raw cane from the Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg areas to the Invicta Sugar Mill situated at Giru. The association was also given authority by its objects to construct a tramway if the feasibility study proved satisfactory.

The study was subsequently undertaken and found it to be economically viable. Construction of the tramway was commenced. In order to finance this construction, the co-operative borrowed money and the total cost of the construction will require borrowings of some \$3,800,000. These borrowings will be guaranteed by the Treasurer.

The alternative to building the tramway was to continue with a system of road haulage, which over the last few years has become increasingly expensive and inefficient. Judging by what is happening in the fuel area, I think honourable members will agree that while in recent years it has become increasingly expensive, in the foreseeable future it could possibly become very much more expensive.

While preparing documents to secure the loan moneys, it was discovered that there could be a defect in the stated objects of the association. I understand that legal opinion on this matter goes either way. In view of the extent of the borrowings, I am convinced that the correct approach is the cautious approach.

The potential defect is that the specific object of this association could be outside the scope of the general object stated in the Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act. It is not unusual for associations to have special objects, but there is no provision in the Act to introduce them retrospectively. As all legal opinion is satisfied that this legislation will put to rest any doubts that may exist, I have no hesitation in recommending this Bill to the House.

**Mr. BLAKE** (Bundaberg) (9.29 p.m.): As we have not seen the Bill at this stage, we must accept the Minister's explanation of its intent and, indeed, we do. At least, we will do so until we see the Bill and are able to form our own opinion.

I have visited the area that is referred to and I have some knowledge of the matters referred to in this Bill. The Opposition is aware of the need for construction of an extension of that tram-line from its terminus at Steep Bank in the Clare area to Dalbeg. The length of the extension, I understand, is 46 km. The purpose of the extension of the line is to transport cane from Dalbeg and Millaroo to the Haughton Sugar Co. Ltd. Invicta Mill at Giru.

An interesting sidelight to me as the member for Bundaberg is that originally this mill was situated in the Kolan River district in the Bundaberg area. It was owned by the Buss Brothers. The Buss family is still well known in Bundaberg. In 1919 the mill was dismantled and transferred to Giru.

The company is 66 per cent owned by Australian Estates Co. Ltd., which is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of CSR Ltd. I understand the 46 km tram-line extension from Steep Bank to Dalbeg is to be paid for in the proportion of one-quarter by the mill and three-quarters by the growers, by a levy of so much a tonne for cane carried on the line. It is required to be operational by June 1980 so that it can handle the transport of next year's Dalbeg and Millaroo cane crops to the Invicta Mill. I agree with the Minister that this will overcome the present problem of costs of the road transport system now serving that area.

The Opposition understands that the Upper Burdekin Co-operative Association Limited has the responsibility of shouldering the grower commitment to the tram-line extension. This Bill is to confirm and declare, I understand, the validity of the registration of the Upper Burdekin Co-operative Association Limited as a primary producers' co-operative association under the Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923-1978 and to validate the objects of the association and all acts, matters and things done or purporting to have been done by the association. We understand this validation is necessary to satisfy the Treasury's requirement for advancing or guaranteeing finance to assist the Upper Burdekin Co-operative Association Limited with the tram-line construction. The Opposition is not arguing in any way against that objective, as stated by the Minister. It agrees with that objective. In fact, the Labor Party itself undertook to provide financial assistance for the project if elected to Government.

Another fact, and an important fact, is that if the Government had taken the Opposition's advice and had financed the growers supplying the Invicta Mill to buy the Australian Estates Co. Ltd. interest, this validating Bill would not have been necessary. The suppliers to the mill wanted it; the Opposition urged it; but this Government would not be in it. Despite the National Party's professed partiality for the co-operative enterprises that it inherited from Labor administrations, it considered that financing these free-enterprise cane growers to a majority shareholding in Invicta Mill smacked too much of socialism for its liking. If this Government had, as the Invicta growers wished, financed the growers to buy the majority holding in the mill, there would have been no need to set up a separate entity to cope with the tram-line extension and this Bill would not have been necessary. Under the appropriate Acts, the mill itself would own the tram-line and have responsibility and control of its own permanent way and of its own right of way.

