

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 1979

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

REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations of his report for the year 1978-79.

Ordered to be printed.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Nominal Defendant (Queensland), for 1978-79.

Griffith University, for 1978.

Commissioner for Water Resources, for 1978-79.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Electricity Act 1976-1979.

The Queensland Government Industrial Gazette Act of 1961.

Metropolitan Transit Authority Act 1976-1979 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979.

Water Act 1926-1979.

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Harbours Act 1955-1979.

Regulations under—

Inspection of Machinery Act 1951-1974.

Traffic Act 1949-1977.

By-laws under the Water Act 1926-1979.

Reports—

State Stores Board, for 1978-79.

National Trust of Queensland, for 1978-79.

PETITIONS**STATE SCHOOL FUNDING**

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) presented a petition from 124 electors of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will restore the real level of funding to State schools to at least the level of 1974-75, to provide sufficient funds to ensure adequate class sizes; to allow necessary building and maintenance works in all Queensland schools, and to ensure that provision for capital works be increased to a level not less than that allocated in other States.

Petition read and received.

LIVINGSTONE SHIRE OFFICE

Mr. HARTWIG (Callide) presented a petition from 749 electors of the Livingstone Shire, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take the necessary action to construct the new Livingstone Shire office on the site of Queen and Hill Streets, Yeppoon, so that business may be transacted in a convenient location.

Petition read and received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. INQUEST INTO DEATH OF MR. M. SOUVELIS

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

With reference to a decision handed down in the Coroner's Court, Mackay, on 17 August in the case of the death of Michael Souvelis, who, whilst working with a maintenance gang on a straight stretch of the Bruce Highway just north of Calen, was struck by a north-bound semi-trailer—

(1) Did the court establish that the proper safety procedures had been carried out by the maintenance gang?

(2) Was the court informed of the actions of the driver of the semi-trailer at the time of the accident?

(3) How could the coroner deliver a verdict of "no case to answer" when no prosecution witnesses were called upon to give evidence by the prosecutor?

(4) In view of the great concern being expressed by local residents with regard to this case, will he request the Crown Law Office to reassess all aspects of this matter and institute appropriate legal proceedings as deemed necessary?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) In view of the matters raised by the honourable member, the depositions, exhibits and decision of the magistrate at Mackay on 17 August 1979 have been obtained and are being examined. The honourable member will be further advised.

2. LAND HOLDINGS OF PLYMOUTH PROPERTIES PTY. LTD.

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

With reference to the mining homestead leases described as MHPL 5078, RA 463, MHPL 6557, MHL 4626, sub 1 of MHL 4626, MHL 7609, RA 1651, MHL 2016, sub 1 of MHL 2016, MHL 4931, sub 1 of MHL 4931, MHL 5775, MHL 5779, MHL 7610, sub 3 of MHL 4626, 5875/19—por. 243, 5797/200—allot. 11, sec. 54, County of March, Parish of Gympie, which are all now registered under Plymouth Properties Pty. Ltd. of which Ian Rice is

the principal director and which comprise the area of land of the Bexley Corporation's shopping complex at Gympie—

(1) On what date or dates was the application or applications made for the transfer of this land, and what was the nature of such applications and by whom were they made?

(2) On what date or dates was the land concerned transferred to Plymouth Properties Pty. Ltd. and who approved the transfer?

(3) Was the land concerned converted to freehold and, if so, on what date or dates, who approved such conversion, and what are the new registered titles of the land concerned?

Answers:—

(1) Stamped transfers of the residence areas, miners' homestead leases and miners' homestead perpetual leases were lodged with the warden, Gympie, for registration, on 25 January 1979, by Messrs. MacGillivray, Halligan, solicitors of Brisbane.

(2) The transfers of residence areas Nos. 463 and 1651 and miners' homestead leases Nos. 2016, 1/2016, 4626, 1/4626, 3/4626, 4931, 1/4931, 5775 and 5779, Gympie, which did not require my prior approval, were registered by the warden, Gympie, on 26 January 1979. The transfers of miners' homestead perpetual leases Nos. 5078, 6557, 7609 and 7610, Gympie, were approved by me on 31 January 1979.

(3) The surrenders of residence areas Nos. 463 and 1651, Gympie, were accepted by the warden, Gympie, on 15 February 1979. The surrenders of all the abovementioned miners' homestead leases and miners' homestead perpetual leases were accepted by the Governor in Council on 15 February 1979. The other titles referred to are not under my control. On the acceptance of the surrenders of these titles, my ministerial responsibilities under the Mining Act and the Miners' Homestead Leases Act ceased in regard to the land.

3. SIGHT AND HEARING CHECKS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

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

(1) Will he advise his department's programme for checking the eyesight and hearing capabilities of schoolchildren?

(2) Will he advise when children were last checked at (a) Innisfail, (b) Silkwood, (c) Mt. Garnet, (d) Ravenshoe and (e) Herberton State Schools?

Answers:—

(1) The vision and hearing of schoolchildren are routinely checked by school health sisters in the first year at school, and thereafter when referred by teachers, parents or the children themselves.

A scheme has just been launched requesting the voluntary participation of general practitioners in testing the vision of four-year-old pre-school children either in the practitioners' surgeries or at the local pre-school centres.

(2) (a) March 1979; (b) April 1979; (c) August 1979; (d) November 1977—Listed on itinerary for visit October 1979; (e) December 1978—Listed on itinerary for visit November 1979.

4. MINING OPERATIONS, HERBERTON DISTRICT

Mrs. Kippin, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police—

(1) Will he list the Government's revenue collected from mining operations in the Herberton mining district for the financial years 1973-74 and 1977-78?

(2) What direct expenditures were made in this district for the benefit of miners in the same financial years?

Answers:—

(1) Government revenue from mining operations in the Herberton mining district for the periods mentioned is as follows:—

	1973-74	1977-78
Mining lease rents	\$66,120	\$102,553
Royalty	\$1,647	\$24,862
	<u>\$67,767</u>	<u>\$127,415</u>

(2) Direct expenditure for the benefit of miners was:—

	1973-74	1977-78
Subsidy loans ..	Nil	\$825
Grants for roads, bridges and water supply ..	\$5,010	\$2,500
	<u>\$5,010</u>	<u>\$3,325</u>

It should be pointed out that there is considerable annual fluctuation in such grants to particular areas, depending on the number and nature of applications received.

It is worthy of mention that the relevant figures for the Herberton district for the intervening years are 1974-75—\$10,918, 1975-76—\$10,165, 1976-77—\$15,485, out of Statewide expenditure for 1974-75—\$34,191, 1975-76—\$42,043 and 1976-77—\$29,991.

5. UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND EXTERNAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

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

As the University of Queensland External Studies Programme plays a major role in providing education for country and

handicapped people, will he discuss with appropriate Federal authorities the matter of substantially increased funding so that his department can extend its excellent services?

Answer:—

I have been advised by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland (Professor Brian Wilson) that, following receipt of several comprehensive reports, he is taking the following action to improve the services offered by the Department of External Studies—

(1) The university is seeking the approval of the Universities' Council to use part of a General Development Grant for 1980 and 1981 to strengthen the senior staffing of the department and to upgrade substantially three second-year subjects.

(2) A large grant is being sought from an American foundation to extend work in external studies and continuing education.

(3) The masters degree course in English offered for the first time in 1979 is to be progressively extended. Five new subjects will be offered in 1980.

(4) Further improvements to the procedures and materials of the department will be made progressively.

Funding for the universities and colleges for 1980 and 1981 has now been determined by the Commonwealth Government and, within the global sum provided, it is the responsibility of the University Senate to decide how it will be distributed. I can assure the member that the advancement of external studies is one of Professor Wilson's priorities and that he is currently exploring how this can best be done.

6. MEDICAL CENTRE, CAPELLA

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

What progress has been made in the establishment of a medical centre at Capella?

Answer:—

Rough sketches have been prepared by the Works Department for the proposed outpatients centre at Capella. The Emerald Hospitals Board is currently examining available sites within the town and, on the acquisition of a suitable site for the facility, detailed planning will proceed.

7. TOILET DOORS

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

Is he aware that in licensed clubs the fire services require that toilet doors open outwards and that the Licensing Commission require the same doors to open

inwards? As I have had an inquiry from one such organisation in the Peak Downs electorate on this matter, will he liaise with the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General to solve this problem of whether the doors should open inwards or outwards?

Answer:—

I must commend the honourable member for bringing this situation to my attention. Knowing how thoroughly he researches the subject-matter of his questions, I am sure he has ascertained that very embarrassing situations could occur if a person was pulling to open a door when, in fact, he should be pushing.

There is nothing laid down in the Fire Safety Act to cover the "ins" and "outs" of this situation, and the fire services are satisfied if the means of escape are in accordance with the Standard Building By-laws. The Standard Building By-laws provide that a swinging door fitted to a doorway serving as a required exit shall swing in the direction of egress except in the case of a doorway opening to a sanitary department. I am informed that the Licensing Commission requires toilets to comply with the requirements of the Standard Sewerage By-laws and, where situated off a public area, an airlock must be provided.

If the honourable member has a specific case that he requires examined, I will be only too pleased to do so, upon receipt of a letter, and I will make sure it does not get caught up between my "in" and "out" baskets.

8. TOOWOOMBA HOSPITAL

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

(1) Is he aware that the final move for the relocation of patients' accommodation to the new \$8,000,000 medical block at the Toowoomba Hospital, which opened four months ago, is long overdue and has been delayed because of the non-delivery of trolleys necessary to provide support services in the new building?

(2) Will he give the reasons for the long delay?

(3) Will he initiate urgent action to see that these trolleys are supplied so that the hospital can use the new building?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The manager of the Toowoomba Hospitals Board has advised that two wards only remain unoccupied at present. It has, however, always been the intention of the board to occupy the block on a progressive basis.

Whilst there have been certain delays in the delivery of equipment, the board is now in the position to be able to occupy the remaining two wards on 29 October 1979.

Because of the volume of requisitions received for various types of trolleys for major new hospital buildings and for replacement of existing trolleys, it became necessary for the department to standardise on types of trolleys to be supplied, which involved the preparation of specifications and arrangement of contracts for supply and occasioned some delay in supply.

9. PRE-SCHOOL, DARLING HEIGHTS

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

Has the building of a pre-school at Darling Heights, Toowoomba, been cancelled and, if so, will he give the reason for its cancellation, and will he advise when such a pre-school will be built to service the new Darling Heights school?

Answer:—

My department has not sought to have State pre-school facilities established at Darling Heights during 1979-80 because waiting lists at existing State pre-school centres in Toowoomba do not suggest a need for additional pre-school facilities at this stage.

I see no reason to build another pre-school centre in Toowoomba when, in all likelihood, it would cater for children who already have reasonable access to existing centres. The need for additional pre-school facilities in Toowoomba will be reconsidered in terms of planning for 1980-81.

10. BEACH EROSION, KINKA BEACH

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

With reference to the serious beach erosion on the Kinka Beach south of The Causeway on the Capricorn Coast since cyclone "David", and as during the past five years I have drawn attention continually to the serious erosion which is now endangering the main road, in many instances only ten to 15 metres from the roadside, what recommendation and action has the Beach Protection Authority made and taken to arrest this serious erosion?

Answer:—

In April 1977 a report outlining various schemes for mitigating the erosion problems at Kinka Beach was forwarded by the Beach Protection Authority to the Livingstone Shire Council. The report suggested that redirection of the creek mouth at The Causeway, coupled with beach replenishment, would provide a solution to the erosion problems.

More recently, the authority has completed a major coastal investigation of the area using more up-to-date data than was

available in 1977, but the recommended erosion protection works remain substantially the same. The report on this investigation will be forwarded to the council before the end of this year.

Implementation of beach protection works to overcome these erosion problems is the responsibility of the Livingstone Shire Council. Such works presently attract a State Government subsidy of 20 per cent.

11. WIDENING OF SECTION OF CALLIDE VALLEY HIGHWAY

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

With reference to that portion of the Callide Valley Highway between the boundary of the Mt. Morgan and Banana Shires extending westward to the railway level crossing and a distance of about 40 chains, will he have this part of the highway widened in keeping with the widening recently carried out in the Mt. Morgan Shire, as this part of the roadway seems to have been forgotten and is very narrow and dangerous?

Answer:—

There is a 1.9 km section of the Burnett Highway at the northern end of Banana Shire that has not yet been widened. The widening of this section is proposed as soon as widening works between Dululu and Mt. Morgan in Mt. Morgan Shire have been completed.

12. MARLBOROUGH-SARINA SECTION, BRUCE HIGHWAY

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

(1) With reference to the state of the new Marlborough-Sarina section of the Bruce Highway, has deterioration been caused by heavy traffic?

(2) As this section of the highway, which was opened to traffic months ago, has now deteriorated and all binding material has become dust, leaving a surface similar to a creek bed and presenting a real traffic hazard which in some places is dangerous, will he advise when this highway will be bitumen sealed?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The problem which the honourable member has brought to attention is the inevitable result of an extended dry spell on stage construction works undertaken in a period of shortage of funds for national highways.

The Government's decision to allocate State funds to this national highway in the current financial year will mean that paving and bitumen surfacing of the new

section between Churchill and Montrose Creeks can be brought forward to commence in the 1980-81 financial year.

13. PURCHASE OF TEWANTIN LAND BY
MR. Y. IWASAKI

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

(1) Has Mr. Iwasaki recently purchased land at Tewanтин?

(2) If so, what is the extent of the area of land purchased and the proposed development?

Answers:—

(1) I am not aware of any such purchase.

(2) See answer to (1).

14. RAMPS AT DOHLES ROCKS ROAD/
BALD HILLS/BURPENGARY BYPASS
INTERSECTION

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

(1) As Petrie police are concerned about the increase of local traffic in the Petrie/Kallangur area, has further consideration been given to the finalisation of the construction of the on and off ramps on the Dohles Rocks Road/Bald Hills/Burpengary bypass intersection?

(2) If not, will he consider the ramps as a matter of importance?

Answers:—

(1) The need to provide on and off ramps at Dohles Rocks Road is kept under review.

(2) It is still considered that the provision of ramps at this location is low in priority compared with other projects in the area.

15. RADIATORS, HOLDEN MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) As General Motors-Holden's are manufacturing motor vehicles which develop cooling problems within a short period of the vehicles' expected life, and as radiators need replacement within a short period because of their total collapse, will he investigate the quality of material being used in the radiators of Holden motor vehicles?

(2) Will he take action if he considers the material to be sub-standard?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I am not aware of the situation as outlined by the honourable member. However should the honourable member provide me with documented evidence of his claims, I will have them investigated.

16. DIRRANBANDI HOSPITAL

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

As the old maternity wing of the Dirranbandi Hospital is an eyesore to both the hospital and township, is it intended to call tenders for its sale and removal and, if not, what proposals are in hand for its renovation and use?

Answer:—

The Balonne Hospitals Board has sought approval to invite tenders for the sale and removal of this building. The board has been advised that action to dispose of the building should be withheld until the matter of accommodation for the dental superintendent has been finalised.

17. AIR SERVICES, DIRRANBANDI

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

(1) Is he aware of any proposals to discontinue air services to Dirranbandi?

(2) Will he instigate discussions with the company concerned and make every endeavour to have the service maintained and improved?

Answers:—

(1) No such proposals have come to my notice. I am advised that an application has been received at the Transport Department for alterations to services which constitute a rescheduling but do not involve abandonment of Dirranbandi.

(2) I have asked the Commissioner for Transport to investigate and report on the current application.

18. PRODUCTION OF AVGAS AT ROMA
REFINERY

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

Have officers of his department and the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development completed their investigation into the feasibility of the production of Avgas at the Roma refinery and, if so, what recommendations are contained in the report?

Answer:—

No. Investigations are proceeding.

19. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TEACHER,
GYMPIE AREA

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

As training on musical instruments is needed in both primary and secondary schools in Gympie, will he give consideration to the placing of a music instrument teacher in the area in the near future?

Answer:—

The need for musical instrument training in all major centres not currently served is recognised. Consideration will be given to the appointment of a musical instrument instructor to schools in the Gympie area. However, it must be pointed out that the Budget's financial restraints make the supply of instruments impossible and further discussion with parents on this aspect will be necessary.

20. ROAD-WORKS, MINGELA-BURDEKIN
FALLS DAM SITE

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

(1) As \$1,200,000 has been allotted to upgrade the road from Mingela to the proposed Burdekin Falls Dam, is it intended to make this road a bitumen all-weather road and, if so, what length of this road is expected to be upgraded with this money?

(2) What part, if any, of this road will be upgraded by the Dalrymple Shire Council work-force, or will it be upgraded by contractors and, if so, when will tenders be called?

(3) Is the \$1,200,000 to be spent by June 1980, and will further funding be provided at that time to ensure that this road is built in the shortest possible time?

Answers:—

(1) The entire 123 kilometres from the Flinders Highway to the dam site is to be upgraded to a 6-metre bitumen surface. It is anticipated that a start on this work will be made early in 1980.

(2) The upgrading of the 40.5 km section from Flinders Highway to Ravenswood will be undertaken by the Main Roads Department. At this stage it is not possible to indicate to what extent the Dalrymple Shire or private contractors will be involved.

The remaining 82.5 km from Ravenswood to the dam site will be upgraded by the Water Resources Commission and current intentions are to call tenders for two 10 km sections early in 1980.

The Commissioner of Water Resources proposes to hold early discussions with the chairman of Dalrymple Shire in regard to possible shire involvement.

(3) The allocation of \$1,150,000 for 1979-80 is expected to be fully expended by 30 June next. Further funding will be provided in future years in accordance with the availability of funds, with a view to having the entire road upgrading programme completed at the earliest practicable date.

21. RAIL PASSES AND CONCESSIONS FOR
PENSIONERS

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

(1) With reference to the introduction of the Budget, wherein he stated that in order for pensioners to have an improved opportunity to travel within the State it was proposed to provide each year two such free return rail journeys, from what date will the second, free rail pass be available?

(2) Will the two free rail passes be available to all pensioners, and, if not, will he give consideration to the provision of two concession fares to part pensioners, at the same rate as the privilege fares extended to railway employees, and will he have it apply twice per year?

Answers:—

(1) The new scheme will commence from 1 January 1980 so that two passes will be available for the 1980 calendar year.

(2) The rail passes under the scheme are available not only to pensioners but also to other persons in indigent circumstances. The usual criterion for pensioner eligibility is possession of a pensioner health benefit card, which is issued by the Commonwealth Government not only to persons in receipt of full pension benefits but to part pensioners as well, depending on the circumstances.

The entitlement to two free return rail journeys in the State in any one year will provide a substantially improved benefit for persons eligible under the scheme, and it is not proposed to further extend the scheme at this time.

22. POLICE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AFTER
ARREST OF MR. T. J. GROGAN

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

(1) Is he aware that, because of the arrest of a Mr. Grogan, of Partington Street, Roseneath, Townsville, for driving a car whilst holding a learner's permit without being accompanied by a licensed person, Mr. Grogan's four-year-old daughter, together with the sixteen-year-old daughter of a friend, were forced to walk six miles from Rising Sun to their home at Roseneath at 10 p.m., with most of this road running through isolated areas, arriving home at midnight?

(2) Does he think that the police in question had a duty to protect these children by escorting them to their homes safely?

(3) Will he have the police in question reprimanded for their action in leaving the children to find their own way home, and ensure that this sort of thing never happens again?

Answers:—

(1) On the night of Friday, 5 October 1979, Terrence John Grogan was arrested by Townsville police in Bowen Road, Townsville, between Rising Sun and Ross River Bridge, on a charge of disobeying a police officer's direction under the Traffic Act. At the relevant time, Grogan was accompanied by his young daughter and a female named Julie Nielsen, of 45 Ackers Street, Hermit Park.

The arresting officer offered to escort the two females to their home but Nielsen declined the offer saying, "I'll walk back to Ackers Street." Nielsen, accompanied by Grogan's daughter, then commenced to walk back towards that address, which was within one mile of where Grogan had been arrested. At the time of his arrest, Grogan appeared to show no concern about the safety of the females.

(2) It is admitted that police have a responsibility to protect children, but in this instance Nielsen refused the courtesy extended to her by the Townsville police to drive her and her companion to their home.

(3) It is not intended to have the police officers concerned reprimanded for their actions in this matter.

23. PARLIAMENTARY ANNEXE TREES AND SHRUBS

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

(1) With reference to my question of 9 October regarding shrubs and trees at the Parliamentary Annexe, and as part of that question fell outside the responsibility of the Minister for Works and Housing, what changes, if any, have been made to the Australian trees and shrubs planted at the Parliamentary Annexe?

(2) If changes have been made, (a) what varieties were replaced, (b) why were they replaced, (c) what varieties were used and (d) which were the countries of origin?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I suggest the honourable member discuss this matter with the Honourable the Speaker.

24. WATERFRONT LAND FOR MERRIMAC HIGH SCHOOL

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

With reference to my question on 24 April 1979 in which I asked whether additional waterfront land for the Merrimac State High School was to be

purchased to enable rowing to take place by students, at what stage are negotiations and when will the land be available?

Answer:—

Officers of the Department of Works, who are our agents in such negotiations, advised my department that the last communication received from the Albert Shire Council on the matter was during May this year, when it was notified that the "matter was still under discussion and a decision was not yet available". The Works Department advised further that the matter will now be raised again with the council with a request that action be expedited.

25. REZONING OF SAMFORD VALLEY LAND

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

(1) What is the current position regarding applications that have been made to the Pine Shire by D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd. for rezoning of certain land in the Samford Valley?

(2) Have any approvals or recommendations been received from the Pine Shire in respect of land, and have any Executive Council decisions been given recently in respect of rezoning of land in the Samford Valley?

(3) What are the dates and details of these applications and/or approvals?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) On 5 July 1978 the Pine Rivers Shire Council made application to me under the Local Government Act 1936-1979 for amendment of its town planning scheme by the rezoning from rural "A" and rural "B" to residential "B" of certain lands in the Samford Valley held by D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd. The application, objections received thereto and the council's representations thereon were fully considered, and the Governor in Council approved of the rezoning on 12 October 1978.

26. BUSINESS INTERESTS OF MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

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

With reference to his ministerial statement of 28 November 1978 in which he said, "Mr. Speaker, this provides a summary of what I believe to be all of my business transactions or undertakings in which I have an interest", was a mortgage taken out by Belah Pty. Ltd. for \$550,000 with the Moscow Norodny Bank which sum was then loaned to Maralinga Pty. Ltd.

with him signing both agreements as a director of both companies only two days later on 1 December 1978?

Answer:—

It is obvious that this question is a further futile attempt by the member for Surfers Paradise to discredit my family and me. I repeat that my private affairs in no way impinge on my duties as a Minister of the Crown and a member of this Parliament.

27. OVERALLS, RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

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

(1) With reference to overalls supplied this year to the Railway Department, is he aware of numerous complaints received from employees of that department that shrinkage suffered by these garments is excessive and that the cloth is too thin to resist welding sparks?

(2) What action is he taking to rectify this situation where the Government has purchased poor quality garments?

(3) What are the details of any "escape" or penalty clauses in the contract in the event of the manufacturer's not meeting his commitments under the terms of the contract?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) This is just another example of unfounded attacks being made by Opposition members on Government departments. Recently, the State Stores Board was advised by the Railway Department that complaints had been received from the Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights' Union about the quality and fitting of overalls supplied on the Government contract. As the State Stores Board is vitally concerned at the level of its service to Government departments, the matter was immediately investigated. Inquiries directed to the Stores Branch of the Railway Department at Redbank revealed that no complaints had been received about the present supply of overalls and that in fact overalls supplied by Hardie Trading Ltd. were quite satisfactory.

Notwithstanding this, a sample of the material being used in the manufacture of the overalls was obtained and submitted for analytical tests by the Government Analyst on 10 October 1979. His advice is that the sample is of similar quality to that submitted with the firm's tender, which exceeded the specifications by 29 per cent in the warp strength and 17 per cent in the weft strength. The Government Analyst also advises that tests show that the shrinkage is within the tolerance allowed by the trade for shrink-resistant finish cloths.

The honourable member should know that cotton drill is not spark-resistant, and employees using welding equipment should wear appropriate protective gear. Incidentally, all of the overalls supplied under this contract are being manufactured at Winn Street, Fortitude Valley.

28. TESTS FOR DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR OR DRUGS

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

With reference to each police district for 1978-79—

(1) How many persons were convicted for driving under the influence of liquor or drugs and what was the amount of money collected from these fines?

(2) What were the (a) maximum and (b) minimum penalties imposed upon conviction?

(3) What were the (a) highest and (b) lowest blood-alcohol levels recorded by testing on a breathalyser machine?

(4) How many drivers had levels below the permissible level when tested on a breathalyser machine?

(5) How many breathalyser machines are operating?

(6) How many breathalyser machines were overhauled and/or recalibrated?

(7) How many certified operators are available for the machines?

(8) Under what circumstances and how many times was it necessary for a doctor to attend and certify that the motorist was under the influence of liquor or drugs?

(9) What was the amount of money paid to the medical practitioners for this work, who were the doctors who received payment and how much money was paid to each?

(10) How many roadside breath test kits were used and at what cost?

(11) How many of these roadside breath tests showed negative readings?

Answers:—

(1) Statistics on drink-driving offences for the several police districts are shown in the annual report of the Commissioner of Police for 1979. Statistics of fines imposed are not kept by the Police Department. I suggest that this question be directed to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

(2) These statistics are not kept by the Police Department. I suggest that this question be directed to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

(3) (a) The highest blood-alcohol reading recorded on a breathalyser throughout the State was .4 per cent at Brisbane. (b) The lowest blood-alcohol reading recorded on a breathalyser throughout the State was .01 per cent at Brisbane.

(4) 1,904 persons throughout the State recorded blood-alcohol readings below .08 per cent. Statistics are not readily available for each individual police district and, as this would require extensive manual research to be undertaken, it is not proposed to divert police from other urgent duties for this purpose.

(5) There are 40 breathalysers throughout the State, distributed in the various police districts as follows: one in Bundaberg, Beenleigh, Charleville, Cairns, Dalby, Gympie, Ipswich, Longreach, Mareeba, Mt. Isa, Redcliffe, Roma, Innisfail, Oxley, Fortitude Valley and Wynnum; two in Maryborough, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Warwick, Gold Coast and Mackay; and four in Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane.

(6) Each breathalyser is fully serviced every six weeks, regardless of usage.

(7) There are 182 authorised breathalyser operators throughout the State, of which 113 are actively engaged in operating the breathalysers mentioned in answer to (5).

(8 & 9) Doctors are required to take blood specimens where breathalysers are not available, but statistics are not available as to how many times a medical practitioner was required to certify that a motorist was under the influence of liquor or drugs. The computerised accounting system of the Police Department does not disclose individual names of, or amounts paid to, medical practitioners. However, it may be of interest to the honourable member to know that \$14,963.30 was paid to medical practitioners throughout the State for the obtaining of blood specimens in the following police districts:—

Cairns, \$631.20; Ingham, \$99.50; Innisfail, \$79.60; Mareeba, \$277.00; Mt. Isa, \$386.00; Townsville, \$796.70; Gladstone, \$218.90; Longreach, \$604.10; Mackay, \$984.70; Rockhampton, \$2,709.90; Bundaberg, \$647.20; Gympie, \$1,028.40; Maryborough, \$149.20; Redcliffe, \$550.00; Sunshine Coast, \$177.50; Charleville, \$934.50; Dalby, \$933.70; Roma, \$1,086.60; Toowoomba, \$139.30; Warwick, \$875.60; Beenleigh, \$834.20; Gold Coast, \$159.20; Ipswich, \$496.70; Wynnum, \$199.60.

To obtain the individual names and amounts would require extensive manual research to be undertaken and it is not proposed to divert police from other duties for this purpose.

(10) Records are not kept of how many roadside breath-test kits were used. Each kit, which contains 10 phials, is purchased at a cost of \$8.70.

(11) No records are kept of these particulars.

29. TRANSFER OF TEACHER FROM HOPE VALE MISSION SCHOOL

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

(1) Did his department receive a request from the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement to transfer a staff teacher from the Hope Vale Mission School, and was the teacher subsequently sent to Gladstone West School?

(2) What was the reason for his transfer to Gladstone West School only a few months before the end of the school year?

(3) Did his principal and regional inspector, in their assessment of his work earlier, find him unsatisfactory?

(4) Is he being transferred because he legitimately expressed his concern for the Aboriginal community's welfare?

(5) Is the credibility of the State Government and the Lutheran Church so brittle that it cannot withstand such slight and proper probing as was given by this teacher?

(6) Is the situation for the State Government and the church at Hope Vale Mission so dangerous that his department was prepared to disrupt the education of (a) two classes of children in two schools, Hope Vale Mission and Brassall, at this vital time in the school year and (b) the whole of both schools by ensuing industrial action, the possibility of which he was made well aware of?

(7) Is he aware that at least 172 of 210 adults of Hope Vale Mission have petitioned to have the teacher retained at the Hope Vale Mission School?

(8) Is he aware that at least three of four Hope Vale Mission Aboriginal councillors have signed a declaration of support for the teacher?

(9) Will he take immediate action to reverse this vindictive and immature stance?

Answers:—

(1) The Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs drew to my attention the fact that a staff teacher at Hope Vale was becoming increasingly involved in mission and community administration matters at the Hope Vale reserve. These incidents culminated at a public meeting on 31 August when he was in charge of a group of children witnessing the conduct of the meeting as a social studies exercise. The

teacher concerned illegally intervened when a policeman was removing a person from the meeting at the request of the chairman of the Aboriginal Council. Following this open challenge to properly constituted authority in front of children for whom, as a teacher, he was responsible, my department conferred with the Lutheran Church authorities and it was determined that it would be in the best interests of all concerned to transfer the teacher. I would remind members that the school at Hope Vale is in the transition stage from mission to departmental control.

(2) Because of the incidents referred to above, the delicate balance between the Department of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement, my department, the Lutheran Church, the Aboriginal Council and the inhabitants of the reserve was being threatened. As the teacher was becoming more rather than less involved, it was decided to transfer him as soon as possible.

(3) Following protests from the Queensland Teachers' Union, the Director-General requested the Regional Director, Northern Region, to investigate and report as to whether there were grounds why the transfer should not proceed. A regional inspector from that region investigated the nature of the teacher's involvement in mission and community affairs and his action at the meeting on 31 August, in order to determine whether the teacher's continued presence at Hope Vale was prejudicial to the maintenance of good relations at the reserve. He recommended, after a two-day investigation, that there were sufficient reasons for the transfer of the teacher from Hope Vale. The teacher's competence in the class-room is not in question except in as much as his public actions can influence his pupils to a particular view.

(4) The teacher's actions were not legitimate. Hope Vale is a reserve under the Aborigines Act. The chairman of council and the Aboriginal policeman acted legitimately. The teacher was seriously out of order.

(5) Subsequent events, and in particular the decision by the Aboriginal Council to advise the Queensland Teachers' Union's industrial officer that his permit to stay on the reserve was no longer valid, indicate that the responsible people at Hope Vale do not support the teacher, despite his unrelenting and persistent efforts to have them do this. I deeply regret the steps the Queensland Teachers' Union have taken to deprive these children of their education. It is their credibility as people who boast that they care that is in question.

(6) It is the executive and officers of the Queensland Teachers' Union who have brought about the disruption through industrial action. I am pleased to note, however, that despite the efforts of a union industrial officer, the staff at Brassall

unanimously rejected his pleas for them to go on strike and in fact supported the teacher who was prepared to go to Hope Vale in place of the transferred teacher.

(7) The Queensland Teachers' Union have claimed this to be so, but no document supporting same has been received at my office. I have been given to understand that the teacher concerned did take a petition around the community.

(8) Various conflicting reports have been received about decisions and statements made by various members of the council. This supports my view of the disruption the teacher has caused. It is significant that the council has not supported the continued presence of the union industrial officer.

(9) No.

30. NEW POLICE STATION, SAMFORD AREA

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

(1) Has he been made aware by his department of the problems confronting residents of and visitors to the Samford district because of the lack of effective police coverage of that area?

(2) Is he aware that officers from the understaffed Mitchelton Police Station have to cover such diverse and widespread areas as Mount Nebo, Mount Samson, Samford and Ferny Hills, as well as Mitchelton?

(3) As residents are being assaulted by wrongdoers when they try to stand up to them, attempts have been made to abduct schoolgirls off the local bus, drunken brawls between visiting "bikies", etc., are occurring in the streets and foul things are being done to shops, etc., will he take urgent action to have a police station similar to that at Dayboro established in Samford?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The staffing of all police divisions is under continuing scrutiny by the Police Department.

It is considered that the present staff at Mitchelton is adequate. In addition, attention is given to the area by Brisbane mobile patrols, and in the last year two Juvenile Aid Bureau members have also been attached to that station.

In the last six months, only 14 complaints regarding criminal offences in the Samford area were received. Active patrolling of the Samford and adjacent areas is carried out, and will continue to be carried out, by police from Mitchelton.

A new police station to be erected at Ferny Grove is included in the department's forward-planning building programme, and the project will be proceeded with as soon as funds are available.

31 & 32. **BALD HILLS COLLEGE OF
TECHNICAL AND FURTHER
EDUCATION**

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

(1) With reference to the Bald Hills College of Technical and Further Education, which opens in 1980 with several hundred students including evening students, what provision is to be made for public transport to and from the college?

(2) Will he, as chairman of the Road Safety Council, ensure that Brisbane City Council installs traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing outside the adjacent Norris Road State School prior to the increase in traffic resulting from the opening of the college?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that some exploratory discussions have taken place between the education planning authorities and local transport operators and that there has also been an approach to the Metropolitan Transit Authority for assistance with surveys.

At this stage the question of the extent and nature of public transport facilities for the college has not reached finality.

(2) Traffic lights are installed by traffic authorities in accordance with warrants set out in the manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

If the honourable member were to state a case for the installation of lights, I would be pleased to have it passed to the Brisbane City Council for appropriate consideration.

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

(1) With reference to the opening of the Bald Hills College of Technical and Further Education next year, what are the numbers of staff to be employed under the categories of (a) academic, including trade instructors, (b) administration and (c) cleaners and gardeners?

(2) When and how will these positions be filled, and how will local people apply for the vacancies?

(3) Will he give instructions for local unemployed persons to be given priority of employment?

Answers:—

(1) It is anticipated that staff in 1980 will comprise—

(a) Principal and 32 teaching staff;

(b) One administrative officer, two clerk typists, and one clerk;

(c) Approximately 12 cleaning staff, six labourers, one janitor, and one groundsman.

(2) Some teaching staff have already been appointed. It is expected that some teachers will be transferred from other colleges as the need arises, and any suitably qualified unemployed teachers resident in the area will be considered for appointment. Administrative positions will be filled under the normal procedures governing appointment of public servants. All teachers and administrative staff are expected to be appointed for the commencement of the 1980 school year. Advertisements for ancillary staff will be placed in the local Press. The majority of these positions will not be filled until 1 January 1980.

(3) No. In accordance with normal procedures, the most suitably qualified applicants will be appointed. All things being equal, preference will be given to local residents.

33. **SEX EDUCATION IN STATE SCHOOLS**

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education—

Has his department given authority to schools in Queensland to add to their curricula a course in sex education or so-called human relations and, if so, at what schools is the project being taught?

Answer:—

No. I understand, however, that from time to time parents and citizens' associations arrange sessions for parents and their children related to some aspect of human development. These sessions are often arranged in conjunction with groups such as the Family Life Movement.

34. **CONSERVATION OF ENERGY**

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

(1) Has his Government refused to contribute to a national media campaign designed to convince people to save energy because the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police has said that he feels that money sought as Queensland's contribution to the campaign could be better spent in more practical energy-saving measures?

(2) What are these practical energy-saving measures, and what amounts of money have been spent on them?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Yes. As practical energy saving measures, as opposed to a costly media campaign of doubtful validity, the Government has set aside \$50,000 for solar energy investigations for this financial year, and it is involved in a number of studies related to the production of ethanol from cane.

Its major research contribution is towards the conversion of coal to synthetic liquid fuels through participation in the Joint Australia/Federal Republic of Germany Coal to Oil Conversion Study, wherein the Queensland Government's contribution to 30 June 1980 will total \$333,000.

35. COST OF FUNERALS

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

(1) Has his Government investigated the reason for the cost of funeral services and the hardship the high cost of dying is causing to pensioners and others facing economic problems, such as those on unemployment benefits?

(2) Has consideration been given to the use of cardboard and papier mache coffins for cremations?

(3) What is the average cost of funeral services in Brisbane and country areas for (a) burial and (b) cremation?

Answers:—

(1) No. However, I understand that investigations conducted by the Trade Practices Commission reveal that both the funeral and cremation markets in Brisbane exhibit a degree of price variation and competition greater than in many other industries.

(2) Not to my knowledge.

(3) I am not aware of the average costs.

36. FREE-STANDING LIBRARIES AT HIGH SCHOOLS

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

(1) How many secondary schools in Queensland have free-standing libraries funded by the Commonwealth Library Scheme?

(2) Will he list the schools that do not have these facilities and will he provide a priority list detailing the date that these schools will receive such facilities?

Answers:—

(1) The Commonwealth Library Scheme ceased to operate on 31 December 1974. Since then, high school libraries have been funded from the totality of State and Commonwealth funds for education. The number built solely from Commonwealth funds under the original scheme was 32. The total number of high schools now possessing separate library blocks is 55. Of the remaining 76 high schools, 43 would be below 500 and by size-related enrolment would ultimately be expected to have the allowable library space included within the school structure.

(2) The schools which do not possess separate library blocks and with enrolments in excess of 500 are (in order of size)—State high schools:—

Trinity Bay; Bundamba; Balmoral; Maroochydore; Sandgate; Wynnum North; Redcliffe; Mackay North; Kepnock; Maryborough; Beaudesert; Innisfail; Ayr; Acacia Ridge; Everton Park; Lockyer District; Dalby; Kalkadoon; Caloundra; Ingham; Indooroopilly; Glenmore; Mareeba; Nashville; Holland Park; Noosa District; Aldridge; Mirani; Bundaberg North; Stanthorpe; Yeppoon; Kingaroy; Hervey Bay.

As priority lists vary yearly with changing enrolments, I am not prepared to provide such a list.

37. FRESHWATER STATE SCHOOL

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

On what date will the two blocks of land purchased for extra playing ground for the Freshwater State School be available for this purpose?

Answer:—

There are two residences situated on the land recently acquired to enlarge the grounds of the Freshwater State School. As no local approved organisation wishes to purchase these residences for removal, action is being taken to request the District Supervisor of Works, Cairns, to invite public offers for purchase and removal of these houses.

Although no firm indication can be given at this juncture as to when the land will be available for use by the school pupils, the honourable member is assured that as soon as the houses have been removed action will be taken by my department to place these allotments in a usable condition for general play purposes.

38. SCHOOL-BUS SERVICES, CLIFTON BEACH

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

Will free school-bus services or special concessional fares be made available through the existing bus service for children attending the home school at Clifton Beach?

Answer:—

Responsibility for assistance for students attending the home school at Clifton Beach would be accepted by my department only when the normal conditions applying to school transport schemes are met. Under the schemes, assistance is available to students who reside more than 4.8 km from the nearest State primary or State secondary school.

39. IMPORT OF STRAWBERRIES

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

(1) Is he aware that because of overseas imports of strawberries the local Queensland industry is in jeopardy and some local factory outlets have ceased to process the local strawberry crop because of the imports?

(2) What action will he take with the Commonwealth Government to have the import of strawberries limited so as only to make up the shortfall of Australian requirements, thus giving protection to this local Queensland industry?

Answers:—

(1) For some time now I have been aware of the problems of the local strawberry industry, especially those created by imports of strawberries. I thank the honourable member for the assistance that he has given me in relation to the problem. Of the three Queensland processors, only one has indicated that it will not receive local supplies this season. It is understood that this processor is holding large stocks. However, I am informed that a large southern-based jam manufacturer has now indicated that it will receive supplies of even expanded intake.

(2) Already my department has made representations to the Commonwealth about this matter. I also understand that the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing has similarly made representations to the Commonwealth about imports. As the honourable member for Redlands would be aware, the Commonwealth would require certain information before it would proceed on the matter. He can be assured that officers of my department are taking all possible steps to monitor the situation, but I would be pleased to receive any additional information which the honourable member might have available. Should a clear case be established to seek some form of temporary assistance prior to the general industry review by the Industries Assistance Commission, due before December 1981, appropriate steps will be taken to bring this about.

40. BIRKDALE STATE SCHOOL

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

When will the newly acquired land purchased for the Birkdale State School be developed to provide urgently needed playing fields for the growing school?

Answer:—

Approval was recently given to the necessary expenditure for the fencing of this additional land and also for clearing and grading of the area to make it suitable for free-play purposes. This work will be put in hand at the earliest opportunity.

41. COOK ELECTORATE, ENROLMENT OF AURUKUN RESIDENTS

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

How many names of people residing at Aurukun in the Cook electorate have been placed on the State electoral roll for that electorate for the 12 months to 31 March?

Answer:—

Electoral records indicate that 150 electors whose addresses were given as Aurukun on their claims for enrolment registered in the period 31 March 1978 to 31 March 1979, and are currently enrolled.

42. BAUXITE-MINING, AURUKUN

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

(1) Has the Government been advised by any of the companies which constitute the Aurukun Associates group of companies when bauxite-mining is to commence at Aurukun?

(2) Have they advised what funds they will spend on developing their leases at Aurukun during this financial year?

(3) When is it anticipated that mining, or any mining developmental work, will commence at Aurukun?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) No.

(3) The companies have not yet announced their decision in this regard, which will presumably be dependent on the availability of markets.

43. HALF-STAFF DAYS FOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STOREMEN, WINDSOR STORES; SHOW HOLIDAYS

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

(1) As most public servants are granted half-staff leave during Exhibition week and the Christmas and New Year breaks, and as this privilege is not extended to storemen employed by the Education Department at the supply stores, Windsor, will he take the necessary action to ensure that these men are not discriminated against and that they may enjoy half-staff holidays during these times?

(2) What is the practice in regard to the granting of show holidays throughout the State?

(3) Where there is a centre at which a show is held, within what radius of that centre are workplaces required to be situated for the show holiday to be applicable under various awards?

(4) If there are areas where the show holiday is not applicable, will he give consideration to establishing a particular day in each area as a show holiday?

Answers:—

(1) The question of half-staff leave concessions for public servants and Crown employees receives consideration each year. The policy of the Government is that the privilege of half-staff leave will not be extended beyond the administrative departments of the Public Service and the salaried officers of the Railway Department who enjoyed the concession prior to 1963-64.

(2 to 4) The long-standing policy of this and previous Governments has been that the appointment of a day to be kept as a show holiday be considered only on the application of the local authority in the particular area. In practice, where an annual agricultural, horticultural or industrial show is held regularly, the local authority makes application each year to the Minister for Labour Relations.

Show holidays are granted under the Holidays Act and, under existing legislation, work undertaken by employees on a show holiday would not attract overtime rates unless the holiday were in respect of a show held at the principal city or town for the area. However, in view of the number of local authorities that have, in recent years, applied for the appointment of a holiday in respect of a show other than that held within their particular districts, especially in relation to the Brisbane Royal National Show, Cabinet has approved that action be taken to grant a show holiday in respect of any annual agricultural, horticultural or industrial show after consideration of an application by the local authority in which the district is situated. Not more than one show holiday can be appointed in any one year with respect to a particular area.

Accordingly, the present position is that a local authority can determine whether a show holiday should be applied for in respect of its particular area in connection with its annual show or any other annual show.

44. BRISBANE AND AREA WATER BOARD PRECEPT

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

(1) Is he aware that Brisbane City Council rate notices presently being posted for the current half year carry the following endorsement: "Your water rate levy has been increased by 27.6 per cent, of which 18.7 per cent is required to meet the Brisbane Area Water Board precept for servicing the loan indebtedness on Wivenhoe Dam construction and the Water Board's internal administration costs.?"

(2) Is this percentage movement consistent with the estimate of added cost that was announced by him when he introduced the enabling legislation for the Brisbane and Area Water Board?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) As I mentioned when introducing the Brisbane and Area Water Board legislation into the Assembly, the building of the Wivenhoe Dam would inevitably lead to an increase in water charges in the city of Brisbane and in other local authority areas being supplied with water by the Brisbane City Council. The 18.7 per cent increase in the minimum water charge mentioned by the council in its rate notices results in an increase of \$15.10. During the debate on the legislation, I anticipated a possible increase of \$17.50 in the first year of the board's operations.

45. PUBLIC SERVANTS SUFFERING ANGINA PECTORIS

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

(1) Are public servants liable to have their employment terminated if they experience recurrent angina pectoris (heart pain) but do not have abnormal electrocardiograph tracings and have never suffered myocardial infarction?

(2) What guide-lines exist within the Public Service to assist the Public Service Board in reaching a decision that a public servant has his employment terminated because of angina pectoris?

(3) Does the Public Service Board seek access to specialist advice regarding the probable life expectancy in every such case?

(4) Are final decisions reached in cognisance of the relevant statistics, namely, that there is only a two per cent to four per cent increase in mortality rates for persons suffering recurrent angina pectoris?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Section 27 of the Public Service Act prescribes that the Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Public Service Board, call upon an officer who, by reason of any mental or bodily infirmity, is unfit to discharge or incapable of discharging the duties of his office efficiently, to retire from the Public Service.

Mr. Davis: When are you getting out?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member will be going first.

Answer (contd.):—

If it seems that an officer is unfit, the Public Service Board usually arranges for the officer to be examined by medical

practitioners—I can arrange that for the honourable member—who furnish a report regarding the mental or physical condition of the officer and whether the officer is unfit to discharge the duties of his office efficiently and that there is no likelihood of his condition improving sufficiently to enable him to do so.

The Public Service Board then makes a recommendation having regard to the report of the medical practitioners and all circumstances of the case.

46. DEMOLITION OF REGENT THEATRE;
PROPERTIES LISTED BY STATE HERITAGE
COMMISSION

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

(1) With reference to what has become known as the "Save the Regent Campaign", has his Government given consideration to providing legislation similar to that of other States to protect the built environment and to allow for co-operation with owners of properties listed by the State Heritage Commission who might be disadvantaged by a preservation order?

(2) Did his Government consider the proposals put forward by the "Save the Regent Campaign" and, if so, what is his Government's attitude to these proposals?

(3) Is his Government satisfied that the university, through the trustees of the Mayne estate, is in a secure position regarding the expenditure of \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 on the Regent site?

(4) Has the six months' delay in obtaining finance, following Hoyt's demolition of part of the theatre last December, caused any problems?

(5) Was the university, through the chairman of the University of Queensland Finance Committee, who is an ex-president of the Bank of New South Wales, finally able to get the Bank of New South Wales Provident Fund to provide the finance?

(6) Will this deal provide no residual income for the university for about five years?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. Proposals for a Heritage Bill are under consideration.

(2 to 6) The complex commonly known as the Regent Theatre comprises two separate buildings. The building and land fronting Queen Street and comprising the the entrance, foyer and some shops are owned by the estate of the late James O'Neill Mayne. The second building fronting Elizabeth Street and comprising the auditorium proper is not owned by the estate but was erected partly on land owned by the estate and leased to Hoyts Theatres Ltd. and partly on land owned by the company. The lease expired last year.

The University of Queensland is the sole beneficiary of the income derived from the estates of the late James O'Neill Mayne and the late Amelia Mary Mayne. The university is an autonomous authority and is solely responsible for decisions in relation to properties in its ownership or under its control.

I am advised that, with the expiry of the lease, it was necessary that some action be taken for the effective use of the property. I am advised that a scheme has been adopted by the university for the redevelopment of the Regent Theatre. The scheme is considered to be the most effective way in which to overcome problems of the separate ownership of the land and buildings and provides the most acceptable manner in which to maintain and improve the utilisation of the estate's assets.

I am further advised that the scheme which involves the long-term leasing of the redevelopment site will lead to significant improvements in net income flow.

47. GROWTH OF LARGE SHOPPING
COMPLEXES

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

(1) Is he aware of the growing concern amongst small businessmen and women at the unwanted proliferation of large shopping complexes?

(2) As many of these centres are owned by southern-based finance companies and charge exorbitant rents and a surcharge based on turnover, has he investigated the plight of small businessmen who can neither afford to go into such a complex nor afford to stay out of it?

(3) As his Government is moving to assist country bakers, why has nothing been done to protect country butchers, grocers and electrical retailers and suburban butchers, grocers, electrical retailers and hardware merchants, etc., from these rapidly growing octopuses?

(4) Has he carried out any investigation into the effect on employment as stores in small centres close as a result of these large retail developments?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I would point out to the honourable member that decisions to proceed with ventures such as the construction of large shopping complexes are related to commercial considerations and can involve a considerable risk being undertaken by the investors.

It should be appreciated that the capital being invested in Queensland is providing employment in the building trades and generating incomes in a wide sector of associated industries and occupations.

The shopping complex that I opened yesterday in a country city employed 100 people during its construction, and it will

now provide employment for approximately 150 young people who would not have otherwise obtained jobs in the area.

It is quite obvious that this form of investment provides job opportunities that would not otherwise exist. As a Government we support industries that provide jobs and job opportunities, even if the honourable member does not.

48. LAND UTILISATION, SUGAR-PRODUCING AREAS

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

(1) Did State Government inquiries into land utilisation recommend that strict land-use plans be adopted by local authorities, the sugar industry and the State Government to minimise land use conflict?

(2) Did these recommendations result from findings that two of Queensland's largest sugar-producing areas could face major problems unless there is strict control of urban encroachment on to fertile sugar lands?

(3) Did the report on the Innisfail to Mossman region state that five out of seven mill areas—Babinda, Goondi, Hambleton, Mourilyan and Mulgrave—were land-locked with little, if any, additional suitable land available?

(4) What action has been taken on these important findings and recommendations on the future of one of North Queensland's most important industries?

Answers:—

(1) The State Government has undertaken studies into land use in sugar-growing areas between Innisfail and Mossman, and around Mackay. The reports have highlighted the need for co-operative land-use planning by local authorities and the sugar industry.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes.

(4) The State Government has referred the study reports to relevant local authorities and sugar industry organisations for their guidance in future land use planning.

49. DAVID GOODE GUARANTEED USED CARS PTY. LTD.

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

What are the names and addresses of the registered proprietors of David Goode Guaranteed Used Cars Pty. Ltd.?

Answer:—

Records held in the public register of the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs reveal that there is neither a business

name nor a company name registered under the name of David Goode Guaranteed Used Cars Pty. Ltd.

However, there is a company registered under the name of David Goode Used Cars Pty. Ltd. The names and addresses of the directors and shareholders of this company are—

David Ernest Goode, 165 Trouts Road, Stafford;

Melda Judith Goode, 165 Trouts Road, Stafford.

50. NATIONAL PARK ON BRIBIE ISLAND

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

What progress has been made towards the declaration of a national park on Bribie Island?

Answer:—

The Land Use Planning Committee for Pumicestone Passage has completed its interim report into land use surrounding Pumicestone Passage and on parts of Bribie Island. It is understood that this report will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration in the near future.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service also has a proposal for an environmental park along part of the eastern side of Bribie Island and across part of the island south of the pine plantations. Since this proposal occurs principally outside the area covered by the committee's report, negotiations will now proceed towards securing this park.

51. DUPLICATION OF BRUCE HIGHWAY, CABOOLTURE/BRIBIE ISLAND INTERSECTION- BEERBURRUM CREEK SECTION

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

(1) When is it expected that work will commence on the duplication of the Bruce Highway between the Caboolture/Bribie Island intersection and Beerburrum Creek?

(2) What is the expected completion date of that work?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The duplication of the Bruce Highway between the Caboolture/Bribie Island interchange and Beerburrum Creek is programmed to commence in the 1980-81 financial year. It is anticipated that the construction may extend over about three years, but this would depend largely on the level of national highway funding provided by the Commonwealth in the roads legislation which is due to come into force for the 1980-81 financial year, the current Act expiring on 30 June 1980.

52. DIALYSIS UNIT, GOLD COAST AREA

Mr. P. N. D. White, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

As dialysis units are being established in areas close to Brisbane, will he consider (a) establishing a dialysis unit at the Gold Coast Hospital or (b) supporting the introduction of a dialysis unit in a private hospital at Southport?

Answer:—

The establishment of a renal dialysis unit requires specialist medical and nursing staff, the provision of complex equipment and an adequate number of patients. A small number of units have been established at large provincial centres far distant from Brisbane. These units maintain a close liaison with Princess Alexandra Hospital renal unit.

My department has recently been reviewing the State facilities for dialysis and has been considering the problems of patients on this form of treatment who visit the Gold Coast on holidays. As personnel, finance and demand dictate, the service will be extended.

No objection would be raised to a private hospital's establishing such a unit if it so wished. Such facility would be financed by the hospital concerned.

53. D. G. OGLE PTY. LTD.

Mr. P. N. D. White, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to a company known as D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd. which is concerned with land development in the Samford Valley, who are the directors of this company and who are the shareholders?

Answer:—

Records held in the public register of the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs reveal that the directors of D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd. are—

Donald Gordon Ogle; Ronald Parker; Dennis Lee.

These records also reveal that the shareholders of this company are—

Donald Gordon Ogle; Mary Irene Ogle; Richard William Cameron; Ronald Parker; Lee Kin Yen; Brisbane Community Telecasters Pty. Ltd.

54. CROSS-RIVER BRIDGE OR TUNNEL AT QUEENSPORT

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

With reference to the calling of tenders for the cross-river bridge or tunnel at Queensport, (a) how many tenders were

received, (b) who were the tenderers, what were the tender prices and are there marked differences in their tender conditions, and (c) when will a decision be made as to the successful tenderer?

Answer:—

(a) Tenders were received from four groups of companies. (b) At the opening of tenders on 25 September 1979, the following information was made public, in accordance with the conditions of tendering—

Tender from—John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd—Capital cost of facility—\$80,000,000; Royalty—not specified directly; Type of facility—bridge.

Tender from—Thiess Bros Pty Ltd—Capital cost of facility—\$51,000,000; Royalty—not specified directly; Type of facility—bridge preferred.

Tender from—Transfield (Qld) Pty Ltd—Capital cost of facility—\$40,400,000; Royalty—variable, average return greater than 10 per cent specified; Type of facility—bridge.

Tender from—CC-IHI Group representing Concrete Constructions (Qld) Pty Ltd and Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Ltd of Japan; Capital cost of facility—\$67,000,000 to \$79,000,000; Royalty—variable; Type of facility—bridge.

The costs quoted above are not directly comparable as they include different components of cost and, as such, are not quoted relative to a common base.

There are considerable differences in the conditions relating to each tender as one would expect in a project of this size and of this nature, being a tender for financing, design, construction and operation of this traffic facility.

(c) It is anticipated that a detailed analysis of the tenders will be placed before Cabinet early in the New Year. The assessment of extensive and complicated tenders such as these must be done with great care and with consideration to the overall benefit to the State of Queensland and the community at large. The result of the traffic survey recently conducted on major routes in the city of Brisbane will have important consequences in this assessment.

55. FEDERAL INQUIRY INTO NEW BRISBANE AIRPORT

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

With reference to the Federal inquiry on the new Brisbane airport, is the State Government making a submission and, if so, what is the substance of the submission? If not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

A submission will be made. This will deal with the involvement of the Queensland Government in the construction planning for the redevelopment of Brisbane International Airport and will express strong support for an early commencement of construction.

56. ELECTORAL ENROLMENTS

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

At 30 June, what was the enrolment of each State electorate?

Answer:—

I table the information requested by the honourable member and seek leave to have the figures tabled incorporated in "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid on the table the following document—

Enrolment—as at 30 June 1979.

Electoral District	Total	Electoral District	Total
Albert	19,104	Hinchinbrook ..	12,424
Archerfield ..	17,041	Ipswich	16,358
Ashgrove	16,934	Ipswich West ..	16,953
Aspley	17,441	Isis	15,480
Auburn	9,871	Ithaca	15,610
Balonne	7,974	Kurilpa	16,222
Barambah	10,627	Landsborough ..	19,762
Barron River ..	17,869	Lockyer	16,732
Brisbane Central	16,517	Lytton	16,153
Bulimba	16,087	Mackay	18,502
Bundaberg	15,294	Mansfield	17,942
Burdekin	11,293	Maryborough ..	14,928
Burnett	12,461	Merthyr	15,864
Caboolture	18,192	Mirani	11,968
Cairns	17,618	Mount Coot-tha	16,066
Callide	12,803	Mount Gravatt ..	17,292
Carnarvon	10,348	Mount Isa	14,026
Chatsworth	16,829	Mourilyan	10,982
Condamine	12,261	Mulgrave	10,895
Cook	8,352	Murrumba	16,656
Coorooora	19,187	Nudgee	16,093
Cunningham	13,187	Nundah	15,820
Everton	16,343	Peak Downs	9,886
Fassifern	19,880	Pine Rivers	17,915
Flinders	10,109	Port Curtis	13,552
Greenslopes	15,911	Redcliffe	16,958
Gregory	8,145	Redlands	18,940
Gympie	12,731	Rockhampton ..	17,289

Enrolment—as at 30 June 1979—continued

Electoral District	Total	Electoral District	Total
Rockhampton	17,943	Townsville South	15,047
North Roma	7,889	Townsville West	15,683
Salisbury	18,089	Warrego	8,074
Sandgate	16,762	Warwick	10,315
Sherwood	18,092	Wavell	16,192
Somerset	17,943	Whitsunday	13,322
South Brisbane ..	16,484	Windsor	15,926
South Coast	18,922	Wolston	16,411
Southport	17,047	Woodridge	19,359
Stafford	16,649	Wynnum	16,724
Surfers Paradise	18,007	Yeronga	16,526
Toowong	16,608		
Toowoomba North	16,845		
Toowoomba South	16,743	Total	1,253,451
Townsville	18,172		

Answer (contd.):—

I propose to release publicly within a few days a complete computer printout of all figures relative to State enrolments as at 31 August last.

57. METRICATION

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to reports that the Thatcher Government in the United Kingdom has announced that it is suspending all laws and regulations making metrication compulsory and that the people of the United Kingdom will now be free to choose how far and how fast they metricate?

(2) In view of this refreshing breath of common sense in the metrics issue, will he suggest to the Prime Minister that he follow Mrs. Thatcher's lead and withdraw some of the Metric Conversion Board's dictatorial powers which have caused great expense and inconvenience to so many people and made our older citizens virtually illiterate in weights and measures?

(3) Will he further urge the Prime Minister to permit the reintroduction of a voluntary dual system of weights and measures for as long as the people want such a system?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. I am aware that the Government of the United Kingdom has taken action on the lines referred to by the honourable member.

(2 & 3) Notwithstanding the decision by the United Kingdom Government which, I understand, followed a four-year delay

from 1965 to 1969 in commencement of the programme and further delays in its implementation, I do not see it as necessarily indicating that a similar decision should be taken in Australia. I am advised that circumstances under which metric conversion was undertaken in the U.K. were somewhat different from those in Australia, primarily in that in the U.K. it was timed to take place concurrently with the conversion to decimal currency and that right from the outset this was expected to cause difficulties.

Planning for and implementation of metric conversion has been in train in Australia since 1970. The aim of the Metric Conversion Board was to complete the conversion in ten years. Clearly this timetable will not be achieved, but equally clearly progress has been made to beyond the point of no return.

In Queensland, the conversion of weighing and measuring instruments to the metric system for across-the-counter trading has been completed. Any moves to withdraw from the metric system would merely add to the costs which have occurred.

Sole metric trading and metric advertising has applied since 1 January 1979 for certain articles sold in terms of a price per unit of length or area—articles such as floor coverings, textiles, rope etc. Dual metric and imperial advertising is permitted for all other articles both on the trading premises and in newspapers. Thus, the opportunity has existed for some time for a purchaser to compare the pricing of an article and become conversant with values related to the metric system.

Cabinet has decided that sole metric trading in Queensland will be introduced not later than similar action in the remaining States of Australia. Whilst no date has been proclaimed for sole metric trading in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, sole metric trading has been declared in New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia and is being introduced in Victoria and Western Australia on an incremental basis.

Under the current programme, trading is carried out in the market-place in an orderly manner, and in these circumstances it is not my intention to urge further extension of the dual system of weights and measures beyond the Australia-wide timetable.

Although arguments can be advanced in favour of it, the reintroduction of a voluntary dual system of weights and measures where the metric conversion of weighing and measuring instruments is completed, would result in non-uniform trading patterns and resultant long-lasting difficulties and confusion for both the trader and the purchaser.

My ministerial colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Labour Relations, has already stated that regulations requiring metric only advertising of food and household items will be applied with sympathy and understanding. He has also stated that during the transition period his officers would concentrate on education and assistance to ensure that the buyer and seller were helped and not harassed.

58. NOISE LEVELS, TRAIL BIKES

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

(1) Are there any regulations setting maximum noise levels on the exhaust systems of trail bikes sold in this State?

(2) If not, will he give urgent priority to the introduction of such noise limitations and ensure that they are strictly enforced, thereby helping ordinary people to quietly enjoy their week-ends in their homes without being assailed by the screaming engine noises deliberately caused by the inconsiderate hoodlums who infest suburban streets on these raucous machines?

Answers:—

(1) Recommendations made by the Australian Transport Advisory Council setting maximum sound levels in relation to new vehicles have been adopted and included in the Queensland Traffic Regulations.

In so far as motor cycles are concerned, these come under the category of motor vehicles, except specially constructed vehicles manufactured on and after 1 July 1975.

(2) Whereas the noise level for new vehicles including motor cycles can be dealt with at the source of manufacture under the Australian Design Rules procedure, the position in relation to the use of vehicles including motor cycles on the road is a different proposition, and it is necessary to prove to a court's satisfaction that a vehicle in use on a road is creating undue noise. Excessive noise can, of course, be caused by driver behaviour and/or unapproved vehicle modification.

The Traffic Regulations already provide a very significant means of controlling the problem, particularly regulation 91 which provides that a police officer may inspect a vehicle on a road, and where he is of the opinion that the vehicle does not or may not comply with the conditions applicable thereto prescribed by or under the schedule to Part 13 of the regulations, require the owner or driver of such vehicle to produce it to the Chief Inspector of Machinery or his representative at a specified time for inspection, examination or test for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the vehicle complies with such conditions.

If the honourable member were to approach my colleague the Honourable Minister for Mines, Energy and Police, I am sure appropriate attention would be given to specific areas of concern.

59. COMPENSATION TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR LOSS OF RATES FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF NATIONAL PARKS

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

What action is contemplated in relation to compensating shires for loss of rating precept due to declaration of land for national parks or fauna reserves?

Answer:—

No action is considered necessary by way of compensation to local authorities in cases where gazettal of areas as national parks or related reserves means loss of rates. The indirect but very real tourist and other benefits resulting usually compensate for any direct rate loss. All local authorities affected are now consulted before gazettal of such areas.

60. CLOSURE OF PORT OF BOWEN

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

(1) Will the stevedoring authority cease operations at the port of Bowen as from 31 December 1979?

(2) Will this cessation for the register of waterside labour mean the virtual closure of this port?

(3) If this port closure has been brought about by technology, namely, containerisation, to what location is it intended that the cargoes will be diverted?

(4) Has he or the Government contested this decision and, if so, what was the manner and timing of such actions?

(5) Has any consideration been given to seeking an extension of time in the first instance until 30 June 1980 to allow a reasonable readjustment period for those involved who will be required to find new jobs and relocation of their homes? If not, will he now take such action?

Answers:—

(1) I understand that the company which has carried out stevedoring operations at Bowen has indicated its intentions to cease operations as from 31 December 1979.

(2) The port has been struggling to remain viable for some considerable time. Although the harbour board has been active in its endeavours to build up trade through the port, that has not eventuated. It has been recognised for some time that the future of the port depended largely on

the emergence of orders for coal in quantities which could be economically handled by vessels which can enter the port. Unfortunately for Bowen, the current trend is towards the use of larger vessels for large shipments of coal. As only about 3 000 tonnes of cargo was handled by waterside labour during the last financial year, the loss of such cargo does not have a significant bearing on the viability of the port.

(3) The current difficulties of the port stem, firstly, from the move some time ago towards bulk shipment of sugar and, more recently, the move towards containerisation of other export commodities and the tendency to minimize the number of ports of call for larger vessels. These are trends which command support on obvious grounds of efficiency. Bowen has a limited entrance channel depth of 6.4 m, which limits shipping to the order of 8 000 gross register tonnes. The diversion of cargo has been sugar to Townsville and Mackay, and meat for the European market to Brisbane and Sydney.

(4) The decision is one made by a private enterprise concern based on economic considerations. It would not be appropriate for the Government to attempt to coerce the company into retaining what the company considers to be an uneconomic activity.

(5) There has been a steady decline in the waterfront labour force at Bowen since sugar was diverted from the port in 1960, such decline being accommodated by retirements and transfers to other ports. I understand that the remaining waterside workers in Bowen have been given the option of taking up employment in larger ports. This being so, there would be little basis for requesting an extension of the present arrangements at the expense of the operating company.

61. SALE AND OWNERSHIP OF LAND, COUNTY OF WARD, PARISH OF BARROW

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

(1) Was an area of land described as lot 2 on registered plan 143372, County of Ward, Parish of Barrow, occupying 9707 m², sold in May 1977 by a certain person for \$40,000 to a company in which that person was the majority shareholder?

(2) Who was the person who sold that land, what was the name of the purchasing company, and who are its shareholders and the number of shares held by each?

(3) Is it also a fact that 15 months later, in August 1978, that same block of land, under terms described as pursuant to the terms of the deed of trust in favour of the transferee, was transferred back from the company to the same person from which it was bought?

(4) What is the land use and location of the land described as lot 2 on registered plan 143372, County of Ward, Parish of Barrow?

(5) What was the reason for the unusual land-swapping exercise involving this land in May 1977 and August 1978 and what has happened to the \$40,000 allegedly paid for it in May 1977?

(6) Who now owns the areas lots 1 and 3, registered plan 143372, County of Ward, Parish of Barrow, and to whom are they mortgaged and for how much money?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The person who sold the above land was Russell James Hinze and the purchasing company was Maralinga Pty. Ltd. Records in the public register of the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs reveal that the shareholders of Maralinga Pty. Ltd. and the number of shares held by each are as follows:—

Russell James Hinze, 4 ordinary shares; Graham Andrew Hinze, 1 ordinary share; Roderick James Hinze, 1 ordinary share; Lindsay Russell Hinze, 1 ordinary share.

(3) Yes.

(4) The land is located in the town of Oxenford, but records do not indicate its land use.

(5) This information is not available in the records of the Titles Office.

(6) The Acting Registrar of Titles indicates that his records show Maralinga Pty. Ltd. as the registered proprietor and that both parcels of land and another are the subject of a mortgage to Moscow Narodny Bank Limited. No principal is stated in the mortgage, but stamp duty has been noted as "Collateral to the extent of \$550,000".

62. AMENDMENTS TO JUSTICES ACT

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

Have the controversial amendments to the Justices Act 1886-1978, having passed through the third-reading stage in this House and having been assented to on 26 June 1979, yet been proclaimed and, if so, on what date and, if not, what are the reasons?

Answer:—

The Justices Act Amendment Act 1979, which was assented to on 26 June 1979, did not require to be proclaimed to come into operation.

63. PROBATION ORDERS

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

(1) How many probation orders were made in Queensland courts during 1978-79?

(2) How many such orders have not been complied with in whole or in part?

Answers:—

(1) There were 1,534 persons admitted to probation during the 12 months ended 30 June 1979.

(2) The duration of orders made in 1978-79 varied between six months and three years, so only a proportion of these orders would have been completed during that 12-month period. However, during the same period, 80 orders were terminated as a result of breach action being taken before the courts. Thirty-seven others were taken back before the relevant courts, but these orders were allowed to continue after the matter had been heard by the judge or magistrate concerned.

64. RIGHTS OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

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

Is he considering legislation designed to give handicapped persons, in particular mentally handicapped persons, the same rights as those enjoyed by other citizens and, if so, when will this legislation be introduced?

Answer:—

At the present time, a committee is considering legislation designed to replace the Backward Persons Act of 1938. The committee has advanced considerably in its deliberations and it is anticipated that in the near future a report will be made for my consideration. I would be willing to receive any submission that the honourable member may wish to make about this matter.

65. FACILITIES FOR DISABLED RAIL PASSENGERS

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

(1) Has the Railway Department any proposals which may assist disabled passengers?

(2) Have any investigations been carried out to establish what assistance may be required by disabled persons using public transport?

(3) In the new electric trains, is it proposed to allocate seats which people will be required to vacate for disabled persons?

Answers:—

(1 & 2) Invalid wheelchairs are provided at South Brisbane and Roma Street Stations for the conveyance of disabled persons to and from trains. In addition, a collapsible wheelchair suitable for use on board trains is being provided at South Brisbane.

(3) Accommodation for people in wheelchairs will be provided in the new electric trains in four locations in each three-car set. This will be done by hinging back two longitudinal seats adjacent to leading and trailing vestibules to provide the necessary clearance.

66. PROPERTY RESUMPTIONS ALONG ROUTE OF NORTHERN FREEWAY

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

(1) What funds have been allocated for resumptions on the proposed northern freeway?

(2) How many properties in the path of the northern freeway have been purchased by the department?

(3) How much has been spent on repainting the resumed houses?

Answers:—

(1) In the sense of funds allocated for planned purchases, no funds have been made available. However, funds have been allocated generally for the fee-simple acquisition of properties affected by freeway proposals in those instances where the criteria for hardship cases are met.

(2) The number of properties purchased as at 30 September 1979 was 277.

(3) Some \$31,997 has been spent or committed on the painting of 41 properties on the proposed northern freeway.

67. SAND-MINING, MORETON ISLAND

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

(1) Have Mining Leases Nos. 930, 1081, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1126, 1130, 1131 and 1132 granted on Moreton Island expired, or will they expire during this year?

(2) If not, when do these leases expire?

(3) With reference to the findings and recommendations of the committee of inquiry into the future land use of Moreton Island, will he give an undertaking that these leases, and any other leases which expire in the future, will not be renewed?

(4) What are the Government's plans in respect of future sand mining on Moreton Island?

(5) If the Government intends allowing sand-mining on Moreton Island, will it be limited to the extent recommended by the committee of inquiry?

Answers:—

(1) The original terms of these leases have expired or will expire this year.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) The applications for renewal are still under consideration.

(4) They will not be formulated until the report to be produced by the inter-departmental committee set up to advise on future land use on Moreton Island has received consideration.

(5) This matter will be considered among others when the report referred to in (4) is received.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired. Questions remaining unanswered will appear on tomorrow's Notice of Questions.

SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT—
RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Debate resumed from 11 October (see p. 961) on Dr. Edwards's motion—

“That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1979-80, a sum not exceeding \$344,008 to defray Contingencies—His Excellency the Governor.”

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (12.7 p.m.): On the numerous occasions on which I have participated in a Budget debate, I have begun by referring to the millions of dollars that the State Government was spending and then dealt with the various items of expenditure set out in the Budget papers. However, I think it would be far more appropriate today for me to speak about the millions of human beings who are affected by famine in other parts of the world and who require assistance. I have come to the conclusion that I should do that principally because of the State Government's attitude towards funds known as Austcare and Freedom from Hunger.

Let me begin by referring to page 13 of the 1978-79 Budget papers, which shows clearly that \$10,200 was granted to Freedom from Hunger and \$10,200 to Austcare. Just over 12 months ago, members of this Assembly studied the Budget papers and decided that it was desirable that the Government should grant financial assistance to those two organisations. No-one will claim, of course, that \$10,200 is a massive amount of money; in fact, it is a very small amount indeed. However, it was available, and it could be increased if the occasion demanded.

No-one will convince me that Kampuchea does not require massive assistance now. As a matter of fact, I noticed in a recent report that the National Party thought that \$100,000 should be made available—not in

goods that could be eaten, but in diesel motors and seed. Obviously, it recognised that there is a need there. However, I believe that its priorities for determining the need are completely wrong. Certainly, assistance of that type is needed, but assistance in another form is urgently needed now. In my opinion, the Government should be roundly condemned for its refusal to assist the people of Kampuchea. It is quite remarkable that the Liberal Party has not done anything at all to assist. Although the Premier is totally opposed to such assistance, at least the organisational wing of the National Party is in favour of it.

The Budget papers and the Auditor-General's report indicate that the sums of money that were appropriated were allowed to lapse.

On 3 October this year, I asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

"Why was no money given to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and Austcare last year, in spite of the fact that Parliament appropriated \$10,200 to each charity in the 1978-79 Budget?"

It is important to remember that that expenditure was approved by Parliament. In answer, the Treasurer said—

"While it is one of my functions as Treasurer to arrange for the appropriation by Parliament of various sums for expenditure under the various departmental headings in the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means, the actual expenditure and approval thereof then becomes the responsibility of the particular department concerned and thus the relevant Minister."

In this instance, the relevant Minister happens to be the Premier. I knew that, but I wanted to know what the leader of the Liberal Party thought of such a proposition. He simply passed the buck. He did not say that the money should be paid or that, because Parliament had appropriated it, the Government had an obligation to spend it.

On 4 October, I asked the Premier the same question. His answer was as follows—

"As the honourable member well knows, Parliament makes the provision for the expenditure of funds and it is the Government which makes the decisions on that expenditure. In the cases referred to in the honourable member's question, it was decided that the grants would not be proceeded with."

No reasons were given. Of course, in the Press we have read questions posed by the Premier as to who would handle the money. What I want to know is why the money was not given in the first instance, over 12 months ago.

The Premier has suggested in his statement that the Government is above Parliament. I have always understood that in a democracy Parliament is supreme. I can understand how, because of the time factor, money

that has been appropriated is not spent. Later in my speech I shall refer to many sums of money that, because of lack of time, were not spent. The fact is, however, that in the instances to which I refer the Premier deliberately ensured that the money was not given. Obviously he was unopposed by the Treasurer.

No appropriate reason for the Government's lack of action has been given. Last night on television it was made clear that the feeling of the public relates not so much to the manner in which monetary donations would be spent as to the reasons for not giving the money. Surely Parliament is the place in which those reasons should be stated. The Premier has refused to state them.

I urge the Government here and now to assist the people of Kampuchea. They need hundreds of thousands of dollars. In this morning's "Courier-Mail" the Government is reported as proposing to spend \$50,000 on a publicity campaign concerning the Essential Services Bill.

Mr. Vaughan: It will need more than that.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Government will never be able to provide justification for that legislation. The expenditure of that sum is a waste of public money. And I guarantee that it will be only the first instalment. Let the public, through their elected representatives, decide what should happen to the Essential Services Bill. If the Government were to allow that to happen, it would cost nothing. The money could then be paid as a first instalment towards assisting the people of Kampuchea.

I want to refer briefly to another matter. The honourable member for Cairns has already spoken on it. He knows far more about details of it than I do. I am referring, of course, to long-line fishing. This matter has claimed public attention for many reasons. The first reason is that all of us—certainly those in the Opposition—are well aware of the great importance of the State's tourist industry. However, we adopt a conservative line. We believe that the game-fishing industry should be preserved. Game fishing is a sport that is enjoyed by many people. It is well known that when the real sportsman catches a sporting fish he returns it live to the sea, if that is humanly possible. That is sportsmanship at its best. We know that that sort of thing is not possible in all types of sport. However, game fishing is an important industry.

What concerns me apart from that is how this whole issue has been handled. It has been handled in a manner that does not become a responsible Government. Over the years we had heard of Taiwanese fishing boats in that area. We had heard about Navy patrol vessels capturing and bringing into port Taiwanese fishing vessels found up there. Until about a month ago the Queensland public was unaware of any

Japanese fishing activities in that area. However, the people were well aware of the problems that had been created by the Taiwanese fishing boats.

Suddenly we found that an arrangement had been entered into with the Japanese Government. The Queensland Government allowed the newly appointed Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism to state publicly that he would oppose it. I do not doubt the sincerity of the gentleman concerned, but he was not fully informed by his own Government about what was going on.

It was obvious that the Federal Government was involved in negotiations, and I believe that this was known by the Premier. Whether those negotiations were tied up with the sale of coal and beef and with the Iwasaki project, I do not know, but someone should come clean and tell the Parliament and the people of Queensland what it is all about.

I now refer to the reports contained in "Sunday Sun" and "The Sunday Mail" last week-end, which contained statements attributed to the chairman of the Queensland Amateur Fishing Council, Dr. Terry Russell, who is a State Government appointee. According to the week-end newspapers, a meeting was held between a representative of the Federal Government, an unnamed Brisbane businessman with game-fishing interests—I am not concerned about who he is—and the Secretary, Premier's Department, Mr. Keith Spann. Surely that requires an explanation to the Assembly. The State Government representative was not the Director of the Queensland Fisheries Service; he was the Secretary, Premier's Department.

The Premier made the statement that it would be good for Queensland, and that he had known for years that the fishing was going on. This Parliament was never told about it. Apparently the news media did not know about it or they would have mentioned the Japanese as well as the Taiwanese. The Premier said also that, by doing this, we would be able to control those activities. What utter nonsense! If they could not be controlled up till now, and if those boats could not be kept out of that area, how can that be done now?

What worries me is that the public is being told that there is a possibility of having the matter reviewed and the decision altered, yet meetings had been held with the Premier's representative. I venture to say that that was not the first meeting about this matter which was attended by State and Federal Government representatives. It is quite significant that it was the newly appointed Minister for Maritime Services who was allowed to make all of the denials and lodge all of the objections, and not the Premier's Department.

I know that the honourable member for Cairns will be speaking on that subject in greater detail later in the debate. We in the Opposition believe, however, that the

Queensland Government has sold out this section of the tourist industry. It will be no good for the Government to come back later and say, "Oh, we're sorry. We didn't think this would happen." The Government knows that it is happening. In fact, according to the Premier, he has known for quite a long time that it has been going on.

Let us now have a look at the Budget papers themselves. As we know, the Budget is a set of figures, but I wonder just how much reliance one can place on them. I wonder how much of the so-called estimated expenditure for this year will actually be carried out. I instance the normal donations to the Freedom from Hunger and Austcare organisations, which do not appear this year, and point out that although no donations are being made to these organisations an amount of \$150,000 is to be given to the Sir Robert Menzies appeal. Apparently the Government considers that appeal to be the more significant.

Over the years, and particularly over the past 12 months, the Queensland Government has made many claims in an endeavour to prove that Queensland has become the greatest State in the Commonwealth—that we pay the lowest taxes, have the best employment opportunities, the greatest increase in population, and the most progressive Government.

Mr. Sullivan: That doesn't upset you, does it?

Mr. HOUSTON: It would not upset me if it were the truth, but if the Minister remains in the Chamber I will discuss those claims and disprove them. We are not the lowest-taxed State in the Commonwealth. It is true that the Government has abolished death and gift duties, but how does that affect the ordinary person? For a start, you can't take it with you. The fact of the matter is that, because of the exemptions that applied for many years before the present Government came to power, what a person on ordinary wages left as an estate after a lifetime of work had no significance as far as estate duties were concerned.

There has been a reduction in road permit fees, but I wonder how much of that reduction has really been passed on to the consumer. We find that prices are still very much higher in country areas than in the capital city.

What a dismal record the Government has as far as employment is concerned! Only the other day we found that there were more young people out of work this month than there were last month, and they have no prospects of obtaining work. The position of women in employment is deteriorating day by day. Yet the Government claims that there are great employment opportunities in this State. The Government's claim in last year's Budget that 5,000 jobs would be created has not been substantiated.

The Treasurer has transferred money from one section to another and, because he has done that and called it by a different name,

he claims to have achieved a miracle. As time goes by, we will also prove that statement to be inaccurate.

The total estimated revenue for 1979-80 is \$2,172,547,000, an increase of 11.56 per cent on 1978-79, provided that inflation does not catch up. Of course, that is a matter for the Federal Government. Provided that the inflation rate does not exceed that figure, and having regard to the actions of the Government, one would expect more employment opportunities to be provided. But that does not appear in the Treasurer's Financial Statement. The Budget papers do not indicate an increase in the present level of employment opportunities. The total estimated expenditure for 1979-80 is \$2,173,306,300, an increase of 11.63 per cent over last year's figure. In other words, the Government is again going for a virtually balanced Budget. Now, at this particular point in time with unemployment as it is, one would have expected the State Government to use its funds to create work. I know that the Treasurer stated that he intended to do this and he mentioned a lot of figures, but that does not create work. He tried it last time. Perhaps it has propaganda value.

The Commonwealth payments from personal income-tax-sharing entitlements for 1978-79 were down \$763,400 on estimate. The actual figure of \$844,136,960 was up 8.8 per cent on the 1977-78 figure. The estimate for 1979-80 is \$947,800,000. That is an increase of \$103,660,000, or 12.3 per cent. So we do expect far more from the Commonwealth. Because of those figures, I suppose, the State will be able to further say that it has reduced taxation. Again, we can show that that is not so.

The main reason why this payment from the Commonwealth Government through the tax-sharing arrangement was down \$763,400 was that the State was down 5,215 in its population estimate. If the tax-sharing income is based on an estimate of population and that estimate is lower than the actual figure, naturally the total amount received is down. That is what happened on this particular occasion. The estimate from New South Wales was well below the actual figure. In reality, New South Wales was up 13,830 persons. So, contrary to what the Minister for Primary Industries has suggested, the estimate did not show that Queensland was a State with a great increase in population. I shall come to the actual figures in a moment.

This factor of population alters the percentage distribution between the States. Although the actual Commonwealth payments exceeded by \$1,700,000 the estimated total amount available to the States, Queensland received \$763,000 less than estimated, while New South Wales received \$6,697,000 more than estimated. Surely that is the sort of money that this State really needs. Incidentally, but for the guaranteed payment

under the financial assistance grants formula, Queensland would be further down the scale this year. Although the estimated payment to Queensland is \$947,800,000, the formula payment was \$903,200,000. That is something for which this State should be very grateful to Mr. Whitlam. If it had not been for the Labor Party's formula and the Labor Party's providing this guarantee, Queensland would have been down \$44,000,000. That would have been the position if the State had had to rely on the old Liberal/National Party type of formula.

Dr. Edwards: He did not fix the formula for us.

Mr. HOUSTON: Through his efforts, this State is to receive an extra \$44,000,000, which is not bad. I know that the Treasurer is still crying about the population figure, but he has been just as unsuccessful as the previous Treasurer, Sir William Knox, and Sir Gordon Chalk before him. We are only taking the Treasurer's word that the figures are wrong. As I said earlier, whoever worked out the population formula was out by over 5,000.

Dr. Edwards: The New South Wales and South Australian people who were there supported us.

Mr. HOUSTON: New South Wales and South Australia supported Queensland. Because they were Labor States, of course they would do whatever they could to help the other States. It is only this Government that knocks the other States. The Labor Party does not knock them.

There is an interesting sideline to the population formula. It is estimated that during this calendar year Queensland's population will increase by 18,515, or 0.85 per cent.

Dr. Edwards: Good policies and good Government.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not knocking this Government for encouraging more people to come to Queensland. All I say is that a lot more people should be encouraged to come here. I know the Government has taken credit for the fact that there will be an estimated 18,515 more people. I am not knocking that at all. However, let us look at New South Wales—a Labor State. Over the same period it has an estimated increase of 70,870 people, a population increase of 1.4 per cent. As I agreed with the Treasurer earlier, I know he will agree with me when I say that he wishes he had that type of increase in Queensland. Then he could truly boast that this is a State that has an increase in population and is therefore advancing in the field of job opportunities. People are going to New South Wales because that is where the development is and that is where the work is going on. The Treasurer talks about development but

in actual fact he is not getting labour-intensive development. That is the great difference between the two.

The increases in payments are determined by the Australian Statistician, and the formula of distribution from the Commonwealth Government to the States is influenced by the population estimates. The estimates are adjusted at the end of each year. I explained earlier that that is what happens.

Although the Federal Government provided an extra \$4,600,000 for natural disaster relief and an extra \$2,700,000 for primary and secondary education, many other Commonwealth payments were down on the estimates, primarily in the area of welfare payments. The reduction was brought about by the lack of joint activity between the Federal and State Governments. If one goes through the papers one sees item after item that is reduced considerably as a result of the lack of activity. The Auditor-General's report bears this out. Child care, school dental schemes, community health facilities, Commonwealth home care, senior citizens, nursing-home benefits, Wacol Repatriation Centre and assistance to deserted wives—these are the areas affected. All told, over \$2,500,000 that was available to us from the Commonwealth Government has been lost. Simply because of a lack of co-ordinated activity within our own State we did not get that money, money which would have assisted these much needed important social activities.

I refer now to the collection of State taxes in the larger income areas. This Government has been claiming over the years that it is reducing taxes. Land tax, pay-roll tax and stamp duty receipts were all above the estimates. A comparison of the amounts received this year with those of the previous year is interesting. In 1977-78 \$15,120,000 was received in land tax; in 1978-79, the amount was \$16,040,000, an increase of approximately \$919,000 or 6.7 per cent. In 1977-78 the amount received in pay-roll tax was \$211,860,000; in 1978-79 it was \$225,780, an increase of \$13,920,000 or 6.57 per cent.

Dr. Edwards: More people have been employed.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is not really so at all. It really means that there have been higher wages; the employment figures do not show any significant increase. There has not been the increase in the population figure that the Government expected.

I would like now to look at the area of stamp duty. It affects every person in the community who buys something or uses a cheque book. In 1977-78 the amount received was \$112,000,000; in 1978-79 it was \$127,830,000, an increase of approximately \$15,760,000 or 14.6 per cent. That is the size of the increase in what is supposed to be a reduced-tax State.

I would like to have a look at the field of land tax. As I said, in 1978-79 the amount received was \$16,040,000. The estimate for this year is \$18,370,000, an increase of approximately \$2,320,000 or 14.51 per cent. The Government estimates it is going to receive an extra 14.51 per cent. Land itself has not changed to any significant extent, but certainly land values have changed. When the land value of large holdings changes, that is reflected right down the line, even to smaller land holdings for housing and business. Once again, ordinary people are hit.

In 1978-79, \$225,780,000 was paid in pay-roll tax. It is estimated that the collection in 1979-80 will be \$243,800,000, an increase of \$18,020,000. In other words, even with the reductions the Treasurer has been proclaiming, the Government will still collect 7.98 per cent more than it did last year.

Mr. Davis: Charitable, aren't they?

Mr. HOUSTON: My word!

Stamp duty is another interesting one. Again, it falls on the ordinary people through every little transaction they are involved in. This indicates how generous the Government is. In 1978-79, the Government collected \$127,830,000. It is estimated this year that \$138,800,000 will be collected, an increase of \$10,970,000, or 8.58 per cent. That is in spite of all this talk about so-called reduced taxation. The Government is reducing the rate of taxation; I am not denying that. It is giving higher exemption figures, but it is not keeping pace with inflation or the realities of what is happening in the community. Although the Treasurer reported that there would be significant further concessions in land tax, pay-roll tax and stamp duty, he still expects to receive these substantial amounts.

Incidentally, the estimated \$18,400,000 from land tax is three times the amount collected only seven years ago, when it was only \$6,100,000. Pay-roll tax in the same period (1972-73) was \$61,000,000. This year's estimate of \$244,000,000 is 400 per cent up. In a short period of seven years, the collections are four times as great. Stamp duty in the same period has risen from \$53,000,000 to \$139,000,000, or two and a-half times. Even with the concessions announced, it is expected that there will be a 7.3 per cent increase in State taxation, excluding Government charges such as fees and fines. The increased mining income of \$8,060,000 is welcomed, but it is well below the income expected from either pay-roll tax or stamp duty.

A very important source of income is interest on investments of advances from Loan Funds. Last year it was \$77,000,000. This year it is expected that it will be \$91,200,000. In 1972-73, this source of income provided 3.6 per cent of the total Consolidated Revenue. This year it is expected to represent 4.2 per cent of Consolidated Revenue.

Receipts for services rendered, particularly fees of office, rose substantially last year by an overall amount of 24.8 per cent. This Government tells the public that Queensland is a low-tax State. However, according to the Auditor-General's report and the Government's own figures, those charges have risen by 24.8 per cent. That reflects the increased fees and charges brought in piecemeal last year but not included in the Budget. This year's proposed income from that source is \$33,560,000, an increase of \$10,200,000. In fact, in 1972-73 the income from those areas was \$9,600,000, indicating a rise of 350 per cent in seven years.

Mr. Davis: Do you notice that the Deputy Premier is very quiet?

Mr. HOUSTON: My word!

Receipts from conservancy dues, pilotage and so on last year at \$7,600,000 were 23 per cent up on the previous year. These are all increases that were not reflected in last year's Budget papers. There was no mention of them by Sir William Knox, but they occurred just the same. As I said when I spoke 12 months ago, these piecemeal charges have a tremendous effect on the State's finances. Government charges this year are expected to bring in \$8,400,000, an increase of 11 per cent.

An interesting item is the State Government Insurance Office. The payment in lieu of income tax in 1977-78 was \$10,640,000 and in 1978-79, \$12,990,000. That indicated a buoyant and progressive insurance business. I asked the Treasurer by way of a question (to which I did not really receive a satisfactory answer) why he expects only \$7,000,000 this year. After all, it is that type of money that is most important to the State, because it is money from a successful enterprise. Surely, as a supposedly free enterprise Government, this Government would be interested in successful businesses being operated.

In order to get a true line on the Government's activities, one must look at the Government's expenditure. This year's expenditure follows a pattern similar to that set in recent years. A close analysis of Budgets over the years indicates that they are only as accurate as political opportunism allows them to be. If one looks, for example, at last year's results and sees the size of the lapsed appropriations and expenditure not budgeted for, one can readily see how inaccurate Budget figures are.

Admittedly, an additional \$27,440,000 was available in Consolidated Revenue, but lapsed appropriations amounted to \$58,000,000. The fact is that \$58,000,000 that the Treasurer told honourable members would be spent on various items was not spent. I referred earlier to the \$10,200 to Austcare and the \$10,200 to Freedom from Hunger and said that they were only small amounts. What reliance can honourable members place on Budget figures when lapsed appropriations amount to \$58,000,000?

It is true that unforeseen expenditure amounted to \$87,478,000. That was spent on various items without any reference to Parliament. Certainly Parliament will be asked later to endorse that expenditure, but I remind the Committee that not one word was said about it when the Budget was introduced. I bring to the attention of honourable members that \$150,000 was put aside for the Menzies appeal. Surely expenditure of that type should be mentioned in the Budget papers. If it is not, it is not so important that it should be brought in at the expense of something else. Although \$150,000 is shown as being spent in 1978-79, provision certainly was not made for that amount in the Estimates.

Of course, it is understandable that small amounts may be made available to relieve distress in deserving cases. As I said earlier, if the Government decided tomorrow to give \$150,000 to assist the people of Kampuchea, no-one would object, because it would relate to a very important matter that was raised during the Budget debate.

Under Trust and Special Funds, appropriations amounting to a massive \$434,870,000 lapsed. It is true that \$200,000,000, or even more, lapsed under superannuation funds. However, that money should not have been asked for if it was not expected that it would be needed.

The Budget papers are supposed to be a true and accurate reflection of the year's expenditure, and that is as it should be. However, year after year large amounts of money are not expended from Trust and Special Funds. I mention that particularly because the Government does not determine what that money is to be spent on; there are other controlling factors. What I object to is the Government's then saying, "We are going to spend so many millions of dollars from Trust and Special Funds", when in fact it has not the power to spend some of the amounts appropriated. Unforeseen expenditure under Trust and Special Funds amounted to \$71,300,000.

Lapsed appropriations under the Loan Fund Account amounted to \$12,000,000 and unforeseen expenditure to \$12,500,000.

By studying the lapsed appropriations, one gets a clear picture of certain expenditure being shown in Budget papers purely to create an impression. In fact, there is no real intention of using the money for the purpose for which it is included in the appropriations. In my opinion, it is as bad as false advertising for any Treasurer or any Government to produce a Budget paper showing that a certain amount of money is to be spent on a particular project, knowing full well that it is not likely to be spent. It is there purely and simply to be manipulated according to the political climate at any given time.

I want to refer to the sum of \$36,000,000 shown in 1978-79 as an appropriation for increases under Public Service and other

awards. There is no way that that amount would be spent for that purpose. In years gone by, similar amounts that were so allocated remained unspent.

In the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means, the various departments take into account the normal and expected wage and salary increases for Crown employees. In other words, the Budget papers themselves show the amounts required for the various departments. Sometimes those amounts are too high; sometimes they are too low. However, basically, they fit the picture. According to the Auditor-General's report, the \$36,000,000 was not used at all for the stated purpose. It was a lapsed appropriation.

In relation to that amount, the Auditor-General, in his report on the Treasurer's Annual Statement, said—

“Provision remained fully unexpended to offset additional allocations required by departments to meet the cost of salary and wage increases.”

In other words, it was not required for that purpose.

As in other years, the sum appropriated was used. The Budget papers show in fact that it was used in other fields. It was used under this so-called Special Projects Fund. That fund was created a few years ago when the Government boasted that it was looking after the unemployed by trying to create work. Originally the sum involved was very low, but over the years it increased quite considerably. Last year, for example, only \$25,200,000 was appropriated for the Special Projects Fund. However, eventually the sum of \$61,600,000 passed through that fund. What happens is that, instead of the money going through the departments to the various trust funds—as happened in years gone by—the Government creates a trust fund and then allocates money to other departments. Of course, publicity is given to the creation of that trust fund.

On this occasion, the sum of \$12,260,000 remained unspent. If it had been handled through normal Consolidated Revenue, it would have been shown as a Budget surplus of \$12,260,000, but because it was transferred in bulk to a trust fund, being the Special Projects Fund, it was hidden away. Instead of showing a small surplus, this year's Budget should have shown a much larger surplus by the inclusion of this \$12,260,000. The balance of the Special Projects Fund as at 1 July 1978 was \$5,440,000. As I said, the amount unspent was \$12,260,000. That shows that the Government did not take full advantage of that money to create work.

I have made many public statements to the effect that, when this fund was created, all of the money should have been used to create work. However, the fund has a double purpose. It leads the public to believe that this money is being provided for the

creation of work whereas, in fact, the Government has this surplus amount up its sleeve.

The Government talks about another \$86,000,000 being allocated this year. That is a large sum of money. Quite a deal of propaganda was disseminated about it at the time. About 12 months ago, the previous Treasurer said that it would create thousands of additional jobs. We know from experience that it did not. The \$86,000,000 being set aside this year, together with the \$12,260,000, makes a total of \$98,260,000.

I should like the Government to explain why that money could not have gone through Consolidated Revenue directly from the Works Department, the Health Department, the Railways Department, the Local Government Department, or whatever it happens to be, into special funds. The Treasurer said that \$27,100,000 was to go to the Works Department for general works, including \$11,500,000 for education buildings, and \$2,200,000 for accelerated work on the new Supreme Court building. In other years, that money has gone direct to those projects as required, but it remained in the Consolidated Revenue Fund until it was used. Either the Budget was balanced or it was not balanced. There were no large amounts hidden away as there are today.

Although that amount of money is available, a large sum is still being allocated to allow for increases in Public Service expenditure. This year it is \$44,200,000. I forecast, particularly if the Government decides to hold an election about May, June or July next year, that somewhere about March or April it will claim that it has suddenly obtained an additional \$44,000,000 to create work. But the money is available now in this fund and is not to be used for the purpose for which it was put there, because the ordinary Budget papers show, in each section dealing with salaries and wages, that the increase has been allowed for. It is important that that other money is there.

I am merely pointing out to the people that they should not be surprised if, later in the year, the Government will claim that the money is now available to create work. As the money is available and will not be required for the purposes for which it is supposedly allocated, it should be used now. That \$44,000,000, or certainly the greater proportion of it, should be used to create work. The Government should undertake development work. The latest figures on unemployment show quite clearly that thousands of young Queenslanders are without work. Let us give employment now to those who are out of work and still looking for their first job. What chance will they have in a few weeks' time, when another bunch of school-leavers comes onto the job market? Who will look after those young people? The Government has the money available, so it should get on with the job.

Although the situation facing young people is bad enough, older people are finding that, with the introduction of computers and other modern machines, they, too, are being forced out of work. Not so long ago when people got on a bit and found that their work was getting too heavy for them, they were able to find a lighter type of job. But that is not possible today.

Women seeking employment also face difficulties. Anyone who has a daughter about to enter the work-force has every cause to be worried. Not so long ago when one entered a shop—either a so-called supermarket or one of the larger retail stores—one saw women shop assistants working behind every counter. Whenever one went into an office, one found a number of women working there. But today there is a lack of employment opportunities in both areas following the introduction of modern business machines and the adoption by many retail establishments—not only chain stores but retail establishments generally—of policies which have caused the demise of the young lady behind the counter.

In fact, one does not see men behind the counter any more, either. One can walk into a modern store today and traverse the length and breadth of the shop and find hardly a soul serving the customers. This is all very well for the shareholders and owners, but it is not good for the community as a whole. Unless the Government takes a deliberate and definite stand in helping these unemployed young people, and women, to obtain work, this State and nation will find itself in a very serious situation indeed.

While on the subject of female unemployment, I might mention that although a lot of women are looking for a job, they are not shown in the statistics because they are married. A few years ago they could get a job as of right. I have no fight with this; if a person wants to work, he has the right to obtain a job. For their own reasons, some women decide to stay at home. In other words, they are prepared to live on one income. In that case, I believe—and I support others who have said this—that the Federal Government has to look again at our tax laws. If a husband and wife are working, they each pay separate income tax, but their joint income is taken into account when it comes to certain payments such as medical insurance and so on. I support the idea that where only a husband or wife is working, the single income should, for tax purposes, be shared as if it was earned by the two of them combined. That is the only practical way I can see to assist the woman who is willing to stay at home and look after the children, and in many cases do charity work as well as assist at school tuck-shops and so on. This would be one way of not penalising them as much as we do now.

When going through the Budget in detail, one finds many areas where the figures have been juggled, particularly when we look at what it is said the money will be used for.

One major amount set aside last year was the Treasurer's Advance Account of \$4,400,000. Not one cent was spent; it was allowed to carry over. According to the Auditor-General, this money is used only for special purposes.