Earlier tonight I heard a Government speaker in this House referring to the socialist tendencies of the Labor Opposition. If members ask the growers supplying the Invicta Mill, they will find that they wish that this Government has been sufficiently socially

inclined to finance them into the milling business when the opportunity was available to do so. Anyone who knows anything about the development of the sugar industry, or anyone who cares to acquaint himself with the development of this great industry, will know the great part played in it by Labor administrations. They will recognise that the foundation principles of the sugar industry, and its very foundations for that matter, were laid by Labor Governments.

One of the greatest principles of Labor Governments leading to the rapid development of the industry was that of financing growers to become not just growers but growers and millers through the co-operative sugar-milling system. But when the opportunity occurs for this Government to assist private-enterprise growers into milling, it apparently considers milling to be too private an enterprise for private-enterprise growers. When this Government came to power, the structure of the Queensland sugar industry still showed a majority of grower-miller participation. Of course, this ratio has since declined to a minority. Obviously this Government intends to support this trend, for even when the opportunity occurs to give growers participation in the milling of their own cane this Government turns its face the other way.

I have seen part of the tram-line in question. Its construction has to be solid to cope with the terrain, and it is. Creeks like Expedition Creek and Lauanders Creek require substantial bridging, and the Opposition realises that a heavy cost is involved in its construction. The line extension not only services the existing Dalbeg and Millaroo cane assignments but it will also provide access to an area of very great potential for future sugar expansion. Without doubt the millers, for a quarter commitment to the cost of the line, will benefit very greatly in the long term. The fact that State guarantee of borrowings is envisaged for the construction of this tram-line makes consideration of expansion possibilities very relevant to the Bill before the House.

The implications of the Burdekin scheme makes the potential of the area tremendous. Commencement of the Burdekin scheme must surely become a reality in the very near future. Back in the days of the Chifley Labor Government, a promise was made that when the Snowy Mountains Authority finished its work in the Snowy Mountains it would immediately be transferred to the Burdekin area to carry on with what was considered by Labor to be an important national irrigation project.

Labor was not the only Government to promise its construction. In 1949 Artie Fadden, the Leader of the Country Party—later Sir Arthur Fadden—promised that if his party were elected to power in place of the Chifley Labor Government, which indeed it was, it would begin construction of the

Burdekin scheme “immediately”. The potential there is terrific not only for sugar but also for rice and vegetables and fruit. With inflation in oil prices, other crops that could be grown in the area might provide a fuel alternative.

This tram-line is opening up one of these areas of great potential, and of course the Opposition immediately becomes concerned about land ownership and what could be termed land speculation in the area. One does not need to be a Rhodes Scholar to know the potential of the area once the Burdekin scheme and the subsidiary weirs envisaged in the scheme come into operation. Land values will increase tremendously. One does not have to be very wise to know that the potential has already been appreciated and that land speculation is a reality now and will be in the very near future.

I hope that it will not be a case of the big getting bigger and the rich getting richer, because the money that goes into the scheme will come mainly from what I might call socialised circles, through the taxpayer. So it is very important that these expansion areas be considered in order to ensure that everybody interested in agriculture at least gets a fair go in them. If open-go speculation is to be allowed, not only companies will hog the land that has such great potential. No doubt privileged and well-to-do individuals also will hog the land for their own benefit.

The Opposition believes that if very serious consideration has not already been given to the use and control of land in the Burdekin Basin area, a very positive plan should be brought forward very shortly to stop such speculation and capitalisation that is unfair to the general community. If it is allowed to continue, the natural and fair thing to do will be to resume that land for the public good and divide it into viable units of primary production. If the speculation continues unchecked, the cost to the taxpayer of resumption will be completely out of this world.