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

Mr. HOUSTON: Before the recess for lunch I was referring to the amount of money that was not spent last financial year, although provision had been made for it in the Budget. I referred to the fact that, because the State had not carried out the work that I believe it should have carried out in many welfare fields, the Commonwealth did not have to meet that expenditure. As a result, a lot of money—in fact, millions of dollars—was lost to the State. I think it is worth recording some of the areas in which funds that were allocated lapsed. Had this money been spent, a lot more employment would have been created and a lot of good would have been done in the community.

An amount of \$275,595 for equipment for State schools and \$283,645 for equipment and material for pre-schools remained unexpended. There was an allocation of \$464,000 for the free-milk scheme. All members remember the big cry that went up about the Whitlam Government when it abolished that scheme. There was the big play in the Budget last year that free milk would once again be provided to children. In fact, only \$141,733 was spent. In other words, there was an unexpended allocation of \$322,267.

Then there was the allocation for special assistance to organisations that provide services for handicapped children. Of course, we know that this is supposed to be the Year of the Child. An amount of \$146,522 remained unexpended on that item. In the Health Department, an allocation of \$648,910 for the Chief Office lapsed. That included an amount of \$93,000 for community home care. That was after \$405,000 was taken out of the original appropriation. So the amount of money involved was nearly \$500,000 less than that allocated. An amount of \$65,933 for the Division of Youth Welfare and Guidance lapsed. An amount of \$210,000 as a subsidy for charitable institutions lapsed. Again, this was after an amount of \$320,000 had been transferred prior to consideration really being given to the expenditure of the money. In other words, it was \$500,000 less than the original allocation. So I could go through section after section in the very important welfare sections of the Budget and refer to the amounts of money that have lapsed.

The point I want to make is that these documents have to be honest documents—documents that really set out what the Government proposes to do. If they do not do that, we should be told that. It has become fashionable in this Parliament to

say anything at all. It has become fashionable to make wild and woolly statements in the hope that the public will believe them. Although, as I said before, this is supposed to be the Year of the Child, an allocation of \$1,479,000 for the Department of Children's Services lapsed. That was after allowing for unforeseen expenditure of \$446,000. In other words, over \$1,000,000 was not spent for that purpose, although it was allocated. An amount of \$872,000 for family assistance remained unspent. An amount of \$227,000 for the maintenance of inmates of licensed institutions lapsed. The same pattern occurs item after item.

In the few moments at my disposal, I want to touch briefly on the controversy surrounding the siting of the new airport for Brisbane. Over recent months I have had the opportunity to study the reports on this matter and also to read the public statements made by many people, including the Premier. I say straight out here and now that I oppose the redevelopment of the present site. I support the proposal to build a new airport for Brisbane.

Dr. Edwards: Where do you think it should be?

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not an expert on locations, but I suggest to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that the site near Redland Bay that was suggested to the Albert Shire when it was responsible for that area, could well be looked at very carefully. I know that that site was proposed back in 1973.

Mr. Moore: What form of transport would you run to it? A railway?

Mr. HOUSTON: There could be an electrified railway line. It would develop that area tremendously. The point is that it would then be near the Gold Coast and also near to the Greater Brisbane area. The Government talks about developing Greater Brisbane, but all it is doing is making conditions far worse and moving such bad conditions from one suburb to another.

Mr. Moore: They should come in over the sea, anyway.

Mr. HOUSTON: If the airport were down near Redland Bay, of course aircraft would approach it over the sea. No matter which way they approached, they would come in over uninhabited areas.

I do not support the idea of modernising something that is going to create greater hazards. I was amused this morning when I read that Sir William Knox was worrying about noise pollution at Nundah. He is the Minister for Health, a member of the Cabinet, and a former Deputy Premier and leader of the Liberal Party. It is only now that he talks about noise pollution. The Opposition has been talking for nearly 20 years about noise pollution on the southside of Brisbane. The members for Lytton and Chatsworth, and other Labor members, have

been complaining about the noise on the southside on the route that aircraft have been taking. Those complaints have fallen on deaf ears.

I am pleased to see that Sir William Knox is in the Chamber, and also pleased that he has supported us in this matter. I would like him to go further and support us in our request that the major international airport be shifted from its present position.

Mr. Hinze: Down to Beenleigh.

Mr. HOUSTON: It should be down in the Redland Bay area. Actually, it would be towards the coast from Beenleigh. The honourable member knows the area and I am sure he will agree with me that locating the airport there would be the answer to noise pollution and other inconvenience to the community.

As far as transport to and from the airport is concerned, at the present time during a busy traffic period it takes almost as long to get from the present Brisbane airport to the city or southside suburbs as it would take if the airport were located in the area I propose. An added advantage would be that vast sums of money would not then have to be spent on upgrading the Coolangatta airport to international standard. The new airport should be a very good airport, but I believe that it would be a much cheaper proposition in the long run. I am concerned about the hundreds of thousands of residents in the Bulimba electorate, that is the suburbs of Bulimba, Hawthorne, Morningside, Norman Park, Carina, Coorparoo, Cannon Hill, Murrarie and Tingalpa. The people of all those suburbs are affected by aircraft noise. Irrespective of how the main new runway at the current airport is varied, all those people will still be affected.

The people of some northside suburbs are in exactly the same situation, although I do not know the suburbs in detail. I certainly support relocating the present airport in a position where it does not interfere with the welfare of the community.

(Time expired.)

Mr. NEAL (Balonne) (2.23 p.m.): I rise to address myself to the Budget debate. In so doing, I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on the introduction of a good Budget. It is a Budget that, notwithstanding the economic ills with which the nation is faced, allows for a steady continuation of stability and progress in this State. A balanced Budget is one of the things that Queenslanders have learned to expect, and that business people and workers from other States have recognised to their advantage.

I hope to deal with the Budget generally and to cover some of the specific areas of concern in my electorate. The Treasurer has referred to people who advocate cuts in taxation, suggesting that they should at the same time actively strive to reduce public expectation of what Governments should provide for them. Those are sentiments with

which I would agree. Governments spend taxpayers' money and, the more the people expect Governments to do for them, the more tax they must, of course, expect to pay. Over many years now our Premier has been a strong advocate for tax cuts from Canberra. At the same time, this Government has led in the field of cutting taxes. In other words, we have been prepared to put our money where our mouth is, and this has been to this State's advantage.

The Treasurer also referred to the commitment of the Commonwealth Government to bear down on inflation, which is something that must be done at all costs. Inflation continues to be this nation's major stumbling block in its return to economic stability. Employment will be substantially reduced only through efficient, competitive private enterprise. That can only be achieved through lower inflation, which creates greater investor and consumer confidence and increases our competitiveness on world markets.

The Commonwealth, as clearly indicated by the Consumer Price Index, is coming to grips with the problem of inflation. A table of inflation rates over the years is revealing—

Year	Percentage Increase
1972-73	6.2
1973-74	12.9
1974-75	16.7
1975-76	13
1976-77	13.8
1977-78	9.5
1978-79	8.2

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Who wrote this speech—Mike Evans?

Mr. NEAL: These figures came from the Parliamentary Library. If the honourable member for Archerfield wishes to take members of that staff to task for the figures they supply, that is up to him. He will not like these figures, which clearly point out that during the years in which inflation was rampant—those years during which we had hyper-inflation—the Whitlam Government was in power.

There can be no substantial reduction in unemployment or a return of business confidence unless there is control of inflation to reasonable levels. It has been against a background of high inflation over the years that Queensland Treasurers have introduced balanced Budgets. That is because this State has continued to live within its means and to employ good housekeeping methods. At the same time, we have reduced taxes. It is for these reasons that Queensland has enjoyed significant inflows of capital investment from interstate and overseas. Investment is attracted to areas of economic stability. Of course, stability of economy goes hand in hand with stability of government. One only has to talk to business investors from southern States to know why they are coming here. They are coming because of the investment opportunities offered here.

The Budget introduced by the Treasurer promotes business confidence and allows business to quietly continue to flex its muscles and consolidate gains. In other words, it allows business to be well positioned for rapid expansion when the overall economic climate improves further. We have listened to the knockers on the other side of the Chamber, such as the Leader of the Opposition. However, the Treasurer pointed out in the Budget that the economic indicators clearly prove that Queensland has shown the greatest improvement of all States. Between July 1978 and July 1979, the civilian labour force increased by 2.94 per cent in this State compared with 1.16 per cent for Australia as a whole. The registrations of new motor vehicles in Queensland in 1978-79 were 9.48 per cent higher than in 1977-78, compared with an increase of 3.9 per cent for Australia. The Consumer Price Index for Brisbane rose by 8.2 per cent in 1978-79 compared with the average of 8.8 per cent for the other six State capitals.

As the Treasurer pointed out, in line with past Budgets there will be no increased taxation under this Budget. As he indicated, "There will be no increases in Government fees and charges beyond those necessary to maintain relevance with monetary values." We have to expect that. On the other hand, there will in fact be reductions in tax.

Reductions that have been made by the Government over the past few years are worthy of note. Queensland has led Australia in pay-roll tax reform. As from 1 January 1980, the new maximum exemption will be \$150,000—an increase of 20 per cent on the previous maximum of \$125,000. Since 1977, the reduction in pay-roll tax has meant a saving of about \$22,000,000 to industry in Queensland. Earlier today, we heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition singing the praises of the Labor Government in New South Wales. I point out that he was silent on the question of pay-roll tax. He was ready to condemn the Queensland Government because, as indicated in the Estimates, there has been an increase in pay-roll tax collections. However, as the Treasurer pointed out by interjection, that has been brought about by an increase in pay-rolls.

If one looks at the pay-roll taxes being levied in the various States, one sees that pay-roll tax will not apply in Queensland until employers have a pay-roll of \$150,000 a year. In New South Wales, employers are paying \$7,000 in pay-roll tax at that stage; in Victoria, \$6,000; in South Australia, \$6,715; in Western Australia, \$6,150; and in Tasmania, \$7,500. Quite clearly, the Government of Queensland has been playing its part in trying to assist business by granting relief from the burden of pay-roll tax.

In my opinion, pay-roll tax is an obnoxious tax. It is not a tax on profitability; it is a tax on employment. It applies to all persons employing a certain number of people and

having a pay-roll of X thousand dollars. It applies regardless of the profitability or otherwise of an enterprise.

Relief has also been given in the field of land tax. The statutory exemption in respect of land used by owners personally for agriculture, dairying or grazing purposes will be increased from \$90,000 to \$108,000. It is another tax that has nothing to do with the profitability or otherwise of a particular enterprise carried out on the land. The statutory exemption for all other land will be increased from \$30,000 to \$36,000. I remind the Committee, Mr. Miller, that the tax cuts introduced by the Treasurer will mean a saving of about \$500,000 for the 1978-79 financial year.

Mr. Davis: How are you off yourself? Do you make out all right?

Mr. NEAL: I am not affected; I am not a big enough landholder to have to pay land tax. I am sure that will surprise the honourable member for Brisbane Central.

As to stamp duty, the Treasurer said—

“The rate of Stamp Duty payable on the acquisition of the principal place of residence will be reduced from \$1.50 per \$100 of the value of the consideration to \$1 per \$100 . . .

“It is also proposed to increase the present concession available in respect of Stamp Duty on mortgages executed in connection with the acquisition of the home. The present concession is available only to a spouse or person engaged to be married and then only where the person has no interest in any other dwelling-house.

“The concession will be extended to include any person acquiring his or her principal place of residence, regardless of marital status.

“At the same time, the maximum exempted amount will be increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000.”

The Treasurer then pointed out—

“As a result of these concessions, a person purchasing a \$40,000 home with \$25,000 mortgage finance will save \$362.50 in Stamp Duty compared to what would be payable if no concessions applied.”

That represents a very worthwhile saving, and I am sure that it will be appreciated by home buyers. I am very pleased to see this concession introduced, because over a number of years I have made representations about it.

In other areas, tax deductions and cuts have meant savings as follows:—

The elimination of death and gift duties, \$80,000,000;

The elimination of road permit fees, \$12,000,000;

Workers' compensation cuts and bonuses, \$20,000,000.

I know that members of the Opposition do not like the fact that this Government has seen fit to eliminate death and gift duties.

The Labor Party's knight in shining armour, the Premier of New South Wales (Mr. Wran), said that he would eliminate death and gift duties, but he wretched on the deal.

Mr. Hayden, of course, holds a different view. Some time ago he was asked whether the Labor Party would reintroduce death and gift duties if it was returned to office. He said that he would not introduce them. He added that a capital gains tax would make up the difference. So we know where Mr. Hayden stands. He will hit anyone who looks like making a dollar.

Dr. Scott-Young: It is a worse tax, too.

Mr. NEAL: Of course it is. But that is just what we can expect from a Federal Labor Government.

Mr. Jones: Why didn't Mr. Whitlam do it? You blame him for everything else. Why didn't he introduce it?

Mr. NEAL: He wasn't in office long enough to do it. The whole thrust of the Labor Party policy is an increase in taxes. Last year the Federal shadow spokesman on Treasury matters, Mr. Willis, canvassed the idea of imposing new taxes. He claimed that there is a need to redistribute not only income and wealth but also power, and he urged that the public sector be expanded. He believes that the people will willingly pay extra taxes to enable more money to be spent in the public sector.

The Labor Party's policy in relation to the creation of jobs is one that brought about the introduction of schemes such as the R.E.D. scheme. If the Labor Party were returned to office in Canberra, it would trot out schemes such as that. It was proved that they did not work.

Mr. Jones: You sacked all the workers under those schemes and called them dole bludgers.

Mr. NEAL: No, not at all. The schemes simply did not work; they were a waste of the taxpayers' money. The only people who were permanently employed under those schemes were those who administered them. I do not deny that under those schemes some good work was done; but there was simply no value for the dollar spent. Schemes such as the R.E.D. scheme were only short-term solutions to a long-term fundamental problem. The unemployment problem will not be cured by short-term, “Band-aid” schemes. Inflation must be brought back to reasonable levels so that business confidence can be restored. There is no doubt that private enterprise will re-create employment opportunities in this State and nation.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. NEAL: It is all very well for Opposition members to throw off at my comments. Their Federal colleagues had an opportunity to cure the problem when they were in

power. The whole problem confronting the economy is the direct result of Labor's term of office in Canberra.

Mr. Jones: Oh, no!

Mr. NEAL: The member for Cairns knows full well that Mr. Whitlam and his colleagues in Canberra acted like bulls in a china shop. They created so much havoc in the time they were in office that it is impossible to remedy the damage overnight.

Mr. Turner: You realise that when the Whitlam Government got in there was \$4,000 million to \$5,000 million in kitty, but when it went out it was that much in the red?

Mr. NEAL: We are fortunate that the amount was not three or four times that.

Mr. Hinze: It went from a \$900,000,000 credit to a \$5,000 million deficit in three years.

Mr. NEAL: That is what the honourable member for Warrego was referring to.

Members of the Opposition pooh-pooh reference to the Whitlam era and suggest that that was years ago. Whitlam was kicked out in 1975, so for them to suggest that that happened in the dim, dark ages shows how little business sense they have. If they had any at all, they would realise that if a businessman bankrupts himself it will take him more than a few years to get out of his trouble. That is what the Whitlam Government did to this country. It put us into a state of bankruptcy.

Mr. Turner: Would you say it is easier to squeeze toothpaste out of a tube than to put it back?

Mr. NEAL: Precisely.

It hurts members of the Opposition when this State cuts taxes and charges. Quite clearly, this tax-cutting has assisted to stimulate business activities and has resulted in increased employment opportunities.

I am pleased that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads is in the Chamber. Roads continue to be a major cause for concern. Expenditure on permanent works is programmed at \$140,000,000, which is up by \$13,200,000, or 10 per cent more than last year's allocation, and maintenance works are programmed at \$43,200,000, which is up \$5,300,000 or 14 per cent more. Because of the deterioration of many of our roads, especially following last year's exceptionally wet weather, I am sure that the additional moneys will be welcomed by the councils. A tremendous amount of damage was done to roads through subsidence of the foundations in the extremely wet conditions. This resulted in a lot of cracks in the bitumen and pot-holing. The councils have been very busy trying to repair the damage.

Mr. Moore: Not this year.

Mr. NEAL: No. The councils have had a fair run with their maintenance this year. There has been no rain and they have been able to undertake their work without interruption.

I trust that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads will continue to recognise the importance of the outback areas and the fact that roads, in many places, are the arteries along which the community's life-blood flows. Primary industry contributes enormously to the well-being of this State. The gross value of rural production in 1978-79 has been estimated at \$2,121 million. This contribution to the wealth and prosperity of the State must not go unrecognised, and the provision of better roads is one way in which the people of the Outback can be greatly assisted.

I shall now refer to one particular road in my electorate. The Minister gave an undertaking to upgrade the St. George-Noondoo-Dirranbandi-Hebel Road in a 3½-year period so that, with the exception of flood times, it would be an all-weather road, and to have it completely bitumen surfaced in a five-year period. It is pleasing to see that the first moneys for this road are scheduled for release. A continuing programme of works, with no hold-ups, will be required to complete this road within that period, and I ask the Minister to give very careful consideration to such a programme. It is certainly no more than the people of that area deserve, as they have gone without for so long, and it is no more than they have been led to expect.

The Balonne Shire Council can handle this work which, as the Minister stated at the time, will be in addition to the council's normal roads programme. When completed this road will give the people of Dirranbandi all-weather access, whereas in the past they have been cut off for anything up to six weeks at a time.

Attention also needs to be paid to the completion of the Barwon Highway to its junction with the Carnarvon Highway, and the missing links between St. George and Surat. It has been my contention for a number of years that when these missing links are completed, together with the new work being done from Tara alongside the railway line to the junction with the Moonie Highway, and a section of the Wyaga-Millmerran road, a great deal of the pressure will be taken off the Moonie Highway. A number of sections of the Moonie Highway are in poor condition, especially through the brigalow areas where the foundations have subsided. This has been brought about by the fact that the road traverses gilgai country, which is not particularly good country over which to build roads. The bitumen surface is only 12 feet wide, and in the brigalow areas it becomes particularly dangerous after rain, even after only light falls. It carries a tremendous amount of heavy traffic, and is an important road not

only to St. George and Bollon but also to Cunnamulla and points further west. During wet weather there is no room for overtaking. Of course, the big trucks stay on the road and cars have to get off, and consequently they end up down in the ditch. While it is an important road, for some time it has been a bone of contention with the Tara Shire Council in that it traverses the southern boundary of the shire and serves only a small number of ratepayers. But I urge the Minister to continue the important programme of renewing these particularly bad sections of road where subsidence has occurred and widening the sections in order to improve the traffic flow.

It can be seen from the Budget documents that assistance to local authorities has been increased, which I am sure will be appreciated by them. They have received extra benefits under the Commonwealth Government's tax-sharing arrangements. This has resulted in their share of the tax pool increasing from 1.52 per cent to 1.75 per cent, which amounts to an overall increase of some 24 per cent. The \$3,300,000 allocated for operating and capital subsidies for local authority libraries will also be welcomed. This represents an increase of some \$500,000 or 18 per cent over last year. A number of local authorities in my area conduct libraries. The Balonne Shire Council conducts five libraries: in St. George, Dirranbandi, Bollon, Thallon and Hebel. I am certain that the extra money allocated to the South Western Regional Library Board will ease the burden placed on the local authorities in my area.

Mr. Davis: Are they well used?

Mr. NEAL: Yes, they are well patronised. Of course, there is some duplication with libraries in some of the big schools in the area. I think the Government should look at the situation where there is a municipal library as well as an exceptionally good school library. In small towns such as Bollon and Hebel a library is certainly an asset. I am not talking about big libraries such as the ones metropolitan members would be used to.

I would now like to turn to the subject of education, which is very important to the people of this State. Much has been said about our education system, and the Select Committee on Education has submitted a number of reports. I am sure that only good will flow from the reports resulting from the deliberations of that committee. The Budget document indicates that spending on education has increased marginally over the inflation rate and, coupled with a rearrangement within the system, education should do fairly well this year. There will be a total allocation of \$521,300,000, being an increase of \$49,000,000 or 10.41 per cent over the previous year. This should maintain a steady upgrading and improvement in our educational standards and facilities.

The Treasurer has outlined that there will be a reduction in the emphasis given to teacher aides. As from the commencement of the 1980 school year, there will be a reduction of the hours worked by teacher aides. However, there will be no retrenchment of existing staff, and I think that that point should be made clear. Although they will work shorter hours, there will be no retrenchments.

Mr. Davis: Do you really believe that?

Mr. NEAL: Yes. I believe that if the Government says it will do something, it will do it.

It is acknowledged that many people involved with education will complain that the Education budget is less than that of last year in real money terms, that it falls short of needs, and that it is not enough. Of course, we hear these complaints year after year. We come to expect them. Let me make it quite clear: I believe that the education system must expect some belt-tightening somewhere along the line. In times of economic stringency, it must expect this to happen. When we are faced with economic stringency within our Budget, the education system cannot continue to be funded at the rate it has been funded in the past.

Mr. Davis: Ever since you have been in this Parliament you have been knocking teachers.

Mr. NEAL: I have not knocked teachers at all, and I resent that statement from the honourable member. He is far off line. I have not been knocking teachers; that is something that I do not do. I am not like the member for Brisbane Central, who professes to be a great supporter of teachers. However, we know how he undermines them in his own area.

I believe it is only reasonable that efficiency and economies should be introduced wherever possible. As I have pointed out, spending on education is more than keeping pace with the inflation rate.

The education system in the Balonne electorate is functioning extremely well. It is pleasing that a new school was opened at Wycombe, which is a very isolated area in my electorate. This new school was opened in shearers' quarters. Before it was opened, people had to travel many miles over property roads and other private roads to take their children to school. Many children received their education through the correspondence course.

The people in the area contacted the department and, as I have said, a school was opened in shearers' quarters, and we are very pleased to have it there. There is a very active and dedicated p. and c. association. It is working very hard. I am sure that if the pupil numbers are maintained, the Government will provide a proper school building. That was

done not so very far away at a place called Begonia. A similar situation existed there. A school was opened in shearers' quarters five, six or eight years ago—I am not sure when it was. Today, a very nice school has been established there, and it is functioning very well.

The high schools at St. George and Miles are both operating extremely well. They are keenly supported by the community, and the pupil numbers are up to expectations. I compliment the teachers and staff in all the schools in my electorate for the dedicated work that they do. I also include the janitor/groundsmen and the local p. and c. associations. The schools are a credit to all the people concerned, and I am very proud of them. One only has to drive down the road near them to see how well cared for they are and how good they look.

The senior remote area scholarships, which are to be increased in number to 650 for the 1980 school year, will be well received, as will the increase in their value, from \$1,000 to \$1,200. They have been a great benefit and have assisted the private boarding schools and hostels which play such an essential part in the education of children from remote areas. Of course, they also benefit greatly those children who are able to take advantage of them. They assist quite a number of children in my area and I am pleased to see the increase there. School-bus operators will also appreciate the increases in their rates, which are designed to keep pace with rising costs.

I turn next to the allocation for police in the Budget. I am pleased to see that the establishment of the Police Force will be increased progressively by 320 in the next two years. Out of that increase, I hope the Minister will give consideration to returning Tara station to three-man strength. The area to be covered by that station was increased at the time of a reduction in the manning of the station from three officers to two. If the Minister gets the 320 extra officers, I am sure he could make it 321 to provide one extra at Tara. Organisations in the Moonie area, which is covered by the Tara Police Station, are most unhappy with the situation and have made that known. They have in the past endeavoured to get a police station for the small town of Moonie. It is situated on an important cross-roads, at the junction of the Leichhardt and Moonie Highways.

I note also that the Police Department will be acquiring two light aircraft. I hope they will be of great assistance in outback areas. I suggest that they may be of assistance in investigations into cattle-duffing and similar matters.

I would also like to refer to the matter of police housing. Over a number of years now there has been a lack of adequate housing for police officers in St. George. Most areas in my electorate are fairly well catered for. St. George has a fairly large station, and

the Government should ensure that adequate good housing is available for police officers. A lack of such housing does nothing for the morale of the Police Force. In all, the police officers in my electorate are doing a very good job and are well suited to it. I think that one of the most important things is to have a police officer who knows the country and the way it operates.

The gross value of Queensland's rural production is estimated, as I said, at \$2,121 million. That is clearly an indication of the importance of the rural sector. Unfortunately this year that value will not be anywhere near those figures because of the generally poor season in most areas. That is particularly so in the main grain and crop-growing areas. Many areas are now looking down the barrel of a drought, and some areas have already been declared drought-stricken. That is one of the problems that one must expect on the land. It is either flood or famine, boom or bust. Last year was certainly a boom year—a good season which produced good crops. In many areas this year the season has been a complete write-off and no crops whatsoever will be harvested.

When one looks back at the history of land usage, one must remember that unfortunately many people, especially the members of the Opposition, have no understanding of what life on the land entails and what people there have to go through. My learned colleague the member for Brisbane Central who, I think, grows a few cabbages in his backyard—if he has one—or window-box, seems to think, along with many other members of the Opposition, that people on the land are making fortunes and that one good season, as we had last year, is all that is needed. However, one bad drought wipes out many years of effort and many good seasons are needed to overcome it. Over the years this Government has proved that it is always very sympathetic to the problems of rural industries. It has assisted greatly in times of drought, and also in times when prices of rural commodities have been low. I will not reiterate all the assistance measures that it has undertaken down through the years.

The economics of farming today are little different from those of yesteryear. I would like to quote from Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Agriculture of 1831. It had this to say on the economics of farming—

“Scarcely any farmer makes a fortune by his profession. The utmost exertions of the most industrious and skilful men seldom do more than enable them to keep pace with the times.”

If one cared to conduct a survey in rural areas, one would find that that statement was indeed very true in present times.

People on the land enjoy good commodity prices for a time. They may enjoy good seasons. Sometimes both factors occur at the same time, but that is the exception rather

than the rule. The rule is that good commodity prices are available when one is not able to take the best advantage of them because of a dry season or even a drought.

Mr. Davis: What are you talking about? You've got seven years to average out your losses and gains for taxation.

Dr. Edwards: Like the rest of the Labor Party, the honourable member has no conception of an adequate rural policy.

Mr. NEAL: That is right. He is again displaying his lack of knowledge of rural areas and a complete lack of understanding of the operations of a business enterprise on the land.

Mr. Davis: I should know. I was born and reared on the land.

Mr. NEAL: All I can say is that the honourable member for Brisbane Central has had a lapse of memory. He displays no sympathy these days towards the problems of the man on the land. He shows not one iota of understanding of them.

I am pleased that an allocation of money has been set aside for the establishment of a trade office in Japan. Queensland does a tremendous amount of trade with that country. In my opinion, a trade office is long overdue.

One could comment on many other parts of the Budget. Hospitals are a case in point. The Minister for Health is not in the Chamber at present, but I know that he is aware—

Mr. Moore: He is probably in his room.

Mr. NEAL: I know that he was in the Chamber earlier. Undoubtedly he has been called out for a deputation.

He has placed a new hospital for Mungindi on his priority list. Although it has not been included in this Budget, I do urge him to give serious consideration to having it included in next year's Budget. The old hospital at Mungindi is very dilapidated and certainly in need of replacing. It is pleasing to see that the second Flying Surgeon Service is to be established at Roma. This extension of our medical services will play an important role. That service and the Royal Flying Doctor Service come into quite a number of areas of the Balonne electorate.

In conclusion, I say that the people of Queensland can be very pleased with the Budget that has been introduced by our Treasurer. As I said at the outset, it is a responsible Budget, which is designed to ensure the continuation of this State's progress. It is a Budget that will assist business confidence to continue and encourage further investment of capital, both from within this State and from interstate.

We see investors coming to this State in droves. The members for Carnarvon and Warwick referred to the huge influx of people

into their areas. The same thing is happening in my area. Southerners are buying land in our areas. People are coming from South Australia. I imagine that the change of Government, after the Corcoran Government was kicked out, will herald new policies that may slow down the flood of South Australian people into the fair State of Queensland.

Mr. Lee: Last year 65 firms came to Queensland from South Australia.

Mr. NEAL: Yes. That highlights the point I was making. In the immediate area of the district in which I live, approximately 75 properties have been bought by southern interests.

I am pleased to support the Budget because, as I said earlier, it is a very responsible document.

Mr. MOORE (Windsor) (3.5 p.m.): In the Budget debate, a member does not have to speak solely to the Financial Statement. The Budget relates to virtually everything with which Parliament has any dealings in Queensland and which requires the expenditure of money by the Government. It gives members a fairly broad canvas on which to splash paint, and I intend to splash a little bit of paint round in my speech today.

An Opposition Member: Unrestricted debate.

Mr. MOORE: Virtually unrestricted debate other than for personal attacks and matters of that nature.

When one considers that the spending proposed for this year is \$2,173.3 million, one's mind boggles. Not very long ago that sum of money would have been greater than the total Federal Budget. However, it is obvious that it really is not buying more but is only keeping pace with inflation. That is a real worry for the State Government, and it is an even greater worry for anyone who has any savings. A person who has worked a lifetime, saved money and invested it—and I have in mind particularly a person who has put his money in the Commonwealth Savings Bank and is receiving 3½ per cent interest—is really paying a price, after paying taxes, when inflation is running at about 14 per cent.

I remind honourable members that although the Federal Government may underestimate its receipts or intentionally budget for a deficit, the State Government cannot budget for a deficit. All that a State Government can do is, in effect, write out an I.O.U. and put it in the till of the Workers' Compensation Fund, the State Service Superannuation Fund or some other fund of that nature. State Treasuries do not have facilities for printing money. In effect, therefore, every State Government and every local authority must balance its Budget.

There is nothing unique about balancing Budgets, and the Government may budget for a small deficit in the expectation that

the increased revenue resulting from inflation will balance it out. So when people ask, "Why doesn't the State Government do this and that that the Federal Government can do?", I remind them that it is not allowed to do that under the Constitution.

In Australia, taxes—principally income tax and other Federal taxes but State taxes, too—are becoming a real disincentive, and the Government of Queensland is to be commended for doing what it can to reduce taxes and other imposts. A highlight in that respect was its elimination of the iniquitous tax known as death duties. People paid taxes on money and then, when they died, the Government took a further slice of about half. It was only natural, of course, that gift duty should also be eliminated—we could not have one without the other—and the Government eliminated that, too. Retired people have flocked to Queensland, not only for that reason but also because they can see that this State has real potential.

As I said earlier, inflation is running at about 14 per cent this year. Apparently it is not expected to come down, as this country is to some extent tied in with worldwide inflation. If the Government wishes to carry out any capital works, the time to do so is now. They will never be done more cheaply. If the Government borrows money at 14 per cent interest, it is the same rate as that of inflation. So my advice to the Government is that it should go into hock, do all it can, and do it now. A great deal of labour-intensive capital work needs to be done to get the unemployed back into industry. If the Government does not carry out that work now, there is something wrong with it, and the day the economy recovers it will be faced with the problem of having no-one to do the work. It will have to say, "We would do the jobs if only we could get the labour." Queensland has the labour now and, because of its assets, it has the means of obtaining the funds. We should make a real effort now.

My chief concern is for the school-leaver and the unemployed person who is genuinely seeking work. The term "dole bludger" is being banded around the place. The word "bludger" is a terrible word, anyway. A bludger is someone who lives on the earnings of a prostitute. People who receive unemployment benefits certainly do not fall into that category. People who are genuinely seeking work and many young school-leavers, although not adequately trained for work, are simply not able to find it. When I left school it was a case of finding any job at all.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Did you graduate from Westbrook?

Mr. MOORE: I served my time in Westbrook.

Mr. Davis: It was all right, wasn't it?

Mr. MOORE: Yes, it was all right. The food was good, anyway.

Mr. Frawley: You met him there, didn't you?

Mr. MOORE: Not really. He was older than I was and had just left. Westbrook is good farming country, with friendly flies in the summer. Be Westbrook as it may—as I was saying, school-leavers are not adequately trained. They have been subjected to propaganda about "job satisfaction" and that type of thing. They should be doing any job simply to have a job. When I left school, my first job was pedalling a bike for a chemist. I was to have been an apprentice chemist—or pharmacist, as he is termed nowadays. I was paid 13s. 6d. a week, out of which I paid my train fare of 4s. and received 2s. a week pocket-money. I gave the rest to my mother. That 2s. got me into the pictures twice a week.

Nowadays the situation is different. All the children want to start at the top. I suppose we are to blame, because we want to do the best for our children—as we should. However, the best thing we can do is get them into a job—any job. Unemployment is totally soul-destroying.

I cannot help thinking back to the years of the Depression. In those days, a man worked one, two, two and a-half or three days a week, depending on the size of his family. He was probably paid 13s. a day and food was rationed. He could buy a butter-boxful of groceries for about 5s.

Following the Wall Street crash in 1929, the Depression lasted right up till the beginning of World War II. All the war did was allow us to make ammunition, bombs and battleships. Then the ammunition was fired, the bombs blew holes in the ground and the battleships were sunk. When the war ended, the Depression was over. Every pound, shilling and penny spent during the war was wasted. Surely there is a lesson to be learned from that. We have thinkers in Canberra. I am not the greatest thinker in the world but I know that, if we cannot learn a lesson from all that waste during the war to get out of the Depression, something is wrong with our economists. Everything that Whitlam did was not wrong. But he made some stupid errors, and one was his belief that there was a money tree. We must encourage industry.

Queensland has a 3 ft. 6 in. gauge railway. It is really a tramway. If there was a war and we had to transport goods urgently to Mt. Isa or Cairns and felt that the railway line was inadequate, we would produce 200 lb. rails. If there was a shortage of wooden sleepers, we would make concrete sleepers. We would produce the necessary rolling-stock, and we would have a 4 ft. 8½ in. railway line from one end of Australia to the other. I cannot talk about the other politicians but why can't we say, "There's an emergency now. Let's get all the necessary work done. Let us build the bridges, the railways, the necessary buildings, and introduce irrigation schemes. Let us not hand out money to people on the dole so they can sit on their backsides and get the

Aboriginal syndrome." I am not being anti-Aborigine. The Aborigine has always been a forager who has gone on walkabout. He does not know what it is to work from 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: In the not-too-distant past your ancestors painted themselves with woad.

Mr. MOORE: I do not know about my ancestors. They did not do anything like that. They would not have known what woad was.

All of us, as members, are not doing an adequate job in playing our part. The Federal Government is quite concerned about the inflationary problem—so am I—but it is not quite as concerned about doing the various capital works that it can and should do. However, the Queensland Treasurer is injecting \$98,000,000 into the capital works programme. It will be spent on works that are labour intensive. If a building requires tiles, somebody has to dig out the clay for the tiles and cart it to the tile works, where somebody else will put it into the kilns and somebody else will end up putting the tiles on the roof. It is a continuing business; it is self-generating. The more useful works we do, the more we will get out of our problems. This \$98,000,000 will be of assistance to Queensland.

Queensland, compared with the other States, is doing quite well. Our population is increasing, whereas the population of the other States is decreasing. Many people come to Queensland because of our better laws, the abolition of probate and succession duties, and the climate. Many are heading for the so-called deep north. Some of them bring capital with them. Some of them come here merely with a swag on their back. Some have been out of work for a long time and are on the dole. Some of them have no intention of working. All of them increase the population statistics and result in our having more unemployed than we should have. But in certain areas it is impossible to get a job done because there is no-one to do it. That shows that the unemployment situation, in certain categories, is not as bad as it might appear to be.

One area in which the Government spends a great deal is education. I do not mind that sort of spending if we get value for money, but in this instance I do not think we get it. Our teachers are worried about their future. We train student teachers but, having trained them, we do not even have a job for them. There is something wrong with us when that occurs.

The Government recently made a policy decision in relation to the employment of teacher aides and janitor-groundsman. If for any reason a janitor-groundsman leaves a school with fewer than 350 pupils, he is not replaced. If ever there was a person required at a school, it is a janitor-groundsman. I suppose a school with 20 or 30

students would not need one, but in my opinion any school with an attendance of more than 100 pupils that does not have a janitor-groundsman is really missing something. I would prefer an increase in class sizes, with one teacher fewer employed, or something like that, to doing away with a janitor-groundsman.

Mr. Fouras: What about teacher aides?

Mr. MOORE: I will come to teacher aides, but first of all I want to deal with some of the duties of a janitor-groundsman. If a school has a swimming-pool, someone is needed to check the chlorine and acid levels every day. Who is going to do that when the kids are swimming in the pool every day? No teacher or outsider will do it. Someone has to lock the gates at night and check the safety fence around the pool to make sure the wire surrounds have not been lifted so that people can crawl underneath and get up to some of the smart-alec tricks we have heard about. Someone is also needed to cut the grass on the playing fields.

Many janitor-groundsman are handymen. The janitor-groundsman is the general factotum, someone who can do a little bit of carpentry and repair work to keep things going. There are always papers and lunch scraps dropped around the school grounds, and the janitor-groundsman is the one who picks them up, sorts out the papers from the lunch scraps and then burns the papers. Toilets have to be cleaned at least daily, and sometimes twice daily. What about the problem of a student who vomits on the floor of the class-room? The teacher would certainly say that it was not his job to clean up the mess, so that is one more job for the janitor-groundsman. I would be getting rid of a teacher before I got rid of a janitor-groundsman.

Mr. Fouras: Why get rid of either?

Mr. MOORE: Economies have to be made. After all, we are spending more than half the Budget on education. Less formal education can be just as effective. When I attended the Windsor State School there were 70 children to a class. Of course, we were more regimented in those days and did not talk in class. Anyone who talked ended up getting the cuts. But, after all, if teachers could handle 70 kids in my day—and I have ended up in this holy of holies—surely teachers today can handle 35 kids.

Mr. Davis: I don't think that is the criterion; I think you were just more cunning.

Mr. MOORE: One has to have a bit of monkey cunning in all things, and I suppose that is just part of it.

While on the subject of education, I noticed in the Budget papers that there has been an increase of about \$1,000,000 in the funds

made available for school assembly halls. They are very good—one might say desirable—but what about the schools that cannot afford them, that cannot rustle up the \$50,000 or whatever amount is necessary?

Mr. Lee: Two-thirds.

Mr. MOORE: I notice that most schools in the electorates of our Ministers seem to have assembly halls. I do not know how they work out just how much the two-thirds amounts to, but the back-benchers are rather behind the eight-ball in trying to get assembly halls for schools in their electorates.

Mr. Lee interjected.

Mr. MOORE: I appreciate the Minister's assistance.

Mr. Lee: You pick on me like an Alsatian dog.

Mr. MOORE: Of course I do. I understand the position. So, with assembly halls, the rich get richer and the poor get nothing. There is something wrong with that system.

We are now paying 84 per cent of the salaries of teachers in private kindergartens. It must be agreed that that is a great help. These are private institutions, and the Government gives them that degree of aid. That is to the credit of the Government. These kindergartens serve a very useful purpose.

I now leave kindergartens and turn to pre-schools. In my area, pre-schools are in short supply. When one moves around the country, one notices that there is a pre-school attached to virtually every State school. I think that the ratio has gone a bit astray somewhere.

It is stated in the Budget that there is to be no increase in State taxes. I do not think that statement is designed to deceive; however, there will be increases in the charges imposed by every department. As costs rise, the charges will be indexed. Whilst it may be said that there will be no actual increases in State taxes, I point out to the public at large that, as the rate of inflation rises, there will be across-the-board increases in charges. Let us make no bones about that. If anyone believes that he is being deceived by the statement about no increase in State taxes, I am disabusing his mind. There will be increased charges, but there will be no direct increase in taxes.

I turn now to the railways. Last year railway revenue increased by \$60,000, from \$300,000,000 to \$360,000,000, but the railways never pay. Whilst income may exceed expenditure, when capital costs are taken into account the railways have a very bad record.

I wish to say a couple of words about railway workers and their conditions. There are two different categories of workers in the railways. There are the salaried staff and the wages staff, and they are as far apart

as the poles. Irrespective of whether these workers receive a salary or wages, they are all railways staff and the same conditions should apply to all of them. However, the salaried staff get more half-staff holidays than the wages staff. In the event of a death in the family, salaried staff get two or three days' leave and the wages staff get less leave. A death in the family affects everybody the same way, and there should not be any difference in leave entitlements.

This system of placing these Crown employees into two different categories has been perpetuated since this Government has been in office. It has been perpetuated for the 10 years that I have been a member of this Parliament. I have raised the matter on many occasions. I have raised it at Liberal Party meetings and at joint Government-party meetings, and I am raising it again in this Chamber today.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You are beating your head against a brick wall.

Mr. MOORE: I just don't stop. The present situation is absolutely wrong. It should not happen. If I were appointed Minister for Transport, I would fix the matter the day after I was so appointed. I have made an offer. I'm not trying to get anybody's job. There is an iniquitous situation here. There are the haves and the have nots in the Railway Department. How will there be harmony in the Railway Department while this situation is allowed to continue?

Mr. Mackenroth: Have you every brought this up in the party room?

Mr. MOORE: I said that I would speak for only half an hour; so I have only seven minutes left.

Mr. Lee: Don't stop. I am enjoying it.

Mr. MOORE: I am sure that the Minister is.

The amount received in mining royalties is up \$7,000,000, from \$60,000,000 to \$67,000,000. That is a far cry from what happened in Labor's day. I know that one cannot completely equate the situation, but Labor accepted a coal royalty of 1d. a ton.

Mr. Davis: What are you talking about? When you and I came here it was 5c a ton.

Mr. MOORE: Yes, it was. The honourable member is right. However, that was 500 per cent better than the Opposition was prepared to take.

I was not being critical of the Opposition's accepting 1d. a ton, if only it had in mind establishing industry, but it put so many other impossible conditions upon mining that industries just did not come. We cannot have our cake and eat it, too. There are vast amounts of coal under the ground in Queensland. People talk about Norwich Park, German Creek or some other area but

it is virtually the same coalfield. It is like a large wheatfield with somebody reaping only a small section of it. The different mining companies are saying that theirs is the best coal in Queensland but, in effect, it is the same coal.

When we talk about laws and conditions in the community we must remember that Magna Carta was signed in 1215, a very long time ago. Although we have a vast amount of coal the supply may be exhausted within 50 to 100 years. Anybody with an ounce of consideration for the future, for his children, his grandchildren and the generations to come, would not want to be hewing every last ounce of coal out of the ground and saying that when this natural resource is exhausted something else will have to be found.

As a matter of fact, coal is far too good to burn. Just consider its chemical properties. Margarine can be made from it, as well as men's suits, plastics, dyes and many other products. It is a marvellous resource. It is far too good to be sent up the flue to produce a few British thermal units or calories or whatever unit one wishes to use to describe heat.

At this time of energy crisis we are producing only 70 per cent of our petroleum needs. That percentage will diminish on a fairly fast sliding scale in the next five years. There are people around the country who say that we have had the horse-and-buggy era, we have had the motor car era and we are going back to the era of the horse. While we have modern technology we will never get back to the horse. The internal combustion engine will be here for a long time to come.

Coal itself does not have to be put into gaseous or liquid forms. Everybody knows that fine coal dust is the explosive force which causes coal-mine explosions. There is not a reason in the wide world why coal could not be used in a motor vehicle. Ground into a fine powder it could be taken into the intake and combusted in the cylinder chamber. There could be some little problem with residue being blown out and the wearing effect of the dust remaining in the bore. Such problems could be overcome. There is no reason in the world why coal could not be used directly in an internal combustion engine. It would not necessarily have to be a piston engine; it could be an internal combustion engine using turbines. That would probably work very satisfactorily, except that the turbine—the Pelton wheel, I think it is called—would eventually wear out. One pound of coal would have far more calorific value than two gallons of petrol, so one can see its value.

To round off, I would like to mention something that is outside the Treasurer's Financial Statement—the restoration of the old Parliament House. I have made a study of the subject, although I am not an expert by any means. I have received information

on what happened in the various restorations of the White House in Washington. All of the very beautiful furnishings in the White House were donated by United States residents. An article of furniture offered by a citizen is retained in perpetuity. The person knows that his children and grandchildren—his heirs and successors—will one day be able to go along and see it. I would hope that various articles of furniture are offered to our Parliament House when it is restored and that they can play their proper role as pieces of furniture, not as museum pieces. That could give people a stake in the Parliament itself. Not every piece of furniture could be accepted. If it did not suit the decor, we would have to say so.

Mr. Frawley: If we could get back some of the chairs A.L.P. members sold when they were in Government, we would be better off.

Mr. MOORE: I would not want those chairs.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: What about the ones Sir Wallace Rae took?

Mr. MOORE: I don't know that anything was stolen. We hear all these snippets of history about what someone did in the past.

I would like to think that we could have a Jacobean room, an Elizabethan room and a Georgian room. We could name one after Hanlon or some other Premier, or a statesman such as Fisher.

Dr. Edwards: Moore?

Mr. MOORE: No, nothing after Moore. Did the Treasurer mean A. E. Moore? Yes, he would be a suitable one to put up.

Dr. Edwards: Bob Moore, after all he has done for Parliament House.

Mr. MOORE: I would hate that. I wouldn't like that. I thank the Treasurer for his kind interjection.

Mr. Hinze: There have been two great Moores in Queensland: A. E. Moore and Bob Moore.

Mr. MOORE: Yes, except that A. E. Moore had an impartial redistribution and got himself thrown out of office. I wouldn't fall for that one. That is what happened. He was a friend of my father. Various people were saying to him, "Do you know what you are doing?" He said, "The judges are there. I have an independent tribunal. They will look after the business. We cannot have parliamentary interference." He just threw himself out of office, and the Labor Party gerrymandered the boundaries from then on until it busted itself to pieces. I wouldn't fall for that. However, the interjections by the Ministers have side-tracked me from talking about the restoration of Parliament House.

We all know that Parliament House is built of sandstone, or free-stone, and is suffering from a corrosion problem brought

about by damp. Some people have suggested that we spray the outside with silicone to keep the water off. However, the result of spraying the outside of the sandstone with silicone would be to cause a capillary action, and the dampness would get up under the thin skin on the outside and corrode the free-stone even more quickly. It is the opinion of the stonemasons who are working on the building now that we will have to stop hosing the concrete round the building. If it has to be cleaned it should be swept, not hosed. Continual hosing of that building will reduce its life by half.

There are two more matters I want to raise. The Brisbane City Council is talking about putting a mall in the centre of Brisbane. Anyone who puts a mall in Queen Street, a through road onto one of the few bridges crossing the Brisbane River, would not be right in the head. I am not suggesting that there should not be a mall in Brisbane.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Mr. Hinze supports that. He said that it is the right thing to do.

Mr. MOORE: He has been under so much torture that I do not know that he meant to say that. The member for Wolston speaks about Mr. Hinze. I say this about him. There is much talk about the State being run by public servants, but Mr. Hinze is one Minister who has the guts to say, "I've got ministerial prerogative and I am going to use it." Of course, he is copping the crow for doing that. Some members of Cabinet are simply cogs in the machine. But the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads is not a cog in the machine. If he is not the driver, he is the engine, and I do not mind that. One or two other Ministers do as he does, but in the main Ministers tend to be advised and accept advice. To hell with the advice! There is an old Labor statement that advisers should be on tap but not on top, and I think that is fair enough.

If the State Government and the Brisbane City Council agree that a mall should be built, I hope that they will not put it in Queen Street, which is a through road. If they did that, all the traffic going onto the bridge would have to turn a corner, and that would be absolutely stupid.

Some time ago the Treasurer spoke about governing motor cars, but he was brow-beaten out of that. There is no reason why the top speed of a motor car should not be governed. It can be governed off the speedo cable or even by using a photo-electric cell. With a little hole in the speedo dial, the light is blocked when the needle comes over and the governor is activated. It is as simple as ABC. If you scratch the side of any transistor in your radio, Mr. Gunn, and then shine a torch on it, there will be a signal change in the radio. That is a simple example of how a photo-electric cell works, and that is why there is black paint on the outside of transistors. Governing the top speed of motor

cars would be a very simple matter. We speak about every other method of reducing the carnage on the road. Although drunkenness and other problems may be involved, speed is a common denominator, and no-one has ever been killed by a stationary car.

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (3.42 p.m.): Because of the impending decision relative to the Australian-Japanese fishing agreement and the public disquiet being shown in my area about the fishing zone—the agreement is to be signed in Canberra tomorrow, Wednesday, 17 October 1979—I take the opportunity afforded by the Budget debate to make a last-minute plea for State intervention. Technically, I am seeking a reprieve for the black marlin fishery, although I realise that at this very late hour it is almost futile to ask the State Government to step in and try to influence the Government in Canberra for a stay of execution of the black marlin in the waters off Cairns.

The Federal Government's decision could well sound the death-knell of not only the black marlin fishery on the Great Barrier Reef but also a few politicians. The head-down approach of the Government in Canberra in the face of public opinion is a scandal, and it will cost both the Federal Government and this State Government very dearly. Obviously, the Federal Government shows more consideration to the Japanese than it does to the citizens of North Queensland.

Mr. Blake: That is nothing new.

Mr. JONES: That is nothing new, as the honourable member for Bundaberg so rightly interjected. Surely the State Government or whoever negotiated with the Federal Government or was in consultation with it over the past seven months must have been aware of the resentment and concern that would be shown in Far North Queensland. The people of the North are very irate and incensed about the injustice that has resulted from the handling of this issue. There was no need for the State Government to stand idly by and watch the Federal Government blunder on until it prevailed.

Mr. Davis: Grovel.

Mr. JONES: "Grovel" might be a better word. Technically, it is shrugging its shoulders and saying, "We cannot do anything about it. We don't understand." It tells the people of Queensland that the State Government cannot do anything or it will not do anything. Then it hides behind a post and says, "It is not our fault."

I warn this Government that it is misreading the situation in Far North Queensland. Dire results will follow. It amuses me to watch Government back-benchers and Ministers who hold seats in North Queensland struggling desperately to get off the hook and frantically treading water in the seas of political oblivion. Over the past few

days they have been back-peddalling in Far North Queensland, like a fellow on a bicycle on a steep downhill run. But it is too late; the people of Far North Queensland are aware of the situation. Within 48 hours of the decision, they are circulating a petition. I will relate how long the Government and Government members in this House and in other places have known what is going on.

Mr. Neal: How long have you known about it?

Mr. JONES: I first knew about it in 1975. Read it in "Hansard". In 1975 I asked a question in this House, and in February this year I wrote a letter to the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism. If the honourable member sits patiently and waits, he will hear me read out the contents of that question and letter in great detail. Incidentally, I will abide by the decision arrived at by the Whips and cut my time to 30 minutes—although other honourable members have not done so.

In today's Press, the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism is reported as saying that he is not happy with the Australian fishing agreement. In the same newspaper, the Premier is reported as stating that it is a tremendous step forward. So here we immediately see a rift. The Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism, of course, is trying to regain his posture as a North Queenslander. He was betrayed by the Premier. Last Thursday, negotiations were conducted behind closed doors—another instance of government by stealth—and this House was unaware of those negotiations.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: It is known as the marlin spike.

Mr. JONES: The Government has spiked not only the marlin but also its chances in Far North Queensland of winning a number of seats.

Mr. Blake: They will all be long-liners, too.

Mr. JONES: Government members certainly will not miss any of the hooks. I will make sure that the barbs go in, and go in deep.

The Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism was reported in today's Press as saying that Queensland had not been consulted adequately before the agreement. That is a definite untruth and it is misleading. He said that the decisions were all made by the Federal Government. On its own admission, our Government stood idly by. The Minister then made a plea to be involved in any future agreements. That is adopting a begging attitude, and one that will not do him any good. All the evidence is documented in "Hansard" and it will be perused by the public.

I agree with my leader that the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism should resign. I realise that he has occupied his

Cabinet portfolio for only six or seven weeks, but if he is sincere he, as a North Queenslander, will resign. But I do not think that will happen.

Mr. Frawley: Of course, you would do that if you were in the same position!

Mr. JONES: My word! If as a North Queenslander I was betrayed as the Minister has been and undermined by the Premier as he has been, I most certainly would resign. I can assure the Committee that I am a man of my word and would do it.

The underlying principle in this matter on the part of the Federal Government is a fear of the consequences if Australia went back on its fishing agreement at this stage. That is why our fellows are laying off. Mr. Fraser has made these statements. He has expressed concern about breaking faith with the Japanese Government. He has said that there is a danger in renegotiating the Australia-Japan fishing agreement because it could affect other trade contracts. Herein lies the truth of the decision made in Canberra and acquiesced in at this meeting last Thursday. Of course Mr. Fraser expresses concern about breaking faith with the Japanese and, of course, the main consideration in going back to renegotiate the Australia-Japan fishing agreement was the fear of breaking faith with the Japanese.

That did not matter a couple of years ago. It was all right then for Japan to repudiate the sugar agreement. It was all right for the Japanese to renege a couple of years ago, but it is not all right for us to do it now. The people of Far North Queensland will remember that the Japanese had no compunction in renegeing on the long-term contracts when the price of sugar dropped dramatically a couple of years ago.

Mr. Blake: And much more than \$1,400,000 was involved.

Mr. JONES: It was not a measly \$1,400,000.

On Friday, 18 January 1977, "The Financial Review" carried the headline, "Australian-Japanese relations; Beef and fishing trade-off." A large photograph of Mr. Sinclair is in the centre of the article. According to Brian Toohey in Tokyo—

"Australia and Japan have traded beef and fishing concessions in the first day of the ministerial conference in Tokyo."

They nearly broke a leg doing it; they could not get in there quickly enough. Further down, the article, dealing with beef, reads—

"In addition it will grant an extra 5 000-tonne quota for school lunches . . .

"The allocation to Australia in the school lunch program will be deducted from next year's quotas."

This was said by Mr. Sinclair at that time to be a reasonable solution to the beef issue. But what went by the board? What was traded off? They traded off our fishing rights in Far North Queensland.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Scandalous!

Mr. JONES: Of course it is scandalous. It will go down in history, and the people of Far North Queensland will be reminded of it continually.

On 25 September 1979, Mr. Sinclair, who was then Minister for Primary Industry, made a ministerial statement in another place about the 200 nautical mile Australian fishing zone. He said—

“ . . . We commenced negotiations on access to the AFZ first with the Japanese Government. The negotiations have concerned a head fisheries co-operation agreement, a subsidiary agreement covering access for tuna long-line vessels, and related matters.”

He said that the State had been fully informed and was being consulted in these negotiations. That was when he made the announcement that the Japanese had agreed to the payment of an access fee of \$1,400,000. A paltry amount!

Mr. D'Arcy: Is it true that about \$4,000 million worth of fish will be taken?

Mr. JONES: I have not seen those figures, but I agree that that would be the amount. There is no doubt about that.

Mr. D'Arcy: \$4,000 million is the figure in the trade agreement that has been released today.

Mr. JONES: I am pleased the honourable member got that into “Hansard”. It is a very enlightening figure. Because of what has been going on here in the past couple of weeks, we have not had that figure disclosed. At least we have that figure; we will probably never get the figures relating to coal and other mineral exports. The matter of our fisheries is very important to people in Far North Queensland, and the Government is seen to be failing in its duty in not doing something about it.

The people of the North were also let down by their Federal members. On 25 September when the ministerial statement was made, maps were tabled, but nobody brought them up to North Queensland and told the people what was going on. In the past 48 hours, the Federal member for the area has been belatedly running in front of a petitioner public—this, when the death-knell is about to sound—in an endeavour to reinstate himself in the eyes of the public. But this member (Mr. Thomson) was aware of the situation if not before, then certainly when, the maps were tabled on 25 September. It was then that he should have told the people of North Queensland of what was about to eventuate.

The situation is similar to that which occurred when there was an argument over twice-yearly indexation of pensions. Public opinion will prevail. The Government will be forced, as it was on the pensions issue, to renegotiate the agreement in order to ensure some stability for the Far North Queensland tourist industry. What benefit will accrue to Far North Queenslanders and Australians from the deal negotiated by officials of the Australian and Japanese Governments? If this declaration of the Australian fishing zone bestows certain rights and obligations on the Australian Government for the management of living marine resources in the zone, why were the black marlin grounds, which are unique, not included in that zone? It is not as if no-one knew about them. The agreement certainly seems to have been subject to manipulation by Canberra.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Conspiracy.

Mr. JONES: That might be an apt description of what has happened. It is a conspiracy against the people of Queensland, particularly those who reside on the seaboard of North Queensland.

Of course, we condemn the actions of the State and Federal Governments in negotiating this fishing agreement with Japan which allows the Japanese long-liners to harvest fish in this black marlin breeding ground, which is within the Australian fishing zone, for the paltry sum of \$1,400,000. The zone is not to be declared until 1 November, but tomorrow an agreement will be concluded with the Japanese and our rights in that area will be signed away. The Japanese will be the first to exploit our fishery before the zone is even declared.

Mr. D'Arcy: It will cost us more than that to police it.

Mr. JONES: We should talk about policing the area, because in his statement the Federal Minister (Mr. Sinclair) said that he had negotiated for the State to police the zone. I spoke about that in the debate on Matters of Public Interest only a fortnight ago and said that enforcement will be left to the State. We cannot even police our own fishing zone near the coast, let alone 200 miles out to sea. It is a ridiculous situation.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Is that Mr. Sinclair you are referring to the Federal Minister who is facing criminal charges for fraud?

Mr. JONES: Yes, the same fellow. He has been involved in fraud not only in that situation but also in the situation that affects the people of North Queensland. I call upon the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism to do something about this matter—even to call a special meeting of Cabinet tonight to reject the agreement that is about to be signed. In the words of the Premier, he should stand up and be counted as far as Queensland is concerned.

I draw attention to the fact that the negotiating of this Australian fishing zone agreement brings no benefit at all to the Australian people. It will destroy an already unique fishery and an established world-tourist attraction. The recognised publicity is of great dimension for the Great Barrier Reef and for Queensland generally. I believe that the figures in the Food and Agriculture Organisation Yearbook for the years 1970 to 1976 indicate that the quantity of bill fish caught has decreased from 2 200 tonnes to 272 tonnes. If those figures are projected from 1976 to 1980, and if Japanese long-line fishing intensifies over the next 12 months, not only will the marlin fishery be imperilled. I warn that if the Government does not act now before the agreement is signed, we could very well see the demise of this fishery and of the tourist industry of Far North Queensland.

I know that the members of the public will be signing petitions. I urge them to exert every known influence in this matter, as they did when they sought to get pensions indexed twice yearly. If they do in this situation what they did with pensions, I believe that they will prevent this threat to this world-famous fishery. Of course, nothing will succeed unless there is a complete ban on long-line fishing between July and December. That should be a minimum requirement. The restriction should ultimately be extended to 100 per cent banning of long-line fishing along the Queensland coast in our Australian fishing zone. That is what the zone was declared for—to protect the fishery for Australians.

I get down now to what I have done about this matter. I remind the Committee that on 9 October 1975 I drew attention, by question in this Chamber, to the threat of the game-fishing industry from the Japanese long-liners even at that time. The quantity of marlin taken from the Western Coral Sea has been reduced by two-thirds in five years. If the Japanese are let in there for a year, there will no marlin left to catch. I commend the chairman of the Queensland Amateur Fishing Council, Dr. Terry Russell, for his participation in this matter, and I trust that his actions will be successful in preventing what has been happening in this area.

Mr. Robinson, who was deputising for, I think, the Acting Minister for Tourism, Mr. Lynch, came up to Cairns at the week-end and in a cold, calculated, heartless and ruthless way told us that we had no chance of reversing the situation and that the agreement would be signed on Wednesday. If I were to cast this particular Minister, Mr. Robinson, in a role of any sort, I would select him as a good contender for the role of an S.S. chief in the Gestapo. It would be a very good casting if he were depicted in that way. He came up to Cairns—of course, we will never see him again—and told us that we had lost the battle. As

far as he was concerned, we had lost the war. Of course, his mob buckled under, including the Premier of Queensland.

Mr. Hansen interjected.

Mr. JONES: He would be a “clown” prince; there would be no doubt about that. The Japanese would put the “i” where the “r” should be.

Mr. Davis: I would like to know where the Minister for Primary Industries stands on this issue.

Mr. JONES: A lot of people, including the Treasurer, who is the leader of the Liberal Party, have been very silent on this issue.

Some belated attempts have been made by the member for Barron River who, in today's Press, facetiously stated that Mr. Fraser should be hauled out to sea on a long line and dumped there. There has not been a word said by any Federal member who represents the North, or any State member, in exploitation of northern fishing waters.

Mr. Houston: They all support it.

Mr. JONES: Of course they all support it. If there was a vote on it, they would be over there voting for it. The Opposition will be forcing such a vote in the future. Then we will find out where Government members stand.

Mr. Houston: We will see if Mr. Campbell, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, supports them.

Mr. JONES: It is obvious that he does, because nobody has spoken against the measure. They have kowtowed and buckled under to the Federal Government.

It is no good for any Government member or any Minister, particularly the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism, to say that he did not know anything about it. I raised this matter, as I said, by question in 1975. I have raised it previously, and on 21 February this year I wrote to the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism, then the Honourable A. M. Hodges. In that letter I outlined the situation and drew attention to F.A.O. figures showing the deterioration of the annual Japanese bill-fish catches in tonnes. I drew attention to the concern of the tourist and fishing industries in the area and indicated that long-line fishing was not selective in the type of fish caught. I said that it would be detrimental to marlin fishing in our area, and also to the tourist industry.

I drew attention to the meeting in Kona, Hawaii, on 16 August 1978 of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council which dealt with the protection of the bill-fish industry in Hawaiian waters. I also drew attention to the article entitled “Protection for Australian Marlin Fishermen”, with the F.A.O. figures on the annual

catches in tonnes. So it is not as if Government members had not been informed and did not have knowledge of the situation. They have chosen, of course, to ignore that information. The Premier has now given his personal go-ahead to the agreement and says it is a good thing. Therefore, there is complete silence from the Government benches.

I find amazing the utter disregard for the fishing industry and the naivety shown by all Cabinet Ministers and the North Queensland members of the National and Liberal Parties in this House. They belatedly express shock, deny that they have been kept fully informed of developments and, when challenged, they publicly try to shelve their responsibilities. They have displayed ignorance by adopting a posture of aloofness. That is not good enough. Warnings had been given by myself and others, yet the agreement was blithely allowed to go along and set the path for the agreement to be negotiated with the Japanese on their terms in the face of the consequences and flying in the face of public opinion.

No preventative measures have been initiated or argued on that side. If they have, I have never heard them. It is insulting, to say the least, for them now to try to justify this appalling situation by saying that the Japanese are going to keep some statistics. What they will be doing is researching and supervising their own death wish; meticulously taking statistics on the toll of fish caught, which I equate with orchestrating the death of the marlin and tourist industries in North Queensland. By condoning their keeping those records, this Government is virtually allowing them to take notes at the funeral of the tourist industry in Far North Queensland.

Mr. Davis: I would like to see Australian fishermen go anywhere near the Japanese coast.

Mr. JONES: The Japanese have an entirely different attitude. They want a 50 per cent equity in every business conducted in Japan.

Mr. Houston: Japan first.

Mr. JONES: Japan first and foremost.

If we do not get off our butts and do some negotiating on the same basis and learn something from them, we will be behind all the way. I am raising this in the proper place. I warn this Government that this is the biggest sell-out of North Queensland since the Brisbane line. There have been many sell-outs, one of the latest being the Burdekin Dam. Honourable members may recall also the Ford, Bacon and Davis report on railway lines. Even a belated attempt at this stage—an urgent Cabinet meeting today to try to retrieve the situation—would give some credence to their claims of sincerity.

Mr. Blake: The Ministers are not shocked. They are only speechless.

Mr. JONES: They are dumb. They have been told to keep dumb—to keep quiet.

I thank my colleagues for allowing me to be listed to speak in this debate. There are many subjects that I had wished to speak on—teacher aides, subsidies to local authorities and pensioner rate remissions. However, there has been an undertaking, agreed to by the Whips, for members to speak for only 30 minutes to allow as many members as possible to enter the debate. I thank my colleagues for allowing me the privilege of addressing the Committee on this matter.

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (4.12 p.m.): In speaking in the debate on the first Budget introduced by the Treasurer (Dr. Edwards), I will possibly be reiterating what has been said by numerous other members. It is common knowledge that, if a business is to succeed and prosper, it needs sound, solid economic management. The same must assuredly apply to a State or a nation. Under the three Treasurers we have had since I have been a member, that objective has been achieved. First there was Sir Gordon Chalk, then Sir William Knox and now Dr. Edwards. I congratulate Dr. Edwards on the introduction of this Budget, which is a very good one for the State of Queensland. It is aimed at containing inflation, creating jobs and holding down State taxes.

Before I speak about matters of concern in the Warrego electorate, I would like to touch briefly on some aspects of the State Budget. First there is the injection of over \$98,000,000 as additional funds to employment-intensive capital works in the State. This is a tremendous boost that will help to alleviate unemployment in some areas. The State's grant of some \$5,000,000 is to continue to local authorities. When that is added to Commonwealth grants, it can be seen that local authorities in the State, and particularly in my electorate, have been well catered for.

The State's share of revenue under the income-tax-sharing arrangement with the Commonwealth has increased. In the Budget we have provision for an additional 800 jobs in hospitals, 256 jobs in primary and secondary education and 69 jobs in technical and further education. In addition, over the next two years there will be an extra 320 members in the Police Force.

The Budget has been an excellent one because of the substantial reductions in the important spheres of pay-roll tax, land tax and stamp duties. As a result of the exemption levels being lifted for pay-roll tax purposes, a tremendous number of small businesses in Queensland will now not have to pay pay-roll tax. In my opinion, this has been instrumental in inducing many business people to come here from other States.

Mr. Davis: You can only make a speech when you have a brief.

Mr. TURNER: I have copious notes, and I am quoting facts from the Financial Statement.

As to pay-roll tax—the new maximum exemption level will be \$150,000—an increase of 20 per cent on the previous maximum of \$125,000.

For land tax, the statutory exemption in respect of land used by the owner personally for agriculture, dairying or grazing will be increased from \$90,000 to \$108,000, and the statutory exemption for all other land will be increased from \$30,000 to \$36,000.

In the field of stamp duties, a tremendously important move has been made. The rate of stamp duty payable on the acquisition of the principal place of residence will be reduced from \$1.50 per \$100 of the value of the consideration to \$1 per \$100. Any young persons purchasing, say, a \$40,000 home with \$25,000 mortgage finance will save an additional \$362 in stamp duty. In my opinion, this will be of tremendous benefit to people purchasing their first home, and it is a wonderful move by the Treasurer.

Speaking of housing, I remind the Committee that \$12,000,000 has been allocated to the Queensland Housing Commission to increase the availability of funds for home buyers. In addition, \$12,000,000 has been allocated to the Railway Department for its capital works programme, including \$4,400,000 for new residences and accommodation generally. This has been a matter on which members have received a tremendous number of representations from the Queensland Railway Station Officers' Union, and I am pleased to say that in my electorate new railway houses have been constructed at Amby and Mungallala, and a good house has been purchased at Cunnamulla. The \$4,400,000 should go a long way towards overcoming the problem of railway housing.

There is an allocation of \$6,200,000 for loans and subsidies to local authorities, and assistance to non-Government schools is to be increased. In my opinion, it is very important that such assistance should be provided, because non-Government schools play a very important part in the education of the children of this State.

Grants to community kindergartens have been increased quite substantially. The total State Government supplementation this year is \$1,375,000, or 30 per cent more than last year.

School student conveyance schemes have been increased by 10 per cent overall, both to school-bus operators and to people who convey their children to schools, and the increase comes into effect as from 1 November 1979. Although it may only be in line with inflation, it is of vital importance to people who are interested in the education of their children.

Senior remote area scholarships have been increased progressively from the 500 provided originally, first to 550, then to 600, and now to 650. The value of the scholarships will be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200 as from 1 January 1980. The scheme has been of great assistance to people in isolated regions who wish to take advantage of the opportunity to send their children away for education. Of course, a means test applies, so the people in the greatest need receive the greatest benefit.

I asked the Minister for Education a question about remote area scholarships and the problems faced by people who have three or four children away at once being educated and who, under the means test, are not eligible for such scholarships, while a family with only one child away may be receiving the allowance. The Minister has assured me that he will look into the matter and that people facing such problems are receiving assistance in relation to scholarships.

Student hostel allowances have also been increased. This is a popular move, but I point out that tremendous problems arise in relation to student hostels in many western towns. I do not know whether it is a sign of the times, but the towns are experiencing tremendous difficulties in retaining these hostels. At present, the Blackall hostel faces the possibility of being closed down and sold. If that happened it would be a retrograde step, because many people rely on hostels such as that for accommodation for their children while they are receiving their education. The subsidy on furnishings in homes for the aged has been increased from \$750 to \$1,000 per person.

The Flying Surgeon Service has been of tremendous benefit to Western Queensland. No-one who has been associated with the Flying Surgeon Service would doubt that. I am pleased to see the introduction of an additional Flying Surgeon Service to Western Queensland. However, I would take the Treasurer to task on the choice of the site for the second service, which is to be Roma. I believe that that town is already well catered for in the location of Government departments. It has a branch of the S.G.I.O., the Main Roads Department, the Welfare Department and Telecom. As well, it has a regional education office. I would have liked to see the Government, through the Treasurer, establish departments in more remote areas, thereby further assisting decentralisation.

The grants to local authorities to assist with the cost of operating State Emergency Service activities has been increased by 33½ per cent. As to pensioner rail concessions—it is proposed to provide pensioners with two free return rail journeys each year. This will be of tremendous benefit to pensioners living in the remote western areas. It will give them an opportunity to travel twice a year free of charge to receive medical treatment or to visit their relatives.

The allocation to the Education Department is increased by \$49,000,000, or 10.4 per cent. Nobody could complain about that. As I have said previously, over the next two years the establishment of the Police Force will be increased by 320 personnel. Furthermore, two twin-engined Cessna aircraft will be purchased by the Government for use by the Police Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. They will assist in the spotting of drug-running activities and that type of thing.

I have referred to the grant of \$5,000,000 to local authorities by way of general purpose grants. As well, they will receive \$3,300,000 for operating and capital subsidies on local authority libraries, and from the Loan Fund and the Consolidated Revenue Fund they will receive \$37,500,000 by way of loans and subsidies for capital purposes.

I now want to deal with the sum of \$14,500,000 that has been allocated for additional road-works. Much has been achieved in this area throughout Queensland. However, I place on record my opposition to any move to bypass remote western towns. That will only have a detrimental effect on them. In my opinion, the bypassing of small areas near a city does not have as much adverse effect as the bypassing of a town in a remote region. I do not think it is a bad thing to virtually compel a motorist who travels 65 or 100 miles to call in to a country town.

Instead of concentrating on bypassing remote towns, the Main Roads Department should pay more attention to eliminating dangerous rail crossings. This comment applies right throughout the State. Like country areas, cities and towns have the problem of dangerous level crossings.

The Main Roads Department is doing work along the Western Highway in the Miles area. I hope that it does something to reduce the traffic hazard at the dangerous Marbango crossing near Mitchell. In recent times, many lives have been lost on that crossing.

Recently, the Charleville Chamber of Commerce approached me regarding the Charleville Airport. On 11 October, I asked the Minister for Transport a question concerning that airport and the move by the Federal Department of Transport to force the ownership of inland airports onto local authorities. The Charleville Airport is a strategic one, and one that is vital to the defence of this nation. Ownership should not be forced onto local authorities but should be retained by the Federal Department of Transport.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: What would you like—a squadron of F111s based out there?

Mr. TURNER: For the information of the honourable member, local ownership is not forced upon the Brisbane City Council or on the councils where Tullamarine and Mascot airports are located. Local authorities should not have the ownership of these

airports forced on them. If there is a reduction of maintenance, we could be faced with the situation where Fokker Friendships could not use the Charleville Airport. This would result in a downgrading of the service. I state most emphatically that western people do not want any reduction in the air services to Western Queensland. It is not so much a matter of who maintains the service—whether it is BPA, East-West Airlines, T.A.A. or Ansett—but the people of Western Queensland, who make such a large contribution to the overall prosperity of this nation, deserve some assistance to ensure that their air services are maintained at their present level or, preferably, improved.

I have in my possession a report from the Institution of Engineers, Australia, Queensland Branch, on the Blackall wool scour. The Blackall wool scour was one of a number of country scours that were built before World War I. The scour at Blackall dates back to 1906. It was situated 3½ miles from the Blackall Post Office, in Queensland's remote West.

With the passage of time and changes in wool production techniques, it became more profitable to scour wool after it had been shipped to the coast, or even delaying that step until the bales reached foreign shores. The need for country wool scours has, therefore, declined steadily as the century has progressed. The last one at Blackall closed for business towards the end of 1977.

During the 71 years in which it operated, it underwent relatively few changes. Motive power for the scouring and pressing machinery was derived from a number of small steam engines supplied from a wood-fired boiler. An old diesel engine was added in 1975 to supplement the steam engines. A minimal electricity supply was originally provided by a Pelton wheel generator, driven from the water bore that supplied the scour. This was later disused, although it is still on site. I point out that, when it was in operation, almost all of the fuel for the running of this scour was derived on site from timber and the electricity generated from the bore. In this day and age, when so much emphasis is placed on the energy crisis, it is worth noting that something operated years ago that needed virtually no oil or coal.

When the scour was at the point of closing, it was suddenly realised that a distinct and irreversible point had been reached in Queensland's history. It was realised that some kind of record of the last country scour should be made before it was swept away. The A.B.C. had an item on the T.V. news but the visual record was on video-tape and was subsequently erased.

After inquiries by the Institution of Engineers, Australia, Engineering Heritage Subcommittee, one of its members, Mr. G. W. Allen, made arrangements for Mr. Holmes, the district adviser of the Sheep and Wool Branch to visit the plant, make a

rough ground plan and take a few still colour photographs of the machinery while it was still in action. The owner, Mr. Thomas, voiced his concern at the need to close the scour, but there was no alternative.

During 1979, with the support of the owner and the shire chairman, Mr. Darwin, the Engineering Heritage Subcommittee made determined efforts to have the scour fully recorded. This was now doubly difficult in that it had been standing idle for over 12 months. Even if it ran there would be problems with providing it with wool for treatment. The cost of having the plant professionally photographed on colour movie film, together with taped interviews with the manager, was made and submitted to the Australian Heritage Commission for inclusion in the 1980 programme. In June, through the good offices of Mr. Allen, the Department of Primary Industries agreed to send a film unit to Blackall to make the recording together with comprehensive still photography and taped interviews. Unfortunately it was too late because the boiler had collapsed by that time, and there were problems in getting the information.

With a low-density population such as we have here on the Australian continent, I believe that we face great problems in preserving our heritage, particularly in remote areas where the influx of visitors may be large enough to make vandalism a worry but hardly enough to generate sufficient funds to preserve its physical manifestations. Interest has been generated in the Blackall area for the restoration of the old wool scour and, for the sake of the preservation of the history of this nation, I hope that Governments will see fit to assist and that success is finally achieved in preserving this part of our history and heritage.

Another subject I would like to discuss is geriatric units for aged people in country areas. I have submitted proposals to the Health Minister for the retention of part of the old Cunnamulla Hospital for use as a geriatric unit when a new hospital is constructed. In the older western towns such as Cunnamulla, Charleville and others, it is natural that the older members of the population do not wish to shift away to the coastal regions when they retire. This does not apply to the towns in the new mining areas, which have a younger population. I believe that, with elderly people in need of geriatric assistance or accommodation in these areas, it is imperative that the Government do something to help.

We have an obligation—in fact, a direct responsibility—to look after our aged in the environment to which they have become accustomed. They should not be sent to Brisbane to live out the last few years of their lives in a unit away from their friends and families. I most strongly urge the Health Minister to reconsider the applications I have made to convert part of the old Cunnamulla Hospital to a geriatric unit to service

the needs of the area. The same could be said of Charleville and many other centres throughout Western Queensland.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: They won't be too geriatric to vote you out.

Mr. TURNER: I received votes from all sections of the community, and I am grateful for the support I have received in the area. I would not laugh at geriatrics. I am trying to do something for them, whereas the honourable member for Wolston appears to be intent on making some funny remark because I am talking about assisting geriatric cases in my area.

Mr. Frawley: His best contribution has been rigging ballots. That's how the honourable member for Brisbane Central got back in.

Mr. TURNER: The honourable member would possibly know about that, but at the moment I am talking about geriatric units.

I now want to talk about a chap I know in Tambo, Mr. Lane Peckett, who is an amateur herpetologist. For some considerable time he has been concerned about the incorrect identification of snakes throughout Western Queensland. He did have a number of snake specimens, but they were taken from him by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. To retain them, he would have had to pay \$346 in royalties or face the prospect of a \$10,000 fine for holding snake specimens without a permit.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Trouser snakes?

Mr. TURNER: No, they were all in bottles. He was actually using them to raise funds for charity. He also used them to show schoolchildren, doctors and others the problems of identification. There seems to be an area of thought that polyvalent antivenene is the complete answer to snakebite—

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What was that word you used?

Mr. TURNER: I will spell it for the honourable member later and he may be able to understand it. Mr. Peckett believes, I think rightly so, that there is antivenene unnecessarily held in hospitals throughout the State, as the types of snakes against which it would be used do not live in those areas. When Dr. Edwards was Health Minister, I spoke to him about it and he indicated his support for a campaign to have this man address the next medical superintendents' conference in Western Queensland in order to enlighten some doctors on the problems of snake identification. I will quote from a newspaper article on a medical conference held in Adelaide. It stated—

"A medical conference has been told in Adelaide that most Australian doctors lack adequate instruction in the treatment of snakebite.

"The head of the Immunology Department at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories in Melbourne, Dr. Sutherland, says the treatment of snakebite is poorly or inadequately taught in many medical schools.

"He says Australia had the most venomous snakes in the world, with over three thousand people bitten every year.

"Dr. Sutherland says up to December last year, ten people had died. Yet most doctors were poorly trained or not trained at all in coping with bites."

That was said by a doctor. I certainly hope that his views are taken into account when consideration is being given to the identification of snakes in Western Queensland.

I should like to discuss briefly the closure of many small fuel depots in the smaller country towns, under the guise of rationalisation. I am hopeful that this particular trend can be arrested and reversed. It is not in the best interests of Western Queensland. As I said when referring to air services, we do not wish to see any reduction in the number of fuel depots. I believe that people in these areas are entitled to receive a certain standard of service.

Drought conditions prevail in Western Queensland today; most of the western areas are experiencing desperately dry conditions. I believe that the Government should be looking at declaring these areas drought-stricken.

I have pointed out in recent speeches and questions in this Parliament the need to retain diesel fuel supplies in Western Queensland. Because of the number of people who use tractors to push scrub, it is imperative that they receive a continuous supply of fuel. This ties in with the cut-off in the number of fuel depots. The reduction will not be of any assistance to them at all.

I am pleased to see that the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board recently made a recommendation to the Minister about the dingo barrier fence. It recommended that the fence be restored from South-east Queensland to the Tambo area. In the interests of the sheep industry in South-east Queensland, I believe it is vital to retain this fence in a sound condition.

Another matter that I wish to touch on briefly—it is one that I have mentioned here on numerous occasions—concerns the kangaroo industry and the problems it has experienced in recent times. I am very pleased to see that a meeting has been organised for 31 October in an endeavour to iron out the problems which arose for the kangaroo industry last season, and to ensure that they do not recur this year.

Representatives from the United Graziers' Association, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Kangaroo Dealers' Association will attend that meeting. When one considers the tremendous contribution made by the kangaroo industry to many western

towns, it is imperative that these problems be ironed out. I believe that a great deal of the hysteria that we have witnessed over more recent years about kangaroos being eradicated or destroyed has been put to rest. I hope that this meeting will arrive at solutions to many of the problems.

As some previous speakers went beyond the time agreed upon, I will cut short my speech this afternoon to allow other members to make their contributions before this debate concludes.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (4.38 p.m.): After reading the Budget very carefully and discussing it widely with people in my electorate, I came to the conclusion that this State and this country have no financial problems. The main problems are of a moral nature. One of the problems facing this nation is its lack of moral fibre and strength, and that is displayed in many ways. It is displayed in the lack of respect for, and appreciation of, Australia and the institutions of this great country. People no longer appear to be proud to be Australians. In my opinion, one sees no better example of this than when one goes to a sports meeting. When the national anthem is played, one sees the way in which people drag themselves slowly to their feet, with their hands in their pockets. Ninety-nine per cent of them do not know the words of the national anthem.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: I know the words of "Advance Australia Fair".

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Some of the honourable member's colleagues also know the words of "The Red Flag", too.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Would you like me to sing it for you?

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: I ask the honourable member not to sing it in front of me; I will knock him down if he does.

This attitude is again displayed in the constant denigration of, and heaping of ridicule on, the Houses of Parliament—both the State House and the Federal Houses—by the Press and the other media. The puppets of the show react vigorously to the so-called publicity which they consider is essential for them to maintain their positions in Parliament. Recently, we had the end result of this displayed in the Press, with no respect being shown to the members of Parliament or to the Houses of Parliament.

When parliamentarians are being discussed, how often do we hear these words: "They are the best of a bad bunch."? It is a sad reflection on the members of this House and the House itself when this exclamation is heard. I consider that this House of Parliament and the Federal Houses of Parliament have been recently denigrated as never before. This Queensland House is full of distrust and enmity the like of which has never before been seen in this State. Inter-party bitterness and altercations are common, and intra-party distrust is obvious to the electorate.

I consider that certain members of this Parliament have unwittingly been used as tools by people both inside and outside Parliament to bring disdain and contempt upon this House and our Westminster system of Government. The Press no longer portrays us as a noble House but as a House full of shallow opportunists. It considers sensational news of a politician's way of life as superior news to that which comes from sound and honest administration that will benefit the State and this country.

Another aspect of the national sickness is the obvious attitude of all strata in our society that work is an unhealthy pastime. Few people today wish to work. We see this attitude in the various industries, in and at the seat of learning, and in this House. Gone are the days when the saying "A fair day's work for a fair day's pay" was applicable. The saying has been revised and the emphasis today is mainly on pay; it is no longer on work. We have seen recently that certain unions want to plunge this whole nation into chaos by industrial unrest so that they can gain their own objectives. In the Press of 15 October 1979 it was reported that workers at the Gladstone Power House are going out on strike in support of a 35-hour week. It is a rolling strike in an essential industry. There is no thought for the men put out of business and those who are put out of work because of their actions.

Surely if this country is worth having and living in, it is worth working for. That is my opinion. What can be gained by national strikes? The only things achieved are unrest, distrust, unemployment and, if we take the example of England, finally bankruptcy. We witness people who all admit that they are simply waiting for the toll of superannuation bells. That is all they are interested in—superannuation. We find that in all followings, from members of this Parliament, down through the Public Service ranks to the man on the basic wage. They have this attitude of waiting for their pensions. That is a terrible denigration of men's moral fibre. The disease is even worse in the higher echelons of administration in this country. In fact, we are rotting from the top down. We have no roots. It is the era in which people are rushing into retirement, a state for which a considerable number of them are inadequately prepared mentally, physically, educationally and financially.

For the first time in history, we have seen the noble profession of teaching denigrated to the lowest level possible by inroads of the socialist Marxist groups who corrupt the profession by arranging strikes against our children. I refer to "The Sydney Morning Herald" of 11 October, in which there is a most magnificent editorial headed "The Selfish Ones". I think all members should read it and it should be kept for posterity. It details the fight for a 30-hour week—18 hours in the class-room and 12 hours in preparation. "The Sydney Morning Herald",

which is a very conservative paper said, "The Federation of Teachers has rejected analysis, reason and compromise."

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! Multiple interjections will not be tolerated in the Chamber.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: This editorial is of such high quality that I think it should be incorporated in "Hansard".

I therefore seek leave to incorporate in "Hansard" the editorial of "The Sydney Morning Herald" of 11 October 1979.

(Leave granted.)

"The selfish ones

"Technical Colleges throughout the State are becoming blackboard jungles, with the students as victims and the teachers as predators. On Monday, teachers in the electrical trades and home science courses went on strike for the day. Yesterday, teachers in the building trades and rural studies schools struck. The strikes are part of a vicious pattern. The technical teachers, with the backing of the NSW Teachers' Federation, have promised a stoppage by some group every day until October 26, when a nation-wide strike will determine the next punitive step in what has been a ruthless campaign to win for all technical teachers a working week of 18 hours in the classroom and 12 hours in preparation.

"We believe the federation has failed to substantiate its case, and we have argued this in the past. By continuing to force the issue, the teachers are totally and selfishly neglectful of their professional obligations to their students. The strike for October 26, for instance, is carefully timed to take place a month before final examinations begin. This is an example of the pressure the teachers have been inflicting throughout the year. They have had five strikes already. Classes have been disrupted by overtime bans, rolling strikes and work bans. An administrative ban is also in force which so far has had little impact but which is in some ways the ultimate threat. If the ban is applied, it will mean that teachers will refuse to supply assignment and assessment marks, neither will they set or mark examination papers. This is psychological warfare with a vengeance. Students who are trying to master heavy loads of theory and practice, in an effort to prepare themselves to compete in a crowded work-force, should not have to suffer this.

"Many of these students will not complete their apprenticeships, at least this year, because of the disruptions. No wonder some of them marched to Parliament Building yesterday. But the fault in this dispute does not lie with the Government. It lies squarely with the technical

teachers and the NSW Teachers' Federation. In 1976, the NSW Industrial Commission rejected the federation's case for an 18-hour classroom regime for the many technical teachers who do not already have it. Since then the federation has refused to have its case conciliated or arbitrated. It has relied on the law of the jungle to get its way. The authorities have provided reviews and work value studies. The Government at the last Budget made some concessions based on these reviews. But nothing but the pound of flesh is enough. The federation has rejected analysis, reason, compromise. It has provided a unique example in this State where the interests of students—for whom the buildings, the courses and the teachers are provided—are swept aside by those who should care most.

"What does the federation expect the Government to do? To succumb to its blackmail? Surely not. Do the federation and the teachers have no concern for the students whose year they have blighted? The dispute goes back into the Industrial Commission today for what could be a last chance for sense to prevail. The federation should pull back from the brink now, before chaos engulfs the technical colleges. Not to do so would invite the strongest possible retaliation from the Government."

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: A letter from 12 students appeared in the same newspaper on the same day saying that they were near to their examinations and their chances of passing them at the technical college have been blighted by the unwillingness of these teachers, who are going out on strike, to teach them. Here are 12 children writing to the public Press.

We also have the example of the Victorian Teachers Union, which has been organising seminars on sex and homosexuality. A newspaper item dated 5 September 1979 read—

"The Fifth National Homosexual Conference in Melbourne last week was supplemented by a flurry of seminars of similar activities.

"One of them was the Victorian Secondary Teachers Association's seminar on homosexuality held in conjunction with the National Homosexual Conference."

What the devil has homosexuality got to do with school kids? The article went on—

"The involvement of the Victorian teachers' unions in homosexual education follows similar action in New South Wales and Queensland."

We have the same rot in this State!

In Queensland we had the example of a militant homosexual teacher. We had an interesting fellow called Greg Weir, whose studentship was terminated by the Queensland Government. If it were not for the careful supervision of the State's educational system by this Government, our system

would be as rotten as it is in Victoria, where the Left Wing has taken over the teachers association, which in its turn has taken over control in the schools. It is rather interesting that last week about 20 schools in Victoria were subjected to continuous disruption by the teachers union's protesting against possible cuts in the September Budget. There were no cuts in that Budget; so they were using that as a pretext to implement rolling strikes against the students of Victoria.

This is happening not only in Australia; it is also happening in America. It is often found that these peculiar twists and changes begin in America six months or so before they come to Australia. "The Courier-Mail" quotes a Dr. Hess, who is coming out here to give lectures for the International Year of the Child. The article reads—

"... the status of children in the U.S. was changed—they were being treated as independent citizens rather than family dependents or school wards.

"A Professor of child education at Stanford University, Dr. Hess said the diminishing role of the family was inevitable in today's complicated urban society."

What a lot of tripe! The family has been the backbone of nations for a hundred thousand years or more, back to the days of antiquity. Yet here is a psychologist—he has not even made the grade as a psychiatrist—telling us how we are going to deal with our children. Shallow-thinking people in our community will immediately latch on to his statements and follow suit.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: I'll bet he's a member of the medical profession.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: He is a psychologist and a Doctor of Philosophy. Doctorates are two bob a dozen in America.

The permissive society is supplanting the conservative, long-accepted, God-fearing, thinking and balanced society in which people of our vintage grew up. The permissive society is wrecking the family structure. Divorce is easy. Look at the Family Law Act, which was introduced by a humanist, Senator Murphy. Love, affection and loyalty are considered old hat and not worth cultivating. The catchcry "humanism will liberate" is everywhere. Indeed, it is accepted amongst many people who hold executive positions in Government and the judiciary.

For instance, let us take Mr. Justice Staples. If ever a ratbag was admitted to the judiciary, it is that man. As a student, he belonged to the Communist Party. He was an agitator. He was even stood down from the judiciary for 12 months. Yet he has the hide to stand up and criticise the Commonwealth Government's proposed amendments of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Of course he did, and he has every right to.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: He has not. He is a member of the judiciary. He has no right whatsoever.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: He has every right. Every other commissioner totally supported what he said.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: He might have support from Opposition members, but he should be stripped of his robes and his office.

Mr. DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. Under Standing Orders, I believe that we should not criticise the judiciary.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! There is no point of order.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: We are not allowed to criticise their intentions on legal matters. I am discussing Mr. Justice Staples in the broad sense.

We have now a small but vocal lobby group, some of whom are opposite, agitating for abortion on demand. That means death to a future citizen of Australia; death to a child; death to a human being; death to a living organ. They can call it what they like, but it is death. That is what it means.

The great religious teachers of our world and of our nation have all considered, in their time, the killing of human beings. Let me refer to some of them. In the Old Testament, Exodus 13 and Deuteronomy 5-17 both say, "Thou shalt not kill". In the New Testament, in the Sermon on the Mount, Christ is reported in Matthew 5-21 as saying, "Whoever shall kill shall stand in danger of the judgment."

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Sit down in your quieter moments, young man, and read the Sermon on the Mount. It would do you the world of good.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: It would educate the honourable member and broaden his mind.

The Koran, chapter 18 verse 31, says—and listen to this, you abortionists—

"Slay not your children fearing a fall of poverty—we shall provide for them and you. Behold the slaying of them is a great sin."

Abortion is not a new thing. It has been against all mankind ever since it began.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Now we come down to the humanists. I will give honourable members opposite a bit of humanism. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states—

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

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Now, let me come back to "The Courier-Mail" and an article by a gentleman named Professor McFarlane Burnett, a Nobel Prize winner. A noble man! He should have been hanged, drawn and quartered, because he said—

"Abortion should be available within the first 90 days wherever there is a known risk; when a child is born with recognisable and serious disabilities which can't be remedied, it should be subjected to compassionate infanticide."

What a monster! Honourable members opposite do not like Idi Amin. That man is an Idi Amin. He said—

"When a person is diagnosed as suffering from a terminal condition, the situation should be explained so the patient can consider available alternatives; and people responsible for violent crimes such as rape and murder should be removed from society."

What a climax! He proposes infanticide and euthanasia and then says, "Remove the people who commit murder."

Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says—

"All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law."

"The Courier-Mail" of 5 October reported a killing by a husband of his wife. He stabbed her to death because she had a bad heart, and the judge in the court allowed him to walk out of the court scot-free. The wife got equal protection before the law!

Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says—

"The will of the people shall be the basis of authority of government."

That does not consider that a vocal-pressure minority should rule over or enforce its views on the silent majority, and that is what is happening.

If one advances the rationale of killing anything that is not planned or wanted, one comes to the end of the scale of life—to old age. And then what has one got? Is euthanasia the end for old age? Is that the reward for old age?

It is dramatically clear that an abortion mentality has entered our society when many apparently civilised, educated people will kill their unborn children and babies for convenience. They call it compassion! Cut your kid to pieces and call it compassion! I wonder what they intend to do to those who are born with defects, once they have come to accept as the norm death to any unwanted foetus. There are plenty of fellows in this world who have children with defects whom they love and cherish. People now want them to be destroyed, too. That is common thinking today.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: That is ridiculous.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: I ask the honourable member to prove that it is not.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: It is claptrap.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: I have given enough proof that it is. Are we soon to see agitation for statute law to cover the killing of all those with imperfections or those who have worked hard for the community, supported and reared children, and committed the new crime of living too long? That is what is advocated by maniacs like Professor Burnett who are supported by the Press and, in some places, by parliamentarians. One need only look at the recent behaviour in the Federal Parliament and at who voted for and who voted against. It is worth noticing, too, which members kept themselves out of the House when the vote was taken.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: They voted on a sensible basis and they included people from your own parties.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: I am not absolving any members of our parties; the honourable member need not worry about that.

Old age has always been revered and respected by all nations. It is interesting to note that we look down upon the Asiatic races, yet they have much stronger feelings for the aged than we have. Old age is greatly revered among those races.

I wonder whether the modern thinkers who advocate abortion and euthanasia will volunteer for the job of executioner to put to death those poor unfortunates who either live too long or arrive on this earth without their parents having planned it. Who will volunteer? Will those persons salve their conscience by getting some crackpot psychiatrist to give them a favourable decision, and will they then get some hired medically qualified murderer to do the job for them? Will they get some medical hit-man to do the job?

I wonder what these people think about the death penalty for capital offenders. The Labor Party, of course, opposes the death penalty for persons who commit capital offences. Would these people advocate the return of capital punishment for crimes of murder and treason? Or do they consider that murder should be forgiven and not punished? It would appear that the in thing today among vocal groups is to advocate the elimination of capital punishment. Obviously their thinking is confused, and the basis of their thinking is designed to create confusion and disruption in our society.

It is a travesty of justice that in our country a man can be sentenced to life imprisonment for armed robbery, whereas a doctor who aborts a baby can become a millionaire and be held up for admiration by all our young children as a comforter of the afflicted.

I suggest that honourable members read a most important speech that was delivered in the Senate of this nation on 17 March 1977 by Senator Harradine. In that speech

he exposed the million-dollar international abortion racket. I commend his speech to all honourable members.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! There is far too much audible conversation on my left. I ask honourable members to desist.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: While the unmerciful killing of our babies continues, the Treasurers of this State and nation will have far more difficult problems to overcome than the mere balancing of finances. This comment holds good particularly in the Federal sphere, because this year a total of 80,000 abortions were committed in Australia. For those abortions the taxpayers paid the abortionists.

It is worth recording Mr. Hayden's remarks during the so-called Lusher debate in Federal Parliament. Hayden is rather an interesting man. He stated that the cost to the taxpayer of an unmarried girl's child, by way of supporting mother's allowance, guardian's allowance, dependant's allowance, family allowance and supplementary allowance for accommodation, totalled \$76,000, presumably spent over a number of years. In contrast, he says, an abortion costs the taxpayer a mere \$67. Which would Opposition members have—the \$67 or the \$76,000? Mr. Hayden condemns himself. He does not deserve even to be a parliamentarian, let alone the leader of the Labor Party, which was an honourable party before it was overtaken by this abortion mania.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: You are a disgusting man.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Mr. Hayden is the disgusting man. He advocated that we take the \$67. He said that it is cheaper to pay the \$67 than the \$76,000.

Mr. Tenni: Who advocates that?

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Mr. Hayden. Is that the value that the socialist, Marxist groups—call them what you will—place on a citizen of this country? Is he worth only \$67? Is that all the consideration that any future citizen will get? Where is social justice under that form of government? In his statement, Mr. Hayden proved himself to be unworthy to be a member of the Federal House and definitely unsuitable to be the leader of the Labor Party which, for many years, had a very honourable tradition.

The Treasurer in 25 years' time will be faced with a population that is predominantly elderly, past the working age, past the productive period and requiring and needing in most instances some form of social welfare and social service. What a job he will have to find the money to overcome that problem because the youth will not be there to earn and to be taxed. The initiative has gone out of this nation.

An Honourable Member: What about the people who are crying out for children for adoption?

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: That is correct. People are wanting children.

Whilst I am on the problem of population, I should like to refer to what has happened in France. The French Parliament realised that, with unlimited abortions, the population, which is now 50,000,000, would be 14,000,000 in 25 years' time, with a large proportion of aged, elderly and frail and a small number who are young, vigorous and productive. France is now offering benefits, such as tax deductions, housing facilities and free houses, if people have children. They are not turning the nation into a baby farm. They are getting down to common sense because they have suddenly realised that if they do not stop the rot, that nation will not need to be invaded; it will disappear off the map.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Who is going to invade it?

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: The honourable member has not seen an invasion. It is a nice old thought that nobody will invade a country.

Despite the problem that France has, at least there is some sanity in the nation. I have always been told that a Frenchman is a gentleman. At least France is displaying a little more sense than we are. In February 1973, a poll was conducted of all medical officers in that nation. Out of 13,000 medical practitioners, 10,000 came out very strongly in condemning abortion on demand. About 300 of the remainder agreed to abortion on demand. An analysis was done and it was found that, of them, 137 were not on the medical register. They had been deregistered. They were defrocked quacks.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Unfrocked.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Defrocked or unfrocked.

Of them, 40 were medical students and 59 were psychiatrists. The remainder was made up of ear, nose and throat specialists who would not know anything about pregnancy. This is rather interesting, because it shows that this small, vocal group is still clamouring for abortion on demand in France, even though they were overwhelmingly voted out.

We have the same sort of group in this country. Ms. Denise White, according to "The Courier-Mail" of 3 August 1977, was demanding that doctors urge the fight for free abortion. Other people want abortion on demand. Thousands of letters are written to the Press.

What is happening in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Russia, which started many of these intrigues?

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Are you taking us on a Cook's tour of Europe?

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: I am taking the Committee on a Cook's tour of the abortion racket. It is an international racket. The sooner members of the Labor Party do a bit of study into it, the better. It is a multimillion-dollar racket. In 1972, Hungary had more abortions than live births. There were 178,000 abortions and 153,000 children born. This is a very serious business. In Bulgaria, 25 or 30 per cent of women underwent an abortion.

Japan, the nation of great industry, is probably the Mecca of the abortionist. "The National Times" of 7 May 1973 carries the headline—

"Abortion irony: now labour's short, Japan wants tighter laws".