When I refer to this area, I do not mean just the area that this tram-line will service. I trust that the Government is about to implement a sensible land-usage scheme that will prevent exploitation at the expense of the community or the nation which, of national necessity, must play a big part in bringing the Burdekin irrigation scheme to fruition. All we ask is that the Government take steps to ensure that the people get a fair go in the division of the potential of the land in the area.

Tonight the Minister in his introductory speech said—

“The potential defect is that the specific object of this association could be outside the scope of the general object stated in the Primary Producers’ Co-operative Association Act.”

In other words, he is saying that it is a technicality that has to be satisfied so that the Treasury can legally advance guarantees to cover the cost of borrowings for this scheme. As I said at the beginning, we accept that explanation until such time as we see the Bill and are able to study it for ourselves.

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton) (9.44 p.m.): I am a firm supporter of co-operatives, and anything we can do to assist a group of farmers to own an asset in their area should be supported by all honourable members.

**Mr. Moore:** Because you are a socialist.

**Mr. BURNS:** I am sorry that the member for Windsor is against such a proposal and against co-operative organisations.

The Opposition's spokesman has made it very clear that the Labor Party believes that the growers in the sugar industry should own not only the farms and the transport system but also the mills. It is to the great shame of the Government that it has allowed CSR and some other companies to take over mills and exploit Queenslanders and Queensland growers.

When I look back at the history of the Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg areas, I look back to the beginning of the Burdekin River irrigation area. When the Labor Government initiated the scheme, there were to be 150 farms and 7,000 acres. At that stage, it was to be a tobacco-growing area. However, lack of suitable soil types for high-quality tobacco leaf, lack of an industry stabilisation scheme, and especially lack of some control of production and price and orderly marketing procedures, meant that the tobacco industry failed in the area. At the same time, there were improved markets for sugar.

As a result of that, the Gibbs Committee of Inquiry was appointed in 1963, and there was an expansion of the sugar industry into the Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg areas. Those areas went out of tobacco and into sugar, and the Burdekin River irrigation project was expanded with the construction of the George Weir and the Blue Valley Weir, which allowed greater use of irrigation. Farmers moved into the Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg areas and began to grow cane, and they also began growing rice. One of the most successful co-operatives in the area is the Lower Burdekin Rice Producers' Co-operative, and I would hope that the co-operative movement will expand as the Burdekin River Authority develops the Burdekin Dam.

In common with the honourable member for Bundaberg, I am concerned to see that the ordinary farmers who go on to the 660 farms when the Burdekin Dam scheme is developed get a fair go. As I understand it, the capital cost of setting up a cane farm in the area will be about \$200,000. One of the major problems that people at Clare,

Millaroo and Dalbeg have experienced over many years is that, having moved into cane-growing, they have been disadvantaged in comparison with their mates in other areas of the Burdekin who have a tramway system and a low cost of transport. They have been carting their cane by road, in some cases to the tram-line and in other cases to the mill itself. When one considers that the Fraser Government has doubled the price of fuel in this country in the last three years, that additional cost has placed an unfair impost on them. I am thinking of the new farmer who comes in in the same way. If we are going to start 660 new farmers, I hope that the mistakes made in these areas many years ago are not repeated. In fact, I know that they will not, because I do not believe that any scheme has been more thoroughly researched or had more money spent on it than the Burdekin Dam scheme.

A fortnight ago I went to a seminar in Ayr conducted by the Water Resources Foundation of Australia. It dealt with the Burdekin Dam scheme. Mr. Beattie of the Queensland Water Resources Commission made it quite clear that it was an economically viable scheme, had been properly researched, and that the expansion in the area would provide a 10 per cent return on the capital investment. I do not believe that there has ever been a dam as big as the Burdekin Dam built in Queensland that has had as much research carried out on it, or one that would show a return of that size initially. The expansion is based on sugar, rice, vegetable-growing, cassava, and a number of other industries that would come there. It is based on the fact that the area would grow on the infrastructure that is there. It is not like the Ord River Dam or any other dam scheme. This is an area that has been irrigated since before the turn of the century and the farmers know how to grow crops under irrigation. The mills, people who can work the mills, and successful farmers are already there. The Minister for Education, who represents the area, is in the Chamber. I am sure that he would agree with me that all those things are there, which makes the Burdekin scheme an economically viable scheme, a practical scheme.