Anyone can get an abortion in Japan, and that nation has reduced itself to two-child families. If members know anything about statistics they will know that a nation of two-children families cannot survive. Families must have a minimum of three children, otherwise the nation disappears. We end up not only with zero growth, but with a decline in population.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you agree with the three-child family?

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: I have a seven-child family, and I am as happy as Larry.

In Australia this movement for abortion on demand has been supported by the C.P.A.—members opposite would know what that is—and the Left-wing ratbag element of the A.L.P.—they would know what that is, too—plus those who do not think and may not belong to any party. The non-thinkers are the ones who are keeping this problem going. Our welfare organisations have been infiltrated. For example, the family planning programme funded by this Government and the Federal Government has become a thinly veiled front for the abortion-on-demand lobby. There is no doubt about that. The C.P.A. has a close liaison with the Women's Electoral Lobby, Children by Choice and the Women's Campaign for Abortion. In fact, this is quite open. I have here a poster advertising an abortion rally in King George Square with a photo of a husky, muscular-looking, bosomy female. In the accompanying letter she addresses me as "Dear Comrade". Look at her, she's frightening! I do not like being addressed as "Dear Comrade", because I am not a comrade. The dear girl's name is Debbie McLoughlin. She is from the Women's Campaign for Abortion, and she addresses me as "Dear Comrade".

Mr. Tenni: She must be a Commo.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Yes. At least we have slight agreement on that.

As I mentioned previously, the Family Planning Association, which is funded by this State Government, although it has an air of

respectability about it, is deteriorating into nothing but an abortion referral centre. The whole aim of the C.P.A. and the socialist Left is to undermine the morals of our community and the judiciary, with the result that standards would fall. With more and more nibbling away standards will fall. If people keep saying that abortions are necessary, people start thinking they are necessary. It is salesmen's talk. This is constantly being done by exaggerating the numbers of people who require abortions. The advertisement I have here is a very good example of that. Look at it! It must have cost them a few bucks. It appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of 6 November 1977. It begins, "Believe this? 12,700 Queensland Women had to go to N.S.W. for Abortions . . ."

It continues—

"Over 87% Support for reasons of health, deformity, rape or incest.

"Over 74% Support for severe mental stress and physically incapable mothers."

When I was a medical student, all the psychiatrists said that no indication for abortion ever came out of a psychiatric consultation. It is only now that we have abortion on demand and hired killers—our medical hitmen—are making millions out of it that it has become an indication for an abortion. Dr. Bayliss and Dr. Davis, the bloody murderers from New South Wales! They exaggerate the number of abortions. They constantly repeat the supposed sad plight of the subnormal raped by her father until the uninformed and unthinking public fall for it, and the initial repugnance to the killing of an unborn child is removed or diminished, and so people begin to forget the crime against the child. They forget it is infanticide and, if done on a large scale it is genocide and plain premeditated murder. And that is what we are doing.

Many people have asked me why some members of the medical profession perform abortions and others do not. That is a big question, and a difficult one to answer. But looking at it we find that in the abortion industry—that is what I call it; it is an industry and there is big money in it—two factors are working. The first relates to those who wish to disrupt the morals of our nation by agitating for women to destroy their young. If the morals of women are broken down, the whole nation fails. Many blokes did not want to go and fight for their country in the last war, but they knew they would not dare to look at their womenfolk if they did not go. That is the only reason they went. So we should not ever underrate the importance of a female. Flimsy excuses are advanced for women to have abortions. The real villains of the piece are the men who perform them for money. They are the men we have to get at, and it is these people that this Government can stop.

We can stop them in the same way as we stop gangsters and gunmen from running over the country and holding the community

to ransom. We have the power in this Parliament to do it by statute law. We should use that statute law. The Government can pass statute law to control these professional abortionists who are in the industry only for gain. They do not have any respect or consideration for the life of a human being. Why should men like this bearded scallywag and scoundrel Bayliss in Queensland and this bloody butcher Davis in New South Wales be allowed to carry on? Davis admits that he makes over \$1,000,000 a year from abortions.

Mr. Yewdale: That is not as much as they get out of redevelopment.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Redevelopment happens once in a blue moon. These fellows are doing abortions every day. They have people working for them throughout the country. I cannot understand why this State and the Australian Medical Association, to which I belong, allow these men to continue to be registered as medical practitioners. There is an easy way to remove their registration. If one looks at the history of statute law right throughout the world, one finds that it can deal severely with any apprehended and convicted mass murderer. Take the last war, for example.

Mr. Davis: What happened to Hitler?

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: That is right. What happened to him? He was so terrified that he blew his own brains out. He knew what would happen. He knew that he would have to experience the indignity of dangling at the end of a rope. Then there was Rosenberg, the man who had the master race ideas. He was hanged. What happened to all the other villains of the last war? What happened to Tojo? What happened to the Japanese mass murderers who were convicted at the Pacific trials and those who were convicted at the Nuremberg trials? When we look back, we see that there was a very flimsy legal structure called international law, which had not been invoked before. All those men convicted at the Nuremberg trials were hanged. We have statute law that has been established and recognised for centuries, and we are not using it.

As I said previously, I just cannot understand why the A.M.A. and the State medical boards do not deregister these men. This is a decision that must be made by this Parliament in the interests of the State and Australia as a whole. We must legislate to protect posterity as well as our heritage.

Consider the way in which the member for Cairns was talking today about black marlin. He was getting quite emotional about that subject. I agree with him in what he said about black marlin. We worry about the whale. The Federal Government passed legislation to protect the whale; Mr. Fraser

has gone ahead and passed a law to prevent people from killing whales. I have here a newspaper report that states—

“The killing of whales was horrible and inhumane.”

But what about an abortion? A curette is shoved in and the arms are torn off a child and thrown into a bucket; or saline is shot in until the kid is pickled—one can hear him yelling inside; or a suction curette is put in and the kid is sucked out. People say that it is inhumane to kill a whale. They should wake up and see what is going on. Joh will provide honourable members opposite with an aircraft to go to South Australia to see an abortion performed at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. It would sicken the most hardened criminal to see what is going on. And we worry about Cambodia and other countries where children are starving.

An interesting article, entitled “The Disappearing Australians”, and quoting Sir William Knox, appeared in the Press on 8 October. It is worthwhile reading. It gives facts and figures. We are disappearing; the good Australian is disappearing. It is time that we stopped shutting our eyes to these mass murders. It is now up to this Parliament to condemn outright this bloody murder of Australian babies and arrange our statute law so that abortion is forbidden in this State. Let us take the lead in this country and show that Queensland has a Legislature that cares.

Before concluding, I remind the Committee that the most prosperous times in Australia were when we had a big influx of migrants, when our population was increasing. If we open up our doors to the children of Cambodia and Thailand who are dying of starvation, we will do nothing but prosper. With an increasing population, our future will be assured.

Mr. KRUGER (Murrumba) (5.15 p.m.): I enter the debate at this late hour to discuss land developments in local authority areas and, of course, some of the things that have happened in the Pine Rivers Shire since I have been associated with it.

I would like to point out that the Samford Valley was rezoned by an Order in Council dated 12 October 1978. The dealings in relation to the Samford Valley began with D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd. back in 1972. That company put some propositions to the council about the rezoning of land in the Samford Valley. During the time the council was discussing the development of the Samford Valley the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads suggested to the council that it ought to get on and do something about the situation, and said that if it did not do something about it, he would make the decisions on behalf of the council.

To bring honourable members up to date with the history of this matter I would like to quote a few newspaper articles published since then. I will quote initially an

article in “The Courier-Mail” of 21 February 1978 which talked about a “close vote to open up Samford development”. The article read—

“The Pine Rivers Shire Council last night voted to allow residential development in 1,600 hectares of the Samford Valley. The council voted six to five in favour of a rezoning application from land developers D. G. Ogle . . .”

It went on at great length, and referring to Councillor Burke read—

“He said: ‘It will mean the construction of a water supply main to the district and the provision of allotments with the minimum area of 12,000 square metres up to 16 hectares, and there will be a wide variation of allotment sizes.’”

The article went on to say that the proposals would be advertised and objections called before the applications were forwarded to the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. It continued—

“The subdivision applications will be considered in accord with the council’s current residential B policy, which requires a mix of allotment sizes, with a level of services relating to allotment sizes.”

I will now quote from an article from the “Sunday Sun” of 15 April 1978 headed “Reds back big valley land deal”. The article read—

“A Russian bank is holding mortgages over hundreds of acres of potentially prime residential land in the beautiful Samford Valley north of Brisbane.

“Details of the Russian connection are contained in documents shown to Sunday Sun last week by Samford Valley residents opposing the rezoning of large tracts of land in the area.

“Official minutes of the Pine Rivers Council planning committee show mortgages are held by the Moscow Narodny Bank over more than 500 acres of land in the valley.

“The mortgagor is D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd., a Brisbane company that has been trying to develop the Samford Valley as a huge residential project since 1972.

“Documents shown to Sunday Sun last week suggest the Russian bank is now backing the project to the extent of at least \$12 million.

“But its continued backing is dependent on rezoning of large blocks of land. Pine Rivers Shire is considering the rezoning.

“A Federal Department of Trade official confirmed to Sunday Sun yesterday that a party of top-ranking Russian trade officials visited the Samford Valley last weekend to look over the bank’s investment.

“The party included Mr. V. A. Kuzin of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers on Science and Technology.

“Intelligence

“Mr. Kuzin was listed by the American FBI as a member of the Russian KGB intelligence organisation when he worked in America in 1962-63.

“He was refused a visa to visit Australia three years ago because of his intelligence background.

“He is in Australia with a Russian trade delegation that spent three days in Queensland last week.

“The party spent 20 minutes driving about the Samford Valley last Saturday being guided to development land by Pine Rivers Councillor Burke.

“Pine Rivers Shire Building and Town Planning Committee minutes of September 21 last year contain a letter from D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd. headed ‘Proposed Rezoning at Samford.’

“The letter gives details of reconstruction of the company’s board and names a Mr. D. Lee as a director.

“Mr. Lee is shown in company records as Mr. Dennis Lee of Singapore. He is reported to be Dennis Lee Kim Yew, brother of Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew.

“Mr Lee Kwan Yew’s wife is associated with the Moscow Narodny Bank’s Singapore branch, which controls investments in the South-East Asia region amounting to \$600 million.

“The letter in the Pine Rivers Shire minutes says the company has entered into an agreement with the Moscow bank for funding of the Samford project.”

That shows quite clearly the connection of the bank with the development in the Samford Valley.

Then the “Record” newspaper of 19 May had an article about Samford people lodging complaints. There were 2,500 objections. The article read—

“The period allowed for objections to the rezoning of 1700 hectares of the valley from rural to residential B closed last week and these together with submissions will be forwarded by Pine Shire Council to Mr. Hinze for the final assessment.

“President of the Samford Valley Protection Association, Mr. W. Wilson said a professionally prepared submission together with 2500 objections had been lodged by his group.

“He felt in view of this ‘sanity must prevail’.”

It continued in that way.

The next article of significance is from the “Sunday Sun” of 28 January 1979, which says that Mr. Hinze received \$550,000 in a “Russian deal”. It reads—

“The Queensland Local Government Minister, Mr. Russ Hinze, is involved in a \$550,000 deal with a Russian controlled bank.

“Mr. Hinze is a shareholder in his family company, Maralinga Pty. Ltd., which has negotiated a short term loan for that figure with the Moscow Narodny bank.

“He said yesterday that the loan was purely a business transaction through his family company and had no personal advantages for him.”

Later it reads—

“As Local Government Minister, Mr. Hinze took re-zoning proposals for the \$40 million Samford Valley project to Cabinet last November.

“They had been approved by six votes to five by the Pine Shire Council, and subsequently received Cabinet approval.

“There were 2500 objections to the re-zonings.”

Mr. AKERS: How did you vote on that?

Mr. KRUGER: I voted for the rezoning to go ahead at that stage. I have no further worries about that.

An important Press article appears under the headline “Pine Council rejects move by Hinze on rezoning”. It reads—

“Pine Rivers Shire Council has rejected a move by the Local Government Minister (Mr. Hinze) which was described as an unprecedented intervention on behalf of one land developer.

“Town planning committee chairman (Cr. Brian Burke) said yesterday: ‘This intervention could have taken responsibility out of the hands of elected representatives.’

“D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd., which has backing from the Moscow Narodny Bank, has plans for a \$26 million sub-division project in the Samford Valley.

“On Monday night, the Council considered a letter from Mr. Hinze referring to the project.

“The letter said: ‘Representations have been made to me by Mr. D. G. Ogle concerning the development of land in the Samford Valley, the rezoning of which was approved by the Governor-in-Council on October 12, 1978.

“‘Mr. Ogle represents that there have been certain delays in securing the necessary approvals to enable the development to proceed in accordance with the approved rezoning.

“‘I am aware that the implementation of a project of this magnitude is a task of very considerable proportion, and it seems to me that it could be advantageous for a committee of officers to be set up to look into the matter and to report to the council, the developer and my department on steps that should be taken to get the project under way.

“‘I have in mind that technical officers of the council, of Mr. Ogle’s company and the executive planning officer of the Department of Local Government might comprise the committee.

“‘I would be pleased to receive the council’s views’.”

It is odd that the Minister should decide to form a committee of representatives of the company, the Pine Rivers Shire Council and his department to discuss the rezoning of the valley and the delays that had taken place. The Press article continues—

“He moved that the Local Government Minister be advised that the council did not agree to the proposal. And that the Minister be further advised that the council was capable and willing to proceed with the development and was still awaiting replies from D. G. Ogle.”

That is the end of the articles I wish to quote. I have done that to bring members up to date on what is happening in Samford Valley.

I am led to believe that since then the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads has spread his business wings into the valley and owns quite a large area of land in the Samford area. As he has taken up a piece of land, it makes me want to know just what is going on with the Department of Local Government. I believe that he has a partner looking after his interests on that block of land.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Who is that partner?

Mr. KRUGER: I am led to believe that it is a Kevin Seymour, who was formerly with Blue and White Cabs.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Manager of Blue and White Cabs?

Mr. KRUGER: Yes. I understand that he was quite a con-man in that position. I suppose that is why he is operating in Samford Valley on behalf of the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Are you suggesting that this Mr. Seymour is a front man for the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads?

Mr. KRUGER: It most definitely appears to be that way. That is why he is stationed in the valley on a piece of property owned by Mr. Hinze.

For some time the council has been looking for some road-works to be done in the Dayboro Road area. At long last it is being done. It is significant that, with that road-work being carried out, a blue metal quarry is being considered at Camp Mountain. That blue metal quarry would be of great advantage when foundations for a road are put down. The information that I have been able to obtain so far indicates that it is on a piece of Crown land.

I am told also that Mr. Seymour has an interest in Solid Earth Pty. Ltd., which, it appears, will get extractive industry permits in that area. It seems very significant that all these things tie in.

Mr. Blake: It would be purely accidental and coincidental, wouldn't you say?

Mr. KRUGER: No. To top all this off, I understand on very good authority that when the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads went on his latest jaunt overseas, before leaving Sydney he made arrangements to have discussions in Zurich with his financial backers, the Narodny Bank. It is quite odd that he had to make arrangements to see the representatives of the Narodny Bank in Zurich. The reason, of course, is that they are becoming very despondent about the treatment they are receiving in the Samford Valley, and they want to know why the Valley has not gone ahead since the rezoning took place. It seems to me that there would be a two-way split. The situation is that Mr. Hinze got quite a big loan from the Narodny Bank and would wish to see something being done because of the land that he owns there. In fact, the tie-up shows that something must be done quickly or possibly Mr. Hinze will not get the full benefit of the loan, at a very low rate of interest, that he obtained from the Narodny Bank.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you also think that when Mr. Hinze stopped off at Zurich, he did so to launder some hot money?

Mr. KRUGER: That is quite a possibility. I understood that, but I did not get enough information to bring the matter forward. I do not like to be unfair, but I would say that that is quite a possibility.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: It is a distinct possibility.

Mr. KRUGER: It is quite possible.

I turn now to some of the situations that have arisen as a result of the introduction of the Budget. Members of the Opposition feel very sorry at this stage for their fellow workers—I should say, their fellow non-workers or out-of-workers—because of the actions of the Government in Queensland and its counterpart in Canberra.

Government members continually condemn the Whitlam Government. No-one ever suggests that the situation has worsened since the Whitlam Government went out of office, that Australia is closer to going down the drain, if I may put it that way, than when Whitlam was in power. We now face increasing inflation and many other problems that Mr. Fraser was going to stop. He said that he was going to turn on the lights. Unfortunately, his administrative ability, as we all know, is very slight.

In general, the Budget introduced by the Treasurer could be described as a “No grow, no go, no show” Budget. It is quite a blow to the State of Queensland that he has brought down such a Budget. It lacks foresight and inhibits initiative.

Mr. Prest: You would not expect anything more from him.

Mr. KRUGER: He is incompetent to do the job. Honourable members opposite put someone new in the Treasurer's position each year. After what happened to Sir William Knox, I would not be surprised to see a different Treasurer next year.

Mr. Prest: It all depends who dies, I suppose.

Mr. KRUGER: That is right. It is just a matter of whether they can get him in a dark corner and get the knife working. I see a few honourable members opposite with their knives out, sharpened and ready for the lunge. Eventually it will come; it will not take long. They have the happy knack of covering up till the time is ripe. Then one reads in the newspaper that another Minister has gone down the drain. It has been happening in Canberra; it has been happening here.

I should like the Treasurer to tell me what alternative means of raising finance are available. The Premier has been speaking about cutting taxes, but I cannot see in the Budget any alternative means of raising finance. Before the Redcliffe by-election, the Premier said about three times a day in this Chamber that taxes would be cut in Queensland. I have not heard him mention the matter since the by-election. Obviously it was just another gimmick, another smokescreen, to make the electors believe that he was interested in the people of this State. The Queenslander in whom he is most interested is the bloke he sees in the mirror in the morning when he shaves. And what a sorry sight that is when he gets up early!

The little additional expenditure for the year will be absorbed by inflation. It has been stated in the Chamber today that there is a 10½ per cent increase for education, a 10½ per cent increase for something else. On the admission of Mr. Fraser, inflation is running at about 10½ to 11 per cent. Therefore, the addition of \$220,000,000 to the \$2,000 million in last year's Budget is only keeping pace with inflation, and the people of this State will receive less benefit from the Budget than they expected. I would have thought that a Treasurer with any foresight would have seen the need to increase the number of jobs available and done something about providing them.

Under this Budget the State will stagnate and suffer for many years to come. Even though inflation continues to run at a high rate, both the Prime Minister and this State Government try to keep the small income-earner down. In contrast, they allow the big companies to continue to make exorbitant profits.

The Budget refers to assistance to primary producers to the extent of \$2,200,000, to road and rail concessions amounting to \$2,540,000

and to rebates allowed by the railways on the transport of freight and fodder for stock to the extent of \$9,900,000. Those three items total \$14,720,000.

The Budget, in effect, is nothing more than a reshuffle. Nothing has been gained. Things have been pushed around to give the impression that the Government is spending more money in certain areas, whereas it has taken that money from somewhere else. The Government is simply playing with figures.

I am not sure what is involved in the additional amount of \$24,400,000 in the Special Projects Fund. In fact, the fund will be reduced by the overexpended amount in the previous year, namely, \$36,400,000. The net result is \$12,000,000 less. Perhaps the intention is to pull more money from that fund and to replace it with money taken from somewhere else. The Government is using camouflage. I would suggest that the Treasurer does not know what it is all about. I sincerely hope that his departmental heads do.

I wanted to speak about the maintenance of schools, but because of the agreement to reduce the time of our speeches I will not be able to do so. I will content myself by talking about the activities of real estate agents on local councils.

It is quite obvious that local authorities are being taken over by real estate agents. Councillors who engage in real estate activities could persuade their local authorities that certain areas should be rezoned. They could exert quite an influence. Fortunately, the Pine Rivers Shire Council and certain other local authorities do not have this problem; nevertheless, it does exist. No doubt the best areas would be the ones that they would want to be rezoned. In some instances, those areas would be the ones best suited to development. In other instances, I have no doubt that somebody would be merely seeking to make money out of it.

Reference has been made to the Samford Valley development. That brings to mind the fact that Councillor Burke, who showed the Russian delegation around the Samford Valley, put in a good deal of time on the rezoning. It seems that he had a change of heart. That was the time the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads obtained his loan from the same Russian bank.

The amazing aspect is that Councillor Burke's wife has now entered the real estate business and, I venture to suggest, will eventually rip large profits out of the Samford Valley.

I want to quote from a document sent to residents in the area by L. J. Hooker. It is headed "Notice of benefit". I trust that means "benefit to the people", but I am not quite sure.

That document reads—

“NOTICE OF BENEFIT

“Dear Samford Resident,

“Re: Appointment of Jan Burke

“L. J. Hooker is a national company with (over 250) offices and departments throughout Australia and New Guinea.

“We are in a unique position to offer you the best in professional advice and service should you consider the sale or purchase of property.

“To complement our property services in the Samford Valley, we have appointed Jan Burke, who will specialise in Samford.

“Jan has a thorough understanding of the Valley and will be pleased to assist you with all aspects of property transactions.

“If you wish to purchase or sell property in the Samford Valley—the combination of ‘Hooker’s’ nationwide resources and Jan Burke’s local knowledge are now available to you.”

I understand that the same councillor has spread his wings a little further, having got his wife into a position where she could sell land. I believe that he will nominate as a Liberal for one of the seats. When he first started talking about this land, he was a member of the National Party. They chop and change to suit themselves.

I spoke earlier about the residential B matter in the valley. The Pine Rivers Shire Council has a by-law covering residential B development. Since the rezoning in the valley, one of Councillor Burke’s babies has been to look at the rural residential type of development. I think that, in trying to assist the people who will develop that area, he will possibly assist himself in some way or other.

The “Record” of 12 September 1979 reads—

“Pine Rivers Shire Council has commissioned a group of town planners to prepare a policy development plan for the Samford Valley.”

After all that has gone on and after all the statements that have been made, the Pine Rivers Shire Council has commissioned a group of town planners to prepare a policy development! This article continues—

“Cr. Brian Burke said the plan would protect the natural environment and would prevent any monopoly of land development.

“He said over the past decade many development plans had been put forward to the council, which were lacking in many aspects.

“Now that the council had a firm commitment to bring a water supply to the valley, it was time to provide opportunities to implement the council ‘rural residential’ subdivisional by-laws which had recently been advertised for public submissions.”

There seems to be a great deal of interest in the area from Councillor Burke that did not seem to be evident earlier.

There is something else I would like to raise in the time left at my disposal. I will not bore the Committee by speaking for the length of time taken by the last speaker, who seemed to go on and on.

Mr. Bourke interjected.

Mr. KRUGER: I would not be surprised if the honourable member is easily bored because he does not have much substance to bore through.

I should like to speak about the proposed Kippa-Ring College of Technical and Further Education. I sent a letter to the Minister for Education on 18 April 1978, which read—

“Technical College—Kippa-Ring

“I wish to request that consideration be given to the construction of a technical college in the Kippa-Ring area to serve the needs of Redcliffe and Deception Bay residents.

“The new college planned for Bald Hills will be of benefit to residents of the Pine Rivers Shire, however, due to the present road corridors and rail system, it would still present transport problems. . .”

Mr. Bourke: Give us the date of it.

Mr. KRUGER: 18 April 1978. If the honourable member cleaned his ears out he would have heard me when I said it the first time. He is a dill.

The reply from the Minister, dated 23 May 1978, read—

“Dear Mr. Kruger,

“I refer to your enquiries concerning the possible construction of a College of Technical and Further Education in the Kippa-Ring area to serve the needs of Redcliffe and Deception Bay residents.

“I am pleased to advise that an area of 14.5 hectares, situated at Nathan Road, Kippa-Ring, has been purchased for this purpose. A brief for the Stage I development has been prepared and submitted to the Department of Works which has commissioned the firm of Trude and Webster to plan the project.

“As this college is being planned on the State Loan programme, it is certain that full documentation will be completed in August 1979 and, assuming funds can be made available, construction should commence in October of that year.”

That has long since gone. The letter continued—

“I trust this schedule can be maintained to allow occupation early in 1981 and know that the proposed development will more than adequately meet the needs of your bayside region.”

The Budget allocates no money for the Kippa-Ring College of Technical and Further Education. That was expected by me. However, the Works Department could have

employed people on this project. It is badly needed in this area, and a little effort in this direction would have relieved the unemployment situation. If the college had been constructed, the people who require that type of education could have been receiving it much earlier.

Another problem has arisen in that area. It is the same old problem that always arises in local authority areas when schools are to be erected. An argument has developed between the Works Department, the Education Department and the Redcliffe City Council. The problem relates to road-works. The land in question lies in a low, swampy area. Because the Works Department was able to buy the land cheaply and thus save a great deal of cash, it bought unsuitable land. The council estimates that the road-works will cost \$270,000, and the department has been haggling with the council over who will pay for them.

The Redcliffe City Council engineers could build the road for half that price, but it would be only a very short time before they would have to do it again. They therefore believe that if they spend the extra money now and do a good job, they will be better off. It is one of those problems that can never be overcome. We never seem to achieve a satisfactory result in situations where work is shared between the local authority and the Works Department. The Works Department comes in and says, "We will resume that piece of land for a school." But when they want to build the school, they say to the local authority, "You spend half your loan raisings on the road-works outside the school." I believe that is something this Government ought to have a good look at. If it is worth while to build a school, it is worth while to build a road to get to it.

There is another interesting situation in the Redcliffe area, and it relates to the Redcliffe Hospital. In this instance, the Liberal Party has definitely outsmarted the Nationals. On looking at the Treasurer's Financial Statement, it appears that a large amount of money is to be spent on building a six-storey hospital containing 144 beds. But that has been done, and a great deal was made of it during the Redcliffe by-election campaign. The building programme was accelerated, and the money provided in the Budget will be used only to make final payments.

Mr. Davis: Who opened it?

Mr. KRUGER: It has not officially been opened. In fact, there are no beds in the building. As I said, the work was brought forward, and the money set aside in the Budget is not to be used to build another six-storey building but to make final payments on the building that has already been erected.

After all the hullabaloo that went on during the by-election campaign, I expected that some money would be set aside somewhere for some work on the Redcliffe rail

link. I expect that some money will be tied up somewhere and that before too long it will be used to resume land as the first step towards providing that link. Of course, there is also the possibility that the Minister for Transport and the Premier have no intention of doing anything about that railway line. It is obvious that such a thought would come to mind, but I trust that hidden away somewhere in the Budget papers—naturally in a Budget as large as this not everything can be spelt out—there is money to begin this project. I request the Premier and the Minister for Transport to be honest and decent; to keep their promises and try to make sure that something is done about beginning work on a rail link to Redcliffe.

Mr. Prest: It is expecting too much for them to be honest and decent.

Mr. KRUGER: That is a point, but we can always live in hope.

In his Financial Statement the Treasurer said that the primary industry economy looks better than it has for many years. It looks all right on paper, but I believe that that condition will be short-lived. Although cattle prices have been good, I believe that unless we are very lucky they will come down again before too long. If the Queensland cattle market starts to drop, there seems to be a tendency for many other primary products also to get into the doldrums. On looking at the production of fruit and vegetables, we find that on several occasions throughout the year there have been cases of over-production. Even though producers have received a better return, a large amount of fruit and vegetables has not actually been sold.

I have mentioned before in this Chamber that we ought to have another look at the marketing of fruit and vegetables in this State. We ought to be looking at how successful the pineapple industry has been. The C.O.D. and the pineapple industry have been working along exceptionally well, to the extent that this industry is possibly the most stable of the small primary industries in the State. Its marketing system is well organised. Production is well organised. It possibly has the best handling organisation in this State. To me, this shows what good handling and marketing can do for any of our primary products. The same comment applies whether it is a small production or a large production. If production and marketing are not organised, an industry starts to go backwards.

My Whip is looking at me; I see that there are 30 minutes on the clock. That means that the 30 minutes of my time have gone.

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (5.46 p.m.): I take this opportunity to congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on the introduction of his first Budget. Irrespective of the criticism that has been levelled at him from the other side of the Chamber, I think that he has done a very good job in this Budget, as have previous Treasurers in this Government in presenting their Budgets.

Queensland is renowned for having a stable economic system. It is also renowned for continually balancing its Budget, which is something of which we should be proud. As I see it, the balancing of our Budget is probably the most important thing, because common sense and good housekeeping dictate that we cannot spend more than we earn in a year. I think that for this we must thank the continued mining development in this State. There has been a lot of criticism of the Government—the Opposition continues to criticise it—for encouraging mining operations and multinational investment. Members of the Opposition engage in a pin-pricking exercise whenever a mine does not commence operation on the predicted date. But can honourable members imagine the difficulties that our Treasurers would have had if they had not in fact had the vast mining development that we have seen over the last 10 years? The mining industry has been the milking cow for the development of our State, and I am pleased to say that part of my electorate contributes income from mining, which is of considerable benefit to our State.

Herberton is a large tin-producing area. However, the problem experienced in this particular area is that we cannot seem to get enough finance to upgrade mining roads. We have seen a large development in the Herberton area. Higher tin prices have increased mining activities considerably. Particularly in recent years, we have seen a considerable increase in the number of small alluvial producers. There has also been an increase in our lode tin mining.

In 1977, 150 mining operations produced 1 891 tonnes of tin, worth over \$10,000,000. That is not bad for a small area. They are small two or three-man operations, and they produce over \$10,000,000 worth of tin. That is quite good. I am quite sure that production in that area will be increased this year. Because of that increase, I think it is rather a shame that the Treasurer has not seen fit to allocate more money for mining roads. At present, \$20,000 or \$30,000 has been allocated by Treasury for all mining roads in Queensland. I must say that the mining area that I am talking about is not a new one, and the roads in the area have been there for some considerable time. In fact, the area has been mined for over 100 years. It is not just a flash-in-the-pan operation. These roads will continue to be used for a considerable period.

Because of the absence of adequate roads in this area, many miners are living under appalling conditions. They are very hard-working people. They invest as much money as they possibly can in their operations, and they do a really good job. We, as a government, must help to provide them with an adequate road system so that they can at least get the tin out. In fact, in the wet season they are cut off for quite a number of months of the year and, for that reason, get no income during that period.

As I have already said, I am most satisfied with the thrust of the Budget. However, I was extremely disappointed that there was not included in it a specific allocation for major flood-mitigation and agricultural-drainage projects in the far northern sugar districts. I am sure that the 400-odd farmers who have petitioned this Government in the past couple of months will also be considerably disappointed that their representations have not been favourably considered. In fact, in May 1979 a deputation from the Northern District Sugar Industry Productivity Group met our Treasurer and asked for support, by way of additional funds, to enable the Water Resources Commission to make greater progress in the implementation of flood-mitigation and agricultural-drainage projects in the far northern sugar districts. Their specific request was for an additional \$1,000,000 annually for the Queensland Water Resources Commission. They also requested that this Government should make an immediate approach to the Federal Government for an allocation for these works of a further \$1,000,000 to match the State's contribution. I feel that they were quite justified in their approach in view of the trend of declining productivity in the far northern region compared with other major divisions of the sugar industry. Such a comparison of productivity rates shows that the far northern area has fallen below the State average and, in fact, its productivity rates are the lowest in the State.

That deputation pointed out that it agreed with the recommendations of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources concerning the complementary roles that the three levels of government should apply in the development of Australia's water resources. That means that, subject to a rate of progress commensurate with the ability of the local community to fund its share, the overall flood-mitigation and drainage works of general benefit should be financed on a 40:40:20 basis with the Federal and State Governments each contributing 40 per cent and the local community the balance.

We understood that this approach had already been considered and endorsed by State Cabinet. In Ingham last October, the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources discussed the major drainage works that would be required in the future and assured our committee that the Queensland Government had endorsed increasing the subsidy level of 40 per cent if the Commonwealth would make a similar contribution. The Commonwealth's position was clarified in March this year when the Minister for National Development (Mr. Newman) made a statement setting out the responses of the Federal Government to the recommendation of the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources and Development. In fact, his statement agreed with the recommendation that flood mitigation should be funded as a separate programme and, in fact, that there should be a subprogramme within the National Water Resources Programme.

The 1979 Federal Budget papers referred to an amount of \$18,800,000 to be allocated to the States for mostly irrigation and other pastoral water projects under the National Water Resources Programme. This is probably where the problem lies: this amount of money allocated to the States is merely enough to continue the programmes that have already been commenced.

Within the State Budget, an amount of \$16,000 has been allocated from State Loan Funds for expenditure on work during 1979-80. These funds, together with the approved debenture borrowing of \$1,200,000, will merely enable a continuation of works that have already been started. In fact, an additional \$6,500,000 will be channelled from the Special Projects Fund to the Queensland Water Resources Commission in the coming year. That amount of money will be required to help out on schemes such as the development of the Burdekin, Bundaberg, Emerald and Eton irrigation schemes. Unfortunately, there will be no money to start new projects. This is what has upset the cane farmers in my electorate. I can understand the feelings of people who do not live in high-rainfall areas. Those suffering from a shortage of water must find it very hard to appreciate that an area receiving in excess of 200 ins a year has water problems. That is the crux of our problem: we receive far too much water, which just lies on the ground. We cannot get rid of it.

The productivity group understand the extent of the flood mitigation and drainage problem in the Far North. We have all experienced it personally. The State commissioned an overflow study, which indicated that the problem warranted Commonwealth Government support. We have approached both State and Federal Governments. Our requests have raised two major problems, both of which relate to known Federal Government attitudes towards this type of project. Firstly, it is understood that funds are likely to be conditional on a progressive implementation of projects in a technically and economically sound consequence. Secondly, if Queensland is required to follow the pattern already established between the New South Wales Government and the Federal Government on financing flood mitigation and drainage works, it will be necessary to provide projected cost of overall works, an initial five-year programme and an outline of the actual project itself. For this reason, consideration of such requirements has led immediately to the conclusion that survey and design of flood-mitigation works are matters of some urgency, and that there is probably a need for priorities to be determined at Government level, both State and Federal, and by the local community as well.

The productivity group has done a tremendous amount of work in this area, and has fostered the formation of a flood mitigation executive consisting of all the local authorities in the region to co-ordinate the planning and to agree on local priorities and financial commitments. In fact, we all agree that

such a body can play a valuable role in putting together a five-year programme of expenditure to be funded on a 40:40:20 basis.

The group and local members realise that in the present economic climate it may be difficult for the Queensland Government to move rapidly on the matter of drainage in the Far North. However, we represent a number of people who are prepared to help themselves. That is why we have felt justified in seeking the support of both State and Federal Governments in this very important endeavour, which is clearly beyond the limits of our financial resources.

It is estimated that the complete drainage work in the area between Ingham and Mossman would cost in the vicinity of \$50,000,000. For that reason, as a matter of urgency we have asked for funds to be allocated in the 1979-80 Budget. Therefore, I feel quite justified in raising this point today for the Treasurer's consideration.

While I am on the subject of the sugar industry, I would like to suggest to members of the Sugar Board that consideration be given to acquiring more than the declared 2½ per cent above peak.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mrs. KIPPIN: A number of honourable members who have spoken in this debate have already pointed out that it is rather incongruous for honourable members to support the call by the Premier for tax cuts and in the next breath call for far greater expenditure. In my opinion, both areas about which I have spoken are areas in which the Federal Government should be allocating additional funds to assist in the development of natural resources in Queensland. Indirectly, the Federal Government gives tremendous support to manufacturing industries in other States, particularly in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, through tariff protection, and all I am asking is that the disadvantaged sectors of industries that are very important to Queensland receive equitable consideration.

I have asked for Government assistance for improved drainage in the sugar industry. However, I believe that at present the industry could benefit by action in another direction. I refer to the quantity of the sugar harvest that the Sugar Board will accept this year, and I suggest that it should reconsider its decision to acquire a declared 2½ per cent above peak. The world price of sugar has risen well over £Stg 130 a tonne. That is very close to the price at which reserve stocks of sugar will have to be released to stabilise the world price. In fact, I understand that the release price is about £Stg 140 a tonne and the price has now reached £Stg 137. Therefore, I believe that the Sugar Board could well consider acquiring more of the Queensland crop.

World sugar production has not reached the estimated levels. There was a cyclone in Cuba and very dry conditions in the countries of the E.E.C., and it appears that Russia is buying much more strongly on the world market than was predicted. So I do not think it would be detrimental to the sugar industry in Queensland for the Sugar Board to increase the above-peak harvest. In my opinion, it would be much better for the board to acquire between 5 per cent and 7 per cent above peak this year and acquire a similar quantity next year, if a similar situation exists, instead of having to acquire a much larger percentage either next year or the year after.

In my electorate, the Goondi and Mourilyan farmers will harvest all their crops, and that is very pleasing. However, on present estimates, the South Johnstone mill will have about 50 000 tonnes of cane left uncut, and this will be the second year in a row in which there has been a considerable quantity of standover cane in the mill area. The harvest of above-peak cane would therefore benefit not only the farmers and the co-operative milling association but also the district as a whole by about \$1,500,000. You can imagine, Mr. Miller, how welcome that would be in the Mourilyan electorate in the next year.

Although I firmly believe that peak production is the basis of the sugar industry and that No. 1 Pool price should be protected, I do not believe for one minute that to store additional sugar now would have a detrimental effect on No. 1 Pool price. So I hope that in the next couple of weeks the Sugar Board will give favourable consideration to acquiring more above-peak cane.

The raising of the pay-roll-tax exemption was welcomed by business people throughout the State and, of course, is in line with Government policy. In fact, the Premier and the Treasurer have announced that they will work progressively towards the reduction of pay-roll tax paid by businesses. I look to the Treasurer to consider seriously the exemption of apprentices' wages from the assessment of pay-roll tax.

In my electorate a certain electrician employs 29 tradesmen, office staff, engineers and apprentices. In fact, he employs 13 apprentices, which is a significant number in a town the size of Innisfail. For every employee in excess of 29, whether it be a junior office girl, an engineer, a tradesman or an apprentice, he has to pay by way of pay-roll tax the sum of \$18.15 per week. That is a considerable sum for an employer to have to pay for a first-year or second-year apprentice, who is not really competent enough to give value for the money spent. It is, of course, important that young people be trained and given every opportunity to gain employment. However, the addition of \$18 per week for each employee in excess of 29 places this electrician at a disadvantage when compared with his competitors on the open market.

Before the end of the year, he will employ two additional cadet draughtsmen and four electrical apprentices. For doing that, he will have to pay the Government an additional \$120 per week in pay-roll tax. This type of thing will discourage employers from employing persons who are not yet competent enough to carry a full work-load.

Before I conclude, I want to congratulate the Minister for Works and Housing on his giving consideration to allowing rental rebates to one-parent families with children above school age. I see the Minister is sitting on the wrong side of the Chamber; nevertheless, I take this opportunity to congratulate him personally. Previously, the incomes of all members of a family were taken into account in assessing rental rebates. This placed at a disadvantage young people who were members of a single-parent family and had left school to obtain work. Their full wage was taken into consideration for rebate purposes.

I know of some families in Innisfail who consider it to be an economic advantage to have a young member of the family leave home and board somewhere else. Although that might be an economic advantage to the parent paying the rent, it is a social disadvantage to the family as a whole.

Today I was pleased to receive advice from the Minister for Works and Housing to the effect that he sought an agreeable formula between the Commonwealth and State authorities and has achieved his aim. From 1 October this year, unemployed children under 23 years of age will have their rent contribution for rebate purposes assessed at 10 per cent of the unemployment benefit.

Previously, the whole of the unemployed benefit was taken into account in assessing the rent. The contribution of the working child will be assessed at 5 per cent of the minimum wage if he is under 18 years of age and 10 per cent thereafter up to 23 years of age. This is a most worthwhile consideration from the Minister because it will reduce the rent of the family to which I have referred from \$45 a week to \$13.50. The family can fairly easily afford to pay that rent.

I wish to state my disappointment at the Federal Government's going ahead with the signing of the Australia-Japan fishing agreement.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mrs. KIPPIN: I take this opportunity to point out to the Committee, particularly honourable members opposite, that the State Government has absolutely no jurisdiction over the fishing grounds involved. In fact, it has no jurisdiction beyond the three-mile limit. While the Federal Government was courteous in acquainting us about the agreement, we have no jurisdiction whatever. We hoped that we would have some influence

on our Federal colleagues, but it does not appear that we have. The honourable member for Cairns, in an emotional speech, made political mileage out of this matter. He spent a lot of time trying to whip up—

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! I am warning the honourable member for Wolston for the second time.

Mr. Tenni: Wasn't it disgraceful that he spoke out against the Japanese, who are one of our biggest trading partners?

Mrs. KIPPIN: Of course it was disgraceful to see a member of this Parliament come out and speak publicly of hatred to the extent that he did. And the thing that Mr. Jones should remember—that the dishonourable member for Cairns should remember—is that the Japanese have been fishing in this area for 20 to 25 years. If it was such a serious problem, why didn't the honourable member complain to Mr. Whitlam when he held office in Canberra? If the honourable member did complain to Mr. Whitlam, what did he do about it? Absolutely nothing!

Our Federal Governments must realise that the Japanese are fishing in these areas not because they want to but because they have to. This fish is needed in Japan as food. It is not used for export; it is used as food in Japan. It is an essential part of their diet. Unfortunately, these people have to come this distance from Japan to obtain this food.

It is all very well to whip up this emotion, but the State Government has absolutely no jurisdiction in the matter. I stress that our National Party members in North Queensland will continue to press our Federal colleagues to monitor the catches in the area and to watch the situation very carefully. But I also stress again that the State Government has no jurisdiction in this field and that the Japanese have been fishing there for 20 to 25 years.

Mr. AKERS (Pine Rivers) (7.29 p.m.): I wish to support the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in the presentation of his first State Budget. The Budget deals with over \$2,000 million in revenue, which is a very large amount of money to be financed by the fewer than 2,000,000 people in Queensland. In supporting the Treasurer, I quote one sentence of his Budget speech, which gives a very clear description of what the Budget is all about. In a play on words, the Treasurer said—

“This Budget is a prescription for continued progress and stability.”

That is what it is. The Treasurer made a clear statement of intention to provide for responsible restraint in Queensland while

still allowing the economy to keep moving along and to continue the galloping progress being made in Queensland at present.

The Budget's real objectives were to maintain the State's employment-producing potential by increasing funds available for capital works, to continue the Government's policy of reducing its tax rates as far as possible, and to maintain a close check on the growth of the Government sector without diminishing the range and quality of services. Later on in this speech I will compare this Budget's objectives with the policies of the A.L.P., and members will see that those objectives would be totally impossible to achieve if the policies of the A.L.P. were carried out in Queensland if, by some misfortune, it ever became the Government. I believe that the Budget will succeed in attaining all three of its objectives.

One of the most disruptive, constraining and iniquitous taxes in the State field is pay-roll tax. The honourable member for Mourilyan just stated that very clearly. Originally, pay-roll tax was seen as a method by which the community could gain from the effort and expenditure by government to increase employment. It was decided that there should be some revenue return to the community from that expenditure. But the opposite is now occurring. Because it is reducing employment, pay-roll tax is now having an adverse effect, and therefore the community is actually receiving less tax in return than it was before. A tax that was intended to benefit the community through increases in employment is actually having an adverse effect on employment, so it should be totally abolished. This Budget takes another step in that direction. The maximum exemption for pay-roll tax has increased by 20 per cent—far greater than the rate of inflation—and will therefore have a real effect. The maximum exemption has been increased to \$150,000, while the minimum exemption has risen from \$27,000 to \$30,000; again a very large increase and well above the inflation rate. The changes will be effective from 1 January next year.

Another tax that has been reduced in this Budget is the stamp duty payable by home buyers. I think this will have a very significant effect on employment, particularly employment by small house builders, of whom there are many thousands in this State, besides making it cheaper and easier for people to obtain their own home. The duty is to be reduced from \$1.50 per \$100 to \$1 per \$100 on the acquisition of the principal place of residence. The Budget also contains concessions for stamp duty on home mortgages, and these concessions will be extended to any person acquiring his principal residence, so the effect will be felt right throughout the State. The Treasurer gave the example of a person purchasing a \$40,000 home with a \$25,000 mortgage. He will save \$362.50 in stamp duty, and that is a very significant amount for a person buying a home.

Land tax has also been reduced in the Budget. The exemption in respect of land used for agriculture, dairying and grazing purposes has been increased to \$108,000.

Mr. Prest: Does that help unemployment, too?

Mr. AKERS: Yes, it does, because it means that farmers are able to remain viable and thus employ more people. That remark is typical of the stupid attitude of the A.L.P. They cannot see that a reduction in taxes will help to alleviate unemployment. All of their policies relate to more and more government and more and more taxes, and therefore a reduction in real employment.

The exemption for all other land will be increased to \$36,000. The result is that Queensland, which has the lowest taxes in Australia, is being taxed even less. It is no wonder that Queensland is growing as it is under this Government.

While this Government continues to implement its private-enterprise policies, and while the National-Liberal Parties govern with the fairness and honesty for which they were renowned until the last couple of years—they are still renowned for encouraging the developmental potential of Queensland—Queensland will grow and become an even greater place in which to live and run a business.

One of the very current criticisms that I must make of the present Government is that I am extremely disappointed—from what I said before, I suppose “disappointed” is not the correct word, because probably under some of the present leadership it is to be expected—that Cabinet has refused to send humane aid to the starving millions in Kampuchea. I can understand the hesitancy to put large sums of money and large quantities of material into areas where they can be misdirected, but in this case it is too late to be so careful. Even if only one-hundredth of Australia's aid gets through to the needy people in this situation, it will be worth it. Even if only one life is saved by Queensland aid, it will be worth the effort. It is inhumane and, I think, a little frightening that the people who control the lives of all Queenslanders should be so inhumane and narrow-sighted as to make that decision. I call upon the Cabinet to overturn that decision immediately. It has the facility to do so with “flying minutes”. It has been done before, and I call on the Cabinet to do it as soon as possible.

While this Government continues to implement its private-enterprise policies, Queensland will grow. Decisions, such as those on Kampuchea, will ruin the reputation of Queensland as a State of feeling, but they will not stop its growth. The Queensland Government is running the State in a very capable way. There are certain omissions, but overall it is doing a capable job.

I now wish to raise certain matters that must be corrected. One of these is the present shambles—I can only describe it as such—that exists in the northern suburbs railway system. I know that there are problems with the new computer driven switching gear, but it should have been fixed by now. There is no excuse for the present shambles. Trains listed on the timetable as express trains stop at all stations. Regularly trains just disappear. There must be a hole somewhere at the side of the track that they fall into. Recently in the mornings a train will disappear, and the following train has to take a double load. A while ago a woman fainted in the train when it was near the Zillmere station and nothing could be done to help her get off the train before it reached the city. It would be a comedy if it were not so serious.

I shall cite one report that I was given by a reliable person very recently. He had not travelled by train recently and when he complained about the situation everybody looked at him and said, “Don't you travel regularly by train?” The regular travellers expect this sort of thing. This happened on Friday, 5 October. It was the first time this fellow had travelled by train for a long time as he had had a car provided in his previous job.

He went to Central Station to catch the 5.8 p.m. train which was supposed to leave for Petrie from platform 5. He arrived there at 5.4 p.m. The sign at the front of the station indicated that the 5.8 p.m. train would leave from platform 5. He went to platform 5 but suddenly it was announced over the p.a. system that the train had been delayed and would be eight minutes late. Everyone accepted that trains can be a little late and thought that an eight-minute delay in the afternoon was not too bad. At 5.15 p.m., a minute before the train was due in, it was announced over the p.a. system that Petrie travellers should go to platform 4. That platform is approximately 30 or 40 yards away, and passengers have to go through other gates. The commuters streamed out of platform 5 towards platform 4, but the gates were shut. The train was stationary at the platform for some time—long enough for a few passengers on the platform to get on. After some harsh words were said the porter locked the gates, saying that he could not do anything about it and that it was too bad. To make it easy for the travellers standing outside the gates it was then announced over the p.a. system, “Petrie train leaving from platform 4!” They had been standing there for 15 minutes. As soon as the train moved out the gates were opened and they were allowed onto the platform. The train left at 5.19 p.m. without those passengers. Then they were told by a senior railway official on the platform to wait. They tried to get him to come over and talk to them but he stayed about three platforms away so they could not get at him. He had about 400 people yelling at him across the platforms.

Once again they were told to wait. At 5.20 p.m. another announcement directed them back over to platform 5 from where they had started.

Mr. Kruger: It was "Life. Be in it" week.

Mr. AKERS: It was exercise week, that's for sure.

Some of the travellers were laughing and others were extremely angry. The ones who were laughing were those who were used to this sort of thing; those who thought that trains should run on time were very angry. They finally left from platform 5 at 5.25 p.m., 17 minutes after they were supposed to go, on a train that the station-master said was going to Petrie but which had "Pinkenba" on a board on the front of it. That is no way to run a railway, but that is the sort of thing that commuters are putting up with, at least on the Petrie line, and I understand that the same applies to the whole of the northern suburbs.

Buck-passing is another thing that this Government must overcome. I instance as an example the build-up of hyacinth in the South Pine River at Bald Hills. That river was clear of hyacinth for many years. People who live on the banks of that river say that platypuses used to live there. When building a very necessary bridge the Main Roads Department dammed up the river with gravel, and ever since then the hyacinth has been there.