When we go into the matter, we must begin to look at the costs involved and the assistance we can give to the various industries. It is obvious that many of the claims for the new Burdekin Dam are based on the sugar industry. One of the papers given by a member of the Water Resources Foundation at that seminar said—

"Queensland currently produces 95 per cent of the total Australian sugar crop. The Burdekin produces approximately 17 per cent. It is confidently expected by industry sources that the Queensland sugar industry will expand production from the present level of maximum production of 3 209 255 tonnes of sugar to at least 5 000 000 tonnes by the year 2000.

"It is readily apparent that significant increased sugar production can be achieved only in a limited number of areas."

I think that has been shown in another report that we have had. The towns are encroaching into the sugar areas. In many other sugar areas of the State there is no land available for expansion. The Burdekin is an area that is capable of doubling existing production if water is provided. If we double that production, the tram-line and that sort of facility will be more necessary than ever before. We ought to be looking to see that the co-operative is getting sufficient funds to assist it to make certain that the line is capable of carrying the tonnage required in the future. We should not restrict it so that it builds something now only to say in a few years' time, "We should have built it bigger. We should have built it longer. We should have extended it in certain areas."

The people from the Division of Land Utilisation and the Economic Services Branch of the Department of Primary Industries in their paper proposed an irrigation scheme providing for the irrigation of an additional 45 125 ha annually at full development, which would involve the creation of about 660 new farms. At full development the gross annual value of production from the scheme is estimated to exceed \$100,000,000. Most of that is based on sugar production. They believe that the Burdekin area, as one of the top sugar-producing areas of the world, would be able to expand its production as sugar consumption went up.

In addition to that, there is going to be great expansion in rice production. As I said before, one of the very successful co-operatives in that area is the Lower Burdekin Rice Producers' Co-Operative Association. It was established in 1968. It purchased a mill from the Ord River project. The Ord project is still trying to get under way. The mill was set up in Home Hill and began operating in August 1968. Another private company set up a mill at Brandon during the same period. The Lower Burdekin Rice Producers' Co-operative Association was not only able to continue its own operation but it also finally bought out the other mill. It is now the sole milling and selling agent for the Rice Marketing Board. That is a success story that we all should be proud of. As a person drives from Ayr to Townsville he must be proud of the expansion in rice production. We could sell more rice than we produce there now, but we hardly accept any overseas orders at all because we can only supply our local market. The Mahatma long-grain rice produced in this State far outsells any of the rice produced in New South Wales. In fact the brand name "Matilda" is greatly desired by people overseas, even in China. It seems to be like carrying coals to Newcastle to suggest that we can produce rice in the Burdekin area and sell it to the Chinese people. We can do it, and we will do it.

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The Burdekin Dam scheme must go ahead. It has been researched so often. It is so desirable and so practical that there are no reasons for Governments to refuse to plan ahead and develop that dam area. If they are going to develop that dam area, then they need to be able to say now that they are not going to make mistakes such as were made at Clare, Dalbeg and Millaroo. Those farmers have been disadvantaged by having to carry their cane by trucks and other means to the mill. It was three or four years ago when I was first approached by people from there who asked about the Labor Party's attitude towards that tramway. I said then and I say it again: it should have been a Government responsibility. So much money is taken out of that sugar area and so much money is taken from the North, but there always seems to be a way of making the farmer or someone else in the North pay when they ask for assistance. If it cannot be a Government responsibility, I will accept that it be that of a co-operative. I will accept in a co-operative spirit that assistance should be provided not only to finance the operation or guarantee finance for the operation but to make certain that plans can be made sufficiently far ahead for further expansion in the area.