Early last year I asked the Main Roads Department to do something about it. A fellow from the department went out and said, "Yes, it's bad. We'll do something about it." He came back into his office and someone told him not to do anything about it; that it was a Harbours and Marine problem, as it is a tidal river. I rang the Department of Harbours and Marine. I was told that it would cost too much to do anything about it. They passed the matter on. I now understand that people in the area have seen the Health Department as well. I have been to several other departments to try to get it moved.

The hyacinth is a real danger, both to the general health of the people in the area and to the children. It is so thick that children are able to walk across it. Sooner or later—and I fear that it will be very soon—a child will go through that hyacinth and be lost for ever. He will never be found.

Mr. Kruger: We don't often agree, but I agree with you on that.

Mr. AKERS: I agreed with the honourable member for Murrumba about Councillor Burke, too.

The residents of the area are being made sick from the smell of rotting hyacinth. Because they have a river frontage, they are

paying high rates—but it is a hyacinth frontage, not a river frontage any more. Apart from those matters, the safety of our children is important. No Government department will do anything about it. There are snakes, rats and other vermin coming out of it, but nobody will do anything. That is the sort of duck-shoving and buck-passing that has to be eliminated by our Government.

Under the present Government in Canberra, inflation has been reduced; but the effect of inflation on goods sold by shopkeepers is still very great. A shopkeeper in my area, who has only been there for 3½ or 4 weeks, has already had two substantial price rises for chocolates and other confectionery. That reminded me of some figures given to me by another shopkeeper in the electorate some time ago. I am sorry that I do not have updated figures, but these are for March 1979. The figures the lady gave me are the prices suggested by the Retailers' Association. This is the comparison—

—	December 1978	March 1979
	\$	\$
Middle rashers of bacon (125 g) ..	1.02	1.46
Rice Bubbles (500 g)	0.91	1.16
Cooking oil	1.37	1.57
Meadowlea margarine (500 g) ..	0.89	1.01
Philadelphia cream cheese (250 g)	0.62	0.70
Sliced ham (125 g)	0.59	0.75
Sliced silverside (250 g)	0.74	1.46
Knob sausage (250 g)	0.50	0.79
Fruitcake (450 g)	0.74	0.82

These are frightening increases facing consumers all the time. They must be controlled.

Another of the problems I raise tonight concerns danger to children in my electorate. Again, I am afraid that it has been avoided by people in authority. Earlier in this session I asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads about the Cash's Crossing Bridge. He answered me by saying, in effect, that there was little need for a replacement because few accidents occurred on the bridge. He said that he would not make a decision on replacing it until the priorities of the local authority were known. Now the local authority's priorities are known. It is No. 1 on the Pine Rivers Shire Council's list. I overlook the fact that the priorities of the local member of Parliament were to be ignored in Government decision-making and call on the Minister to urgently allocate sufficient funds to build a safe bridge.

The Minister said in the answer to which I referred earlier that very few accidents on the bridge were reported. People who live right alongside the bridge tell me that they hear the screech of brakes throughout the night. One access to the bridge, although not entirely blind, makes it very difficult for

drivers to see what is on the bridge, and the other one is quite a long curve. That means that no driver coming onto the bridge has much time to see a vehicle coming from the opposite direction. Very large trucks—

Mr. Davis: Gravel trucks.

Mr. AKERS: Gravel trucks, trucks carrying bricks, other types of trucks and buses carrying very large numbers of schoolchildren try to use the bridge simultaneously at various times during the day and, fortunately, just miss each other. The local school-bus proprietor told me that recently he followed one of his buses across the bridge. A truck came racing down the hill on the other side, with no hope of stopping, and somehow or other that truck and the bus passed on the bridge. According to my calculations, there was about one foot on each side and one foot between the two vehicles. It was fortunate that they were good drivers, otherwise 40 or 50 children would have been dead. No accidents have occurred there; but, by God, there will be a dreadful one soon!

Basic things such as a "reduce speed" sign are not there. There is nothing to warn drivers that the bridge is unsafe. Women drivers, and also many men drivers, drive up to the bridge and stop before crossing because they know how deadly dangerous it is. They wait for trucks to come across. I drove across the bridge recently and three children were trying to walk across it. Goodness knows why their parents were letting them do it, but they were there. In fact, they were running as fast as possible to get across. I was coming behind them and, luckily, I stopped in the middle of the bridge to stop all traffic. If I had been a driver who did not know what the bridge was like, those children probably would have been dead, because a gravel truck came roaring down the other side. Incidents such as that are not shown up in the statistics because people are so frightened of the bridge that they keep their children away from it. The children to whom I referred nearly did not make it.

The recent "Promote Australia" advertising campaign, telling people to get off their backsides and do something, has been of tremendous advantage to Australia, and I commend the Federal Government for mounting it. As an example, I received a letter recently from a lady who was moved by an advertisement that she saw. She said, "After watching the advertisement on television about everyone standing up to be counted, I decided that perhaps I should do my bit by putting these suggestions forward." I will try to summarise them because I think that both the State Government and private enterprise could well consider them from the point of view of trying to overcome youth unemployment. She said—

"I know there has been much discussion on married women working and taking places that the youth should fill, but

when it comes right down to it, the heads of the organisations realise that a junior could not adequately fill a vacancy created by the loss of an experienced married woman so I have the following suggestions:—"

I point out to honourable members that the lady concerned is married and is in employment. She continued—

"(1) In all Government departments, to cut back the hours of employment to 3.00 p.m. for all married women with supporting husbands who have children in primary school.

"(2) For every 3 women who finish at 3.00 p.m., one junior be employed. (The saving of 6 hours pay for a senior would cover the cost of a day's wages for a junior)."

I think she has probably oversimplified a bit, but she said—

"There would, therefore, be no expense to the Government to implement this scheme."

She goes on to say—

"In every job, there are important issues and unimportant odd jobs. What I am suggesting is that the married woman could keep up with her important tasks and the more unskilled odd jobs could be left to the junior. After all, didn't we all have to start at the bottom and work our way up. These juniors could work their way up the ladder as the staff turns over. With 3 women leaving their odd jobs and giving them to one junior, this junior would be kept gainfully employed and the cut back to 3.00 p.m. should not affect the efficiency of the organisation unless, of course, there was some staff conference scheduled which in any case would only be an occasional thing, and could be worked out."

That is an excellent scheme. Some Government departments could work on it and some local authorities could look into it. Many local authorities employ married women on their typing and secretarial staff. Certainly, private firms could look at it. I commend this lady for suggesting it. She also says—

"This, of course, relates only to women & girls. What about, instead of retiring the men at an earlier age, they were to follow the same pattern:—

"From age 55 years and onwards, all men who have non-support children could knock off at 3.00 p.m.

"Instead of suddenly putting off a man at age 65 and having all the problems associated with retirement, a man could be gradually eased into it.

"This, then, would make work for the junior boys, not only in offices but in all Government industries.

"It is obvious from schemes thought of by the Government at times, i.e. cutting

out endowment for the first child, re-introducing university fees etc. that the Government is aiming at trying to cut back on their spending. Some of these areas, though, could hurt many people and my suggestions should hurt no-one. The wife with a supporting husband should not feel the loss of one day's wages nor should the man of 55 without dependent children feel the loss of one day's wages.

"If the Government were to implement this scheme, possibly private enterprise may be induced to follow and then if it was Australia wide there could be benefits in other areas from this scheme:—

"(1) Maybe there would be less childhood problems with mums being home soon after school. (Think of the young children whose mothers leave at 7.00 in the morning and do not arrive home until 6.00 at night. How much time does she have to give her children?)

"(2) Maybe it would save on maintenance."

I am not sure what that is. Then—

"(Think of the above situation and how it affects husbands. Most husbands are not housework inclined. They come home and read the paper or watch the T.V. while the working wife rushes around getting her housework done. Don't you think resentment must build up? Possibly, in some instances, this could lead to a divorce and the Government paying maintenance when the wife alone finds it is all too much and seeks Government assistance. Possibly, the fact that she could have two extra hours at home each day might have prevented this and put her in a more relaxed frame of mind.)"

I certainly commend this lady. I will be submitting this to the Treasurer and I hope he finds some interest in the suggestion.

Earlier tonight the member for Murrumbidgee talked at length about the Samford redevelopment scheme. I do not want to go into its pros and cons. I will state, however, that until recently I was totally opposed to the scheme because the proposition simply was unworkable. For the member for Murrumbidgee to stand in this Parliament and decry the scheme on the basis, as he suggests, that it contains something sinister, when it was his vote in the council last year that got it through, is amazing. What he agreed to last year was that the scheme go ahead, with bonds to cover it. Those bonds were at least 2½ to three years out of date in their valuations. He and Councillor Burke, who, for some reason, has changed his direction, exposed the ratepayers in the Pine Rivers Shire to the great danger of payment of \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000 on the bonds, which were out of date and did not make sense. It was only through the hard work of the present chairman of the planning committee that this scheme has been brought back to the stage of making some sense.

Tonight I have supported the Budget introduced by the Treasurer. Queenslanders can be proud of it. Certainly I am proud of the Government that produced it. It will keep Queensland going for many years.

I know that we have an agreement on time limits but I should again like to ask the people of Queensland to have a look at this beautiful little book that has been produced by the Australian Labor Party for their enlightenment. Look at Opposition members! They are hanging their heads in shame because they know what is in it. They know they will be destroyed by it. It is worse than "The Little Red Book" because it could possibly apply to Queensland.

Mr. Tenni: It was drawn up by a leading Communist.

Mr. AKERS: Yes.

I should like to quote many passages from it, but time does not permit me to do so. This little book was produced and edited, after the A.L.P. conference this year, by none other than Mr. John Black, who is the research and publicity officer for the A.L.P. Mr. Black joined the Queensland Branch of the A.L.P. in October 1977. Before that he was an adviser, who somehow or other was called an executive assistant, to the South Australian Premier.

Many of the policies contained in that book are similar to disastrous policies that were implemented in South Australia by the A.L.P., and everybody knows what has happened in South Australia. I urge every Queenslanders to donate \$5 to the A.L.P. so that he can see what is in store for him.

Mr. WILSON (Townsville South) (8.2 p.m.): Listening to the Treasurer introducing his Budget a person could be excused for thinking that we had reached our Utopia. He said that taxes were to be reduced, spending was to be increased and everything in the garden was to be rosy.

The figures contained in Table 3 on page 9 of the Tables Relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement indicate that taxation this year will be increased by some \$32,000,000. Licences and permits are up by more than \$3,000,000; land tax is up by \$3,320,000; payroll tax is up by \$18,000,000; stamp duty is up by \$11,000,000; totalisator and betting tax is up by \$352,000; bookmakers' turnover tax is up by \$367,000 and soccer pools tax is up by \$385,000. The only tax to be reduced is succession and probate duty, which is expected to fall by \$3,000,000. All in all, there will be an increase of some \$32,000,000 in taxation.

During the by-election campaigns in Redcliffe and Gympie, the Premier took the Federal Government to task and claimed that personal income tax should be reduced by about 5 per cent. His cry was as hollow as his promise of a rail service to Redcliffe. The

Premier has the power to reduce taxation in Queensland. All that he has to do is to notify the Federal Government to reduce personal income tax payable by Queensland people by any amount that he likes. The Federal Treasurer has made that quite clear and the Premier knows it. His cry for a reduction in personal income tax is as genuine as his promise to build the Burdekin Falls Dam, and he did not even give that dam a mention in the list of the 16 priorities for water and irrigation projects submitted to the Federal Government for funding.

We all know that Queensland's share of taxation from the Federal Government would fall by the amount of the concession sought by the Premier if he directed that personal income tax be reduced. However, the revenue lost to the Government through a reduction in personal income tax could be recouped by imposing a reasonable and responsible levy on the export of our mineral wealth—minerals that really belong to the people of Queensland. Money from that source could be used to offset unemployment by financing various capital works; the building of the Burdekin Falls Dam and other irrigation and water supply schemes; the prevention of soil erosion; the building of roads, schools and hospitals; the allocation of grants to local authorities.

It has been claimed by the private sector that if there was a reduction in pay-roll tax, it would create an incentive for expansion in industry and thus offset unemployment by making more jobs available. But what do we find? The Government expects that there will be an increase in pay-roll tax revenue from \$225,000,000 in 1978-79 to \$243,000,000 in 1979-80, an increase of \$18,000,000. So much for the Government's concern for the unemployed.

Unemployment is rising all the time. In Townsville 1,300 juniors are unemployed, with 11 jobs available. That means that 118 juniors are unemployed for every job available at a time when another batch of children is ready to leave school. All they can look forward to is swelling the ranks of the unemployed. And this is at a time when the Fraser Government intends to stop social security benefits to those 19 years of age and under. It is strongly rumoured that no vacancies in the Education Department will be filled. That means that if a teacher leaves the service, either through retirement or death, his or her position will not be filled.

Let me turn to roads. We see that \$9,300,000 is to be spent on the Bruce Highway between Sarina and Cairns, a distance of 500 miles. This will include work on the Ron Camm Bridge and its approaches across the Pioneer River at Mackay, and no doubt the finalisation of the section from Palm Creek to St. Margaret's Creek, just north of Giru. By the time these two jobs are carried out, there will be little or nothing

left for major works. Let us consider the \$1,150,000 allotted for the upgrading of the road from the Flinders Highway at Mingela to the Burdekin Falls Dam site, a distance of 123 km. That amount of \$1,150,000 is not sufficient to build a goat-track over that distance, let alone upgrade the road. As the Treasurer said in answer to a question from me, further funding will be provided in future years, and the people in North Queensland can look forward to having the road to the dam site upgraded by about 1990. If the construction of the dam is to proceed with such vigour we can expect that it will be finished some time in the 22nd Century.

I cannot stress too strongly the importance of building the Burdekin Falls Dam to its maximum height. As the electricity authorities say that it will be necessary for Queensland to have three more power-stations by 1990, the completion of the Burdekin Falls Dam to its full capacity, in conjunction with the construction of a 500 MW hydroelectric power-station, is a must by 1990.

The Government should be looking at the vital area of public transport. Urban transport in Townsville must be upgraded to meet the needs of the people, and better services must be provided. The Government should be providing funds to the Townsville City Council so that it can take over that city's privately-owned bus services. Now is the time for provision to be made for suburban rail services in Townsville, especially to the western suburbs area.

In other areas of public transport, modern passenger trains are needed to give a fast, comfortable service to the people of Queensland and tourists. The railways must provide a pick-up and delivery service. All freight should be scheduled at the one rate. There should be no secret freight rate deals. The railways are a public utility, and all transactions should be open to public scrutiny.

The Railway Workshops at Cairns should be allowed to build camp wagons for migratory gangs. The present box wagons that are used for camp wagons should be done away with in the shortest possible time. At the present rate at which camp wagons are being built, it will be possible for a boy to start in the railways and to retire without receiving the benefit of a decent camp wagon.

Railway houses leave a lot to be desired. In many instances, they have not had any maintenance done to them—not even a coat of paint—since this Government took office in 1957.

Another problem in the railways is a shortage of staff. There is always a shortage of labour in the Townsville Railway Workshops. This position arises because someone in Brisbane decides how many people are to be employed in the Townsville workshops. One would expect that the engineer in charge of the workshops would have a say in the number of people to be employed

there. As a result, there are never enough labourers employed, and a tradesman cannot do his work because he has not the assistance of an offsider or a trades assistant.

The yard gang is continually without labour. All spares are taken from this gang. There are not enough men to fill the positions. A case in point is the blacksmiths' shop. There are a number of trades assistants there, but the majority of them are trained and used as train examiners. They are used to cut in on shifts and to relieve other employees on holidays in Townsville or anywhere else in North Queensland. In the result, they are not available to do the work of a blacksmith's trade assistant. There are never enough workers in the yard gang to replace the blacksmiths' trade assistants and other trades assistants in other areas of the workshop who may be on holidays or sick. To give an example of the shortage of labourers in the blacksmiths' shop in Townsville—in eight days, a total of 64 man days were lost. This Government suggests that that is good economics. More men should be employed in the yard gang in the North Yard workshops, and a yard gang should be established in the South Yard workshops. That would make for good economics.

Works and housing is another area in which the Government should be spending a lot more money to reduce unemployment and to house people in low-rental houses. The Housing Commission should be building more two, three and four-bedroom houses, more one and two-bedroom flats and many more pensioner units in all suburbs. In the public works area, there should be more modern class-rooms, more schools with better facilities and more pre-schools. A second general hospital is required in Townsville, and it should be built in the western suburbs.

A new police station is a must for Townsville. The present station is not only a disgrace to Townsville; it must be the worst station in any provincial city in Queensland. When one looks at the provision in this Budget of \$1,900,000 for work on police stations and residences and where this work is to be carried out, it becomes clear that there will not be a new police station in Townsville this year. The building of a police station in Townsville would help to reduce the unemployment in the building industry.

We should also be looking at the fishing industry and at the facilities that should be provided for it in the Townsville area. A fisherman's wharf should be built in Ross Creek, in an area from the old flying squadron hall up towards the Evans Deakin slipway. It should consist of a series of piers to enable boats to tie up on each side, which would allow for easy loading and unloading and afford protection to boats during the storm and cyclone season. The proposed site for tying up boats in Ross River does not afford any protection whatso-

ever to the boats and is open to the full force of a cyclone should one come from the same direction as did cyclone "Althea", and two other cyclones within six weeks of each other in 1940. A further matter is that some of the boats draw up to 3 or 4 m of water and will be able to negotiate the mouth of Ross River only at high tide. If the boats are forced to tie up to piles and to one another, as proposed, they will be at great risk of being smashed against one another during a bad storm or cyclone.

I do not intend to take up any more of the Committee's time. If I had tried during my speech to find something of real benefit to the people of Queensland in this Budget, I would have sat down 15 minutes ago. I have offered a great number of suggestions which would be followed by this Government if it was sincere in its efforts to relieve the unemployment problem facing the people of Queensland. It is a problem that will get worse. Even a past Prime Minister, Mr. McMahon, recently warned Mr. Fraser that, if he continued following his present track, within a short space of time there will be 500,000 unemployed in Australia. As I said earlier, there are 1,300 juniors in Townsville unable to get jobs and there is a further group of students ready to leave school within two months. The future for those youngsters is bleak indeed. If this Government had any compassion it would have brought down a deficit Budget so that there could be expansion and money spent on labour-intensive projects which could relieve the plight of unemployed.

Mr. Frawley: What would you do to alleviate unemployment in Townsville?

Mr. WILSON: It would be necessary not to listen to people such as the honourable member, because I do not believe he has ever contributed anything in the whole of the period he has been in this Parliament.

I again appeal to the Government to increase expenditure in the Budget on capital works in order to relieve unemployment in Queensland.

Mr. TENNI (Barron River) (8.18 p.m.): After listening to the sickening episode from the previous speaker, I have great pleasure in speaking in this Budget debate. I was somewhat astounded to hear his statements about the increase in taxes in this State, particularly when he referred to each section. What he did not say is that this State is growing at a tremendous rate. The increase in taxes, through the increased growth rate of this State, is automatic. The honourable member's nickname of "Sweatrag" proves to me that all he is capable of doing is wringing out a sweatrag. He is not capable of understanding a Budget of growth or the development of such a prosperous State as the State of Queensland, a State that people are even walking to from New South Wales and South Australia.

As the member for Barron River, I would like to bring forward, as I have done before in this Chamber, the point that I represent an area with one of the largest Aboriginal and Islander populations in this State. About one in five of the population is either a full-blood Aborigine or tinted with Aboriginal or Islander blood. They are up to one-sixteenth full-bloods.

Throughout my life—right from my early school-days—I have worked, and been associated, with coloured people. Generally speaking, the Aborigines and Islanders were always quite capable of looking after themselves within the mixed population of the North. They received the level of education they desired and chose employment to suit their temperament. They were pulling their weight until the day of the first big hand-out by the Whitlam socialist Government, when they found out that a man does not have to work if he does not want to. Mr. Whitlam brought all of that about. Members on the Opposition benches know that Mr. Whitlam bought the Aboriginal vote with the taxpayers' money. It is no good their denying it. He bought it—and the Labor Party today is still crawling to the Aboriginal people for that vote.

Mr. Frawley: And the homosexuals, too.

Mr. TENNI: They have always been crawling to them.

It is senseless for Labor members to deny it. What they do to get the Aboriginal vote is seen each election-time. They hire school buses, using funds they receive from people in the area, to transport Aboriginal people to the polling booths. When they get out of the bus, they shepherd them into the booths and show them how to vote.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Now you're talking about the member for Mt. Isa.

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order!

Mr. TENNI: It is upsetting him, Mr. Miller, but that is exactly what they do.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: I am embarrassed.

Mr. TENNI: So he should be. The friend of his from my electorate that he was carting around the other day is one of the blokes who do it. He should be embarrassed. I am glad he admits it.

The annoying part is that they leave all the white people behind. All the old white pensioners have to find their own way in; it is only the Aboriginal people who are transported. Even Aborigines who are earning full wages are transported free of cost—but all the poor old white pensioners are left behind. People like myself have to arrange private cars to bring them in. I look after the needy, not the greedy.

Mr. Frawley: Racist.

Mr. TENNI: They are definitely racist. There are no two ways about it.

For the average white inhabitant of the North, it is extremely difficult to make a living up there today. There is a fluctuating economy in the region, which depends mainly on agriculture and tourism. The regular ups and downs brought about by the limited seasonal employment opportunities are further aggravated by the geographic remoteness and isolation of the Far North.

Mr. Scott: Are you having trouble reading?

Mr. TENNI: I am reading part of my speech. I am following the example set by the member for Cook, who read all of his.

If any people are in need of Government assistance, it is the modern pioneers of the North. Their needs are just as great as those of the Aborigines and Islanders. Why, I ask, should black or coloured people need more money than whites? Is it so that they can waste it on drink, fast cars and other luxury items? At present, that is exactly what they are doing with it. Certainly we want equality; but we have long overshot that point. Through huge and uncontrolled hand-outs to coloured people only, the Federal Government—the State Government, too, to a certain extent—is severely discriminating against the white population. That has caused a great amount of unrest in North Queensland.

Mr. Scott interjected.

Mr. TENNI: The honourable member for Cook can scream as much as he likes. He is part of the discrimination. He brings about discrimination; he helps to carry it on. As the extent of hand-outs to Aborigines and Islanders is becoming more and more known, so the anger and upset of the white community is fast rising. This is quite common, particularly in the area of the honourable member for Cook. Every time he rises in this House, he asks for things for the coloured people. He forgets that there is a very large percentage of white people living in the Cook electorate, and they are terribly hurt by his actions. They are upset to think that he has been elected to this Parliament by the majority of the people in the electorate, yet he is supporting only one colour.

The voices of organised objectors are constantly growing louder, asking for equal rights for whites. Worries about the future prospects for whites, their families and their children, as well as their financial investments, add to growing unrest. There is racism in this country, all right; but today it is anti-white racism, with the consent of Canberra. That is unfortunate. The Whitlam Government began it, and the present Government in Canberra is carrying on the hand-outs that the Whitlam Government introduced.

The great spending on the coloureds and those distantly related to them, or whites married to blacks or those generally accepted by them as one of their own, began as part of the great socialist experiment of the Whitlam era, and many level-headed politicians have worked for its abolition. However, in the field of Aboriginal and Islander affairs, the old-time socialism is still being practised in full by Canberra socialists, with the help of the many secret socialists in various Government departments. Nobody has bothered to find out the damage that the policy of the Whitlam Government has done to race relations in areas in which blacks and whites live together permanently.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: I bet you look for socialists under your bed.

Mr. TENNI: I do not have to. I have only to look across the Chamber to find them.

Over the past few years, discrimination against whites has destroyed most of the former goodwill and amity between the races. It has created a social rift that will unavoidably lead to violence if hand-outs to only one side are not stopped soon. I ask you, Mr. Hewitt, and honourable members: Why, in heaven's name, should a coloured person who already receives social service benefits similar to those received by other members of the community have to be handed massive amounts of money and additional rights? Are these coloured people so valuable to the nation that they have to be treated as extra special citizens? Do they contribute to this nation anything more than is contributed by Joe Blow next door, who does his work quietly, without complaining? Or is the Left-wing, Third-World-oriented United Nations so strong that it can intimidate the Australian Government into downgrading white citizens, as it does governments in other countries of the world? Or is it plain ignorance on the part of political leaders?

It is well known that the Labor Party has permanently bought the black vote. Results at the last two elections showed a vote of 98 per cent for A.L.P. candidates. The Labor Party bought the vote in the missions.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. TENNI: In the Cook electorate, the A.L.P. supplied free stubbies to the black voters to induce them to vote for A.L.P. candidates.

Mr. Frawley: Oh, that would not be right.

Mr. TENNI: Yes, they did. I know that. I have heard that the Labor Party is continuing to buy the black vote with promises of privileges. The question is: Is the present Federal Government prepared to do the same thing? No-one could offer to the blacks

a bigger deal than the Labor Party—land privileges, financial hand-outs, special privileges before the law; one could go on and on. It is unreal, Mr. Hewitt.

The worst type of anti-white discrimination shows itself in schools in North Queensland, where children receive incentive payments to attend school, weekly pocket money, and special long-distance holiday trips. Again, one could go on and on. The fact that often the parents of the coloured children are on high incomes and the children are of white complexion, with blue eyes and a western lifestyle, does not exempt them from such special benefits.

In some high schools, a special complaints officer is provided. He or she is coloured, and the sole duty of such officers is to receive complaints and reports on what or who is claimed to upset the coloured children. I cannot quite see the need for such a watch-dog department, as black children and white children do get along together very well naturally. However, today it is quite common for white children to return home after school filled with disgust and anger about the Government-induced inequality. How can we expect equality in the future if we see hate introduced into children. Equality is what we want in the North, but it cannot be achieved by discriminating against the white population. Without the goodwill of the whites in the North, the Aborigines and Islanders will not make a go of it, especially if it should come to violence.

In spite of the massive aid given to Aborigines and Islanders, these very people have, through the local newspaper, threatened the killing of any number of whites if they are not given everything they ask for. We are already presented in the North with a self-styled, self-appointed, black political body that calls itself the Northern Land Council.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: A fine body of men.

Mr. TENNI: This organisation, which is supported by the Labor Party—

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: That's right.

Mr. TENNI: . . . and by Left-wing elements in the Labor Party, of whom the honourable member who has interjected is one, recently received from the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and the World Council of Churches money and aid to the value of \$27,000 for the purpose of fighting for land privileges. This Black Power group has already proclaimed its own national flag in North Queensland and is acting like a State within the State. The public display of this Aboriginal flag at demonstration marches and the wearing of T-shirts proclaiming "You are standing on Aboriginal ground", in conjunction with offensive slogans, have done much to intimidate and irritate the

people of North Queensland. I request that legal action be taken by the State Government against these offenders.

The big sums of money spent in the past on Aborigines and Islanders have not advanced them. In reality, they have turned them into bigger-than-ever consumers of alcohol and into people who no longer wish to work. They think that they are naturally entitled to all those benefits without accepting any duties or responsibilities.

My electorate has higher on its list of priorities certain needs that call for the spending of the taxpayers' money. The Barron River electorate contains approximately 3,000 pensioners and the Federal electorate of Leichhardt contains approximately 17,000 pensioners. They helped in pioneering the North against such odds as isolation, cyclones and tropical heat. Many have little or no savings to show for their hard work. Furthermore, some of them fought in two world wars. They are the ones who deserve aid and extra medical care, just as the Aborigines do. If Opposition members do not agree with that, they should go up into the Leichhardt electorate and tell the 17,000 pensioners. The member for Cook might like to tell the pensioners in his electorate that, because they are white pensioners, they are not entitled to the same privileges and benefits as those given to the Aboriginal people in his electorate. Let him make a statement on that.

Mr. Frawley: They robbed the pensioners with their lucky numbers. Remember that?

Mr. TENNI: That is right; they did.

Many young married couples are losing their homes because they are unable to meet their instalments. Unemployment has brought this about. These are the people who need the special 2.5 per cent interest rates on housing loans as well as money to assist them in sending their children to school. These benefits should not be restricted to Aborigines. It is correct to say that in the middle and lower-income brackets in the North we have the wealthy blacks and the poor whites. Many whites regard themselves as second-class citizens and fools for trying to work hard and honestly.

There is much misunderstanding among the public over the purpose and functions of Aboriginal missions. Only a proper education and publicity campaign will clear the muddle. This should be carried out by officers who specialise in this subject and are responsible only to the appropriate Government department. The public should be better informed about the matters I am about to mention.

Mission land is Crown land; it is not the property of the Aborigines. The present inhabitants are generations removed from those who lived in special tribal areas or

under true tribal conditions. Missions are usually but not always alien ground. Today's inhabitants on missions are mostly mixed Aboriginal, Islander and white people. Many of them are former stockmen and rural workers who lost their jobs after the Whitlam wages equalisation scheme came into force years ago.

Missions are intended as temporary shelters for Aboriginal and Islander people who are not able to exist on the open markets of our western world until they are reasonably educated and job trained to do so. Missions in Queensland are not intended for apartheid but for the protection of the rights of the people to exist as a particular race.

Inhabitants of missions are there of their own free will and are free to leave at any time. I will repeat that. Inhabitants of missions are there of their own free will and are free to leave at any time. It is not as the A.L.P. screams from time to time. The A.L.P. claims that they are forced to stay there and live under terrible conditions. They are not forced to stay there at all. They can come and go as they like.

Mr. Scott: Where do they go?

Mr. TENNI: The honourable member should be able to look after them. He provides free buses and everything for them at election-time. He should look after them the rest of the time. He should not just go after them for their votes. He should look after them 24 hours a day.

A permit to enter mission land is required by both black and white outsiders. The purpose of this rule is to keep out undesirable elements and people with the intention of spreading upset and confusion among the inhabitants.

Mr. R. J. GIBBS: I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention, Mr. Hewitt, to the fact that the honourable member is reading his speech. There is a rule against that.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! When the Chair's attention is drawn to the fact that a member is reading his speech, it is usual for the occupant to ask him to desist. However, a member is allowed to depend upon copious notes.

Mr. TENNI: Thank you very much, Mr. Hewitt. I am getting a frog in my throat from dealing with these fellows.

An Opposition Member: He has lost his place.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. TENNI: I ignore Opposition members with the contempt they deserve.

What I am saying is hurting the members of the Opposition because it is true. The problem was created by the Whitlam Government. It brought all of this trouble and frustration to the white people, the Aborigines and the Islanders in North Queensland. The point that I make—and I have made it before—is that the misguided do-gooders—call them what you like—are placing a burden on all the people of Queensland, not only those in North Queensland. Of course, the do-gooders are mainly in the Labor Party. They are misguided do-gooders and are misguided all the time.

I have said time and time again that it is most essential and important to apply a means test to all people, not only the white people in the nation. It should be applied to all people, regardless of colour and religion. This would result in the taxpayers' money being spent sensibly, and not as it is at present.

If an Aboriginal person is receiving as much money as the honourable member for Cook, he is still entitled to all of the hand-outs given to an Aboriginal person. It would make no difference if he was receiving \$500 or \$600 a week; he would still be entitled to all of the hand-outs and benefits for his family. He would be entitled to borrow money at 2½ per cent to buy a truck or business. That is totally wrong.

An Opposition Member: Have you lost your place?

Mr. Mackenroth: Next page!

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Opposition feels it has the right to interject, but the interjections should at least have some relevance.

Mr. TENNI: Thank you very much, Mr. Hewitt.

I think I have said enough about the problems associated with the discrimination practised against many of the people I represent. However, to finish that point I might add that a tremendous number of Aboriginal and Islander people, particularly Islander people, in my electorate are workers. Most of them are drawing full wages, and they say to me, "Quite honestly, we know we are not entitled to these hand-outs because we are getting as much money as the average worker, but wouldn't you take them if they were offered to you?" I have to admit that I have said, "Yes." It is only natural. I know those members opposite who are laughing would do exactly the same thing. This is why I say that a means test is necessary to protect not only the taxpayers' money, but the people themselves.

I would now like to talk about the tobacco industry in North Queensland. I was astounded that the honourable member for Cook, who has a lot more tobacco farmers

in his electorate than I do, did nothing to protest about the proposed increase in water charges imposed on tobacco growers in Mareeba. I spent a lot of time trying to convince the Government that if we were going to increase water charges that the increase should not be by way of a percentage across the board, but a straight-out charge. That is how it ended up, with an increase of 55c per megalitre. This helped the growers in the Mareeba and Dimbulah areas, because they were on a higher scale. Had there been a percentage increase across the board they would have been even worse off compared with other growers.

The important point I want to make about increased water charges for tobacco growers is that it is about time the Government, and particularly the Treasurer—I hope the Treasurer is listening—looked at the serious trouble in which the tobacco industry finds itself. It needs assistance from a very capable person such as the Treasurer. I believe we have to start subsidising the water charges imposed on the tobacco industry. I say this because our friends in Canberra—Whitlam's boys again and the present Government—will not do anything to assist the tobacco industry. As a matter of fact, they appear to be doing everything they can to hinder it. At the present time we are using only 50 per cent of Australian leaf in Australian-made tobacco products. The percentage cannot be increased while we allow Drum tobacco and other foreign stuff to be imported. The imports are crippling the tobacco industry, to the extent that farmers producing eight tonnes or less are finding it difficult to remain viable. I am asking the Treasurer to seriously consider in the next Budget a subsidy of at least 50 per cent for water charges imposed on the tobacco industry, increasing to 75 per cent in the following Budget. Water charges should be subsidised just as the railways are subsidised. The railways lose something like \$108,000,000 a year and all I am asking for is a lousy couple of million dollars to help the tobacco industry stay on its feet. This in turn would benefit the Governments of tomorrow.

Over the week-end I heard the statement made by the honourable member for Cairns about the marlin-fishing industry. Because of the finance it derives for the tourist industry, it is very important to the Cairns region. It must be protected and not thrown down the drain, as we expect will happen tomorrow in Canberra. I am absolutely astounded to think that our friend Mr. Fraser would agree to these tactics. I made a Press statement which should appear in "The Cairns Post" today. It should have appeared on Monday, but that newspaper does not give me a fair run. It leaves my comments until last. But then again, I would not have liked to have been associated with the remarks of the honourable member for Cairns which appeared in yesterday's "Cairns Post". I will have something to say about that a little later. If Mr. Fraser believes that Parliament House in Canberra

is important to him, I can assure him that the marlin-fishing industry in the Cairns area is just as important to the people of Cairns.

Mr. Scott: You have not done much about it until now.

Mr. TENNI: The member for Cook can scream as much as he likes. He has never seen a marlin. I fished for and caught marlin 20 years ago. Ten years ago, I followed a long-line some 5 miles out from Cairns to beyond the Outer Reef to see how it operated. I know a lot more about marlin fishing, barramundi fishing, prawning and crabbing than the member for Cook or the member for Cairns will know in their lifetime, because I have engaged in those pursuits.

Mr. Scott: Are you skiting?

Mr. TENNI: I am not skiting. The honourable member can take me out fishing any time, and I will leave him for dead. I will catch fish before he can bait his hook.

The marlin-fishing industry is important to the Cairns area, and I hope that common sense will prevail tomorrow and that Mr. Fraser will consider the long-term effects of any plan for marlin fishing, such as that brought forward over the past week. I can assure the Committee that if this agreement is signed tomorrow, what I said in today's "Cairns Post" will be nothing compared with what I will say in further editions of the "Cairns Post".

I turn now to another important industry which members on the Opposition benches probably would not know anything about. I thank the Treasurer at this stage for allocating another \$300,000 in the Budget for the extension of the Mareeba-Dimbulah section of the irrigation system. This \$300,000 is nothing to be sneezed at. We could have done with \$600,000, but I know that the Treasurer will allocate another \$300,000 or \$400,000 in the next Budget to overcome the problem. However, the present allocation will allow another four or five rice farms to be opened. As honourable members know, the rice industry at Mareeba is becoming a fairly large one. Once these farms come into production after the expenditure of this \$300,000, production in the area will just about be doubled, and I can see in the not-too-distant future—within about 10 years—the rice industry being on a par with the tobacco industry.

The other industry which has surpassed the tobacco industry is the mining industry. The Grace brothers at R. B. Mining have developed a marvellous complex. They employ about 108 people and they have done a magnificent job. They are some of the people who have helped to increase the figures in the Mareeba Mining Warden's Court. The mining industry has become a source of very large revenue for the people in the Mareeba/Dimbulah/Chillagoe areas.

I also congratulate the Treasurer on introducing the new maximum exemption for pay-roll tax. I think that it is great and that it will help business. I hope that he will continue to implement this scheme over the next two or three years and eventually wipe the tax out completely. The increase in the statutory exemption for land tax is a matter on which I spoke to the previous Treasurer, and I am glad that the exemption is to be increased.

One of the things that does worry me is the increase in payments to school-bus operators. An increase of 10 per cent might be good for people operating on the Gold Coast Highway, the North Coast Highway or the roads around Brisbane, but it certainly will not cover the increased costs of people operating on some of the roads in the North. Perhaps when the Treasurer is looking at increasing payments to school-bus operators in the future, he might give consideration to this matter. I appreciate that there is to be a percentage increase for people who operate on gravel roads, but I am talking about roads where there is not even gravel. They are dirt roads in a shocking condition. I think that perhaps further consideration could be given to providing an increased rate for people operating on roads of this type.

One of the good things contained in the Budget is the increase in subsidy on furnishings for aged persons' homes. An aged persons' home has just been opened in Mareeba. It is the Mareeba Garden Settlement. I was the original chairman of the finance committee for that project and also the chairman of the Mareeba Shire Council. It was a great feeling to go to the official opening. I was very pleased to see the increase in subsidy from \$750 to \$1,000 for furnishings in these homes.

I note that pensioners are to be given one extra free rail trip a year. That is a good thing, but I hope consideration will be given to providing even more. There would be nothing worse for a retired person than to have to sit around in the one place. It would be very nice for pensioners to be able to move around the State even more, and this would be possible if they could have three or four rail concessions a year.

Mr. Wilson: If Mr. Fraser would give them an increase in pensions they could afford to go on a holiday.

Mr. TENNI: After listening to the speech of the member for Townsville South a while ago, I do not think there is any point in taking any notice of him. He does not know what he is talking about. He should carry on wringing out his sweat-rag.

The alterations to the police superannuation scheme are a very good move, as is the increase in police strength. For a long time I have been asking for extra police in my electorate, in Mossman, Cairns, Kuranda and Mareeba. If the percentage of Aboriginal

people in my electorate who play up would behave themselves, there would not be any need for extra police. However, we have this problem and we therefore need extra police.

The Department of Primary Industries does a very good job in Mareeba. It was very good of the Treasurer to allocate funds in the Budget for stage 2 of its complex. The Minister for Primary Industries and I opened the complex in Mareeba a few weeks ago. I will tell honourable members a little story about that. My opponent for the next election actually gatecrashed a function at that opening to get a free beer. That is the sort of opponent I have.

The assistance given to local government in the Budget is very welcome. The winding up of the valuations section of the Valuer-General's Department should be looked at. That section is causing us a lot of trouble. About \$5,000,000 is spent in that area. If that \$5,000,000 was given to local authorities and they were allowed to do their own valuations, they would be much better off. Rather than giving them money through the Grants Commission, that \$5,000,000 could be split amongst the councils so that they could do their own valuations. I am sure that they would jump at the opportunity of doing that.

The Mareeba Hospital development was inspected by the Minister and me a few weeks ago. It is pleasing to see extra funds being made available for its completion.

Overall, I personally congratulate the Treasurer on his Budget. Although I appreciate the fact that there are over 1,000,000 people living in Greater Brisbane and under 1,000,000 living in country areas, perhaps in next year's Budget consideration could be given for more finance for the country areas. Sometimes I get terribly annoyed when driving from Brisbane down to the Gold Coast area or up to Maryborough on beautiful, wide, flat highways with no pot-holes. I think of roads like the one from Kuranda to Mareeba where it is like driving on an ocean with a breeze of 15 to 20 knots blowing. Nothing has been done to that road since 1943. Except for a bit of widening, it is still the same bitumen surface. I would like to see a little more money ploughed into country areas so that country people can get a little more comfort. I am not playing city against country, but city people must remember that if country people do not grow food for them they will die of starvation. Only about 1.8 days' supply of food is held in the city. If farmers were to go on strike tomorrow city people would be in real trouble.

Mr. Davis: What a lot of rubbish!

Mr. TENNI: It is not a lot of rubbish at all. The honourable member should think seriously about it. He does not know what he is talking about. Perhaps he is a lot of rubbish.

It is most important that further consideration be given to it.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. TENNI: Look at what happened with the Whitlam Government. Look at what Whitlam did to the cost of petrol in country areas. Every time costs increase, country people feel their impact more than do other people. Consider the cost of our papers. A "Courier-Mail" in Cairns costs 45c. So do "Sunday Sun" and "The Sunday Mail". The further away one is, the more one pays. If rail fares are increased by 5 per cent or 10 per cent, that increases costs more and more the further one is away. We are being penalised all the time. It is the country people who helped the member for Port Curtis to get the size he is. They help all the other fairly robust politicians to get their food and other supplies. Therefore, I am saying that we should give the country a better go when consideration is being given to the next Budget.

Overall, the Budget is an excellent one. It is a balanced Budget and one that we should all be very proud of. There are not many States or countries in the world today that can introduce balanced Budgets.

Mr. FOURAS (South Brisbane) (8.56 p.m.): We have just heard a typical speech from the member for Barron River—a speech full of blatant racism and full of hate for the Aboriginal people. I do not wish to comment on it at length, except to say that, following such a speech, I am sure that we will not see him with us in the next Parliament. I look forward to seeing another member representing that electorate in this Chamber—one who has a more humane approach and a feeling for all of the people of this nation; a person who will not try to divide it by using racist propaganda; a person who will try to unite this nation as one.

I would like to speak briefly on three subjects. First, I have had a lot of comment from teachers in my electorate about what is happening with education. In his speech the Treasurer said that there has been a slight increase in the Education Vote but that this cannot go on. That is a very negative statement. What he is saying is that, in the future, education will get less and less of the State's money.

When he said that there has been an overall increase in the share of the Budget going to education, he was not exactly correct. Education expenditure increased by 10.4 per cent. That is exactly the same amount as Consolidated Revenue increased. When one subtracts from the Education Vote the increases given to non-Government schools and those given to colleges of technical and further education, one finds that the increased expenditure on State schools will be just in excess of 8 per cent.

In real terms, that means that the portion of the cake going to the State education system is declining.

In fact, that has been so for the last four years. Figures show that in the last four years the amount of the State Budget going to State education has declined from some 20.5 per cent to 19.5 per cent; yet we heard statements by the Treasurer attempting to browbeat the electorate into believing that education is receiving an increasing share of the cake, whilst saying that this cannot be kept up.

This negative attitude to education is one that the electorate will become aware of. When it does, it will threaten Government members in marginal seats. The Budget states that in the future expenditure will be related to school numbers. When it is realised that by 1981 school numbers will begin to decrease, it will be seen that this Government intends to cut down expenditure on education in real terms. When it says that, it means that it is happy with the class sizes that exist now and with the standard of education that children are receiving.

It is going to do a lot more than that. We are told that the Government will be cutting down on teacher-aid time. In an answer to the Opposition's spokesman on education the other day, the Minister said that, as from next year, there will be a 25 per cent reduction in teacher-aid time. Of course, it is qualified by the statement that no teacher aide will be sacked. The rest of his answer states that there will be a preference for aides supporting single-income families against married women. Married women working as teacher aides will have their times cut back much more than 25 per cent. In fact, they will be cut back to such a level that it will not warrant their staying in the work-force. Of course, when they leave they will not be replaced.

When arguing the benefits of the reduction in the number of teacher aides, the Minister for Education said that there is an alternative—to use volunteers. Let me take one school in my electorate. The West End Infants school, to which my five-year-old goes, has six teacher aides. Children of 37 different nationalities attend that school. They have tremendous problems with language development, and teacher aides are needed to assist in the running of the special programmes at that school. In fact, if one walks into a class-room there, one may see two teacher aides working with small groups while the teacher goes round and works in a specialised field.

If the Treasurer wants efficiency in education, the first thing he ought to consider is that the most efficient way of doing something is to have a professional do the job for which he has been trained. It is no good saying to the teacher, "A child has been sick on the floor. Clean it up." or, "A child wants to go to the toilet. Take

him to the toilet." or, "A child is sick. Take him home." That can be done by teacher aides. If the Government wants value for money out of its teachers, let them be professional teachers. Let the teacher aides draw the graphs, draw the diagrams and do whatever else is needed.

The cut-back in the number of teacher aides is a retrograde step and I oppose it vehemently. I should hope that in special circumstances, when submissions are made to the Minister stating that teacher aides are needed to run programmes, the Government, in accordance with its pledge to give equality of opportunity in education to all children, will decide to provide teacher aides to assist children at schools such as the West End Infants school in which problems arise with migrant children.

The other thing that appals me about the Budget for education is the Government's talk about introducing efficiencies in regard to cleaners and janitor/groundsmen. I wonder how one introduces efficiencies in regard to cleaners. I suppose contracts could be let for cleaning. Of course, when a contract is let, the person who takes out the contract will want to make a profit and, therefore, will do the work in fewer cleaning hours. In my opinion, that will mean that schools will become dirtier. Anybody who knows the school environment and knows the relationship between the staff and cleaners knows that the cleaners open and close the school, put on lights and perform many tasks other than cleaning. That relationship would be completely lost if contract cleaners were introduced. As I said, if the cleaning takes fewer hours, schools will become dirtier.

The Government may also take away money now provided to schools to buy equipment for cleaning. When it does that, in effect it will be saying to p. & c. associations, "We will give you this school, but you maintain it." Similarly, when the janitor/groundsmen retires, the Government will say, "We won't replace him. Members of the p. & c. will become responsible for the upkeep of this Government utility, the school."

I am very concerned about the negative tone of the Budget as it relates to education. I believe that the Government is softening up the electorate in preparation for what will happen when the new scheme for allocating funds to the States under Fraser federalism comes into force. The position then will be much worse than it is now. Fraser has said quite unequivocally that the Whitlam formula for tax-sharing with the States is far too generous. The Government of this State intends to make education the bunny in cutting back expenditure and balancing the Budget.

I promised that I would be very brief, but I wish to raise two other matters. Some time ago I asked the Treasurer whether it

was true that the Premier had refused to pass on to Austcare the \$10,200 that had been allocated in last year's Budget and, if that was so, whether he agreed with that decision. The Treasurer gave me what I believe was a very weak answer. He said that the responsibility for passing on that money belonged to the relevant Minister. He also said that his Government was very good at providing money for needy causes.

Since I began following politics, I have read ad nauseam statements by the Premier in which he has criticised foreign aid. He always says that there is a needy cause in Australia, which is so. However, we must remember that the average income of an Australian is 10, 20 or 30 times that of workers in places like Kampuchea and Bangladesh. His attitude is an unchristian and inhumane one.

The people of Kampuchea are peace-loving. They now find themselves in a traumatic situation that has no equal. They are in that plight as the result of intervention by other countries. Australia is not entirely innocent. When Australians and Americans went across the borders into Kampuchea, they created the pre-conditions that led to the famine and starvation that presently prevail. We cannot salve our conscience, as the Premier does, by saying that any aid we give will go to Communists or that we do not know where the money will go.

I am appalled to see Government members such as the Treasurer and other Liberals sitting back, saying, "That is the Premier's doing." They allow him to take out his bias on people and children who will die if they are not given any help.

I notice that the Treasurer is giving me a sign to wind up. I appreciate having had a few minutes in which to speak. I felt that I may have been able to contribute more to this debate than the previous speaker, the member for Barron River. I will follow up my points when I speak in the Estimates debate.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (9.7 p.m.), in reply: As is quite usual in this debate, a tremendous variety of topics has been raised by the speakers, many of them only very remotely, if at all, related to the Budget as such. It would be virtually impossible for me to comment on them all. My response will be fairly brief, mainly because there is very little of any real substance in the Opposition's rather unskilled and disjointed criticism of the Budget policies generally or of specific aspects of the Budget.

It is generally accepted that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition delivered one of the most pathetic responses to the Budget proposals of the Government that has ever been witnessed in this Chamber. He must have realised that there was nothing of very great consequence in what he had to say,

because he thrust two of his junior members, the honourable members for Cook and Port Curtis, into the fray to open the debate for the Opposition.

I know that Treasurers in the past have frequently exhorted the Leader of the Opposition to put forward his alternative policies instead of simply being a knocker. While the Leader of the Opposition may have made a weak attempt to do this, I must say that he would have saved himself and his party a lot of embarrassment if he had adopted a completely negative approach that has been a feature of the alternative Government's reaction to the Budget in the past.

I cannot help being amazed at the way in which the Opposition can pull an endless string of promises out of a hat like a magician. I can assure Opposition members that they would have to produce some magical qualities to meet even a small proportion of their reckless commitments if, by some quirk of political fate, they found themselves holding office. Fortunately for them and for the State of Queensland, this is an eventuality so remote that it doesn't warrant consideration. The Opposition knows this, of course, and this is why it has no qualms about making the sort of promises it does. It knows that the day of reckoning will never come—that it will never be called to account.

One would think that the A.L.P. would have learned its lesson by the experience of the former Federal Labor Government. That Government, in its short life, set out on an orgy of extravagance, implementing schemes that had been the Labor Party's dreams during many years in Opposition. Drunk with unaccustomed and unexpected power, it took its plans off the shelves, brushed off the dust and cobwebs of the years and began to put them into effect without regard for cost or consequences or responsibility. It brought the economy of the nation to its knees in record time, and the nation has not recovered to this day.

It is clear from the Opposition's proclamations in recent time that this is what would happen in Queensland if the Leader of the Opposition and his party were to become the Government. The socialistic dreams of decades which the Leader of the Opposition nurtures so dearly would be thrust upon the people of this State. Private enterprise would founder, development would stagnate and the citizens would stagger under impossible taxation burdens. The international developers and financiers to whom Queensland is now such an attractive proposition would turn their eyes in other directions where they can see stable and rational Government such as we now have in Queensland.

The Opposition has done all it can to denigrate the Government's universally acclaimed policy of reduced taxation. The Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Bulimba in particular were

the most vociferous, and I will have more to say later about some of the more specific comments of the latter.

Let me say now that this Government's policy on taxation is one which the Opposition could never adopt if it were in Government. In fact, there is no way in which it could honour its very fanciful pie-in-the-sky platform promises without massive increases in taxation or drastic reductions in services or both.

The problem that the Opposition has is that it can find no fault with the Government's taxation policy. So what does it do? It confuses the whole issue by attacking and gnawing away at the fact that the Government has done what it is required to do by law—maintain the real value of its fees and charges for services, rail fares and freights and such like.

The Opposition does not understand, or does not want to understand, the difference between a tax and a fee. It does not understand that the Government could be seen as being derelict in its duties if it did not ensure that charges made on the users of particular services are maintained at the correct level in relation to the cost of providing these services.

If the Government did not take measures to ensure this, the effect would be that the users of the service would be subsidised by the community at large. This action by the Government is no more than correct business procedure. The Government has made no secret of it, and makes no secret of it now.

The long list of items that the honourable member for Chatsworth has taken so much time to extract from the Government Gazette is not a revelation to anyone and he could have saved himself and the Committee the trouble and devoted the time to the needs of his constituents.

As far as taxation is concerned, there are a number of points that I wish to make. The Government's commitment to maintaining taxation at a minimum level, to reductions and to complete elimination, wherever practicable, is firm. This has been demonstrated by the concessions that have been granted over recent years, such as death duties being completely abolished.

Mr. Burns: That's all right if you're dead. What about those of us who are still alive? What about the workers who are still alive?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member for Lytton is the loudmouth who makes noises at all times. We remember full well his contribution to the debate. I will deal with that in a moment.

Mr. Burns: I am not a police pimp, like you, Edwards.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Burns: I am calling him a pimp and a dobber and that's what he was.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Sullivan: You're as silly as a wheel.

Mr. Burns: The Minister is as drunk as a skunk.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That was unparliamentary. I ask—

Mr. Burns: What about him calling me silly as a wheel?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Did the Minister say something to which the honourable member takes objection?

Mr. Burns: Yes, he did.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I am asking the honourable member what the Minister said.

Mr. Burns: Give it back in kind.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I am asking the honourable member what the Minister said to which the honourable member took objection.

Mr. Burns: I will tell you what he said, Mr. Hewitt, but I am not complaining. I am not a dobber and a pimp like Edwards.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member is not complaining, I do not intend to ask the Minister to withdraw. I did hear the honourable member's words and I am asking him to withdraw.

Mr. Sullivan: Thank you very much.

Mr. BURNS: In deference to the Chair, but not in deference to the Minister, I withdraw.

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member for Lytton would do better to stay out of the Chamber than to make the kind of statement he has just made.

Let me repeat what stunned them into action. They cannot take the facts concerning the Government's performance. The concessions that have been granted over recent years are as follows: death duties completely abolished; gift duty completely abolished; road permit fees completely abolished; road maintenance tax completely abolished; stamp duties reduced in many areas; pay-roll tax concessions progressively implemented; and land tax concessions granted. The annual benefit to taxpayers of these concessions is now to the order of \$80,000,000.

Mr. Fouras interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member for South Brisbane would not know what work is all about. It is about time that he listened and learned something about the Budget.

As a result of the Government's taxation policy, Queenslanders are now the lowest taxed people in the Commonwealth. Let me quote some figures to prove this and let me point out that these are figures produced not by the State Government but, by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in relation in 1977-78. I expect that when the later figures come out, they will show Queenslanders to be in an even more favourable position. Let me repeat that we pay \$81.66 per capita in pay-roll tax, the lowest in Australia. The national average is \$102.54. We pay \$27.14 per capita for motor-vehicle registration, again the lowest in Australia. The national average is \$33.34. In gambling taxes—all forms—we pay \$14.79 per capita, once again the lowest in Australia. The national average is \$31.37.

Opposition Members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not intend to allow constant interjection of that order.

Dr. EDWARDS: They do not like to hear the truth about the Government's performance as far as taxation is concerned. In regard to stamp duties—

An Opposition Member: Tedious repetition.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! When I make a request of the Committee, I do not allow myself to be ignored. If that continues, I will have to deal with honourable members.

Dr. EDWARDS: Let me repeat that they do not like hearing the truth or the facts. We pay \$51.12 per capita in stamp duty, again the lowest in Australia. The national average is \$59.89.

Mr. Vaughan interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member talks so much rubbish that he does not know what he is talking about now. In overall State taxation, Queenslanders paid \$312.36 per capita, once again the lowest in Australia. The national average is \$395.30. These are figures on payments per head of population in all State taxes. In 1977-78, the average Queenslanders paid nearly \$83, or 21 per cent, less State tax than the average Australian. He paid \$118 less than the average New South Welshman—under a Labor Government—and \$123 less than the average Victorian. He paid substantially less than his fellow in every other State.

This is the real test of the effectiveness of the Government's policy and of the sincerity of the Government in its undertakings and promises to the people of Queensland.

This leads me to explain for the benefit of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Nudgee, who had quite a lot to say on this point, that, apart from its careful and prudent financial management, the Government is able to do this very largely because of the benefits of its resource development policies. In the last six years mining royalties have increased by nearly \$60,000,000 and rail freights from mineral haulages have increased by \$78,000,000. Certainly there are offsetting costs for the rail freights, but the net result can be shown to be in excess of the \$80,000,000 cost of the reductions and eliminations in taxation to which I referred a few minutes ago. There are other indirect benefits to Government revenues flowing from the stimulation that these developments give to the economy. These cannot be calculated.

To put it another way, if Queenslanders were taxed at the same average rate as taxpayers of other States, they would be paying in all an extra \$178,500,000 in tax per annum. They are spared this above-average impost primarily because the Government, by virtue of its policies, is able to acquire the substitutional funds directly and indirectly through making the natural resources of the State available to the world at a realistic price. This is one of the ways by which the Government ensures that the benefits of the State's riches are shared by all citizens of the State.

The honourable member for Bulimba referred to a number of taxes and charges and claimed the increase in revenue has been in excess of the rate of inflation. In some cases, notably the improvement in revenues between 1977-78 and 1978-79 for the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the increase reflects fee changes agreed to by all participating States under the Interstate Corporate Affairs Agreement. However, as anyone with some pretence to economic ability would realise, in the main the increases in excess of the change in monetary values reflect real growth factors flowing from the overall growth in the Queensland economy; growth which this Government has fostered and encouraged by sound, responsible economic and financial management and policies.

I was particularly glad that the honourable member for Bulimba and other members of the Opposition, singled out pay-roll tax for mention. He was quick to point out that pay-roll tax revenue increased four times, from \$61,000,000 in 1972-73 to an estimated \$244,000,000 in 1979-80, an increase of 300 per cent. This rather substantial increase is due largely to the factors I have mentioned, but of course it also includes the progressive increase from 3.5 per cent to 5 per cent effected early in the period by agreement amongst all States, under a Labor Government.

In talking about this, however, the honourable member very conveniently forgot to mention that in the same period the exemption level was increased by this Government from \$20,800 to \$150,000, an increase of over 600 per cent, or more than double the increase in revenue. That is a further example of this Government's commitment to lower taxation.

I am very concerned about the approach by the honourable member for Nudgee on the very important question of overseas borrowing for the State. This is a very serious business and has tremendous ramifications for the development of Queensland. It really calls for a full understanding of the issues by all concerned, and the point I am making is that the members of the Opposition should be just as concerned as the Government about the consequences of their statements before they get up and speak about it.

It is very important for these reasons: Firstly, the money that we are securing from overseas is in every case additional to the normal capital programme of this State and its authorities. I repeat, it is additional to the normal capital programme of this State and its authorities. Being additional money, it is obvious that every dollar borrowed in this way is an additional dollar's worth of work, and very constructive work, that is crucial to the development of this State.

The value of these funds in this regard can be better understood from an appreciation of the magnitude of them. To date, we have completed the raising of three loans—not one, as the honourable member for Nudgee said—and I am in the course of finalising another one for a total of \$104,000,000. In addition, the further raisings this year for which we have secured Loan Council approvals, total \$128,000,000. So, in a matter of 12 months or a little more, we will be raising from overseas sources an additional \$232,000,000. I am sure the honourable member and his colleagues will now be able to appreciate how much this means to Queensland.

The next major reason that the fullest understanding should be had of the issue is that we are dealing in a very sophisticated, highly skilled and intricate international money market where financiers have to judge the Queensland Government as the borrower or the guarantor when determining, firstly, whether they should lend us the money and, secondly (and more importantly), the terms on which it is to be offered. Unnecessary sniping tactics from a political wing of the State certainly does not enhance our image and our position when we go to the negotiating table with these international people.

With this in mind—and I say this quite categorically—I have already written to the Leader of the Opposition inviting him and any of his colleagues that he wishes to bring along to come to my office to discuss with

me and my Under Treasurer the overseas borrowing position, its benefits, the procedures and considerations involved and the course we are taking. So far, I have only had an acknowledgement of the letter from the Leader of the Opposition and I would exhort him to accept the invitation, stop whingeing and come and discuss the issues so that we can proceed with one voice in these matters.

I repeat: some months ago I invited the Leader of the Opposition to come to my office, but he has not accepted that invitation. He stands condemned in this Chamber. He is a most irresponsible man. He is the most irresponsible leader that the Labor Party has ever had. At least he acknowledged my letter. I again invite him, the member for Sandgate and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to come and discuss this matter like men and understand what it is all about. It is a most intricate matter, and it has to be cleaned up once and for all.

In the meantime, I would ask that the Opposition refrain from allowing political considerations to take precedence over the practical benefits that can be derived from the presentation of a united front in this matter which is of such importance to all Queenslanders.

The Labor Parties in New South Wales and Tasmania—and in South Australia when Labor was in Government—are involved in the same kind of programme under the same conditions. It is about time that the Opposition identified itself with the Government of the State and recognised the benefits to all of Queensland.

Before leaving this topic, I would mention for the information of the Chamber the high esteem—

Mr. Vaughan interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: Would the member for Nudgee stop his whingeing?

Mr. Casey interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: The Leader of the Opposition has whinged ever since he took over that office. He has only been worried about getting a bedroom next to his office. When he begins to think about the people of Queensland there might be some sanity on the Opposition side.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: That is a good description.

I repeat that the Opposition does not want to hear the truth or the facts about this Budget. I am prepared to out-talk the Opposition at any time.

Before leaving this topic, I would like to mention for the information of the Chamber the high esteem in which the Australian Government is held in the eyes of the financial markets of the world. Its

credit rating is of the highest order, and this reflects very strongly in our dealings and negotiations.

Because of this and Queensland's own very high credit rating, its attraction as an investment prospect and the very close attention that is given to the negotiations and assessments of offers, Queensland is securing funds at interest rates and under conditions that are the best available in the world today. When the Leader of the Opposition finds time to come and talk to me about it I will give him the facts and the details.

Mr. Casey: Dr. Edwards—

Dr. EDWARDS: I ask the Leader of the Opposition to keep quiet. He is wasting the time of the Committee.

Mr. Casey: Are these the Arabs with whom the Premier is talking?

Dr. EDWARDS: The only people who deal in Arab money are members of the Labor Party. Let me remind the Chamber of the famous breakfast with a gentleman called Khemlani. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to deal with the Arabs he can.

Mr. Casey interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: I repeat that the only people in this nation who have dealt with the Arabs have been members of the Labor Party. The famous breakfast in a Sydney hotel was the beginning of the downfall of the Labor Government.

Mr. Casey: Are any Liberals dealing with the Arabs?

Dr. EDWARDS: I make it clear that all negotiations which this Government has had with people concerning the international money market are open for inspection at all times. The Leader of the Opposition would be better off answering his mail and looking at Queensland's prospects rather than sitting in his place with a sickly grin on his face, looking like an Arab.

Queensland's financial rating is equal to that of any country in the world. The real expertise in securing these favourable arrangements lies in determining the currency and the conditions which are likely to prove most beneficial in the short and long term.

This involves in-depth assessments of the strength of the various currencies now and likely trends in future in relation to our own currency, the stability of the economies of the countries from whom the offers originate, the statures of the financiers involved and many other vital, detailed considerations. This is a complex task, given the legal and commercial constraints of each of the markets and those of our own financial system.

When the member for Sandgate becomes Leader of the Opposition, I hope that he will come and talk to me about this matter, because he may be able to understand it.

Mr. Casey: You won't be around that long.

Dr. EDWARDS: The Leader of the Opposition will not be here very much longer.

Mr. Casey: Tell us about your Cabinet changes.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! To say the least interjections by Opposition members are becoming inane. They will desist.

Dr. EDWARDS: The Leader of the Opposition can laugh as much as he likes, but we are dealing with a serious business. The Government will not take its responsibilities lightly. It will continue to show responsibility in all spheres.

The securing of overseas accommodation often, if not always, involves on-the-spot explanations at the time of seeking the offers so as to show one's bona fides and to minimise the difficulty of comparing offers from various markets in various currencies.

I turn now to unemployment. Probably the only thing on which the Opposition and the Government have some semblance of agreement is their abhorrence of the fact that so many of the State's citizens, and particularly its young ones, are unable to find jobs. Without question this is the most serious malady that our society has to suffer at the present time, and unfortunately it is one which will not be cured overnight.

It is also, I suggest, becoming quite clear (and receiving more acceptance) that full economic recovery, including a complete victory over inflation, will not, by itself, bring about a return to full employment as it was known a few years ago. The increasing momentum of technological change is the main reason for that. The forced reassessment by industries of their work-force needs during years of high inflation and the extraordinary growth in wage rates in the mid-seventies are other reasons.

These factors, coupled with a growth in the incidence of dual-income families, have had an impact on the employment structure that will not be fully abated by even the most dramatic improvement in economic and financial conditions generally. I believe that, just as the situation that I have described has developed, so will the reaction to it take place in a way that will lead to the return of a full and more equitable sharing of employment opportunities.

The Leader of the Opposition has undertaken to set up another royal commission, this time into technology. He is apparently not aware that the Federal Government has already set up an inquiry of this type and, for his information, a very lengthy and carefully considered submission has been prepared by the State Government. I believe we can confidently expect some very meaningful and constructive recommendations from

this inquiry and that it will provide a guideline for some future policies by employers, employee organisations and Governments.

I am led to believe that the Opposition has not bothered to make a submission to that inquiry.

Mr. Casey: We don't trust Fraser.

Dr. EDWARDS: The Leader of the Opposition doesn't trust Fraser? He doesn't trust the people who are undertaking the royal commission. He should know full well that they are dedicated people. The Government of Queensland is prepared to submit this information. Again the Leader of the Opposition is showing his inconsistency and his dishonesty in not being prepared to identify the Labor Party in this State with a submission to one of the most important commissions of inquiry ever to be undertaken. I repeat that I believe we can confidently expect some very meaningful and constructive recommendations from that inquiry.

During the period that it takes for the inevitable and vitally necessary adjustment of the work-force and employment structure to be effected, Governments and the business community as a whole have a responsibility to do all within their power to keep employment at the maximum level possible. This, of course, includes as a prime objective a continuing thrust against inflation through careful economic and monetary management. This is being pursued by the Federal Government with a very significant amount of success to date, despite the slight temporary reversal that is occurring at the present time.

The Queensland Government's view is that the recovery process can be hastened and symptoms relieved very substantially by direction of Government funds into capital employment-intensive works. As I mentioned in my Budget speech, in the last four years over \$275,000,000 of additional money has been set aside from Consolidated Revenue for this purpose. This includes \$86,000,000 in the current financial year which, with funds already in hand, will permit expenditures of \$98,200,000 on additional work this year. I undertake here and now that the Government will increase this amount further during the year if it is possible to do so.

It has been estimated that this amount of over \$98,000,000 will permit direct employment of the equivalent of about 5,000 people for a year, and that the flow-on effect to support industries could ensure continued availability of additional jobs. This injection of funds into the economy will keep many thousands of people in work and off the dole line, and ensure continued viability of a great number of businesses that carry out Government work. It will also provide very valuable public facilities which would otherwise have had to wait for perhaps years.

While I would like to promise an immediate panacea for the unemployment problem, I am not so foolhardy and irresponsible as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, who has glibly undertaken to generate at least 20,000 extra new jobs—I repeat, 20,000 extra new jobs—amongst a whole list of other goodies that are completely beyond the capacity of any Government in this State to finance without massive taxation increases or reductions in services.

A very important and significant point that must not be overlooked in an analysis of the economy and the employment position is that, although unemployment figures are not reducing as the Government would wish, the number of people in jobs is continuing to increase. As shown in the Budget documents, the number of civilian wage and salary earners in Queensland increased by 14,500, or by 2.3 per cent, in 1978-79. This rate of increase is well in excess of population growth and demonstrates quite clearly to my mind that the economy of the State is strong and moving in the right direction.

Let me refer now to the Gregory mine and Hay Point. The benefits from Queensland's major resource developments will continue to flow and increase in the future, despite the scepticism of some Opposition members, notably the honourable member for Nudgee. Negotiations for royalty and rail-freight agreements, infrastructure planning and financing and so on, involve lengthy discussions and correspondence between a number of groups with varying needs and objectives. They do not sort themselves out overnight. For example, the heads of agreement for the Gregory rail haulage agreement were determined two years ago. They have subsequently been embodied in a draft agreement, which is still the subject of discussion with the company because of the absence of finality on certain details.

I am well aware that there are industrial problems at the Gregory mine and that these are delaying production. I assure the honourable member for Nudgee that the position is being watched very closely.

The Treasury has always been involved in the formulation of rail agreements for mineral haulages. This goes back to the very first agreement in 1965 in relation to Moura. The considerations to be taken into account in these agreements are entirely different from those in normal freight agreements executed by the Railway Department. The Railway Department fully recognises this and concurs with Treasury involvement.

I must also say quite unequivocally that there is no basis for scepticism about the construction by the State of a second export coal-loading facility at Hay Point. Both the German Creek and Oak Creek developers will shortly be considering financial proposals as a basis for their committal to the use of this additional facility. In addition, I believe that other projects such as Blair Athol, Hail Creek and Nebo will be ready

to go forward in the not too distant future, thus adding to the necessity for the extra facility.

It is true that the difference in starting times for the German Creek and Oaky Creek projects is not helping the financial planning. However, after taking account of the Norwich Park volume, there will be spare capacity in the Utah loading facility, and this offers a possible alternative pending the availability of a second facility.

Discussions are continuing with all the companies involved and I am sure that arrangements satisfactory to all will be forthcoming. The Government is determined that loading facilities will be available for all coal that is required to be shipped and that the development projects will not be held up on this account.

As I suppose could be expected, quite a number of speakers in this debate have commented on the approach that the Government has adopted this year in the funding of education. Because of the sensitive and somewhat emotive nature of this particular Government function, I went to some pains in my Budget speech to explain the Government's policy, the reasoning behind it and the action to be taken. This seems to have been understood and accepted as reasonable by most people, but there are a few, notably the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for South Brisbane, who, I think, could benefit from a little further clarification.

Let me again make it clear that the Government has not reduced the level of education funding and has no intention of doing so. Over a number of years there has been a concerted effort to upgrade and improve generally the standards of services and facilities throughout the education system.

Let me compare them with the situation that prevailed in 1957, when we became the Government. This effort has been most successful, as anyone will readily appreciate from a comparison between the position as it was, say, six years ago and that of today. The vastly improved overall standards that have been achieved must be sustained and improved further to the extent that is necessary and possible. The Government has no desire to see the good that has been done in recent years by the Government undone to the detriment of our children's education. The problem is that, under the prevailing financial, administrative and professional structure of the system, the existing standards can be maintained only by continually increasing the proportion of the State's available budgetary funds that is devoted to education. To continue to do this would, of course, mean that, as the years go on, the education system will consume more and more of the Budget cake, which means that other services will receive less and less.

The Education Department has therefore been instructed to carry out a very critical analysis of its structure and services with a view to revising them in a way that will ensure that through implementation of further efficiencies and economies, and maximum utilisation of professional resources, the desired results can be achieved within an annual level of funds which is maintained in real terms after allowing for normal growth factors. Precisely what this will entail is a matter yet to be decided following recommendations that will be made to Cabinet by my colleague the Minister for Education.

As an immediate measure of expenditure containment for 1979-80, certain decisions were taken in the Budget context in regard to ancillary staff and other schemes. The extent to which these decisions will flow on into future years will depend entirely on the outcome of our review of our priorities and procedures, and the acceptance by the Government of the Minister's recommendations.

The Leader of the Opposition tabled an extract from a Grants Commission report showing per capita expenditure figures for various social service items in 1976-77 by all States. These, he claimed, proved that Queensland was falling behind other States in providing essential services to the people of Queensland. Such is not the case. A number of factors affect the comparability of the expenditures of individual States. For example, the way in which Queensland distributes assistance to local authorities is a major factor in the apparent low per capita expenditure on relief of the aged and infirm.

While other States provide funds for pensioner rebates for local authority rates, this Government believes that the provision of these rebates is the responsibility of the individual local authorities. It is pleasing to note that many local authorities do give pensioner rebates. The State plays its part by providing generous assistance in other forms to local authorities. Included in the 1979-80 Budget are provisions for:

\$5,000,000 for general purpose untied grants; \$6,900,000 for assistance for local authority transport undertakings; \$3,300,000 for operating and capital subsidies for local authority libraries; and \$37,500,000 for loans and subsidies for capital purposes.

The per capital expenditure figures for training of teachers also showed that Queensland's expenditure was lower than that of other States. That is understandable. At a time when there is an excess of supply over demand, it would be imprudent for the Government to increase its expenditure in this area at the expense of other services.

As well as being distorted by policy differences, per capita expenditures are also influenced by other factors, including the size of the State, density of population, climatic conditions and so forth. Tasmania and Western Australia, for example, would tend to have higher per capita expenditure

because of diseconomies of scale arising from their smaller populations. The real crux of the matter is that per capita expenditures cannot be taken as being in themselves indicative of the relativity of standards or quality of service.

Apart from the considerations I have already mentioned, there is the question of efficiency and economy in the delivery of the service. Higher expenditures do not necessarily ensure or indicate a better service.

A shining example of this is Queensland's hospital system, where standards are at least the equal of any public hospital system in Australia, yet per capita costs on any basis of calculation are the lowest. It is even acknowledged by the Federal Minister for Health and other Ministers for Health in Australia that Queensland's hospital operations are the most efficient in Australia.

We would not claim to have achieved the ultimate in efficiencies but our experience of many years in the administration of free public health facilities has given this State an enviable record in this field. I therefore reject the honourable member's implication that this Government has something to answer for in regard to its expenditure in the areas he has mentioned or in any others.

To cap an already colourless speech, the Leader of the Opposition drew the attention of the Committee, in a most accusatory manner, to what he termed a sleight of hand trick in the provision in the Estimates for the cost of future award and basic wage increases for Government employees. His accusations were taken up and reiterated with some embellishment by the honourable member for Bulimba.

The honourable members have the impression, apparently, that the various salaries provisions throughout the Estimates already include provision for future increases and that there is a doubling up by including a special provision for this purpose in Treasury Estimates.

An Opposition Member: That's rot!

Dr. EDWARDS: What utter rubbish!

For their information, there is no doubling up and no sleight of hand. Certainly the salaries provisions throughout the Estimates are at a higher level than those of the preceding year. However, this has nothing to do with future wage increases.

Mr. Houston: Why?

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable member should wait and get the information. It is because they include, amongst other adjustments for variations in numbers, the full cost of increases that occurred in the preceding year. These alone could be expected to give an increase of around 8 per cent in the 1979-80 appropriations.

As has been the practice for many years, the cost of the current year's increases will be met by "unforeseen expenditure" in the

various Votes during the year, as necessary, such being funded from the provision made in Treasury.

The effect of this will be that expenditure against individual salaries Votes will be in excess of the Budget provision to the extent of award and basic wage costs and there will be no expenditure charged against the Treasury Vote. In other words, approved excess expenditures in departments on account of salary and wage increases is offset by savings in expenditure in the Treasury Vote. The effect of this procedure shows up clearly in the departmental appropriation accounts, which are included in the Treasurer's Annual Statement.

The same principle is involved in the utilisation of the Vote, "Treasurer's advance account" which, in the eyes of the honourable member for Bulimba, is also very suspicious. The \$4,800,000 in this Vote is a relatively small reserve to meet certain costs which are expected to occur during the year, details of which could not be finalised in time for inclusion in the Budget documents under their correct departmental headings. As the matters are finalised, the necessary expenditure approvals will be obtained. The expenditure will then be charged to the appropriate departmental Vote. I hope the honourable member for Bulimba is satisfied now that there is nothing underhand or sinister about these procedures.

I certainly hope that, as he suggests, I will be able to announce later in the year that further funds can be made available for special employment-creating works. It has been the aim in every year since the Special Projects Fund was established to feed as much Consolidated Revenue money as possible into it for those special additional works which could not be done if we were depending on funding from normal sources.

The honourable member for Salisbury raised a couple of matters on which I am quite happy to make comment. Firstly, as regards the acquisition of the replacement Government aircraft, there is, as she has found, no specific provision in the Estimates for this item. The fact is that, at the time the Budget documents were being finalised, negotiations in relation to the transaction had not reached a stage where a firm decision could be taken on whether the replacement should occur, the cost or what amount, if any, would be required in the current financial year.

Under the arrangements that have since been made, the major portion of the expenditure involved will be made in 1980-81, and the Estimates for that year will show this amount together with the amount that will be appropriated by unforeseen expenditure for the deposit in 1979-80.

The honourable member also appeared to be quite incensed about a Press statement which suggested that the Government had intentions of subsidising the construction of a film and television studio complex on the

Gold Coast to the tune of \$2,000,000. I can assure her that no provision has been made for such a subsidy. There is, however, as I am sure the honourable member would be aware, an ongoing scheme administered by the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, under which pioneer industries wishing to establish premises and facilities in Queensland may be eligible for assistance with capital requirements. Such assistance is provided under strict guidelines regarding viability, priorities etc. and is provided on a strictly commercial basis which ensures full recovery of Government outlays and full Government equity in the capital aspects of the venture. The project to which the honourable member has referred would be eligible for consideration under this scheme.

In an endeavour to air his knowledge of the workings of the Queensland Housing Commission, the honourable member for Chatsworth really showed his lack of understanding of the subject. He made much of the expenditure of \$3,600,000 against the \$12,400,000 allocation from the Queensland Housing Commission Fund for advances to borrowers and purchasers in 1978-79. What the honourable member failed to realise is that although it had not been spent, the whole of the allocation had been committed by 30 June 1979.

Although it has been customary to fully appropriate all available funds, it is in fact quite normal for the commission to under-spend and carry funds forward each financial year. This occurs because the majority of applicants are home builders (as distinct from home purchasers) and in these cases the Queensland Housing Commission can only advance money on a progress payment basis. Insofar as the advances to borrowers and purchasers item is concerned, outstanding commitments at 30 June 1979 totalled \$17,300,000, of which \$8,800,000 was attributable to the underexpenditure in 1978-79. Not only did the honourable member ignore the practical time lags involved, but he also apparently overlooked the fact that in 1978-79, with the introduction of the new Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement, the on-lending of Commonwealth funds was transacted through the new Home Purchase Assistance Account and not the Queensland Housing Commission Fund as previously.

Advances to home purchasers were \$22,500,000 in 1978-79 from the new Trust Fund, making total advances for the year from both funds \$26,000,000, compared with \$24,700,000 in 1977-78.

The honourable member also claimed that total overall Government expenditure from all funds as estimated for 1979-80 is \$341,000,000 less in real terms than was provided for 1978-79. Total net expenditure includes transactions through the Trust and Special Funds which involve funds from other than normal Government sources and which vary from year to year by other than just the rate of inflation. For example, it

records the payment of funds provided by the Commonwealth for many programmes such as those of universities and colleges of advanced education, over which the State has no control. Furthermore, the comparison between the provision for total net expenditure in 1979-80 is not comparable with that for 1978-79 because of a change in the method of appropriating amounts for the purpose of investments from certain trust funds—transactions which are not expenditure in the true sense. The appropriations for 1979-80 are some \$296,000,000 less than in 1978-79 because of this procedural change, the nature of which can easily be ascertained by reference to the Estimates.

Other areas where expenditure provisions for 1979-80 are less than 1978-79 include payments to annuitants from State Service Superannuation Funds, down some \$30,000,000, payments from the Permanent Building Societies Contingency Fund, down some \$10,000,000, and refunds of deposits under the Auctioneers and Agents Trust Account Deposit Fund, down almost \$7,000,000. These are the major items which can be shown as contributing to the shortfall that the honourable member has arrived at by his rather simplistic approach. I am sure that the honourable member for Bulimba will also be interested in these explanations since he, too, made some observations on the same lines.

A number of interesting and quite topical issues were raised by Government members in the course of this debate which are of genuine concern to them and their constituents. Many of them come within the responsibility of my fellow Ministers. I know that they will consider the comments that have been made and react properly to them. For my part, I have attempted to bring clarification where I considered it necessary. I might add that this was very difficult to do because of the paucity of information provided by the Opposition on matters with substantial budgetary connotations. However, should any honourable member feel that he or she would like further clarification or explanation of any query that has been raised, I will be quite happy to take the matter further in discussions or by correspondence. I thank honourable members on both sides of the Committee for their contributions to this debate.

Item (Contingencies—His Excellency the Governor) agreed to.

Progress reported.

LEAVE TO INTRODUCE BILL TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT

Mr. SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have given consideration to the point of order raised by the honourable member for

Landsborough in respect of the notice of motion under Standing Order 284 by the Leader of the Opposition relating to redistribution. I am advised that the Bill would certainly be treated as a public Bill in the House of Commons, whoever introduced it. It does not confer "particular powers or benefits, on any person or body of persons . . . in excess of, or in conflict with the general law". Indeed, it falls within the principles which have been used in deciding that Bills are public and not private: It affects public policy; it would involve amending or repealing a public Act; and it affects the whole State. Furthermore, all such legislation on electoral law and boundaries has always been by way of public Bills.

At Westminster, if objection is taken to a private Bill on the grounds that it should have been introduced as a public Bill, and if the Speaker is so advised by the Public Bill and Private Bill Offices, or on advice alone, even if no objection is raised publicly, the Speaker will call attention to the fact that the Bill should have been introduced as a public Bill and will not allow it to proceed further. Decision on such matters rests in the hands of the Speaker, and there is no appeal to the House.

Accordingly, I rule that the motion as proposed by the honourable member is not properly before the House.

Mr. CASEY: I rise to a point of order. In addition to the petition that I presented to the Parliament last Thursday, I also gave notice in the normal way, in the normal format, of a motion that I was desirous of moving before the House. Notice of that motion appeared on the Business Paper this morning. The House considered that motion. In actual fact, it was accepted as a not-formal motion. As such, and in accordance with the Standing Orders of this Parliament, not of the Westminster Parliament, that motion stands on the Business Paper of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I accept the points you have made in your ruling. As mentioned in the discussion in the Parliament the other day, there is considerable difference between the Westminster Parliament and this Parliament on these particular measures. In addition to the points that were made by you—

Dr. EDWARDS: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. CASEY: Hello! Here is Topper at it again. Pippin Topper—here he is.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Dr. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is making a speech, not taking a point of order. I believe that he should state his point of order so that you can give a ruling on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to state his point of order.

Mr. CASEY: Mr. Speaker, I know you will accept that this is a very serious matter. You, yourself, have considered it that way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to state his point of order.

Mr. CASEY: To continue with my point of order: there is considerable difference between the Westminster Parliament and the Queensland Parliament on this particular issue. "Erskine May" is an authority on the Westminster Parliament. It is considered to be a guide on matters of parliamentary procedure. But there is considerable variance between what is stated in that particular publication and the normal rules of practice in this Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to state his point of order.

Mr. CASEY: Under the normal Rules of Practice of this Parliament there is a following of the Standing Orders. The Standing Order dealing with motions—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Make your point of order.

Mr. CASEY: I am making my point, Mr. Speaker. Standing Orders clearly point out there are two ways in which this can be done. This morning's Business Paper clearly shows that a notice of motion was accepted by the House, "That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Electoral Districts Act of 1971-1977 in certain particulars."

Dr. EDWARDS: I rise to a point of order. The honourable the Leader of the Opposition is supposed to be making a point of order. In fact he is making a speech. Mr. Speaker, I seek your ruling on that matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard the comments of the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I have given my ruling and I must adhere to that ruling. For his further information, I indicate that the statements I have made are supported by the Solicitor-General.

Mr. CASEY: I seek leave of the House to move a motion without notice.

Question—That leave be granted—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 22

Blake	Prest
Burns	Scott
Casey	Shaw
Davis	Underwood
Fouras	Vaughan
Gibbs, R. J.	Warburton
Hansen	Wilson
Houston	Yewdale
Jones	<i>Tellers:</i>
Kruger	D'Arcy
Mackenroth	Hooper, K. J.
Milliner	

NOES, 51

Akers	Lane
Austin	Lee
Bertoni	Lester
Bird	Lickiss
Bishop	Miller
Bjelke-Petersen	Moore
Booth	Neal
Bourke	Newbery
Camm	Powell
Campbell	Row
Doumany	Scassola
Edwards	Scott-Young
Elliott	Simpson
Frawley	Stephan
Gibbs, I. J.	Sullivan
Glasson	Tenni
Goleby	Tomkins
Gunn	Turner
Hartwig	Warner
Hewitt, W. D.	Wharton
Hooper, M. D.	White, P. N. D.
Innes	White, T. A.
Katter	
Kaus	<i>Tellers:</i>
Kippin	Ahern
Knox	Gybur
Kyburz	

PAIR:

Wright
Resolved in the negative. McKechnie

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. SIR WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (10.10 p.m.): I move—

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

As I explained when introducing the Bill, section 152 of the Health Act 1937–1978 enables the Director-General of Health and Medical Services to make regulations prescribing the standard for brandy, whisky, rum and gin. The Act also provides that the standard prescribed for whisky shall be for not more than 32 degrees underproof and for brandy, rum and gin for not more than 35 degrees underproof.

The allowable strength of whisky for sale in New South Wales and Victoria has been lowered to 35 degrees underproof in accordance with a recommendation of the National Health and Medical Research Council. Some hotels and clubs in Queensland are importing lower strength whisky from southern merchants and this is having an adverse effect on wine and spirit merchants in Queensland.

The Bill provides for the deletion of the provision that sets out the minimum strength of spirits that can be prescribed. This will enable regulations to be made to reduce the strength of spirits allowable for sale in Queensland, should this be considered necessary, without first requiring an amendment to the Health Act 1937–1978.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (10.11 p.m.): As I said at the introductory stage, the Opposition does not object to the Bill. The Minister has pointed out that it brings the Queensland

standards into line with standards in other Australian States. However, I do wish to make a couple of points.

Because the amendment relates to spirits, the question arises whether, as the excise duty on liquor in Queensland will be reduced, the price of liquor in Queensland will be reduced. In fact, the problem has been that hoteliers and operators have been transporting liquor across the State border, not paying excise duty and, consequently, making a greater profit on liquor sales in this State, with a loss of revenue to the State Government. It virtually meant that in the State of Queensland liquor was being watered down under the Act.

The other point that concerns the Opposition is that the Minister is amending the Act to provide that it may be changed by regulation. Each new Act that is passed in this Assembly seems to make it a little easier to legislate by regulation, and the Governor in Council can change a regulation at any time. The people of Queensland are over-governed by Cabinet, and Parliament often has, as in this case, power taken away from it. In my opinion, that is not desirable.

Those are the two points in the Bill about which the Opposition is concerned. Honourable members on this side of the House believe that the price of spirits in this State should be reduced once the Bill has been passed. They are also concerned that Cabinet is being given too much power to act under regulations rather than under specific provisions of an Act.

Hon. SIR WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (10.14 p.m.), in reply: I shall reply only briefly. The matters to which the honourable member referred are important. As to the question of price—of course, the price is the market price in a competitive situation. I made a check this morning and inquired about retail prices of a number of spirits. I found that they varied enormously—a variation of about \$2 a bottle.

Mr. D'Arcy: They may have been some of the spirits that have come across the border.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: That may well be.

I would point out to the honourable member that in recent months the Health Department seized more than 1,300 bottles of whisky that had not met the requirements and standards laid down by Queensland. They were returned to sender, or to the wholesaler. The fact is that some quantity of spirits that does not meet the standards required by Queensland has come across the border. This only highlights the anomaly that we are trying to correct.

I am sure that the public were not aware of the situation. The honourable member is correct that there is a price advantage

that allows for discounting and other operations. However, I do not think the public has suffered in terms of price. That margin has given retailers the opportunity to play with the market a little more than they would otherwise have been able to do.

As to regulations—I agree with the honourable member that it is not desirable to have too much done by regulation or subordinate legislation. However, in the case of measurements that come under scrutiny from time to time and are altered, they could more adequately be covered by regulation than by legislation that would only take up the time of Parliament. Subordinate rules are subject to the veto of the House, so the oversight of the House is not ignored.

Motion (Sir William Knox) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

MEDICAL ACT AND OTHER ACTS ADMINISTRATION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (10.18 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Medical Act and Other Acts (Administration) Act 1966–1977 in certain particulars.”

The Medical Act and Other Acts (Administration) Act 1966–1977 complements legislation for the administration of eight professional boards in Queensland.

The amendments contained in this Bill will provide for legislation which applies to the existing boards to be extended to include the Chiropractic Manipulative Therapists Board of Queensland, which has been constituted under the Chiropractic Manipulative Therapists Act 1979.

These amendments are of a machinery nature only. I commend the motion to the Committee.

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (10.20 p.m.): As I understand the Minister, this is merely a machinery Bill to include the Chiropractic Manipulative Therapists Board, and the Opposition has no objection to the legislation.

Sir William Knox: It is a consequential amendment.

Mr. D'ARCY: Under those circumstances, the Opposition accepts the Bill.

Motion (Sir William Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

NURSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (10.24 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Nursing Act 1976 in certain particulars.”

The Act presently sets out the courses which a person must have undertaken to qualify for enrolment as an enrolled nurse. The Act also provides that a person may be enrolled as an enrolled nurse without having undertaken one of those courses if she has, in the opinion of the board, sufficient experience in nursing generally.

It is considered that sufficient time has elapsed for persons to have applied for enrolment purely on the grounds of experience, and that enrolments should now be conferred only on those persons who have successfully completed a recognised pupil-nurse course. This Bill therefore provides for the deletion of the grandfather provision from the Act.

Where a registered or enrolled nurse has been convicted of an indictable offence, the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland has power to conduct an inquiry to determine whether disciplinary action should be taken. However, the Criminal Code provides that where a person has been summarily convicted of an indictable offence, the conviction shall be deemed a conviction of a simple offence and not an indictable offence. It is therefore proposed that the Act be amended to provide that if a person is summarily convicted of an indictable offence, the conviction shall be a conviction for an indictable offence. This is a similar provision to that contained in the Public Service Act 1922–1978.

There are a number of amendments of a machinery nature also provided in the Bill. I commend the Bill to the Committee.

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (10.26 p.m.): I will deal with the second part of the Bill first. I take it that the Minister's reference to an indictable offence under the Criminal Code would cover all hospital employees, and not just nurses. If that is so, the Opposition certainly has no objection to the amendment. As I understand it, under the Act a person charged with an indictable offence would have been dealt with by a District Court and not by a Magistrates Court. Minor offences were normally dealt with by a Magistrates Court, and I presume that this will still be the case. I take it that a Magistrates Court will deal with matters of a minor nature such as, say, a petty theft that might take place within the hospital system.

I believe the Bill contains a machinery section aimed at cleaning up grammatical and spelling errors and other related problems in the Act. There seems to be a proliferation of this type of legislation coming

before this Chamber. In fact, there is much too much of it. It seems that no sooner is a Bill passed by this Assembly than it has to be amended for some reason or other. Far too many pieces of machinery legislation are presented to the Assembly.

The Bill also deals with the deletion from the Act of the grandfather clause. I am a little concerned about this, because I believe that nurse training in Queensland deserves a great deal of consideration by both the Government and the Opposition. Many changes have to be made. Nurse training is becoming more and more centralised. Fewer hospitals are undertaking the training of nursing staff in this State, and I believe that the Government is moving to largely phase out the initial training of nurses within the hospital system. It would be a very good thing to insist on higher academic qualifications within the nursing profession. In fact, that is part of the Opposition's policy. Young girls or young men who want to enter the profession should have a high academic standard prior to entry, and suitable courses in institutions such as colleges of advanced education should be available to them. This would enable them to undertake nursing training without their being forced to become virtually poorly-paid apprentices within the hospital system. Certainly this practice has been followed overseas in recent years, and I think it could be employed to advantage in Queensland. We have been much too slow to adopt a full training schedule.

One point that worries me and, I think, every member of Parliament who travels throughout Queensland, particularly in country areas, is that it appears that country girls are not getting the opportunity that they had previously to train in the nursing profession. Firstly, their local hospitals are not taking trainee nurses at present. Because of this, the girls have to travel to the city, often to a different environment that makes study a little harder. Now it is proposed to delete the grandfather clause and allow certain people to be selected for training. From experience, I think that this will disadvantage some of the girls in country areas who have to come to the city for training.

All in all, the Opposition agrees that we need a higher academic standard for girls coming into the nursing profession. As I have pointed out, we also think that nurses should be able to undergo preliminary courses in the nursing profession to a certain standard in colleges of advanced education or technical colleges. I believe that this was the aim of the Government under the previous Minister for Health, and I hope that it is still the aim of the Government. We want to phase out an anachronism that exists in the nursing profession today.

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (10.31 p.m.): In speaking to the motion that will bring about changes to the Nursing Act, I wish to

make a few comments on the issues raised by the previous speaker. I believe that the repeal of the grandfather clause, which the Minister discussed, is probably a good thing. If I clearly understand the explanation of that clause, nurses, if they are experienced, have had sufficient time in which to become enrolled.

I should like to deal now with the phrase "the prescribed course of training in nurse education" that was used by the Minister. I was upset to hear the Opposition spokesman on health matters suggest that the Government ought to move more heavily into pushing nurse training into colleges of advanced education. I object to that mooted change—I always have—simply because I do not believe that colleges of advanced education can provide teaching for a basic humane, caring profession. I believe that nurse education should take place in hospitals, because they are the best place for those engaged in that caring profession to learn their duties.

Whether or not various educational subjects ought to be taught outside the institutional setting of a hospital is a matter for discussion. I believe that that is the only matter to which the Board of Nursing Studies should be addressing itself. I have raised this matter with the Minister previously. Obviously I cannot speak for him, but he did give me what I would regard as a good hearing.

I believe that many Government members have been at least concerned to hear about this move into colleges of advanced education, and I know that some of them will speak about it. As we are making changes to the Act, and as there will obviously be public discussion about those changes, I believe that now is the time to consider the preparation of a White Paper on nurse education. It is almost a year since we first introduced changes to the Act and constituted the Board of Nursing Studies. That board put out a juxta position paper—as I remember, it was not presented to Parliament—on what the predicted changes might be in the future. The other States have replaced the hospital-based nurse education system.

Mr. D'Arcy: Successfully.

Mrs. KYBURZ: I am sorry; I take umbrage at that. The move has been totally unsuccessful. A degree course that does not contain any unit of hospital-based training is a degree course in theory only.

Mr. D'Arcy: You will continue to overwork your teaching staff in hospitals to the extent that there will be a breakdown.

Mrs. KYBURZ: The staff enjoy that work and they participate in the education process, which is an important duty of the hospital. It is important that nurses in training see patients not only in the wards but also in every part of the hospital. I am speaking of the operating theatre, the out-patients' area and all the other departments of a hospital. That is a very important part of

nurse training, and it could not be obtained in an institution such as a college of advanced education.

Furthermore, I suggest that the empire building, which has been discussed by me and other members, in certain colleges of advanced education is purely a rationalisation for their existence. It is purely the *raison d'être* of those colleges. After all, their funding depends on student numbers, and their teacher/student ratio depends on their gaining admissions. Therefore, if they can formulate a course which has broader appeal, if they can scoop in more people to partake of their institution, they will get a higher funding, a higher student/teacher ratio and be seen to be a more important institution. For those very reasons, we ought to be looking more carefully at this subject.

It is an equally opportune time to invite public submissions from nurses who are at the work-place at the present time. I know that there are very well-meaning retired nurses who have been constantly concerning themselves with this matter. They are now writing letters saying that it is time to look very carefully before moving nurse education wholly into colleges of advanced education. If we were to invite these public submissions, we could see how the nurses themselves feel about it. Many nurses are concerned that their work-place is being divorced from their educational training and concerned at the travelling they will have to do. They are also concerned at the dislocation of their work-place. I simply do not believe that these mooted changes should take place.

As I said before, now is the time to prepare a White Paper on nurse education and also to invite submissions from nurses on what should take place. After all, why should a Parliament pontificate upon the future education of men and women who choose to go into the nursing profession? It is not the place of members of Parliament to do so. I am sure I can confidently say that none of us would ever go into nursing. Surely the profession should make its own decisions on what it considers to be in its best interest. The profession should consider who is best suited for it and its future.

Many people who have advocated this move into the colleges of advanced education have given the reason that nursing is becoming more and more involved with technical details and that indeed nurses are moving more into technical areas formerly occupied by doctors in hospitals. That is probably a valid point except that that sort of technical training can still be given equally well in hospitals.

The question of whether or not there is room for enrichment and perhaps an extra year at the end of three years should be open for discussion. That probably could take place. Obviously, theory is always valuable. However, I do not believe in divorcing training from the hospital, or from consideration for the patient being of primary importance. The patient is not a machine. How

to keep a well-stocked linen cupboard and how to keep a pharmaceutical ledger up to date do not matter when it comes to patient care. It is as simple as that. I believe that nurse education has one place: in the hospital. Perhaps we should consider it as adding the garnishing to a nurse's education, but I sincerely hope that the Minister will consider my proposal to issue a White Paper on nurse education. As I said before, now is the time to let the nurses themselves have their say.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (10.41 p.m.): I did not intend to speak on the Bill, but while I was standing in the bar I heard what was going on and I decided that, as an experienced old medical officer, I should take part in the debate and support the nursing profession.

Years ago in the early Depression days—Opposition members would not be old enough to know anything about that—I wanted to do medicine. My old man said to me, "Son, go to work and work your way into medicine." So I did, as a fitter and turner. At least I learnt to work on a bench.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: As a doctor, you are a good fitter and turner.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Might I ask the member for Archerfield to please keep quiet?

When I learnt that trade, I learnt the essence and the whole secret of apprenticeship. Working on a bench, one learns apprenticeship function by listening to one's master and seeing the tricks of the trade that cannot be learnt in a theoretical atmosphere. Many members of this Parliament have done the same thing in other trades. It cannot be denied that the only way to learn an apprenticeship is on the factory floor. At night-time the trade is learnt at the technical college by taking the teacher's advice. There one sees the faults of the day's work. At night one discovers the theoretical basis of what has been done incorrectly in the workshop.

It was the same thing in medicine. After five years as battalion M.O. I wanted to be a surgeon after the war. I was told, "Oh, brother, you haven't got a higher degree." In those days a higher degree required two years' full-time duty on no pay. So I tucked my deferred pay into my back pocket, signed on to be a professional fighter and went back to work. I served another apprenticeship. There is no better teaching method than apprenticeship training. That is what we have in our nursing profession today.

I do not often agree with the honourable member for Salisbury, but I do tonight. A person cannot learn to look after patients unless he or she sits beside their beds and walks with them and talks with them. The C.A.E. set-up in this State is very nice, but it is full of a lot of has-beens. They have not given quality of education to the community. They are now trying to retain a

position in the field of education by grabbing the teaching of nurses. Imagine a professional teacher of medicine and surgery having no patients or anyone else on which to demonstrate his art. He would not last five minutes. We are asking the nurses of this State to go to a C.A.E. to learn in a theoretical atmosphere how to look after sick people. It is all poppycock. It is stupid.

However, the C.A.E. can be used after nurses have received their basic training. What were nurses originally? They were charwomen. If honourable members want it, I will give them a bit of the history of that, too. One has never learnt anything until one realises the history of nursing. It is said that Florence Nightingale was the mother of nursing. She was not the mother of nursing. An old gentleman by the name of St. Vincent de Paul taught the Sisters of Mercy or the Sisters of Charity. He realised that those women had to be taught something. That was in the 17th Century, and it was the first stage of women being taught anything about nursing. He taught them.