We are talking about the development of thousands of hectares in that area as the result of the Burdekin Dam scheme. The Government is talking about commencing the construction of that dam now and about a delay time of about eight or nine years. It is talking about a period of 19 years for the whole of the scheme. It ought to be saying to the constructing authority, "Make certain that the facilities you are building can be extended for the use of those new areas."

I take the point made by the member for Bundaberg in relation to the land in the area. I would like to be assured that when these 660 farms are broken up the opportunity will be given to new, young farmers to make a start in primary production.

Throughout the water assessment report mention is made of transportation costs. That is what this co-operative is all about—trying to cut down transportation costs. Reference is made to the cost of farms and to the cost of borrowing money.

The people in the area are a little worried about the ownership of the land that will be developed in the area. This matter was raised with me on a number of occasions when I was in Ayr. They are worried about the fact that a block of land that presently has no water on it and no assignment of cane is worth only a couple of hundred dollars a hectare, and about the fact that one big mill—the Pioneer Mill—owns a considerable amount of that land and has been granted new leases over some of it. They are worried that, if water is reticulated to those blocks, the price will rise to about \$1,200 to 1,400 a hectare. They are worried that, if the land is given a cane assignment,

the price will rise to \$2,000 to \$3,000 a hectare. They do not believe that that sort of capital gain should go to the mill or to people who hold grazing leases. They consider it should come back into part of the assessment of the scheme.

Besides talking about a co-operative for the sugar producers who want to cart their sugar by train or by tram and about the highly successful co-operative of the rice producers, we should talk about the vegetable growers in the area. The farmers in the Home Hill/Bowen area produce approximately 65 per cent of Australia's tomatoes and all of the commercial mangoes. In the area at the back of Home Hill near the Clare Weir there are farmers who are struggling on leased privately owned land in the production of thousands of tonnes of produce. They want land, and they want land set aside. They want to be part of the area. They are making a living now, but they want some security and assurance as far as development in the area is concerned. They want some assistance from the Government by way of freight concessions.

**Mr. Sullivan:** In other words, they want freehold title?

**Mr. BURNS:** They would take leases from the Government.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Do you believe in freehold title?

**Mr. BURNS:** I own a little block of freehold land out at Cannon Hill. It is nowhere near as valuable as the Minister's farm and my house is nowhere near as luxurious as his. But I own it and it is all mine.

These farmers would be prepared to take leases over those particular blocks. They can show the Government grazing farm leases that would be suitable for production. They want some assurance from this Government that they will be considered and given a share of the irrigated areas.

As I said, they want some assistance by way of freight concessions. At present, they have to send their vegetables to Brisbane for fumigation. They asked the Department of Primary Industries to send an officer up there to supervise fumigation in the area, but the department said, "No. Pay for it yourselves." It is the same story as the tramway; they have to pay for it. Even though the department has field officers in the area engaged on other jobs, their services could not be made available to these farmers.

These people are hard-working battlers; they are not looking for hand-outs. All they ask is that they be given an opportunity to get some land for themselves and develop an industry. Their industry is a viable one and they are selling large quantities of vegetables on the southern markets in Sydney and Melbourne. Trainloads go out of the area.

One thing that amazes me is that they are not able to send down to the South a wagon that is partly full. If they did that,

the Government would impose the charge for a full wagon. Ice wagons stand there empty and come back to Brisbane empty. If they ask to put half a ton of produce in one of those wagons, they are told by the Government that they must pay the freight charge for a full wagon. It seems to me that the Government is adopting an unreasonable business attitude. It would be better to collect \$50 on a half-full wagon that would otherwise be coming back empty.

I have no objection to the Bill. If some technical problems arise, we need to look at the necessity to bring forward validating legislation of this type. Nevertheless, this House should fully support the cause of the people in Dalbeg, Millaroo and Clare who battled in the days when they had tobacco farms and later when they grew rice and sugar and are now getting up off their knees to build the tramway themselves.