After training in Kaiserwerth in Germany, Florence Nightingale went off to the Crimean War. She returned and, in the greatest publicity stunt ever, was portrayed to the world as the woman who saved the British Army. She was given about £60,000 or £70,000, which in those days was a fortune, and she set up a school of nursing at St. Thomas's. From then on she trained matrons in hospital administration. She did not train nurses; the nurses were char girls.

In those days there were two hospital systems in England—the voluntary hospitals and the workhouses. Once a person went into a workhouse, he was virtually dead. Nurses in the workhouses were drunkards and no-hopers. They were not paid any money; they were given porter, gin, beer, and so on, to keep them going. Most of them were patients themselves, and very few of them lasted more than six months. A person who went into a workhouse went there to die.

Florence Nightingale and a few others began to organise. They established a union of nurses in an endeavour to improve the education of nurses.

Mr. Prest interjected.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: Yes, that is exactly what it was. I am not knocking unions; I am giving honourable members opposite a bit of history.

Those women decided that they would organise themselves for the betterment of the sick and the sorry, and the Government of England began to take notice. The workhouses were investigated. The Royal National Nursing Association was formed after a princess agreed to come in with them, and later the Royal College of Nurses was formed.

By about 1919, they had a reasonable set-up. Standards improved after the Great War, and from then on the Royal Nursing Federation became a semi-political body also associated with the teaching and training of nurses.

In Queensland, we had the old Moreton Bay Hospital, which was a penal settlement hospital. Between 1840 and 1850, the Royal Brisbane Hospital was started. One of the trainees of Florence Nightingale came to Queensland and set up a course of training. It was originally a two-year course, then it extended to four years. It was a training course of an apprenticeship type. The girls learnt in the ward. They learnt to scrub; they learnt to wash and feed patients. They did not go to a C.A.E. or to a university; they learnt beside the patient. They came to know and understand the patient. They saw people die; they saw people born. They became closely attached to people.

If the training of nurses is taken out of hospitals and put into the C.A.E.s, the standard of nursing will be downgraded. The honourable member who preceded me in the debate mentioned improvements in medicine today and said that nurses need a higher education to cope with things such as electrocardiograms and the various intensive-care wards. There has already been a big change in nursing because of the big change that has taken place in education. In the early days of nursing, the women who took up nursing were usually charwomen. The service was hospital based, and it served the hospital and also the people.

Girls now have to have a minimum standard of 10th Grade education, and preferably 12th Grade, and their whole approach to education has changed. They want to be something better than charwomen, and they think they can achieve that by going to a C.A.E. The C.A.E.s say, "Yes, we can give it to you." The C.A.E.s are doing that only because they hope to maintain the momentum of their development and to keep their overstuffed faculties going. The result is that there is a movement amongst some of the hierarchy of the nursing profession to send girls to C.A.E.s. What is going to happen to the patient if we train all the women in a college of advanced education and then bring them back to a hospital set-up?

Mr. Moore: It won't work.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG: It certainly won't work.

The training has to be divided very carefully. Someone is needed to look after the patients in the beds. If the people who look after the patients in the beds are good enough, they can go on to what is termed a higher degree. They can go to a C.A.E. or even to a medical school. A university-based medical school would be a lot better than a C.A.E., which does not have any expertise

in nursing at all. It would not even have sufficient expertise to give a Band-aid to someone who cut his finger.

Apparently it is proposed that a C.A.E. take over the medical education of the nursing profession. That is absolutely stupid. After a nurse has done her apprenticeship and received her basic medical training, she should be sent to a medical school for her post-graduate training. Queensland has a beautiful medical school. Nurses could be trained at it in the right atmosphere to look after people. They should not be sent to a college of advanced education, which has no one skilled in training, no patients, no ward situation, no intensive-care set-up. A hospital, on the other hand, is the place where nurses will learn.

If the Bill is all about training nurses at a C.A.E., I oppose it strongly. The sooner the nursing profession wakes up to what is going to happen to the profession, the better it will be. A C.A.E. would offer inadequate training, which would lead to an impersonal relationship between the nurse and the patient. That would only lead to trouble.

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (10.52 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their interest in the subject of nursing. With the greatest of respect, most of their comments were not relevant to the Bill. With your permission, Mr. Miller, I will be happy to answer the questions that have been asked, even though they are not relevant. My philosophy coincides with that of the honourable member for Salisbury.

An Opposition Member: That is, your political philosophy?

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: No, my philosophy regarding the training of nurses and the way in which they should be going about their duties. The honourable member for Salisbury is quite correct in her comments about the caring professions being able to practise their professions while learning them.

While these tertiary-type courses that are available have a tremendous advantage in that they are of a specialist type and impart administrative skills, they are not a replacement for the essential nursing operation that the nursing profession should be practising. It is a matter of practice, and it is at that level that I hope the nursing profession will continue to practise.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: We haven't enjoyed one of your little fireside chats for quite some time.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: I am glad the honourable member enjoys them. In fact, I am pleased to see him in the Chamber; he's seldom here. I would rather be chatting to him here than in some other places I can think of.

The honourable member for Salisbury made a good deal of sense in her approach to nursing. The honourable member for Towns-

ville is also quite correct in his approach to the nursing profession. It is fundamental that the profession be at the bedside and be concerned about the welfare of the patient. The profession cannot be taught anywhere else than at the bedside. As the honourable member has pointed out from years of experience, that is where it will continue. I hope that this is clearly understood.

The legislation before us is related to the tidying up of a situation regarding enrolled nurses, a category of nurses that, as I explained in my opening remarks, has been in existence for some time and does not require the grandfather clauses and so on that existed previously. They are now anachronistic and should be repealed.

Motion (Sir William Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

SPEECH THERAPISTS BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (10.57 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to provide for the constitution of a Speech Therapists Board, the establishment of a register of speech therapists and the regulation of the practice of speech therapy.”

This new legislation will be cited as the Speech Therapists Act 1979. The basic provisions and intention of this Bill are similar to other registration Acts which are administered by my department.

Provision is made in this Bill for the constitution of the Speech Therapists Board of Queensland, which will be charged with the administration of the Act. The board will consist of seven members, of whom at least five will be speech therapists. Three of these speech therapists will be nominated from a panel or panels of names submitted by one or more associations and accepted by me as being representative of speech therapists.

Further provisions of the Bill relate to the appointment of the chairman and the deputy chairman of the board, the conduct of board meetings, tenure of office of board members, the appointment of a registrar and other staff, and other machinery provisions relative to the operation of the board.

The Bill includes a section relative to qualifications, which will enable the board to recognise the educational qualifications of applicants from Queensland, other Australian States and overseas for registration as speech therapists in Queensland.

In addition, this section will allow the board to register persons who have engaged in the practice of speech therapy in Australia for five years at least immediately before the commencement of this Act, where the board is satisfied that such practice would normally render the applicant competent to practise speech therapy and it is further satisfied that the applicant seeking registration on this basis is competent to practise speech therapy.

Other provisions in the Bill will enable the board to require an overseas applicant to undertake and pass examinations relative to oral and written English expression and knowledge of the practice of speech therapy in Australia. The board may also require a person to undertake a period of supervised practise before being granted full registration. Other registration provisions are similar to those contained in other registration Acts.

Provision is made for the name of a speech therapist to be removed from the register in Queensland if his name has been removed from a register of speech therapists in another State or country. The board will also have the power to require a speech therapist to appear before a committee of assessors composed of medical practitioners where it comes to the notice of the board that the speech therapist may be medically unfit to practise speech therapy. If in the opinion of the committee the speech therapist is unfit to practise, the board may call upon him to show cause why his name should not be removed from the register.

A further clause of the Bill prescribes the procedures for any disciplinary action undertaken by the board, the grounds for disciplinary action and the penalties the board may impose as a result of such action. Guide-lines are also established for undertaking an appeal against a decision of the board.

The Bill provides that a person who is not registered under the act shall not use the name or title of speech therapist, speech pathologist or any other name or title that would indicate that he is a speech therapist. The practise of speech therapy by unregistered persons has not been prohibited. The role of a speech therapist relates to problems of human communication and it is considered that it is not possible to define "speech therapy" in such a way that it does not prohibit assistance being given by persons who should be entitled to do so. Obvious examples are teachers and parents.

A further clause gives power to the board, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to formulate rules governing the practise of speech therapy, failure to comply with which shall be deemed to constitute conduct discreditable to a speech therapist.

Other provisions of the Bill relate to administrative matters generally. I consider it appropriate that speech therapists be registered, and I commend the Bill to the Committee.

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (11.2 p.m.): The Opposition has no real objection to the registration of speech therapists, or to the Bill as such. We notice that the administrative guide-lines set down in the Bill are very similar to those set out in the Bill relating to the registration of chiropractors which was recently dealt with by the Assembly. It appears that one way or the other people on the fringe of medicine are going to receive recognition in Queensland. This is in line with what occurs in other parts of Australia.

As the Minister pointed out, it must be very hard to define speech therapists as such, to get down to the nitty-gritty and set out exactly how they will work under the definition set out in the Bill. Most of us who are involved with education in our electorates know that speech therapists are people who have been trained by the colleges of advanced education and the universities that received such a rubbish a few moments ago in the debate on another Bill from the honourable members for Salisbury and Townsville. The people trained in those institutions as speech therapists are recognised by the various departments and are employed as such in our schools, hospitals and other places where they are needed. These people play a vital role in many facets of education, particularly with children who are retarded or are slow learners, victims of accidents or people who have suffered from a serious medical problem.

To date there has been a serious lack of speech therapists in Queensland, particularly in our schools. A number of quite large cities in this State do not have a single speech therapist practising in their schools.

Mr. Davis: The fact is that they graduate and go to other States.

Mr. D'ARCY: That is right. I found out the other day that there was not one speech therapist in Carins.

Mrs. Kyburz: Do you believe that speech therapists should be employed mainly in special school situations?

Mr. D'ARCY: Not necessarily just in special schools. From what I understand of the situation, there is a necessity for them to be employed in all educational facilities. But they are certainly not there. They are as scarce as hens' teeth in Queensland. That is the point I am making. It is very hard to get a fully qualified speech therapist in many cities in Queensland. I know that many members of this Parliament have raised with me and with the Government on many occasions the lack of speech therapists in this State.

The Minister pointed out that the term "speech therapist" is so broad as to be very difficult to define. He also pointed out that

anybody acting as a speech therapist outside this Act will not be prosecuted or taken to task. I know that there are many people within our society who are unqualified in this area. There are those who used to call themselves elocution teachers. They are able to fulfil some sort of an educational role in the community.

During the introduction of the previous Bill we discussed the education of nurses. Some members want to do away with the requirement of a formal education for those wishing to enter the nursing profession. I find that to be completely ridiculous. The Opposition believes that a formal education is the basis for acquiring future experience. Surely the same comment must apply to speech therapists. People entering the profession must have a formal education so that they are able to learn the profession at first hand at a later stage in their career.

The Opposition has no objection to the introduction of this Bill, but it unfortunately looks at it and wonders just where we are going to finish with this matter of registration. That is the point I wish to make. Where are we going to finish, particularly with this broad definition? Where are we going to finish with this board? Are we proliferating public servants on these boards? Are we proliferating these people to sit around having meetings and not getting on with their job? We are setting up tin gods in all of these fringe areas to administer to one another instead of to the public, which their profession was designed to do.

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (11.8 p.m.): In rising to support the Minister on the introduction of this Bill, I think it is fair that we should ask ourselves whether there is a need for registration and what registration actually does. I refer to the advertisement in the Press for the Stott's technical correspondence course to correct stuttering. It refers to various programmes for curing stuttering, and states—

“The course has been specially designed for correspondence instruction, so that you can undergo remedial training in your own home or while you go about your daily tasks. The lessons are sent at regular intervals, in a convenient form for carrying about, so that odd moments which may otherwise be wasted can be devoted to the exercises.”

It goes on to state—

“Many stammerers find that they have no need for additional guidance, and can achieve excellent results simply by following the instructions given in the lessons. However, every student is encouraged to write at regular intervals giving details of his or her attainment.”

I have just shown the reason why registration is needed.

Speech and drama teachers are also involved in treating speech disorders. They accept patients they are not qualified to handle. Another group of people who advertise in this field are hypnotists who claim they can cure stuttering, mental retardation and very many other things simply by putting the patient into a trance.

I have a newspaper article which comes from, of all places, Toowoomba. The heading reads, “Downs man helps people who stutter”. I think honourable members should listen to this carefully—

“Local businessman Mr. Jim Harris has an unusual spare-time interest—he helps people who stammer to overcome their impediment . . .

“He says, stammering is an inherited tendency, not psychological.”

An Opposition Member: Are you stammering over that?

Mr. BERTONI: Yes, I am. Actually, I need glasses. The article continues—

“‘It is commonly believed that “nerves” are responsible but this is not so. The cause is physical,’ he said.

“Up to an hour’s work daily on the voice exercises would effect a complete cure, he claims . . .

“Cures are effected sometimes within days, but could take months. Early improvement in voice control, however, almost always followed the start of the exercises.”

This man is from Toowoomba, not very far from our great city here, and he advertises how he can cure stuttering.

In addition, Dame Zara, in the “Telegraph”, gives expert advice to those who write to her regarding lisping, stuttering and high voices. She tells those people how they can be treated.

If one looks at all of these courses, one must agree that there is a need for registration and a need to protect the public from unqualified people who involve themselves in art of speech.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: This Act will not do that.

Mr. BERTONI: It will do that by registering speech therapists and therefore control the people within the profession.

The Minister should be congratulated because it is the first Bill to be introduced in the State, and indeed in Australia, to cover speech therapists. I know from the people concerned that speech therapists would rather be called speech pathologists. That is the new name they have given themselves. Their purpose in giving themselves that name is to increase the public’s opinion

of their diagnostic skills. Honourable members will be very pleased that it is a three-year university course. It is pleasing to see that after all this time speech therapists have been recognised.

I once had the privilege of attending a speech therapists' function and listening to a speech therapist giving a talk on his work. Many members do not realise what is involved in speech therapy. I was advised that night that speech therapy virtually boils down to two things. It is human communication and behaviour. Human communications can be divided into four broad categories: the first is articulation, the second is language, the third is voice and the fourth is fluency. According to the Commonwealth Government Bureau of Census and Statistics, 6 per cent of the population, that is, 785,000 people, have handicaps requiring the help of speech pathologists or speech therapists. They are divided into four divisions—4 per cent on articulation, .7 per cent on language, .5 per cent on voice and .7 per cent on fluency. Articulation is really the process of producing sounds in the movement of lips, jaws and tongue. I will go through the various categories solely for the purpose of giving honourable members an idea of what speech therapy is all about.

Many children do not acquire the full range of sound they need, or do not produce all of their sounds properly, before the age of four years. A speech therapist told me about the case of a four-year-old child who was directed to a therapist by her pre-school teacher. She was experiencing frustration and embarrassment because of her poor speech and avoided social contact. After six months' treatment, the child was able to return to a normal, happy position in the pre-school. Doubtless she would have to undertake further courses to help her, but she had overcome her major problem.

The language section is the symbolisation of thought essential for the forming, coding and storing of expression of ideas. Anyone who visits any of the spastic centres in the State will be aware of the need to employ more and more qualified speech therapists. I agree with the honourable member for Woodridge that there is a very strong case for increasing the number of speech therapists employed in our education and health systems. I am sure that many members have been through our spastic centres. Spastic children have a problem of language and communication. It needs patience and expertise to train them to pronounce words audibly.

Voice control can be lost through "strokes" or disease. A person who suffers a "stroke" may not fully understand what is said to him. He certainly experiences difficulty in expressing simple ideas. A 60-year-old professional man who led a very active life suddenly collapsed at work, suffering from a

"stroke". He was paralysed down the right side and could not even pronounce his name. After rehabilitative treatment with a speech therapist, he was able to converse and get his message across. Although he was not completely recovered, he was able to lead a fuller life instead of being a vegetable.

The fluency aspect is an interpretation of normal speech which is called stuttering. That is a matter that I discussed a little while ago. It is more common in the younger age groups and is four times as prevalent in boys as it is in girls. Stuttering develops a whole range of frustrations. Hostility, anger and sometimes anxiety build up. At times there is a complete breakdown in communication. I know the difficulties that a stuttrer does have in our community. He becomes embarrassed. People tend to mimic him and embarrass him. That makes him further frustrated and angered, causing him to withdraw into his shell. He will not communicate with people.

Many people still stutter as teenagers. They have difficulty in mixing with people and in finding employment in the community. Speech therapists are needed to help these people to improve their speech by overcoming the impediment of stuttering, thus making them much happier members of the community.

I believe that somewhere between 30 and 35 people will shortly graduate from the university in speech therapy. That fact in itself is causing concern to those undergraduates. The majority of employment in this field is with Government institutions. However, we are not employing them in great enough numbers. Vacancies are advertised, but many, many months pass before the vacancies are filled. In that time the graduates enter private enterprise or, as happens in most instances, move interstate looking for work.

The Government of this State is not acting quickly enough to employ graduates, and many country hospitals boards do not actively call applications in an endeavour to get speech therapists to country towns. In fact, probably the biggest problem is that boards in country areas do not really care about appointing speech therapists. They tend to feel that speech therapy is a loose arm of the medical profession and that speech therapists are not required. Only if a girl happens to be in a district and goes looking for a job is it likely that the board will employ her. In most instances boards just let the matter roll, and, therefore, people in country areas are not receiving the specialist treatment that they require.

I must mention the speech therapist in the Mt. Isa area, a young lady named Sherry Weller. She is a competent speech therapist, a wonderful type of woman, and a credit to her profession. She covers the whole of the north-west region, an area of 100,000 square miles. It extends from Mt. Isa to Mornington

Island, out to Julia Creek and Richmond, and down to the Gunpowder, Dajarra and Boulia areas. It is impossible for one speech therapist to cover such a tremendous area adequately, but neither the Education Department nor the Government will allow the appointment of a second or a third speech therapist. Sherry Weller visits schools in the area three times a year. How can she make a major contribution when she sees children in country towns such as Burketown, Julia Creek and Richmond only three times a year? It is impossible for her to do so. The Government should look into the question and see that a better service is provided for these areas.

On Saturday mornings she does voluntary work and conducts paediatric audiological assessments in the local radio station because there are no other suitable rooms or audiological equipment that she can use to assess the hearing of patients. She is in an impossible situation, and I believe that the Government should be taking more positive action to assist her. That charming young lady saw over 2,000 patients in the 1977-78 financial year, and I think it is asking too much of one speech therapist to expect her to cover 100,000 square miles and assess students and other people three times a year.

Registration is an important milestone in the development of the profession of speech pathology in the State of Queensland, and it is a means of protecting members of the community from unqualified people whose intervention could be harmful. I look forward to reading the Bill when it is printed.

Mr. SCASSOLA (Mt. Gravatt) (11.24 p.m.): I support the introduction of the proposed Bill, and wish to make only a few comments at this stage.

Earlier in the debate, mention was made of the difficulty in defining a speech therapist. There may in fact be some difficulty in laying down a strict definition. A speech therapist can be referred to as that person who is concerned principally with the rectification of problems associated with the functions of speech, as opposed to a person concerned with the machinery of speech. The importance of speech therapy to certain people has been increasingly acknowledged in recent years. It has long been acknowledged that speech therapists are of importance in a paramedical sense to those who suffer some disability arising out of misadventure or those who have suffered a breakdown in health.

Speech therapy has an equally important role to play in education. It can help those people who suffer a disability arising from some mental or physical defect. It is in that area that I wish to make some comments.

To those children who suffer either physical or mental disability out of which arises a difficulty with speech, the provision of speech therapy services on a regular basis is not

cosmetic, nor is it simply desirable. Rather it is of grave importance to the development of those people and of very real importance to their integration into society. The benefits that speech therapy provides to those children should never be underestimated in developing and helping to develop language skills.

Because of his or her training and experience, the speech therapist can, when working with a particular person, bring to light other problems that may be latent.

Whilst the provision of education services is of enormous importance, the development of language skills is vital. It is vital to very existence, because without the development of language and without the ability to communicate, there can be absolutely nothing. Apart from that, the development of language and the provision of specialist skills to assist the development of language are part of the overall support facility that is so very necessary in assisting handicapped people to develop their potential and to become part of the overall society.

A paucity of available statistical information exists in relation to speech therapists, but as far as I can gauge, each year there are approximately 35 graduates from the University of Queensland. Despite that, only 45 or so are currently employed in the Queensland education system. As a result of that, many children who are in real need, and for whom the provision of speech therapy and skills in the development of language are vital, do not have the benefit of those skills. Accordingly, they suffer.

It is in the area of special schools that the greatest need exists. Many special schools do not have the services of a speech therapist. In other cases, the services of speech therapists are minimal indeed.

Earlier this year, the Queensland Government introduced an early intervention programme for young handicapped children. That was a significant step forward, for which the Government deserves real credit. It has been established that programmes of that type go a long way towards helping the development of young handicapped children. That programme was established in four centres in Brisbane. Some of those centres do not have the benefit of a speech therapist. In other cases, speech therapists are provided for very short periods. In one of those centres, services to individual children are provided for periods as short as 15 minutes in every nine or 10 weeks. As a result, people who have a real desire to have their children enjoy the benefit of speech therapy skills are required, and indeed obliged, to engage the services of speech therapists in private practice. I sincerely hope that the shortage of speech therapists will soon be alleviated. I know that the Government is looking at the matter closely at this point in time.

It is not simply an immediate problem. It requires the development of a long-term policy aimed at employing an increased number of speech therapists, particularly in those institutions and schools attended by children with a very real need. I refer to those children with handicaps, who have a problem in the language development area.

A greater number of people in our community today are seeking the services of skilled speech therapists. Accordingly, it is appropriate, in the public interest, that objective standards be set for those who hold themselves out as having the necessary expertise. Registration is necessary to separate those who deal with the mechanics of speech, if I can refer to it in that way, as opposed to those who deal with the problems of the function of speech. I suggest they are very different disciplines and that they ought to be dealt with in very different ways.

I support the introduction of the Bill.

Mr. DAVIS (Brisbane Central) (11.33 p.m.): I support the Bill because I believe that it is a very important one. I do not think that, over the years, the Government has concerned itself with speech therapists. I know this from practical experience and the discussions I have had with the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt. He touched lightly on the subject, particularly as it affects pre-schools and special schools.

My area has a couple of special schools that I know of in particular, and I also know the one in Windsor, which adjoins my electorate. Twelve years ago that school had a speech therapist almost full time. I am personally involved and I know that what I say is correct. Suddenly that speech therapist left, and since then the service has been very irregular. As a matter of fact, it has been so irregular that one or two of the children have to go to the Royal Brisbane Hospital once a month and use the services of the speech therapists there through the good graces of the out-patient department.

Not only the special schools but also many other schools in my electorate are faced with the difficulty of having children from what has been so often termed by educationists as a low socio-economic area. These children live in an environment where they have a single parent, and they are faced with many learning difficulties. Since my return to Parliament two years ago I have heard member after member ask questions as to why there are not sufficient speech therapists.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. DAVIS: Was that a joke? There is a time for jokes and there is a time for sincerity. When we are dealing with such a matter, it is not the time for hilarity.

I have heard member after member ask what the Government is going to do about speech therapists. A great problem exists

in this area. I believe that if more children were tested at an early age in kindergartens and pre-schools a lot of the mechanics of speech problems would be avoided. All too often not enough testing has been done. Ever since what were called speech correcters were got rid of years ago there has really been nobody to take their place. I completely agree with what our spokesman said when opening the debate on this important subject. Because we believe that it will benefit the whole community if fully qualified people can do this job, we support the Bill.

Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (11.36 p.m.): I just want to make a few brief observations on the Bill. A number of interesting points have been raised, and in particular I commend the member for Mt. Isa who mentioned the problem of the vast areas that have to be covered in his area to reach children who have just as many problems, and in some instances more problems, than children in city areas. This might be caused by a lack of contact with other children at an early age. I would like to focus my attention on that aspect of the Bill.

I think it is fair comment that if one does not possess the basic skills of communication then one is limited with what one can do with one's life. I think the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt mentioned that what is important is not the ability merely to communicate, but the ability to communicate to a reasonable degree. It does not matter what a person does, if he cannot get across to people precisely what he is talking about, then he is placed at a real disadvantage compared with the rest of the community. One does not have to go very far to see examples of that in everyday life. In many walks of life we see people who have the potential to make tremendous advances, if only they had had the help and guidance of a speech therapist at an early age. If they had had that advantage, their lives could well have been very different.

There are a lot of small schools in our rural areas, many of which cater for only 25, 50 or 60 children. If such schools have the services of a teacher with some basic training in speech therapy who is able to give some assistance to children at an early age, then they are indeed lucky. I suggest to the Minister for Education that we should look seriously at the introduction of some sort of system under which a speech therapist with a roving commission could travel from school to school throughout rural areas and test children with a view to sorting out any problems they may have at an early age and before they form speech habits which could be very difficult to reverse later on. I just wanted to raise that point because I do not think it can be emphasised too strongly that children in rural areas face very real speech problems, and as far as I am concerned we cannot do enough to help them.

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (11.40 p.m.): In speaking to this Bill that is designed to set up a board to govern the practice of speech therapists, I am of the opinion that certain members are somewhat unaware of the function of a speech therapist. I think that the member for Mt. Isa dealt quite adequately with that question.

The member for Brisbane Central spoke about learning problems in some of the schools in his electorate, and many other members have spoken about the problems in some of the schools in their electorates. Indeed, the previous speaker did that. I think that the point ought to be made, and made quite clearly, that speech therapy is not a panacea for overcoming learning difficulties, and the cosmetic cover-up for the dysfunctional problem that some children have is not what speech therapy is all about. When children have a communication problem, it is an education disciplinary problem. It is not a problem within the discipline of the Health Department; rather, it comes within the discipline of the Education Department.

Every teacher in either the primary or secondary field is taught how to deal with diction and also intonation problems. It is easy to deal with problems of communication and diction, particularly when there is what I would call an inter-reaction between the home and the school. Speech therapy primarily should deal with mechanical dysfunction or emotional or mental dysfunction. I believe that that point ought to be made strongly, because in the notes that I have scribbled underneath my notes on the Minister's speech I have written that I want to make the point that I decry the politicisation within some p. & c. associations of the phrase, "We need a speech therapist." They see a speech therapist as a magic-wand-waver for children who have communication problems. Those problems probably relate back to the time when the children were thrust before a television set at the language formative stage, that is, between the ages of six months and 3½ years. Instead of there being an interaction or verbal intercourse between a parent or a substitute parent and themselves, the only ability they had to communicate with was a listening ability.

The member for Mt. Gravatt spoke extremely well about the necessity for language as a basic means of communication. When considering what language does and can mean to people, apart from the migrant situation, one sees that speech therapists play a very important role with people who have learning difficulty. That is a special consideration. However, in speaking about language, I believe that some mention should be made of the codification of language, which is a subject that comes concurrently within linguistic stream.

There are three codes of language. There are the basic, modified and educative codes of language. Obviously, unless one is aware

of what comes within each stream, one is not aware of the codification of language. Within the school, one can change the code system under which children have been brought up within their home environment. Obviously it is necessary for a child, when he wishes to straddle another social strata, to be taken outside the codification of the home. That is basically what linguistics is all about. I am sure that within speech therapy training the codification within the language strata is widely covered, as it is in teaching English as a second language.

I wish also to speak about the membership of the board. I noticed from the Minister's speech that at least five of the seven members of the board will be speech therapists. I should like to know who the other two members will be. I hope that they will not be only officers of the Health Department, because I believe that speech therapy should be interdisciplinary. I shall speak about that later. However, I wish to know how many speech therapists the Health Department estimates are presently practising in Queensland. How many are under the Health Department umbrella and how many are practising privately?

I notice further that the board may also require a person to undertake a period of supervised practise before being granted full registration. That is extremely important, because some people may come from other States presuming they will be granted registration but, for some reason or other, are not given registration immediately. Therefore, that period of supervised practise will be extremely important.

In the last paragraph on page 3 the Minister has used the pronoun "his" in the wording "his name has been removed" when referring to speech therapists. I venture to suggest that there are very few men practising speech therapy in Queensland. I take umbrage at the use of that pronoun throughout that paragraph, as it is primarily women who are practising speech therapy in Queensland.

Some people consider that speech therapists are the panacea for cosmetic problems. I am also concerned about speech therapy in the rehabilitation field. The member for Mt. Gravatt spoke of the need for speech therapy for handicapped children. They are the two fields in which speech therapists should be primarily employed, not in the average school. As I said, teachers are trained to deal with the normal speech problems of schoolchildren. If teachers are not employing those skills, parents must be reminded that such skills can be taught in the home. The problems may be medical ones. They may be in hearing, understanding, mental incapacity or a physical handicap such as a cleft palate.

Elderly patients who have fallen victim to a stroke must be considered in the field of rehabilitation. Often they do not have help

from speech therapists because so many of the therapists are involved with helping children.

I was also interested to read in the Minister's speech that the board will formulate rules governing the practise of speech therapy. I would like clarification of what that means. Does it mean an interaction between the Departments of Education and Health, or does it mean there will be problems about who will be employed by which department? Obviously in a rehabilitation hospital the employer will be the Health Department, but on occasions there would be room for the employment of a speech therapist in a community health centre. I am concerned about the inter-disciplinary action in the administration of this Bill. I would be interested to know what the terminology "practise of speech therapy" encompasses.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (11.48 p.m.): I think this is a very important Bill. It will serve the community well. Speech is a rather interesting thing. There are two centres of speech in the human brain. A right-handed person has his speech centre on the left side of the brain and a left-handed person has his speech centre on the right side. If a person suffers damage to one side of his brain, he can, with care, be taught to speak again.

The mechanism of speaking involves the tongue. Years ago a slave had his tongue cut out so that he could not repeat what his master said. However, a person can speak through a pharyngeal tongue. Even though the tongue may be lost, a person is able to speak in an explosive manner and be quite easily understood. The soft palate and the pharyngeal pillars come into it. So there is a considerable amount of anatomy associated with the speaking mechanism. I hope that our speech therapists are adequately trained in anatomy at the university so that they know the exact mechanism of the production of speech.

Over the years there have been too few speech therapists. They have been in great demand and short supply—and thus over-worked. It has been noted tonight that the majority of them are women. I think that is a very good thing, because they have patience and compassion that males do not have. They usually deal with children, for whom they have a greater understanding. It is more in keeping with their psychological make-up. I have nothing but the utmost praise for the speech therapists I have had anything to do with in my hospital experience. They have been an amazing group of women. Unfortunately, they are over-worked and, I think, underpaid.

The educational system has recently become involved in speech therapy, but I do not think that in speech therapy the hospital system can be divorced from the educational system. It is a combined effort. Someone with a speech defect cannot be purely and simply handed over to the Education

Department. The person must be handled by the medical practitioner within the hospital system. Problems other than lack of mental agility can not be assessed by the Education Department. There are factors such as anatomical disabilities, but I think that it has to be a combined operation in which the Education Department cannot be divorced from the Health Department.

If the increased numbers of graduates in speech therapy in Queensland are adequately qualified, there is plenty of work in this State for them. I believe that it is a very wise move on the part of the Health Department and the Minister to initiate the introduction of this Bill.

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (11.53 p.m.), in reply: I will reserve my detailed comments to the second-reading stage, other than to say that I welcome the support of honourable members for the legislation. I am quite sure that they will find it to their satisfaction. The speech therapists who have been seeking it will of course benefit. The problem of the shortage of speech therapists will to some degree be relieved by registration. Once speech therapists have been recognised and registered by this legislation, I feel sure that those who have graduated in other States will come to Queensland to practise. As honourable members have commented, they are very professional in their approach. There are approximately 120 speech therapists in the State, but I expect the number to increase as a result of this legislation.

To define "speech therapist" is somewhat difficult, but, as honourable members will see in the Bill, as in other Bills of this type, the definition is related to those people who are recognised by the board. Of course, the board is composed, in the majority, of speech therapists. Two members of the board will tend to be medical people. Although they will not necessarily be speech therapists, ultimately I imagine that the board will be composed entirely of speech therapists.

Motion (Sir William Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (11.57 p.m.): I move—

"That a Bill be introduced to provide for the constitution of an Occupational Therapists Board, the establishment of a register of occupational therapists and the regulation of the practice of occupational therapy."

This new legislation will be cited as the Occupational Therapists Act 1979. The basic provisions and intentions of the Bill are similar to other registration Acts that are administered by my department.

Provision is made in the Bill for the constitution of the Occupational Therapists Board of Queensland, which will be charged with the administration of the Act. The board will consist of seven members, of whom at least five will be occupational therapists. Three of these occupational therapists will be nominated from a panel or panels of names submitted by one or more associations accepted by me as being representative of occupational therapists.

Further provisions of the Bill relate to the appointment of the chairman and the deputy chairman of the board, the conduct of board meetings, tenure of office of board members, the appointment of a registrar and other staff and other machinery provisions relative to the operation of the board.

The Bill includes a section relative to qualifications that will enable the board to recognise the educational qualifications of applicants from Queensland and other Australian States and from overseas for registration as occupational therapists in Queensland.

In addition, this section will allow the board to register persons who have engaged in the practice of occupational therapy in Australia for at least five years immediately before the commencement of this Act, where the board is satisfied that such practice would normally render the applicant competent to practise occupational therapy and it is further satisfied that the applicant seeking registration on this basis is competent to practise occupational therapy.

Other provisions in the Bill will enable the board to require an overseas applicant to undertake and pass examinations relative to oral and written English expression and knowledge of the practice of occupational therapy in Australia.

The board may also require a person to undertake a period of supervised practice before being granted full registration. Other registration provisions are similar to those contained in other registration Acts.

Provision is made for the name of an occupational therapist to be removed from the register in Queensland if his name has been removed from a register of occupational therapists in another State or country. The board will also have the power to require an occupational therapist to appear before a committee of assessors composed of medical practitioners where it comes to the notice of the board that the occupational therapist may be medically unfit to practise occupational therapy. If in the opinion of the committee the occupational therapist is unfit to practise, the board may call upon him to show cause why his name should not be removed from the register.

A further clause of the Bill prescribes the procedures for any disciplinary action undertaken by the board, the grounds for disciplinary action and the penalties the board may impose as a result of such action. Guide-lines are also established for undertaking an appeal against a decision of the board.

The Bill provides that a person who is not registered under the Act shall not use the name or title of occupational therapist, O.T., occupationalist, occupation therapist, work therapist, functional therapist, ergo-therapist, activities therapist, activity therapist or rehabilitation therapist, or any other name or title that would indicate that he is an occupational therapist.

The practice of occupational therapy by unregistered persons has not been prohibited. The role of an occupational therapist is a broad one and relates to the teaching of the normal functions of daily living. It is not considered possible to define "occupational therapy" in such a way as not to intrude in the rights of persons to aid and assist others. For similar reasons, the practices of nursing and psychology are not prohibited.

Power is given to the board, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to formulate rules governing the practice of occupational therapy, failure to comply with which shall be deemed to constitute conduct discreditable to an occupational therapist.

Other provisions of the Bill relate to administrative matters generally.

The role of an occupational therapist is an important one, particularly in the rehabilitation of persons who have suffered physical or psychiatric illness. It is therefore appropriate that only suitably qualified persons should be able to call themselves occupational therapists and to advertise themselves as such.

I commend the motion to the Committee.

[Wednesday, 17 October 1979]

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (12.2 a.m.): In view of the introduction early this year by the Minister of the Chiropractic Manipulative Therapists Bill, this proposed Bill certainly has a place on our statute-book. In the past, occupational therapists have played a much more defined role in our community and health system than have chiropractors. Over the past few decades, the occupational therapist has been recognised and defined much better in his role in the medical profession in Queensland and in Australia.

I was somewhat surprised to hear the Minister say that the Bill contains a grandfather clause. As I pointed out, nearly all occupational therapists have had degrees. Certainly, those employed by Government instrumentalities and other hospitals have qualifications

that are easily recognisable by the medical profession. I am not saying that, outside of those who are fully qualified, there are not others doing good work. The point I am making is that in the medical field there has been a shortage of occupational therapists. Following upon the registration of chiropractors, the occupational therapists have every right to demand registration.

Mrs. Kyburz: They are very different.

Mr. D'ARCY: Of course they are. They play a very different role.

The point I was making is that I am surprised that the Bill has a grandfather clause. Occupational therapists have a degree that has been recognised by most universities in this country. The Minister referred also to educational standards and overseas applicants. He said that overseas applicants would have to undertake an examination which would place emphasis on their ability to speak English, and would deal only slightly with their competence in occupational therapy. I hope that occupational therapists who come to this country desiring recognition by the Queensland board will have suitable tertiary educational qualifications that would be recognised throughout the world.

The board will have many duties. I think that there are too many boards and that they tend to make themselves over-important. Some of them seem to make their own rules. The duties of the board are fairly well set out in the Bill. Penalties have been prescribed. I hope that they will be sufficiently high. I have in mind the way that this profession could be practised under the guise of medical competence, and the fact that that could have an injurious effect on patients.

This is another case of paramedics coming into their own. This legislation will be a necessity if our health system is to survive in the 1980s. Paramedics will play a very important part in our health system, much more important than this Government has allowed them to play in the past. The patient will have to come to recognise the value of the various sections of the medical profession, and choose the way he wants his health cared for. He will become a much more discerning consumer. In doing so, he will play a major part in the fight for cost containment in the health field. Of course, cost containment is something that we should all look at seriously. If the patient does not lead this fight, no-one will do it for him.

Before closing, I again refer to the provisions relating to the boards and their powers, which the Minister spelt out briefly. I hope that when we examine the Bill we will find that the penalties are sufficiently high, and that the Bill will define the occupational therapist much more stringently than was the case with speech therapists and chiropractors, as I believe that occupational therapists play a much more important medical role than those people.

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (12.10 a.m.): In supporting the Minister in his introduction of the Occupational Therapists Bill, I am very pleased that at long last Queensland has recognised the need for the registration of occupational therapists. Queensland is the only State that forces occupational therapists to complete a university course, and the standards set here appear to be a lot higher than those set in other states.

The grandfather clause has been mentioned a number of times tonight, and it is very pleasing to see that the Minister has included it in the Bill, because there are still people involved in occupational therapy throughout the State who have been in the profession for many years but who do not necessarily possess the academic qualifications that will be required under this legislation. It is therefore important that we allow them the privilege of endeavouring to achieve the standards required for registration.

It is also very important that we control the entry into Queensland of occupational therapists from overseas. I am led to believe that we should be concerned about occupational therapists from countries such as India and Brazil who possess qualifications which we believe would not be acceptable in Australia.

When I was having discussions with occupational therapists about this Bill, I was surprised and somewhat concerned to find that there was a degree of overlapping between the physiotherapy and occupational therapy fields. I put this to a group of physiotherapists who told me that there is no overlapping in country areas, but there may be some tendency towards it in the larger hospitals in our cities. I sincerely hope that this Bill will clearly define the line of demarcation between the two, because we do not want the respective boards fighting over it. It has been explained to me that the physiotherapist treats the patients first and then passes them on to the occupational therapist for treatment to improve their physical well-being and movements and thus enable them to re-enter the work-force. If the Bill clearly defines the line of demarcation, I think we will be performing a service to the community.

The last point I would like to make at this late stage concerns the number of occupational therapists who are actually employed in our hospitals compared with some southern hospitals. I believe that at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney there are 21 therapists for 1,400 beds, at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Western Australia there are 20 therapists for 500 beds, but at the Royal Brisbane Hospital we have only five occupational therapists for 1,200 beds. So it seems to me that proportionally there is a need to increase the number of occupational therapists employed in our hospitals. I have here a list of the areas showing where occupational therapists are employed, and most seem to be employed within a 100-mile radius of Brisbane. Very few are employed

in country areas. There is one employed by Mount Isa Mines, and I think one is employed at the Mt. Isa Hospital on a part-time basis. I do not know how many are employed at the Townsville Hospital, but I think it may be only one. There is therefore a need to increase the number of occupational therapists employed in our hospitals throughout the State, particularly when we consider that they are involved in a whole range of activities.

One thing that emerged from the discussions I had with a group of occupational therapists was that apart from the normal work they do on neurosurgery and stroke patients, they are also involved in the rehabilitation of aged people so that they can play a more active part in community life rather than vegetate in a hospital and gradually lose all their faculties.

I am pleased that the Minister has introduced this Bill, and I fully support it.

Mr. BOURKE (Lockyer) (12.15 a.m.): I rise to support the introduction of this Bill for the registration of occupational therapists and the regulation and practice of occupational therapy. In the practice of occupational therapy, the main emphasis to date has been on the medical side. Occupational therapists have been integrated into the medical team. In recent times, greatly increased importance has been given to rehabilitation. With improvements in the practice of medicine, there is now a higher rate of survival from illnesses and diseases that in the past invariably led to death. This increased rate of survival has placed increased importance on rehabilitating people so that they can return to the community and lead a relatively independent life. This has brought benefits to the individual, in the sense that he can lead a more useful life on his own. It has also brought great benefits to the community. The practice of occupational therapy has enabled these people to be less of a burden on the community at large.

I think the point to be understood about occupational therapists is that they help people with long-term disabilities and long-term adjustments to make. I shall quote an explanation given by the university on the role of occupational therapists. It states that they help people to plan for activity, independence and usefulness over an extended time of disabled living. Obviously, this is a worthwhile activity. They are in a situation to help people who have undergone trauma, who are paralysed following a traffic accident or sporting injury, or who have been burnt or have lost a limb in an industrial accident. I believe that an increasing number of people in our community need this sort of help. There has been an increasing incidence of motor accidents, and occupational therapists have been able to help the people involved in these accidents to go back into the community.

There is another aspect of the activities of occupational therapists which I feel will be of growing importance in years to come, and that is the educational aspect. Occupational therapists have been employed in our schools. I asked the Minister for Education a question on this matter on 1 May 1979. He indicated that there were two occupational therapists employed in the Education Department, both in Brisbane. This is a matter of great interest in my area in Toowoomba. People with children in this category, have felt the need for the services of an occupational therapist in Toowoomba.

I understand that Cabinet has decided that responsibility for the occupational therapists who were formerly in the Education Department is to pass to the Department of Health. I have mixed feelings about that. I believe that there will be a growing role for these professional people within the education system. I hope that the Minister and the Health Department will make suitable provision to ensure that these people are made available.

One particular condition which it is felt an occupational therapist can improve is minimal cerebral dysfunction. I think that it is worth defining this and the number of children who suffer from it. I quote from a document that I have—

“The child who suffers from minimal brain dysfunction is usually inconsistent in his behaviour and his performance. Because he is of average or above average intelligence, he can do some things better than other children of his age but other activities are much too difficult. He has problems in relating and applying these skills to other areas of learning and behaviour.

“His sight and hearing are normal, yet reversals, mirroring, spacing of letters, sounding out words can be difficult. Learning by the methods currently employed in our schools may be very difficult if not impossible because of these handicaps. The child in fact has difficulty in gaining the concept of the symbols of written words and numbers.

“He may show signs of poor co-ordination and balance. In playing with other children in the playground, he is awkward and inco-ordinated and often gets pushed over by the other children and frequently prefers not to play, rather than have the other children laugh at his efforts. Children develop peer relationships through playground interaction.

“His approach to task may be awkward such as the way he holds his pencil, the way he positions his paper, book and himself. He may have difficulty deciding which hand to use and what to do with the assisting hand. He may, in fact, be confused between right and left, up and down, front and back.”

Without being facetious, that sounds like a prominent member of the A.L.P. It continues—

“His behaviour is frequently inappropriate, it reflects the struggle to do things in the same way, and as well as his peers. In order to protect his developing self concept, he may become aggressive and destructive or he may withdraw, depending on the personality of the child.”

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. BOURKE: It could well refer to a few members of the Opposition.

Quite a number of children suffer from one or more of these described aspects of behaviour. The parents of these children are frequently in a state of extreme frustration.

An Opposition Member: What are you reading from?

Mr. BOURKE: I am reading from a preparation for the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, notes on sensory integration therapy.

The parents are extremely frustrated because the child has great variations in behaviour and problems in learning. The parents are obviously desperate to seek aid and assistance for these children. In one part of Toowoomba there was a meeting of parents who are interested in the services of an occupational therapist to help these children. There were about 50 parents in attendance and they were all anxious, shall we say, to obtain the services of an occupational therapist in the area.

A Mrs. Jones has done a great deal of work in trying to obtain the services of an occupational therapist. She has led deputations to the Minister on two occasions. I hope that the Health Department, if it is its responsibility, will see what can be done to provide these services for these people, as the need has been demonstrated.

I know arguments may be advanced on the long-term efficiency of some of this treatment, but aspects of it have been demonstrated to be of benefit to these children. The parents certainly feel that it is helping their children. Some parents of schoolchildren in Toowoomba have found their children diagnosed as suffering from this problem and have had to approach the Queensland Spastic Welfare League and seek its help. It is not the function of that body to help in the education of these children, but the professional people there have met the challenge. There is a very competent occupational therapist there, Mrs. Adams, who has done a great deal of work for children in the education system, and has set out programmes for parents for their children to follow. In stating this, I do not mean to downgrade occupational therapists who work in hospitals. They have also done work in this field.

A theory on the treatment of intellectually handicapped people has been put forward in America by the Institute of Human Development of Philadelphia, which has put out a programme produced by a Professor Doman. Enough has been said about it to demonstrate that there are some aspects of truth in their claims. I would not support their claims entirely, but I am sure it will be proved that some aspects are beneficial to intellectually handicapped children. We have to do everything possible to help the children concerned and to give the parents some hope. Some progress may be made in that aspect in the future.

Reference has been made to the demarcation problem in the health and education fields as regards speech therapists. That will also apply to occupational therapists. However, this legislation will set out conditions for registration and will give some measure of responsibility to occupational therapists themselves and will, by and large, place control of the profession—it deserves to be recognised as such—in the hands of occupational therapists. I hope the Bill will lead to improvements in the already good service now provided to the community.

Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (12.23 a.m.): I rise to congratulate the Minister for including the grandfather clause. For many, many years the profession—I will call it a profession now that it is to be registered—of occupational therapy was carried out usually by very kind-hearted and elderly women with grown families who used to find time on their hands and go to hospitals. They would there help elderly ladies to knit and men to make various leather goods. This was extremely satisfactory to the medical profession, because people with hand injuries were encouraged to use their hands and in most cases this was a major factor in the recovery of hand movement. In industry today manual dexterity is essential in workers. Those ladies were completely and utterly ignored for many years. They were accepted as a sort of accessory to the medical practitioners, or paramedicals as they called them in those days. Their full work was not recognised. I know several women who have spent anything up to 20 or 30 years doing this work. Although they have no university education or degrees, they have a vast experience of seeing people, treating people and helping people. I am so pleased that the Minister will recognise those people by giving them registration under the grandfather clause.

Occupational therapy has a rather interesting history. During World War I those who got the best results from hand injuries, of which there were many, were the Australian soldiers. This was noticed in a casualty clearing station when an overworked medical officer was so fed up with people complaining about sitting in beds and hanging around that he decided to clear out the pack store and give all the troops their weapons to clean.

He noticed that those with hand injuries got much better mobility and improved their convalescence much more quickly than those who did not do any of that work. This is the basis of occupational therapy. From that day on, physical and mental diversion was given to patients. As a result, people with grievous illnesses—sometimes even terminal illnesses—suffered their affliction much more easily if they had something to do. Exactly the same result would be seen if members of the Opposition had something to do.

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Health) (12.27 a.m.), in reply: I will adopt a similar procedure with this Bill and reply in more detail at the second-reading stage. However, one or two matters ought to be answered straight away. The grandfather clause is desirable in this legislation because of the number of people who have practiced occupational therapy without graduating. They are very few in number, and it may be that they do not wish to be registered as occupational therapists, but it is far better that the legislation have this protective clause in it than to overlook it and have to introduce it at some future time.

The matter of proliferation of boards was raised. I agree that that is a matter of some concern. However, the same people will be involved in administering the boards set up under this Bill and the previous Bill. There will be no increase in staff involved. Of course, the members of the boards will serve in a part-time capacity. Most of these boards meet at times which do not interfere with the normal professional practice of the people involved. I do not think there is any fear of overloading the system.

Mr. Burns: You have registered everybody else along the line. When are you going to register the hospital gardeners as another profession?

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: The honourable member for Lytton, who is supposed to be a person concerned with the welfare of people in the Labor movement, should not make facetious, derogatory comments about people of what might be regarded as modest circumstances in the community. Such a remark by him only reflects the inverted snobbery he has to very important people in the system, namely hospital gardeners, who provide very valuable service to the hospitals by creating an environment that is pleasing to the eye and helpful to the patients. It reflects the sort of attitude he may have to people of modest circumstances in the community. Indeed, hospital gardeners are vital to the whole operation of a hospital. Because the honourable member for Lytton wishes to make an issue of it, I draw attention to the fact that he is belittling their work. That should be out of character with the philosophy he espouses.

Motion (Sir William Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

The House adjourned at 12.32 a.m. (Wednesday).