**Mr. CASEY** (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (10 p.m.): I have a few comments to make following those made by the honourable members for Bundaberg and Lytton, who have both made a recent study of the problems in the Burdekin area. Without doubt one reason for the tram-line problems in the Clare/Dalbeg area is the failure of the Government to continue with the Burdekin scheme. The problems were triggered in 1957 when the Government came to power, stopped the progress that was taking place and deliberately cut down the works in the next 12 months. The result was that all activities and work on the scheme were phased out. Both the honourable member for Bundaberg and the honourable member for Lytton have traced the history of what happened.

I have no doubt that if the scheme had been continued another sugar-mill would have been established in the area by now. The expansion in the sugar industry since 1957 would certainly have resulted in a new sugar-mill in the area. The future of the Burdekin area is such that when the scheme gets under way—it seems that this will not happen until a Labor Government gets into power—an additional sugar-mill will be constructed. If Labor had remained in office, it would have been there already.

As the honourable member for Bundaberg said, if the Minister for Primary Industries had listened to the growers' requests about four years ago when they were trying to buy the mills from Australian Estates to make co-operatives of them and really do something for themselves, the measure before us this evening would have been entirely different. The tram-line would have been owned by the mill. It would have been tied in with the co-operative, as are the tram-lines associated with all the other co-operatives in the sugar industry. This tram-line has an unusual ownership in that three parts of it are virtually owned by the growers and the mill owns one part or is contributing a cash flow towards it. That is what is causing the legal problems in the matter.

That is one of the points the Minister should have made in his introductory speech. If legal problems arise concerning borrowings by the co-operative, or the people who are building the tram-line, there will certainly be problems in the future with its ownership. I support what was said by the honourable member for Lytton, namely, that if the Government had looked at this matter properly it could well have gone ahead with the tram-line, or even with a railway line.

It is unfortunate that in recent years the Government has deliberately withdrawn from cane haulage. Road transport has taken over. Compared with the time when cane was hauled by the railway system, there are a lot of problems on the roads. The various new containers and packs used in the sugar industry for carting railway cane could have been used if a spur railway line had been built into this area.

Whenever sugar or cane has been hauled by the railways, it has always been a profitable venture for the Government. The line could also have been used to serve the future expansion in the area, which most assuredly will come. I have travelled on the tram-line, and I can say that what has been done has been done very well. It is well constructed and will provide a long-term benefit for the people in the area. It is a pity that the Government was not more far-sighted in the first instance. If it had been, it would have continued this work. It is also a pity that the Government was not a little more co-operative with the growers when they wanted to buy the mills and when they sought to get away from the costly system of road transport in that area.

One question I pose relates to a comparison between what is being done for this co-operative and the attitude of the Government towards the Lockyer Valley Fresh Foods Co-operative. The facts in that instance were almost exactly the same as those set out by the Minister in his introductory remarks. In that case the co-operative, which is involved in manufacturing, encountered problems in its borrowings. It was processing fresh foods. It was freezing them and selling them here in Queensland. However, it was being squeezed out by foreign companies. In fact, there were three companies endeavouring to squeeze it out and take its markets. Two were owned overseas and the other was a southern company. There is a definite comparison between the two co-operatives. Exactly the same problem arose there.

Representatives of the Lockyer Valley Co-operative fully discussed the matter with me, as did the Burdekin Co-operative, and their comments about Treasury requirements were exactly the same as the Minister has outlined for the Burdekin Co-operative. I therefore ask the Minister: Does this Bill mean that the assistance denied to the Lockyer Valley Co-operative could now be given to it? I am most anxious to ascertain that from the Minister. It is most important.

That co-operative was involved in manufacturing frozen foods. It was a Queensland industry. It was processing our own primary products in this State and making them available to our supermarkets for sale. It was also obtaining markets interstate. Instead of those products being frozen and packed in bulk to be sent interstate for processing—in either Sydney or Melbourne, as had hitherto happened—the Lockyer Valley Co-operative did the final processing and packaging itself. In so many supermarkets in Queensland the same types of goods were on sale, but they were being imported not only from the southern States but also from overseas. It was a major employer of labour and was a type of industry that is needed in Queensland, but it was facing closure. It has been struggling along for a considerable period by obtaining very costly finance from other avenues because the Queensland Treasury said that it could not support it and that it would not support it.

I accept that the Department of Primary Industries knows all about this and I know that at one stage the Department of Primary Industries tried to assist the co-operative but received almost exactly the same reply from the Treasury as the Minister has mentioned here. I ask the Minister if this legislation will solve the problem facing the Lockyer Valley Co-operative. I will be most happy with it if it does.

**Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN** (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (10.8 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members, particularly the honourable member for Bundaberg, who is, I understand, the Opposition spokesman on primary industries—

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** A very eloquent one, too.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Quite a good one, yes. I thank him for his acceptance of what is contained in the Bill.

He indicated that once he had seen the Bill he would probably comment further on it. It is, as I said, a validating Bill. I need to check on some of the things that have been raised, and will answer them in my second-reading speech.

The comments of the member for Lytton were rather interesting. Without going into his speech in great detail now—I will deal with it in more detail in my second-reading speech—he spoke about the number of farmers in the Dalbeg-Clare area. It was some years after World War II that this area was developed. I have a fairly clear recollection that, when the coalition took office, one of the first actions of the then Premier (the late Sir Francis Nicklin) was to virtually double the areas of landholdings in that district. The producers were on starvation areas.

In considering the previous land policy, one has only to look at what happened in the Clare-Dalbeg area. I know because I was Minister for Lands for 4½ years. This was the pattern not only in irrigation areas but in so many other parts of Queensland. I am not condemning the person who introduced the policy, whether it was the Minister or the chairman of the Land Administration Commission. It is good to have hindsight, but it is good to have a bit of foresight, too.

The honourable member for Lytton made certain criticisms, but I think he has to keep in the back of his mind that the judgments of the Labor Government of the day were not all that good. I know a lot of these people personally. They went up there to farm tobacco and other things. They spent a few years of their lives to no avail and then walked off the properties. It was not until this Government took office and areas were doubled that things began to progress. I would say that the farmers in the Clare-Dalbeg area today can see a future for themselves. I go along with the statement of the honourable member for Lytton that, with the development of the Burdekin Dam, there is a future in the area for many types of farming, whether it be sugar, rice, smallcrops or whatever. Over the years my departmental officers have done a very extensive survey of the capabilities of the Burdekin area for the growing of foodstuffs.

I was somewhat amazed and interested to hear the statement about land tenure made by the honourable member for Lytton, a man for whom I have a very high regard. He is a pretty sensible sort of person, and it seems that he does not go along with his party's policy on land tenure. He seems to be an advocate of freehold land. This is something we have been advocating for 20 years, so I commend the honourable member for Lytton for trying to bring a breath of fresh air into a party that has been socialistic in its attitude for generations.

I was amazed when the Leader of the Opposition entered the debate. Here I am presenting a Bill and my leader is in another place, no doubt doing other things—

**An Opposition Member:** He's behind you.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Of course he is behind me 100 per cent, but it amazes me to think that the Opposition has a spokesman on primary industries and yet the No. 2 bowler for the Opposition was the Leader of the Opposition. I can tell by the look on the face of the honourable member for Bundaberg that he is a little bit upset that his leader does not have very much confidence in him as the spokesman on primary industries. The Leader of the Opposition was the Opposition spokesman on this subject for a long time and he made one hell of a mess of it. I think the honourable member for Bundaberg is doing just that little bit better than he did.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the Lockyer Valley co-operative. I will reply to that point in my second-reading speech. He was critical of the Government, saying what it should have done and did not do for the Lockyer Valley co-operative. There were reasons for what we did and I will enumerate them in my second-reading speech.

The hour is late. This is a validating Bill and there is no argument from the Opposition or anybody in Government circles about it. It is necessary, and I am pleased that the House has accepted it in the manner in which it has been presented.

Motion (Mr. Sullivan) agreed to.

#### FIRST READING

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

The House adjourned at 10.16 p.m.